

POLICY MOTION

The Welsh Economy

Proposed by Clwyd East and Flintshire Liberal Democrats

This Conference believes:

- A. That healthy public services, healthy citizens and a happy and coherent society in Wales requires a productive, sustainable and growing economy.
- B. That taxes are the subscription fee for a civilised society and not a disincentive to economic activity if levied fairly and collected efficiently.
- C. That economic activity and environmental sustainability can go hand in hand.
- D. That control over major public services by the Senedd should be accompanied by influence over major economic levers including business taxation.

Conference further believes:

- a. That under Labour and the Conservatives at UK level tax and spending have become separate issues and this has created distrust in the electorate as their promises do not add up.
- b. That Plaid Cymru would either bankrupt Wales or break multiple election promises and let the electorate down again.
- c. That Reform UK are perpetrating a fraud on the people of Wales by making wild spending promises while blaming the poorest in society for problems created by their technology billionaire masters.

Conference resolves that a Liberal Democrat Welsh Government would rejuvenate the Welsh economy by:

1. Establishing on their first day a panel of expert economists to make recommendations for how the Welsh economy could grow for the benefit of Welsh residents.
2. Providing development funding to data centre providers to put data centres in close proximity to renewable power generation ensuring that Welsh natural resources drive Welsh economic growth;

3. Investing in public transport and road repairs.

The Liberal Democrats would further seek powers from the UK Government to:

- i. Impose a platform tax on technology firms such as Booking.com and AirBNB that provide the ability for people to book holidays in properties in Wales – moving this burden from small business owners to the larger business that make larger profits.
- ii. Apply zonal electricity pricing to ensure that energy generated in Wales makes Wales attractive for business investment and reducing the cost of living for Welsh residents.
- iii. Grant devolved powers to the Senedd to make all decisions on business taxation including varying VAT for specific products and sectors to drive further economic growth or to rein in economic actions that cause harm in the longer term. This would involve bringing the principle of 'polluter pays' into business taxation in Wales.