

Spring Conference 2025

SHORTLISTED MINI-MOTIONS

Mini-Motions

A NEW WAY TO PROPOSE POLICY IDEAS

At this Conference, we are introducing Mini-Motions—a new opportunity for members to share ideas and discuss them with the wider party membership.

Unlike formal motions, **Mini-Motions do not commit the party to a policy position.** Instead, they provide a space to float ideas, spark discussion, and gauge interest from fellow members.

The Conference Committee has shortlisted nine Mini-Motions available in this document. As time is limited, **members are invited to vote for the ones they would most like to see debated.** Voting is open until midday on Friday, 4th April. Members can [cast their votes online](#).

The order in which Mini-Motions will be debated will be published on Saturday morning, ahead of the first Mini-Motions session at 11:30 am. Additional Mini-Motions will be debated throughout the weekend as time allows, in the published order.

These fast-paced and engaging debates will last 10–15 minutes each. The proposer will introduce their idea, followed by brief contributions from other members. After the discussion, the proposer can outline their next steps— for example, they could invite others to form a group to develop the idea into a full motion for a future Conference, or take time to reflect on the views expressed by fellow members.

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MINI-MOTION A:

A Basic Health Guarantee

Policy Suggestion:

The Welsh Government should increase the Welsh rate of income tax by 1% across all income bands to fund free eye-tests, free dental check-ups, and improvements in dentistry.

Policy Benefits:

1. **Preventative Care:** Early diagnosis of dental or vision problems can help avoid costly surgeries down the line.
2. **Improved Productivity:** People who are in good health are more likely to be present at work and perform better, which can have a positive impact on the Welsh economy.
3. **Broader Coverage:** Making these services free ensures that those who might otherwise skip regular check-ups due to financial constraints are more likely to use them, benefiting individuals across all income levels.
4. **Streamlined Collection of Funds:** Taxing at source ensures a steady, predictable flow of funds for these services, making them financially stable. By taking the responsibility out of the hands of individuals and employers, the system can operate more efficiently, saving on administrative costs.

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MINI-MOTION B:

A Sovereign Wealth Fund for Wales

Policy suggestion:

That the Welsh Liberal Democrats call for the creation of a sovereign wealth fund for Wales to make Wales' economy work for Welsh citizens

Policy Benefits:

State owned: Gives our nation economic stability and risk diversification.

Integrated wealth: Ensures wealth generated today benefits future generations in Cymru, such as, infrastructure, technology and social programmes.

National security: Provides a financial cushion and can reduce public debt.

Investment returns: Give Wales income generation from global investments.

International influence: Making investments in global companies or sectors will enhance Cymru's geopolitical power.

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MINI-MOTION C:

An IndyRef for Wales?

Policy Suggestion:

Consideration should be given to holding a legally-binding independence referendum for Wales.

Policy Benefits:

1. Empowering the Welsh People – Supporting a referendum affirms the Welsh Liberal Democrats' commitment to democracy and allows the people of Wales to decide their political future.
2. Public Engagement – The debate leading up to a referendum would encourage widespread discussion, increasing political awareness and participation.
3. International Recognition – A referendum commitment signals to the world that Wales is serious about self-determination, fostering greater diplomatic engagement.
4. Advancing Devolution – Even if Wales remains in the UK, the campaign could strengthen calls for greater powers for the Senedd. The Welsh Liberal Democrats could use this momentum to push for further devolution, enhancing Wales' ability to govern effectively.

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MINI-MOTION D:

Cannabis-Based Products for Medicinal Use

Background:

Although Cannabis-Based Products for Medicinal Use (CBPMs) have been legal for over seven years, there has been little effort to destigmatise their medical use, leaving many patients vulnerable to disability discrimination.

Many disabled people, including some of our own members, have found medicinal cannabis transformative for their conditions. However, the freedom and quality of life this treatment provides is often undermined by stigma, stemming from a widespread lack of education and awareness.

Policy Proposal:

All councils across Wales should launch information and education campaigns to ensure that businesses and relevant authorities—such as the police, housing associations, and licensed premises—are fully aware of the legal status of CBPMs and do not discriminate against lawful users.

To support this, Welsh Liberal Democrat councillors should propose motions to their councils mirroring the successful motion passed in Salford on 15 November 2023.

Motion passed by Salford Council:

<https://sccdemocracy.salford.gov.uk/documents/s67260/13bi%20cbpm%20motion%20v2%20with%20appendices.pdf>

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MINI-MOTION E:

Elevating Welsh Housing: Implementing Scandinavian Building Standards

Policy Suggestion:

We propose adopting Scandinavian building standards in Welsh housing to enhance sustainability, energy efficiency, and overall quality.

Policy Benefits:

Passive House Principles: Promote passive design techniques to reduce energy consumption and improve indoor comfort.

Renewable Energy Integration: Mandate renewable energy sources for heating and electricity, reducing carbon emissions.

High-Quality Insulation: Enforce rigorous insulation standards to minimize heat loss and lower heating costs.

Sustainable Materials: Encourage the use of eco-friendly and where possible local construction materials, reducing environmental impact.

Smart Technology: Promote the integration of smart home technology for efficient energy management.

Implementing these standards will result in healthier, more sustainable, and cost-effective Welsh housing.

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MINI-MOTION F:

Establishing Open Source Program Offices in Wales

Policy Proposal:

We propose creating Open Source Program Offices (OSPOs) within Welsh public sector institutions and local authorities to drive the adoption, development, and contribution to open-source software across Wales.

Key Benefits:

Digital Sovereignty – Reduces reliance on proprietary software, ensuring long-term control over public digital infrastructure.

Cost Savings & Efficiency – Cuts licensing costs, improves interoperability, and enhances public service delivery.

Innovation & Collaboration – Encourages partnerships between government, academia, and industry, fostering technological progress.

Tech Talent Development – Provides hands-on experience for Welsh students and developers, strengthening digital skills.

Transparency & Trust – Enhances accountability in public services through open-source solutions.

Aligning with global best practices, OSPOs will position Wales as a leader in open-source innovation, driving sustainable digital growth and economic benefits.

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MINI-MOTION G:

In Response to The Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales

Policy suggestion:

Promote a national debate on the future constitutional status of Wales, aiming to develop a set of constitutional proposals for greater self-determination that could be put to the people of Wales and work with others across civil society to develop a Welsh Bill of Rights – codifying the rights that Welsh citizens should enjoy under a future constitutional settlement.

Policy Benefits:

Liberalism in action: Demonstrate Liberal commitments to political self-determination, and making decisions as close as is practical to those whose lives they affect, building on the grassroots engagement at the heart of the Commission's work.

People: Reaching out beyond the Cardiff Bay bubble and existing political institutions, will put the Welsh Liberal Democrats at the centre of people's conversation.

Astute: An open debate and free vote on self-determination raises awareness of alternatives to the status quo, while respecting the range of views on Cymru's constitutional future.

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MINI-MOTION H:

Local Government Reorganisation

Proposal:

The current unitary authorities are unsuitable for the current service delivery model. There is massive duplication of staffing and small departments that are unsustainable. We should propose a new local government reorganisation (LGR) leaving between 12 and 17 councils.

Background:

The 1995 reorganisation created too many small authorities which have significant financial challenges. 4 councils are too small to merit a Member of Parliament without adding additional electors and Merthyr is only a few thousand voters larger than Barry Town Council. This leads to 22 Statutory Officer posts and creates an industry of audits and inspections which place an additional burden on council taxpayers. Having a clear commitment to LGR and electoral reform would give the 2026 Senedd manifesto a clear and distinctive constitutional agenda.

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MINI-MOTION I:

Use of Small Nuclear Reactors by Local Government

Policy suggestion

Investigate the use of Small Nuclear Reactors as part of energy generation and supply network, considering the risks, costs, and how to safely dispose of waste.

Policy benefits:

If the UK is to meet climate change targets it must move quickly to adopt renewable energy. SMRs have been touted as the future of nuclear energy with fewer radioactive byproducts than conventional reactors.

However, there is a need for further research to understand the impacts and address risks to their adoption including:

- The implications of SMRs on the whole fuel cycle, particularly nuclear waste.
- Impact on water streams and potential long term environmental impacts if things go wrong.
- Energy system security and the risk to hostile interference and single system points of failure.