



## **A Fairer Share for All Policy Working Group: Remit**

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 economic and regional equality 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, the upcoming Policy Paper *Good Jobs, Better Businesses, Strong Communities* (2018), [Policy Paper 129 A Rural Future: Time to Act \(2018\)](#), [Policy Paper 124 Mending the Safety Net \(2016\)](#) and [Policy Paper 107 Tackling Inequality at its Roots \(2012\)](#). The group is expected to consider and address Liberal Democrat principles on diversity and equalities in developing their proposals.

The period since the economic crisis of 2008 has been hard on a large portion of the UK's population. Pay rises have been limited and below inflation, leading to a fall in real income. Government direct financial support through benefits and tax credits has been heavily squeezed in some areas, and public sector cuts have also hit employment. Finding affordable private or social housing has continued to become increasingly difficult in many areas. Food banks, unknown in Britain in recent decades, have had to be established, and many people now rely on them.

Many people now struggle to in a way to provide essentials such as food, housing and heating for their families in a way that they have not had to in recent history, and that they did not expect to have to. A larger number have suffered a prolonged squeeze, reducing their income now for a decade.

This group will:

- Develop up to three headline policies that would improve the situation for those suffering from reductions in real incomes.

The working group will look at:

- The fall in real incomes in the aftermath of the 2008 crash
- The effect of the reductions in the benefits and tax system
- Difficulties suffered by particular areas of the country
- Actions to stimulate economic activity, jobs and increase income, particularly in certain areas
- How the benefits of economic growth can be shared more fairly
- Proposals for increasing benefits and adjusting the tax system to make it fairer
- The cost of living for people on low-to-middle incomes with a particular focus on utilities and essentials
- Other proposals to make society and income levels fairer

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.