

Vision Competition

Your Chance to Set Our Vision for Britain in 2030

Your Liberal Britain invites all interested members of the party to set out a down-to-earth, inspirational description of how Britain could be different by 2030 if the Liberal Democrats were in government.

This document tells you why we're doing this, what we're looking for, and how you can get involved.

Why we need a vision for Liberal Britain

As every Lib Dem knows, the party “exists to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community, and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.”

We call this society Liberal Britain for short. We fight for it, giving our money and time, pouring in our hearts and souls. But what would it actually look like?

What would be different in a truly Liberal Britain? How would the lives of the weak and vulnerable be different? How would our towns, cities and countryside look different? How would our communities, jobs, economy, schools and hospitals be different? What would be different about the futures our children and grandchildren look forward to?

As a party we struggle at times to explain what we stand for: our values mean the world to us, but they can be hard to communicate.

To overcome this we need a short, simple, inspirational description of how life in Britain would be better if the Lib Dems had their way. We need to supplement the preamble to our constitution with a temporary vision statement that helps communicate its statement of our permanent values to the people of Britain today.

We can then use this document to guide our policy making, inform our campaigns and communications, induct our new members and support our candidates and elected representatives.

We're halfway there – now it just needs writing!

The party has conducted two big reviews of what we stand for since the General Election: the Federal Policy Committee's Agenda 2020 process, and Your Liberal Britain's vision consultation. Together, they've produced a clear vision. Now we just need to communicate it in simple language, make it distinctive and make it compelling.

Agenda 2020 concluded that “only by giving people the opportunity to succeed can we allow everyone to live their lives as they want. Only by giving them the power to grasp those opportunities can we ever address powerlessness. Only when people have a voice will they feel listened to. This is the Liberal Democrat approach.”

The 6,902 contributors to Your Liberal Britain’s online consultation decided (in YLB’s analysis) that Liberal Britain is a country where **everybody – absolutely everybody** – is:

- Guaranteed a **fair chance** to lead a happy, fulfilled life;
- **Supported** to achieve their best;
- **Free** to be themselves, safe from prejudice and intolerance;
- Welcome to make a life here,
- Ensured a **powerful voice** in our communities and an **equal say** in our politics;
- Expected to shoulder our **shared responsibilities**, at home, in Europe, and towards humanity and the planet as a whole.

This picture is clear. But it isn’t simple, it won’t always inspire, and few other parties would disagree with it.

We need a realistic vision for life in Britain in 2030 that encapsulates this picture, but that puts it in terms that speak to people who don’t read policy documents or take part in party vision consultations. We need to communicate it in terms that matter to people today: wages, schools, hospitals, jobs. We need to talk about liberal causes that explain what we stand for, from political reform to membership of the EU.

And above all we need to make it something that no other party would sign up to.

Your challenge

Write a down-to-earth description of life in Britain in 2030 in no more than 500 words, that is:

- **Accessible**, using simple language and straightforward concepts
- **Inspirational** to members and supporters alike
- **Distinctive**, setting out a vision no other political party would support
- **Grounded** in the social problems facing Britain today
- **Realistic**, assuming the Lib Dems were in government

And that communicates that Liberal Democrats stand for the values set out in Agenda 2020 and the Your Liberal Britain consultation. In short, that Liberal Britain would offer every person without any exception (regardless of their sex, gender, ethnicity, religion, beliefs, sexuality, identity, ability or age)

- The **opportunity** to succeed
- The **power** and **voice** to shape their own lives and communities
- The **support** to always have a fair chance
- The **freedom** to be themselves
- The **responsibility** to contribute and share the burden

The important details

Upload your entry by the end of Friday December 23rd, including your full name. The winning entries will be announced in late January, after the judging panel meets on January 25th.

The judges for this competition are:

Amna Ahmad	–	Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Ben Williams	–	Chief of Staff to Tim Farron
Caron Lindsay	–	Social Security Spokesperson for Scotland
Jonny Oates	–	Former Chief of Staff to Nick Clegg
Rumi Verjee	–	Member of the House of Lords
Sal Brinton	–	Party President

The author of the winning entry and two runners up will be invited to join a writing group with a group writers who together represent the ideological diversity of the party. Together they will use the winning entry as a starting point for writing Your Liberal Britain's vision statement. They will need to work collaboratively to agree a document that meets all the above criteria and is also sufficiently balanced to appeal to the full breadth of the party.

Your Liberal Britain will take their final draft to Conference in 2017. We intend to propose that the party adopt it as our official vision statement, and use it to inspire and inform policy, communications, campaigns, membership induction and candidate training. But it will be up to the membership to decide: it will only be adopted if it passes a vote!