

Fairer Society Working Group Remit

The remit of this group is to develop proposals for building a fairer society, building on existing policy, which communicate our values of liberty, equality, democracy, community, internationalism and environmentalism in a way which secures the election of as many Liberal Democrats as possible, at local, regional and national level, in order to promote our vision of society and remove from power a Conservative government that is failing the country.

The group will develop further proposals for implementing and defending the party's commitment to introducing a Universal Basic Income (UBI). It will also be expected to build on existing policy proposals as set out in the 2019 Election Manifesto, Policy Paper 136 A Fairer Share for All (2019), Policy Paper 133 Good Jobs, Better Businesses, Stronger Communities (2018), Policy Paper 124 Mending the Safety Net (2016), Policy Paper 102 A New Purpose for Politics: Quality of Life and the emerging work on Universal Basic Income. Given the breadth of the remit, the group is encouraged to start by reviewing existing policy to identify where it remains valid and can be reaffirmed, and then focus effort on areas where there is a need for new policy development. While the group is expected to consider and address Liberal Democrat principles on diversity and equalities in developing their proposals, the core remit of this paper is economic fairness rather than the equalities agenda.

This group will as a top priority:

- Develop up to three headline policies for building a fairer society which the party can communicate widely to win votes.
- Develop an aspirational goal or goals which link these together.

The working group will develop policies on:

- How we can help those on low and middle incomes overcome the barriers to improving their economic position, in particular by improving skills training.
- Detailed proposals for implementing UBI and how this would fit in with the wider policy agenda to reduce poverty and improve economic efficiency
- Promoting people's wellbeing as well as economic advancement
- The fairness and efficiency of the labour market, in particular tackling the challenge of insecure employment and low pay
- The fairness and efficiency of the tax system and its role in redistribution.
- Reducing economic and social inequalities between nations and regions
- How we can build welfare and benefits arrangements that ensures dignity and a good quality of life for everyone
- Reducing absolute and relative poverty and food poverty, especially for children
- Tackling the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on inequality
- The relationship between local government, central government and the voluntary sector in delivering these objectives

The group will also need to consider the development of more detailed proposals to implement relevant headline policies included in the 2019 Election Manifesto and the emerging paper on Universal Basic Income.

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.