

Planning and Homes in England Working Group Remit

The remit of this group is to review the party's policies on homes and planning in England, at local, regional and national levels, and develop updated proposals which communicate our values of liberty, equality, democracy, community, human rights, internationalism and environmentalism in a way which secures the election of as many Liberal Democrats as possible, in order to promote our vision of society and remove from power a Conservative government that is failing the country.

The group will be expected to build on existing policy proposals as set out in the 2019 Election Manifesto, Policy Paper 104 Decent Homes for All (2012), Policy Paper 130 Power for People and Communities (2018), Policy Paper 129 A Rural Future: Time to Act (2018), Policy Paper 136 A Fairer Share for All (2019) and Policy Paper 139 Tackling the Climate Emergency (2019), and the emerging policy paper on the Natural Environment. 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 homes and planning which the party can communicate widely to win votes.

The working group will develop policies on:

- How we can use the planning system to promote sustainable economic development
- How many homes need to be built, what kind of homes they should be and where they should be built, including the appropriate roles of UK, England, regional and local targets
- How we can deliver more affordable and social homes in particular
- Creating environmentally sustainable and climate resilient communities
- Reform of tenant, landlord, shared-ownership, leasehold and second home rules
- Meeting the housing needs of specific groups such as care leavers
- Building safety
- Building control
- How we empower communities to have greater control over planning
- The relationship between local, regional and central government in England over planning and housing

The group will also need to consider the development of more detailed proposals to implement relevant headline policies included in the Tackling the Climate Emergency paper and the emerging Natural Environment paper, including making the planning system promote biodiversity and reduce the UK's carbon emissions.

The group will also consider the need for institutional change at central, regional and local government levels to embed these approaches firmly in policy.

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 2022. Prior to that a consultative session should be held at Spring Conference 2022, and a draft policy paper should be presented to the Federal Policy Committee by June 2022.