



Utilities Policy Working Group Remit

The remit of this group is to review the ownership and regulation of the UK's energy, water, rail and telecommunications industries and develop policy proposals for delivering quality services that are affordable for everyone.

The proposals should help to communicate our values and attract support for our objective of building a liberal society.

The group will be expected to build on existing policy proposals as set out in the 2017 Election Manifesto, Policy Paper 95 *Are we Being Served?*, and the emerging policy proposals of the current Fairer Share for All and Climate Change policy working groups. The group is expected to consider and address Liberal Democrat principles on diversity and equalities in developing their proposals.

This group will as a top priority:

- Develop up to three headline policies on utilities which the party can communicate widely to win votes.

The working group will look at:

- Future challenges facing the regulated sectors.
- The need for investment and innovation.
- The scope for further competition in these services.
- The scope for different forms of ownership to either the PLC or outright state ownership, such as public interest companies, mutual structures and local and community ownership.
- How the regulatory framework can help to address the climate and environmental emergency.
- How to ensure vulnerable customers are protected.

Approach and Timetable

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 2020. Prior to that a consultative session should be held at Spring Conference 2020, and a draft policy paper should be presented to the Federal Policy Committee by June 2020.