

Redditch and Inkberrow Local Party

Regional Conference Notes that:

- Dangerous human-caused Climate Change is a scientific reality that is already damaging our society and threatens to unravel it entirely, and therefore represents an existential threat to future generations.
- The Liberal Democrats have led the way in developing and implementing policy to combat climate change.
- The current UK government is reversing much of the good work done by Lib Dem Ministers in the Coalition.
- Any constraint on fossil fuel supply will accelerate the supply and affordability of alternatives, driving the Green Economy.
- Licenses for exploration for shale gas, coal-bed methane and coal gasification have been granted around Oswestry, Stoke on Trent, Telford, Coventry, Lichfield and Stafford.
- Peat and coal extraction are already banned or discouraged by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), while coal-bed methane extraction is encouraged.

Regional Conference Recognises that:

- We will continue to need fossil fuels until the alternatives are available in sufficient quantity.
- Unconventional forms of fossil fuel extraction have been shown to have less energy return on energy invested, than conventional forms environment than conventional forms (excepting coal).
- The risks of these unconventional fossil fuel extraction methods have not been significantly reduced by regulation, and regulations do not sufficiently address their Greenhouse Gas emissions.
- Fossil fuel extraction for burning or release into the environment is inherently unsustainable.

Regional Conference Reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

- The goal of a Zero Carbon Britain by 2050
- The Fourth Carbon Budget, which commits the UK to a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 1990) by 2025
- Generational justice, where future generations are not disadvantaged by the actions of the current generation.
- The decarbonisation of the electricity supply in the UK

Regional Conference Calls on Planning Authorities in The West Midlands to:

- Resist central government efforts to rush them into decisions on fossil fuel extraction licensing.
- Listen to the opinions of local residents and wider public wherever extraction is under consideration.
- Use every legal tool at their disposal to support their planning decisions.

Regional Conference Calls on Local Authorities in the Region to:

- Encourage the inclusion in Mineral and Local Plans of renewable energy, district heating, energy efficiency and public transport schemes.
- Investigate and exploit the potential to use Council resources to generate renewable energy for the benefit of their local community.
- Using the twin NPPF requirements of reducing the need for gas and promoting sustainable development, allow and encourage the inclusion of bans or moratoria on the domestic extraction of fossil fuels, within Mineral and Local Plans, especially those that use these unconventional methods:
 - Hydraulic fracturing of shale deposits, or 'Fracking'
 - Coal bed methane
 - Coal gasification