

A Record of Delivery:

What the Liberal Democrats
have achieved in Government



STRONGER ECONOMY. **FAIRER** SOCIETY.

Note

This pocket guide outlines how Liberal Democrats in Government are working to build a stronger economy in a fairer society, enabling everyone to get on in life. It identifies our key achievements as of August 2013 and some policies we aim to deliver in the future.

As the governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have separate powers in many areas, this guide shows achievements within the remit of the UK government only. The Scottish and Welsh Liberal Democrats publish their own policies on devolved matters.

Sources: Office for National Statistics, House of Commons Library, The Data Service, Department of Health, Department for Business, Skills and Innovation, HM Treasury

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STRONGER ECONOMY.



The Liberal Democrats have always been able to campaign on a strong record of local delivery. Now - for the first time in our party's history - we can combine that with our record in national government too.

That's what we did in the Eastleigh by-election - and it works. But no one is going to tell our story for us. We need to use every opportunity between now and the General Election to spread our message.

The Tories won't deliver a fairer society. Labour can't deliver a stronger economy. Only the Liberal Democrats can build a stronger economy and a fairer society, enabling everyone to get on in life.

Across these pages is all the proof you need:

- The Liberal Democrats secured a **£700 income tax cut** for ordinary working people. Because of our tax changes, 2.7 million of the lowest paid no longer pay any income tax at all.
- In Government we have helped businesses create over **1 million new jobs** since Labour's credit crunch and a record **1.2 million new apprentices.**

FAIRER SOCIETY.

- We have helped cut the cost of living, saving families up to **£600** in Council Tax, **£170** in fuel duty, **£110** on the TV licence and **£1,200** for every child in childcare.

That is real help in tough times, and it wouldn't have happened without the Liberal Democrats.

For years our opponents would tell people that we weren't ready for government. Not any more.

National government is better with us in it: the Liberal Democrats are making the economy stronger, society fairer and we're the only party that can do both.

So be proud of what we're achieving - and make sure people hear about it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nick Clegg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nick Clegg MP

Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister

Jobs & Apprentices

Lib Dems are creating jobs and building a stronger economy, helping people get on.

**1 million
new jobs**



1 million new jobs

We are getting Britain building again, investing in manufacturing and growing businesses across the UK. So far we have helped businesses create over 1 million new private sector jobs.

**1.2 million
apprentices**



1.2 million apprentices

1.2 million apprentices have started under the Lib Dems. We are also giving 40,000 businesses £1,500 each to take on young apprentices.

**£2,000
jobs tax break**

Help for job creators

We are giving all employers £2,000 cash back on the tax they pay on their employees. With this money, a business could employ 4 more people on the minimum wage or one person on £22,400 without paying any more tax.

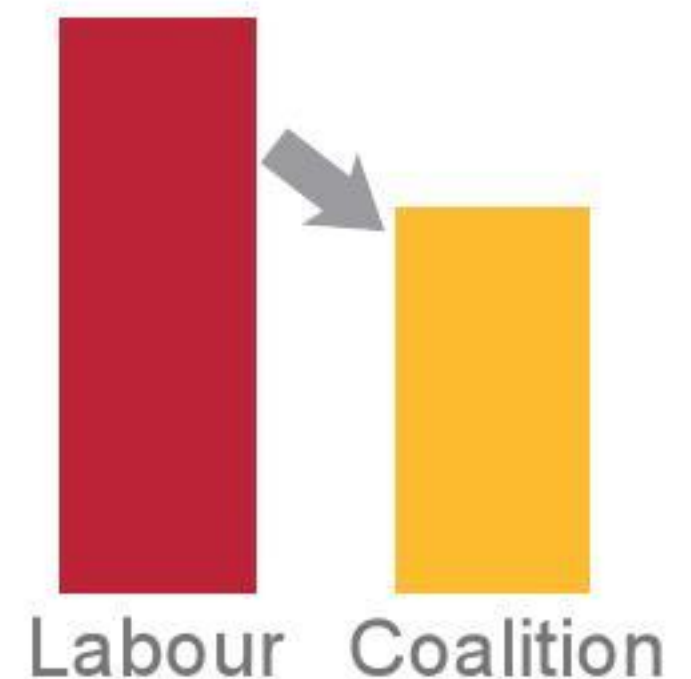
Economy

Lib Dems are fixing the deficit, boosting manufacturing and supporting growing businesses across the UK.

Cleaning up Labour's mess

We have cut the deficit by a third and kept interest rates low for families and businesses. And we are breaking up the banks to make sure they can never again hold the British taxpayer to ransom.

Deficit cut by a third



Boosting manufacturing

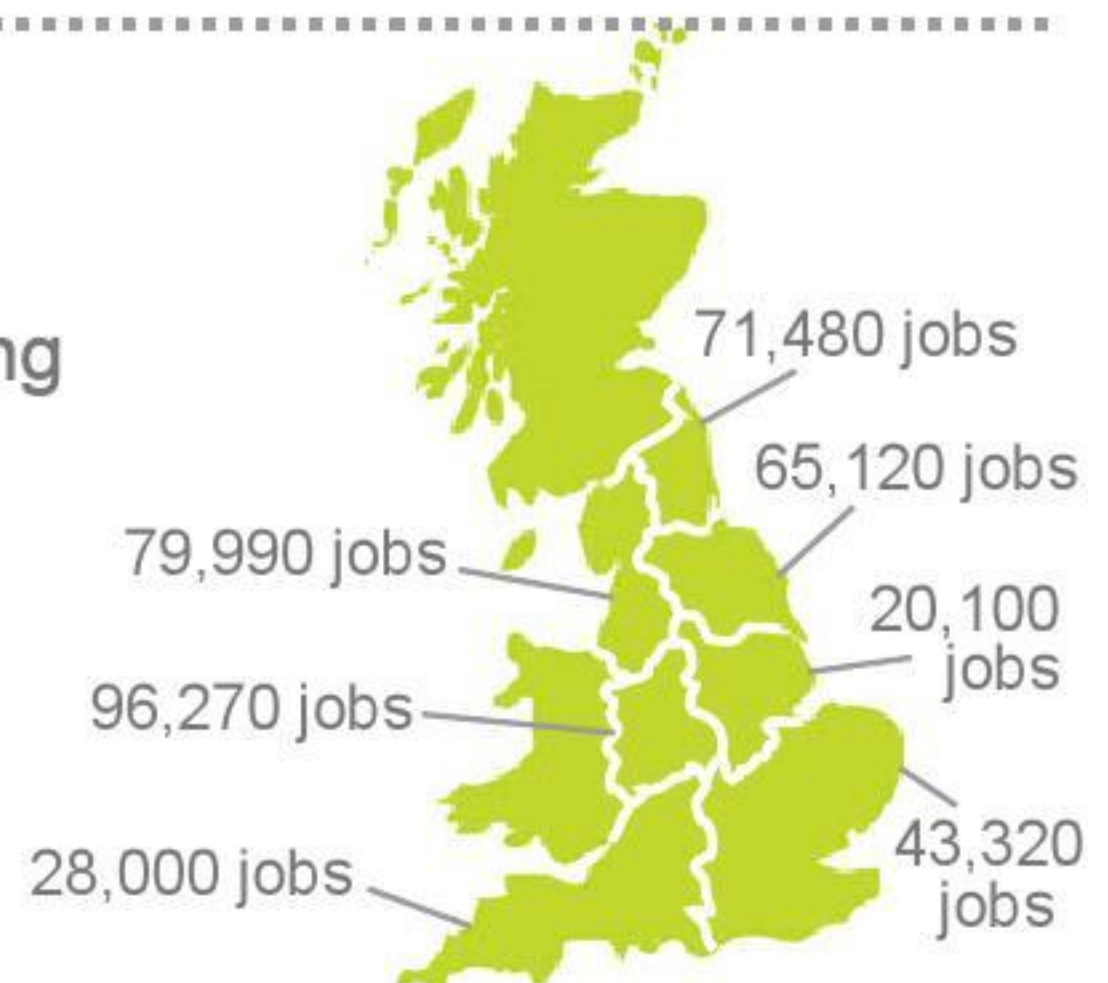
We are building a new hi-tech economy by:

- Protecting the science budget from cuts
- Giving tax relief to inventors
- Increasing research and development (R&D) tax credits for small businesses
- Putting £5.5bn extra into science, renewable energy and manufacturing



Helping businesses grow

We are giving millions of pounds to growing businesses through our £3.2bn Regional Growth Fund, creating and protecting thousands of jobs in England.



Fairer Taxes

Lib Dems are making the tax system fairer, cutting taxes to help people get on in life.

£700
tax cut

£700 income tax cut

We are giving a £700 tax cut to 24 million people by making sure nobody pays any income tax on the first £10,000 they earn.

We are also pushing to make sure nobody pays income tax on earnings below the level of the minimum wage, about £12,500.

Aim to tax mansions worth over £2 million



Making the rich pay their share

We have put a tax on private jets, a Mansion Tax on tax dodgers and are campaigning to create a full Mansion Tax on all properties worth over £2 million.

Under this Coalition, someone earning £1m will pay £381,000 more tax than under Labour.



£9bn back from tax dodgers

We are cracking down on tax avoidance, bringing in an extra £9 billion per year by 2015.

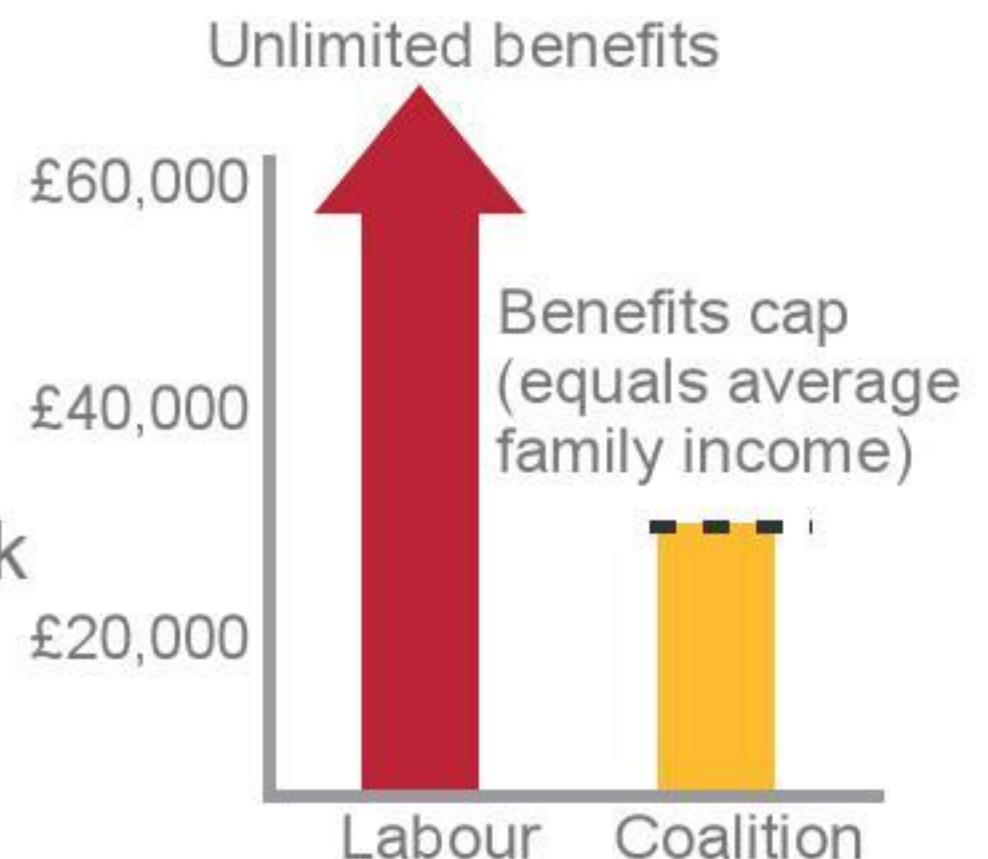
We have set up agreements with other countries to stop people hiding their money - bringing in extra tax on top of the £9bn. And last year we brought criminal convictions against 400 tax dodgers, clawing back £1bn.

Welfare

We're making the benefits system fair, giving people opportunities to find work, but making sure they take responsibility for using those opportunities.

Making work pay

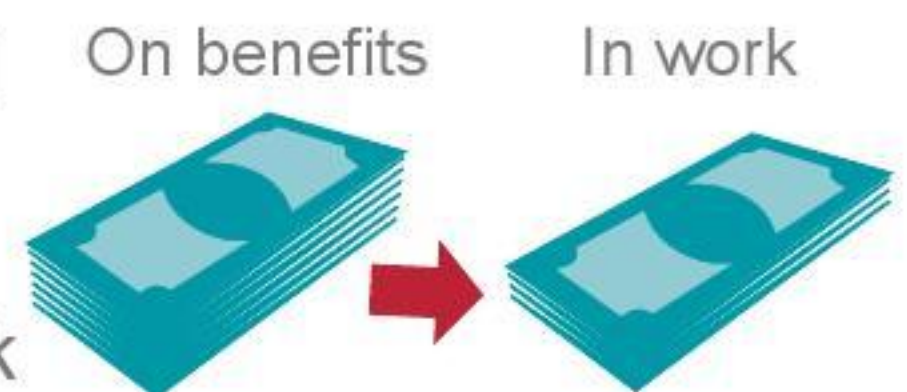
We are making work always pay more than welfare. We are giving 24 million working people a £700 income tax cut and capping benefits at £26,000 so that people out of work don't get more than the average working family.



Ending Labour's benefits trap

We are introducing a fairer system, replacing 30 different benefits with one simple 'universal credit', which withdraws benefits gradually, so it always pays to work. This will end Labour's benefits trap where someone who tried to work more could actually be worse off financially.

Labour's Benefits Trap



Jobseekers' contract

We have created a jobseekers' contract, which says the government will work hard to help people get a job, as long as they take responsibility for finding one. Most people on benefits want a job but often need a bit of extra help. Instead of demonising them, we are giving them the right support to find work.

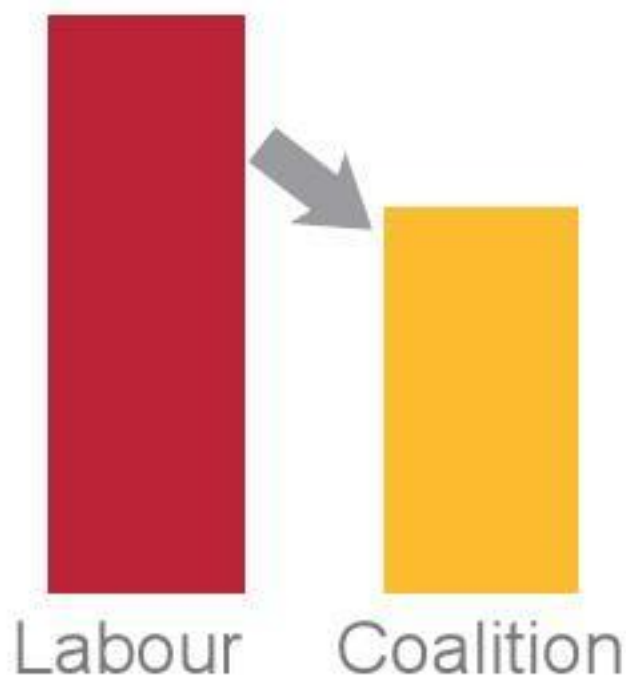


Cost of Living

Lib Dems are helping with the cost of living in these tough times, enabling everyone to get on.

Average family income tax

£700 income tax cut



We are giving a £700 tax cut to 24 million people by making sure nobody pays any income tax on the first £10,000 they earn.

This means we have cut the income tax bill for an average working family by a third since 2010.



Helping with living costs

We have frozen fuel duty, making it 13p per litre less than it would have been under Labour, saving motorists around £170 a year.

We have also funded a 3-year council tax freeze, saving the average family £600 since 2010 and frozen TV licence fees, saving £110.



£1,200 to help with childcare

We are giving working families up to £1,200 per child towards the costs of childcare.

Transport

Lib Dems are investing in transport to help us build a stronger economy, creating over 100,000 jobs through High Speed 2 alone.

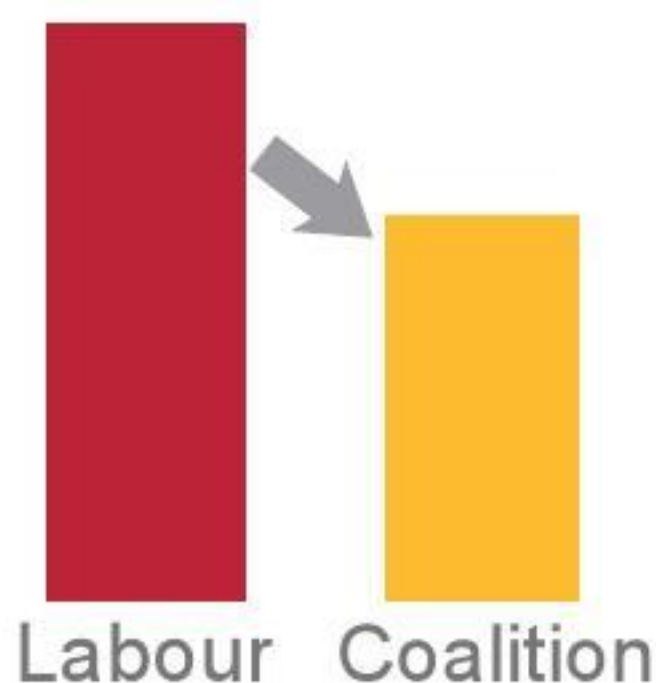
Transport projects near you:

- 
- HS2 to Manchester (B'ham journey time cut to 41 mins)
 - £560m to create a Northern Rail hub across major cities
 - HS2 to B'ham (London journey cut to 49 mins)
 - Cycle path from Cole Hall lane bridge to Solihull
 - Electrifying the South Wales and Valleys lines and working to find investment to electrify the North Wales line
 - Bristol Bus Rapid Transit scheme
 - New cycle routes: Yeovil to Sherborne, Bedminster to Clifton and round Lower Bristol Road in Bath
 - Reading station upgrade
 - New £270m rail link from Bedford to Oxford
 - HS2 will cut journeys to other cities and connect Scotland to Europe
 - £50m to upgrade the Sleeper Service
 - £560m Northern Rail hub, linking Newcastle to Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool
 - £240m East Coast Main Line upgrade, cutting journey times
 - HS2 to Leeds (B'ham journey cut to 57 mins)
 - £58m for new trains for Sheffield Supertram
 - £800m to fully electrify the Midland Mainline
 - £371m to extend Nottingham Tram
 - £240m East Coast Main Line upgrade
 - £500,000 to create the largest UK cycle hub in Cambridge
 - Building Crossrail, creating 30,000 jobs
 - Extending Northern Line to Battersea

Immigration

We're building a firm but fair immigration system. Highly-skilled immigrants can help us build a stronger economy, but the system must work.

Immigration cut by a third



Immigration down by a third

We have cut immigration by a third and we are ensuring we get the best and brightest migrants, like scientists and engineers, to help us build a stronger economy.



Rebuilding trust in the system

We are cracking down on abuse of the system, shutting bogus colleges that let students work instead of study and toughening English tests so migrants can participate in British society.

We are also introducing exit checks at borders so we can check that people are leaving the country on time.



No more child detention

We have ended Labour's disgraceful practice of routinely detaining innocent children for immigration purposes.

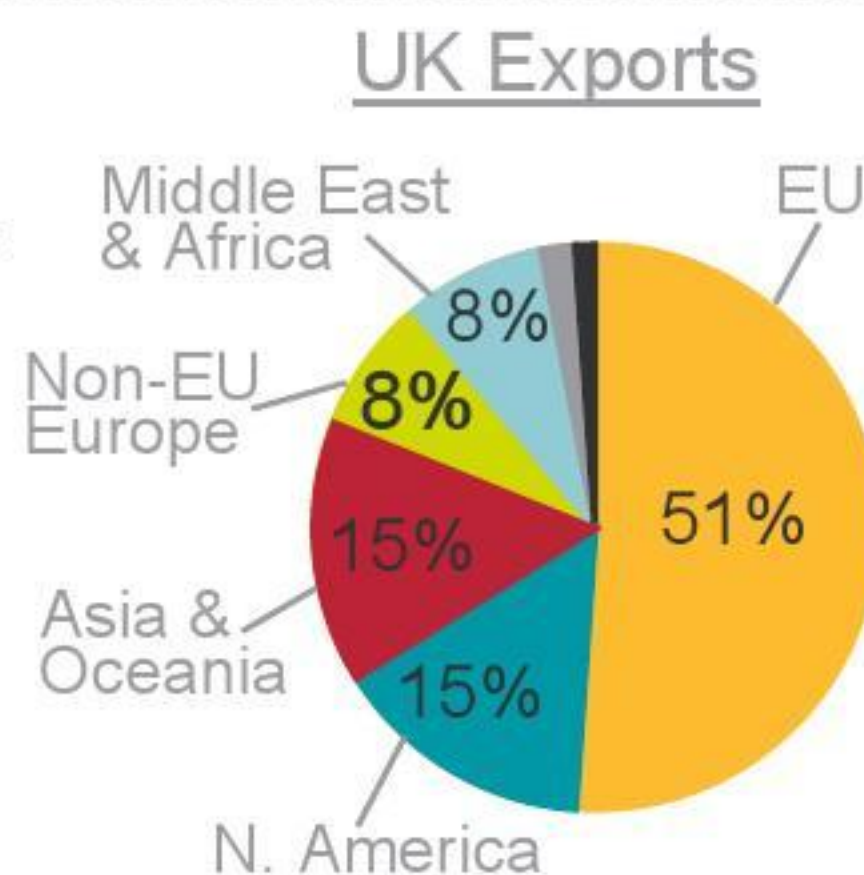
Jobs & Trade

Lib Dems are making Britain stronger in the world economy, creating jobs and opportunities for British businesses.

A strong economy in Europe

The UK economy is stronger as part of the EU. 3 million jobs, 51% of exports and thousands of British businesses depend on Europe.

Lib Dems are the only party working with other countries to reform the EU so it works for Britain, tackling challenges like cross-border crime, terrorism and the global economy.



Making Europe stronger

We are working with EU countries to increase trade across the whole of Europe. We are setting up Free Trade Agreements with the USA, Japan, India, South Korea, Canada and Singapore, creating millions of jobs.



Trade with new economies

We are helping businesses sell British goods abroad - for the first time since the 1970s, we are exporting more cars than we are importing.

We have also boosted exports to new economies and created a scheme to promote British business around the world.

Exports are up:

↑ **47%** to China

↑ **33%** to India

↑ **33%** to Brazil

Environment

Lib Dems are building a stronger, greener economy, creating jobs now and protecting our environment for the future.



Tackling rising fuel bills

We are making energy companies put people on the lowest tariff and have introduced collective switching, allowing people to use their 'buying power' to get the best energy deals. We are also ensuring people are compensated directly when an energy company breaks the rules.



Green jobs by improving homes

Our Green Deal lets most people insulate their homes for no up-front cost. This will cut fuel bills, reduce carbon emissions and create 60,000 jobs.



Green jobs from renewables

We are creating up to 200,000 new green jobs by investing in renewable energy and high tech green manufacturing, including through our UK Green Investment Bank - the first of its kind in the world.

Rural Economy

We are building a strong rural economy, rolling out broadband and getting a fair deal for people.

Rural broadband

We are improving access to high speed broadband with our £830 million strategy, boosting growth and creating thousands of jobs, especially in rural areas.



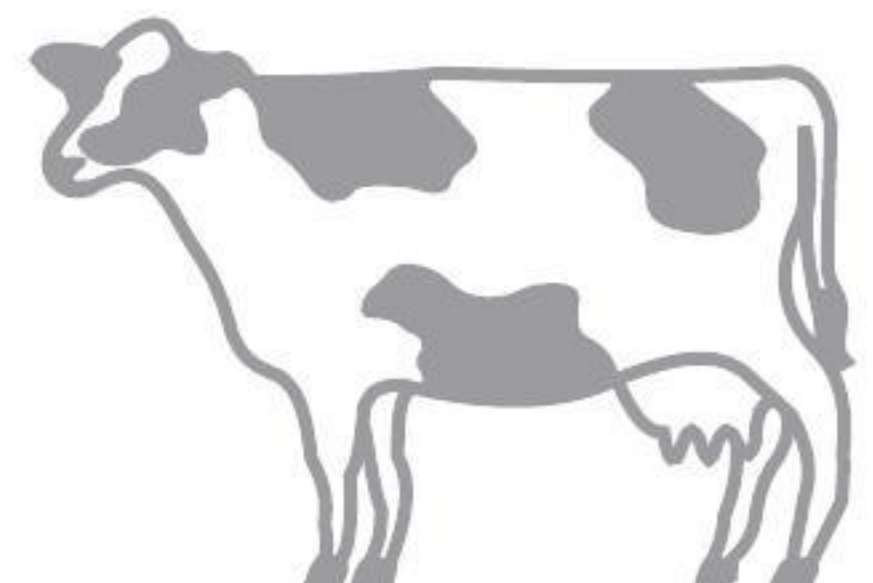
Protecting Post Offices

We ended Labour's Post Office closure programme and instead are modernising the Post Office, giving communities a bigger say in how it is run. Post Offices will be able to offer more services to people who need them, such as free-to-use cash machines.



A fair deal for British farmers

We are boosting the rural economy and making sure farmers get a fair deal by creating a Groceries Code to stop big supermarkets ripping them off.



Children & Families

We're giving every child a fair start and making it easier for parents to balance childcare with work.



Shared parental leave

We are introducing shared parental leave, so mothers and fathers can share maternity and paternity leave as they see fit.

15 hours free early education

15 hours free early education

We have given all three- and four-year-olds 15 hours of free early education per week for the first time ever, and are giving 40% of two-year-olds the same entitlement.



£1,200 for childcare costs

We are giving working families up to £1,200 for every child to help with childcare costs.

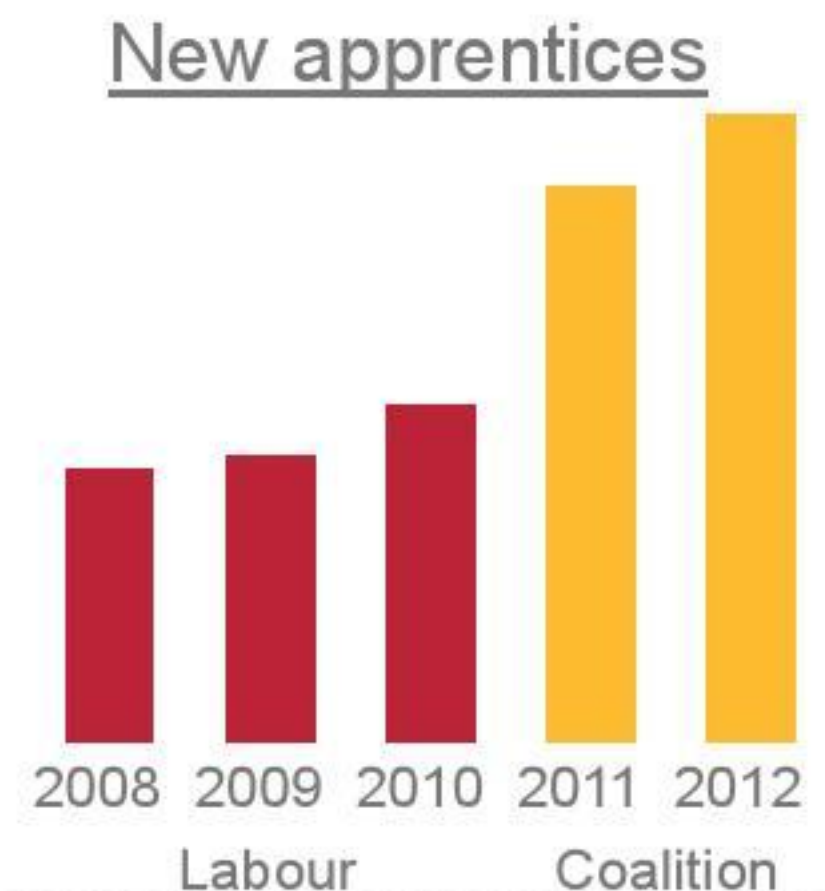
Young People

Lib Dems are building a stronger economy, creating jobs and apprenticeships to help young people get on in life.

More apprentices than ever

We have created more new apprentices than ever before. So far, 1.2 million people have started an apprenticeship.

We are also giving 40,000 businesses £1,500 each to take on young apprentices.



Tackling youth unemployment

We are helping young people get off the dole and into work through apprenticeships, training or work experience. So far we have helped 100,000 find work experience.



Higher Education

We have made the new system of student finance as fair as possible:

- Nobody pays anything until they have graduated and earn over £21,000
- The poorest 30% pay less overall than under the previous system
- All graduates pay less per month

Graduate salary	Monthly repayments	
	Labour	Coalition
£20,000	£38	£0
£25,000	£75	£30
£30,000	£113	£68
£40,000	£188	£143

Education

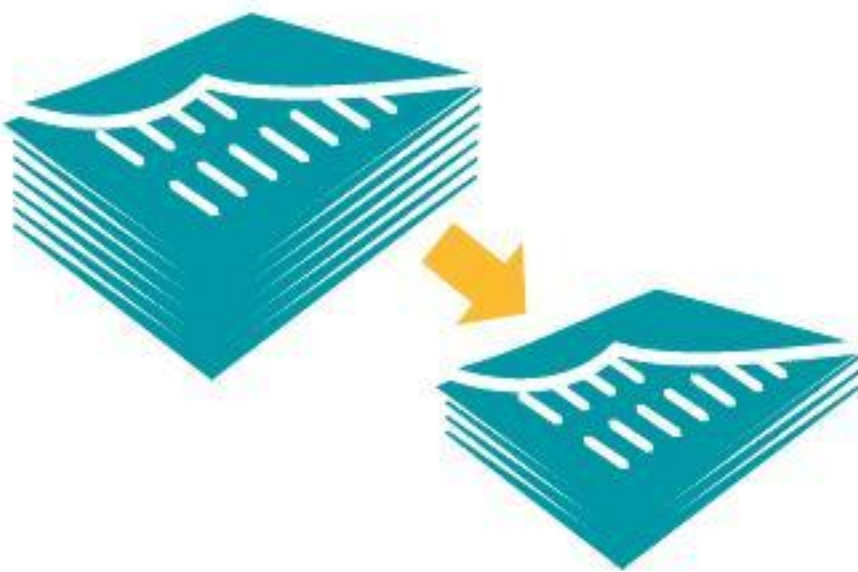
We're giving every child a fair start in life, putting extra money into schools and giving schools and teachers the freedom they need to teach.

£2.5 billion
for schools
in England

Our £2.5 billion Pupil Premium

We are raising standards in schools through our £2.5 billion Pupil Premium, which targets extra money at pupils who need the most help.

Slimmed-down
National Curriculum



Giving schools more freedoms

We have reformed Labour's flawed academies programme and slimmed down their restrictive national curriculum, giving schools and teachers more freedom to design lessons to suit individual children.



Ambitious for every child

We are reforming school league tables so that schools are rewarded for the progress made by every student - not just those on grade boundaries.

Lib Dems are increasing the health budget every year and making sure people get better care and faster treatment in the NHS.

Better care in the NHS

We are improving care and services across the board:

5,268 more doctors

MRSA superbug infections now lower than ever

Outlawed mixed-sex hospital wards

28,000 accessed cancer drugs they weren't allowed under Labour

Mental health

We believe mental health should not be ignored or stigmatised, but should be taken as seriously as physical health.

We are using £400 million to help people with mental health problems get the right support early on, such as through talking or psychological therapies.

908,000
patients accessed
psychological therapies

Capping social care costs

We are protecting people from high and unpredictable care cost by introducing a cap for the first time ever and helping people with costs earlier on.

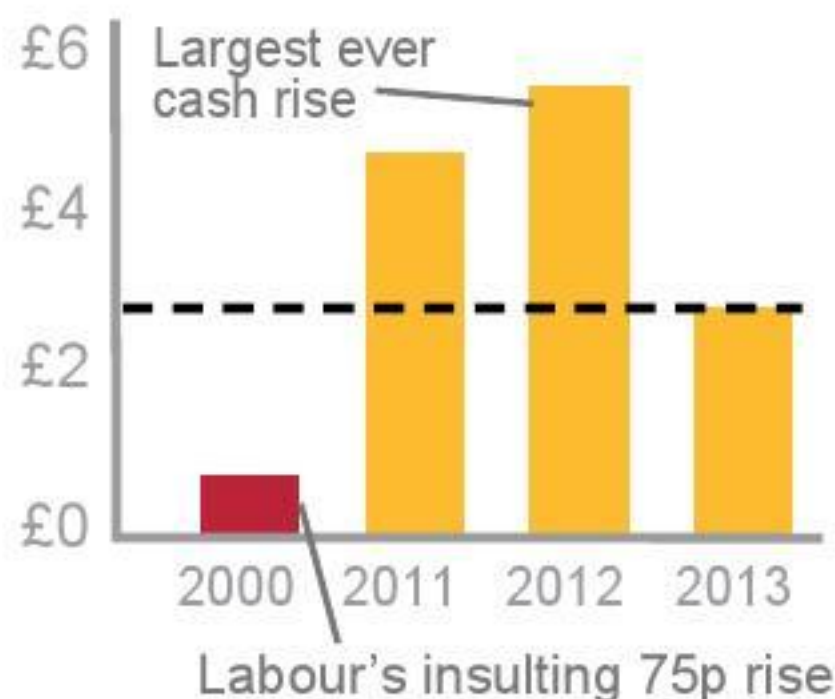
This will ensure that nobody has to sell their home to pay for care.



Older People

Lib Dems are making sure pensioners get a fair deal in these tough economic times.

State pension can never rise by less than our new legal minimum



£650 for today's pensioners

Our 'triple lock' on the state pension means it will always rise with inflation, earnings or 2.5% - whichever is highest. This new system meant pensioners received the biggest ever cash rise in their pension last year, now worth an extra £650 since Labour.



Protected pensions for the future

We are introducing a single, simple and decent state pension, increasing it from £107 to £144 per week. We are also guaranteeing 11 million workers an automatic workplace pension that their employer and the government contribute to, giving everyone the confidence to save.

Making age discrimination illegal

We have ended the scandalous situation under Labour, where employees could be sacked just for turning 65. Now everyone over 65 can choose whether they work or not, regardless of their age.

Housing

We are investing in house building, helping us build a stronger economy and a fairer society.

Building more homes

We are creating up to 340,000 construction jobs through a £10bn scheme to help house builders build more homes, as well as a commitment to build 190,000 new affordable homes.



Helping first time buyers

We are helping 84,000 first time buyers purchase their own home by giving them access to cheap mortgage deals.



Empty homes back into use

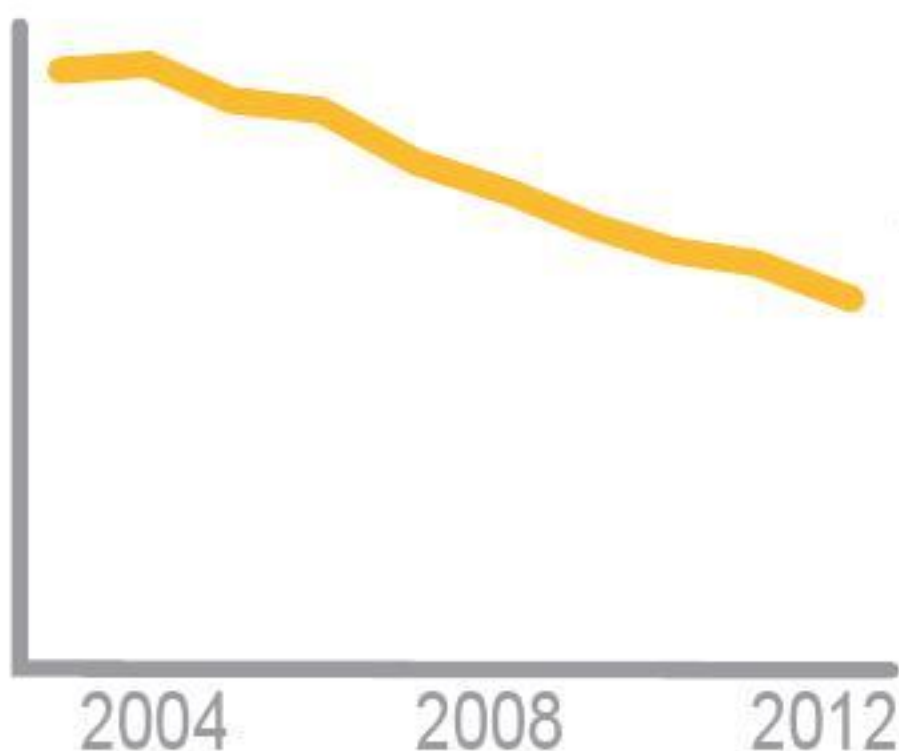
We are bringing 70,000 empty homes back into use through a £160 million scheme and by rewarding councils that bring back empty homes.

70,000
empty homes
back in use

Crime

Lib Dems are letting the police focus on cutting crime, not ticking boxes.

Total crimes committed



Cutting crime

We are cutting crime across the country and giving communities more power to tackle anti-social behaviour. Crime is now at the lowest point since records began.



Protecting women

We have introduced new laws against stalking and forced marriages, and allocated £28 million to support victims of rape and domestic violence.



Tackling reoffending

We are breaking the cycle of reoffending. We are tackling drug addiction in prisons and putting prisoners to work, with their wages going towards a Victims' Fund, and giving them skills they can use to stay out of trouble.

Freedoms

Lib Dems are creating a fairer society by restoring hard-won civil liberties.

Protected people's privacy

We have scrapped Labour's intrusive and expensive ID card scheme, stopped government permanently storing the DNA of innocent people and ended the fingerprinting of children in schools without parental consent.



Restored British freedoms

We have restored common sense to the legal system. We have:

- **Scrapped** the law where you could be arrested for being "insulting"
 - **Restored** the right to protest
 - **Stopped** councils snooping
 - **Reformed** bureaucratic criminal records checks for ordinary people
-

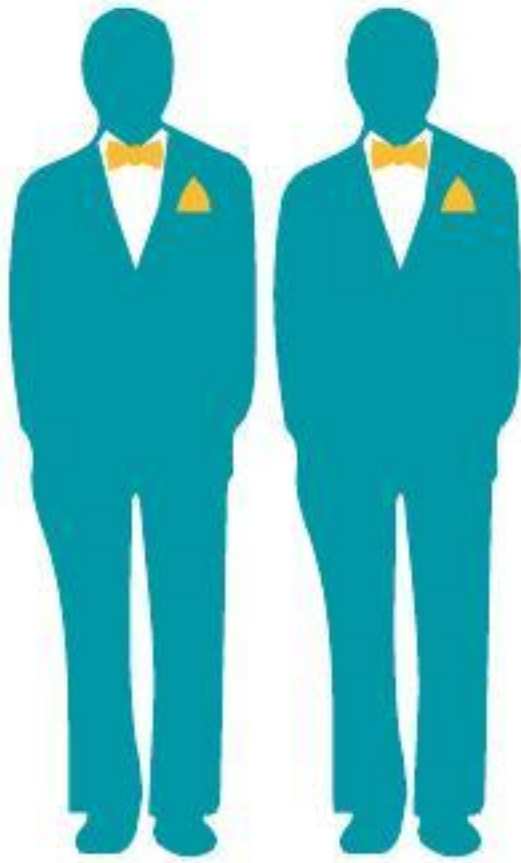
A freer, fairer politics

We have introduced fixed term parliaments for the first time ever, meaning prime ministers can no longer change the timing of an election to suit their own political agenda.

5 year
fixed term
parliaments

Equalities

Lib Dems are working towards a fairer, more equal society, enabling everyone to get on.



Equal marriage

We are introducing Equal Marriage for all couples, and stopping the unfair situation where transgender people had to get divorced even if they wanted to stay married.



Race equality

We aim to build strong, united communities, regardless of people's background. We are tackling racism including anti-Muslim Hate Crime and Anti-Semitic incidents and boosting English lessons to help non-native speakers achieve their full potential.



People with disabilities

We are making workplaces more accessible through the 'Access to Work' scheme and have introduced an Access to Elected Office Fund to ensure support for disabled people wanting to stand for election.

Britain in the World

*Lib Dems working towards a fairer world,
protecting those most in need.*

Tackling Female Genital Mutilation

We are breaking the taboo on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), pledging up to £35m to reduce FGM by 30% in 10 countries within the next 5 years - and end it worldwide within a generation.

£35m
to end FGM

140m women and girls globally have undergone FGM and 3m more are at risk - including 24,000 in the UK.

Helping the world's poorest

The UK will meet its pledge to spend 0.7% of income on aid, helping to:

Save the lives of **250,000** babies and **50,000** mothers

Educate **11 million** children

Support **50 million** people work their way out of poverty

Immunise **55 million** children against preventable diseases

End polio within a generation, protecting **360 million** children

No Trident replacement

Because of the Lib Dems, there will be no like-for-like replacement of the expensive and out-of-date Trident nuclear weapons system in this Parliament. We are also examining more efficient and up-to-date alternatives to Trident.



Conservative Record

The Conservatives cannot be trusted to build a fairer society.

BLOCKED
£270,000
inheritance tax cut
for millionaires

Inheritance tax cut for millionaires

The Conservatives planned to give the super rich a £270,000 inheritance tax cut. We have blocked this proposal and instead given 24 million ordinary workers a £700 income tax cut.



Let schools be run for profit

Some Conservatives want private companies to be able to take over schools and run them for a profit.

We have ensured this will never happen while the Lib Dems are in Government.



Allow bosses to fire staff at will

The Conservatives planned to scrap workers' rights by letting bosses fire people for no reason.

Liberal Democrats stood up for workers' rights and blocked these unfair plans.

Labour's Record

Labour cannot be trusted to build a stronger economy.

“There’s no money left”

When Labour left office, they left a note in the Treasury, saying that there was no money left. Labour cannot be trusted to manage our finances. In their last 5 years they increased debt by £336.5 billion, nearly bankrupting Britain. We are cleaning up their mess.



Let the banks run wild

Labour spent 13 years cosying up to the banks, recklessly gambling the UK economy by deregulating the City of London and encouraging risk activity. Labour then left the taxpayer with a huge bill as the banks had to be bailed out when they inevitably failed.



Numbers that don't add up

Labour can't get their numbers right on the economy. Their extra spending and unfunded tax cuts would break their own debt rules and add £201bn* to the UK's debt for our children and grandchildren to pay off.

£201 billion
extra govt debt,
breaking Labour's
own debt rules

*According the independent Institute for Fiscal Studies

*“The Liberal Democrats are working for a
stronger economy in a fairer society
enabling every person to get on in life.”*

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