

Opportunity and Skills Working Group

Opportunity and Skills Working Group Draft Remit

The remit of this group is to review the party's policies on Opportunities and Skills, and make updated proposals which communicate our values of liberty, equality, democracy, community, internationalism and environmentalism in a way which helps secure 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 be expected to build on existing policy proposals as set out in the 2019 Election Manifesto, Policy Paper 133 Good Jobs, Better Businesses, Stronger Communities, Policy Paper 128 Every Child Empowered and Policy Paper 110 Learning for Life. 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 Opportunities and Skills which the party can communicate widely to win votes.

The working group will develop policies on:

- Giving people the skills to be successful in their lives including:
 - Improving and valuing 14-19 vocational education in schools
 - Boosting Further Education
 - Expanding apprenticeships
 - Supporting people throughout their lives with careers advice
 - Developing Adult skills education and lifelong learning
- Meeting the needs of the economy for skills, including tackling the Post-Brexit skills crisis
- Broadening access to high quality skills training for underrepresented groups
- Tackling regional inequalities in skills

The group will in particular need to consider a Liberal Democrat response to the government's Skills and Post-16 Education Act.

The group's remit does not cover Higher Education.

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 subject matter is overwhelmingly England only in application, however it will be useful to look at experience in other nations of the UK and to consider any 'cross-border' issues.

The group will take evidence and consult widely 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 2023. Prior to that a consultative session should be held at Spring Conference 2023, and a draft policy paper should be presented to the Federal Policy Committee by June 2023.