



## **Crime and Policing Policy Working Group**

The Liberal Democrats' aim is to build a fair, free and open society, and to succeed as a political party to enable us to help achieve this. The party's strategy sets out that we will aim to gain support by communicating what we stand for based on restoring fairness as the basis for our society and politics, in which everyone plays a fair part and is treated fairly; people and communities increasingly controlling their own lives and the direction of our society and politics; our belief that a better future is possible, if we work together; and the need to heal the nation's divides.

The remit of this group is to develop policies in the area of crime and policing which communicate these values and will attract support for our objective of building a liberal society.

The group will be expected to build on recent policy proposals as set out in the 2017 Election Manifesto, [Policy Paper 118 Doing What Works to Cut Crime \(2014\)](#) and the [Gun and Knife Crime \(2017\)](#) policy motion. The group is expected to consider and address Liberal Democrat principles on diversity and equalities in developing their proposals.

Since 2014 some types of crime in the UK have begun to rise after around a decade of crime rates falling. It is in part serious crimes that are driving this increase: knife crime (in London and beyond) and violence against the person have increased significantly. Additionally, crimes such as theft are increasing. This is against a background that has seen police numbers fall year-on-year since 2009.

This group will:

- Develop up to three headline policies for tackling crime and supporting the police which the party can communicate widely to win votes.

The working group will look at:

- Understanding the changing rates for different types of crime, and the drivers of these trends
- Where there are rising crime rates, particularly in the case of violent crime, what can be done to reverse this?
- Policies to support community policing & building safer communities – ensuring that people have confidence in the police.
- Police and equality: the most disadvantaged are the most likely to be victims of crime, both in terms of individuals (eg, disabled people and ethnic minorities) and communities
- Tackling the underlying causes of crime

The group will take evidence and consult widely from both within and outside the party. This evidence should inform the group's proposals, which will be presented alongside an analysis of costs and an Equalities Impact Assessment. A policy paper of no longer than 10,000 words should be produced for debate at Autumn Conference 2019. Prior to that a consultative session should be held at Spring Conference 2019, and a draft policy paper should be presented to the Federal Policy Committee by June 2019.