

## Online Conference 2020

### 2021 Manifesto

Proposed by: Policy Development Committee

For too many people, things aren't working the way they should. The Covid-19 pandemic has not only shone a spotlight on this, it has made things worse, especially for the most vulnerable in our society.

But the way things are today is not the way it has to be.

In the aftermath of Covid-19, Brexit and the deepest recession this country will likely ever experience, the Welsh Liberal Democrats will listen, will learn, and will work with the people of Wales to create a fairer, greener, more caring future for Wales.

#### Conference notes:

1. The elections to Senedd Cymru will take place in May 2021.
2. The the Welsh Liberal Democrats have played a leading role in raising standards in education in Wales, creating an education system of national pride, which enjoys public confidence, and ensures that every child has the best start in life, including leading Wales' first-ever made-in-Wales curriculum;
3. The OECD report, published on Monday 5th October 2020, recognises that Wales now "has a clear vision for its education system and for its learners" and provides us with welcome challenges around next steps;
4. The progress made to deliver against the Progressive Agreement agreed by the Welsh Liberal Democrats on entering government in 2016 to:
  1. Ensure mental health discrimination is ended, including introducing a whole school approach to mental health;
  2. Deliver a Welsh right to life-long learning investing in the skills which people need throughout their lives, for individual, societal and economic benefit.
  3. Build 20,000 new affordable homes over the course of this Parliament;
  4. Deliver a new 'Rent to Own' housing model is introduced to help people buy their first home.

5. The long-term impact of COVID and Brexit will fundamentally reshape our economy and society, with implications for people and their communities, public services, business, and our environment.
6. The ongoing work of the party's Policy Working Groups on COVID and Well-being; Health, Public Health and Social Care; Economy and Tax; and Public Services and Local Government.
7. The need to present a distinctive, costed, and ambitious manifesto for 2021 to allow the party to stand out in the election and engage voters.
8. The magnitude of the challenges faced by the next Welsh Parliament and Welsh Government will last a generation.

**Conference believes:**

- A. In a Liberal Wales where each of us has the freedom, the opportunity, and the security to shape our own destiny, to take risks, and to achieve our potential.
- B. In a fairer, greener, more caring Wales. In a better future for all of us, wherever and whoever you are.
- C. In a new social contract - a new promise - that we will all be able, alongside our planet, thrive - and have hope for the future.
- D. In a Wales where everyone has access to a great education, a place to call home, and great public services, supported by a strong economy which supports a thriving planet.
- E. In urgent, radical action to halt the climate and ecological breakdown and significant biodiversity loss. This must be the next Government's - and will be our - first priority.
- F. In a truly federal United Kingdom; a new relationship between the nations of the United Kingdom, founded on mutual respect, trust, and responsibility to each other.
- G. In better politics that speaks to people's daily concerns and daily lives, that looks to the future and offers meaningful solutions to the challenges we face.

**Conference approves the Policy Development Committee's 2021 Manifesto Policy Paper *[to be published ahead of conference]***

**Conference resolves to present the electorate with a manifesto that:**

- i. Will invite people across Wales to step forward together, so we can create a fairer, greener, and more caring Wales where everyone has equal opportunity to achieve their potential and realise their ambitions;
  - a. where everyone has access to a world-class education, a place to call home well-funded public services;

- b. where business and entrepreneurs can invest in and build a greener economy that supports good jobs, sustainable communities, and supports a thriving, habitable planet.
  - ii. Will outline a bold and radical programme of change for the Welsh Liberal Democrats in the next Senedd term:
    - a. That puts the environment and our planet at the heart of all that we do;
    - b. That supports businesses and entrepreneurs to create a stronger, fairer, more sustainable economy - post-COVID and in response to Brexit - that works for people and planet;
    - c. That finishes the job of building a world-class education system and right to life-long learning to prepare us for the future;
    - d. That ensures we all have a safe place to call home and end homelessness in a decade.
  - iii. Will create a National Health Service that enables people to live independently and with dignity, reorienting our health system so it focuses on good health and well-being, rather than emergency care:
    - a. where patients are guaranteed the best treatment, in the right place at the right time to meet their health needs;
    - b. where patients are treated with care, dignity, and the respect they deserve, and staff are encouraged to find and rewarded for going the extra mile even in difficult and trying circumstances;
    - c. where mental health care is prioritised and not stigmatised or ignored.
  - iv. Will deliver the reform needed in our social care system, to create a system that enables everyone to lead independent, dignified lives, where care is provided on the basis of need, rather than the ability to pay.
  - v. Will build a fairer, greener economy that ensures that nobody goes without the basic essentials needed to get ahead in life, and supports and enables a thriving, habitable planet.
  - vi. Will establish a social floor and an ecological ceiling to guide decision-making to tackle poverty, inequality, and disadvantage.
  - vii. Will build a more equitable Wales, where no matter who you are or where you're from, everyone has equal opportunity to aim high and get ahead, including
    - a. Tackling discrimination, inequality, and racism as fundamental to the business of government;
    - b. Ensuring that work pays and meaningful support for those who are unable to work;
    - c. Ensure that working families have access to childcare to give families and children the support they need.

- d. Work with the UK Government to pilot a Universal Basic Income in Wales.
- viii. Will deliver a programme of tax reform that ensure fairer, more progressive forms of taxation that:
  - a. support the growing demand on public services, including meeting the challenges caused by COVID;
  - b. support public services as the bedrock of a more compassionate society;
  - c. support businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive and invest in their businesses and in our communities.
- ix. Will support thriving and sustainable rural communities and agricultural sectors across Wales in the face of Brexit, which is supported to meet our obligation to create a thriving planet.
- x. Will support the cultural, arts and heritage sector, recognising their importance to our well-being, our communities, our economy, and to the Welsh language.
- xi. Will continue to deliver the necessary change to increase the number of people in Wales with Welsh as their first language, supporting greater access to Welsh language education and Welsh language services;
- xii. Shapes a new relationship with each other, with our communities, with the four nations of the UK, and with our planet.