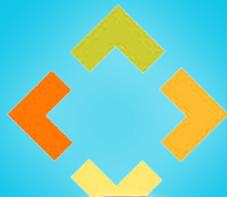


LIBERAL

LIVERPOOL 2015 BRIEFING



REFORM



**FRINGE
EVENTS**



KELLY-MARIE BLUNDELL

TIM FARRON MP

RT. HON STEVE WEBB MP

THE 'F' WORD WHAT DO WE MEAN BY FAIRNESS? - with Steve Webb MP

Saturday 14th March, 1-2pm

ACC Room 11A

[CentreForum & Liberal Reform](#)

Panelists: Steve Webb MP, Kavya Kaushik (Liberal Reform), Kelly Marie Blundell (Guildford PPC), Chair: Tom Papworth (CentreForum).

WHAT SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT STOP DOING? - with Tim Farron MP

Saturday 14th March, 6.15-7.15pm

ACC Room 11C

[Liberal Reform](#)

With austerity set to continue well into the next parliament, we ask our panel of politicians and economists what big items of spending can be cut altogether in order to protect the budgets that we value most.

LIBERAL REFORM CONFERENCE BRIEFING

This Conference is rightly going to focus on putting our best policies forward to fight the election. But a question remains in our minds about the wisdom of fighting the election on what appears to be the basis of how much extra money we can spend, while at the same time committing to balancing the budget by 2017/18 and continuing to cut taxes for the low paid.

The party is currently saying we want a 60:40 split between cuts and tax increases – that is tax rises of £30bn.

It is difficult to see how that can be funded without the basic income tax rate or VAT going up. And that is before the increases in spending to which the party is already committed. It is regrettable that even at this final conference before the election, party members are being left in the dark as to how all of these plans are going to be funded.

F4 - Mental Health

Norman Lamb has been one of our most impressive ministers and with our emphasis on mental health we are making a stand on a vital issue which probably will get us few votes, but is something no other party will talk about.

F6 - Stronger Economy, Fairer Society, Opportunity for Everyone

There's plenty to like in this motion but we are concerned about an amendment which has been widely discussed to change the balance of cuts/tax rises to 50:50. This would cost another £7-8bn a year on top of the proposed £30bn tax increases.

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LIBERAL REFORM LIVERPOOL BRIEFING

F8 - Five Green laws

Notwithstanding the vagueness of some of this motion's proposals ("ensuring that all new rail franchises include a stronger focus on customers"), much of this motion is extremely welcome. It is good to see the party increasingly recognising the benefits of collaboration between the public and private sectors (such as on waste collection), and emphasising the need to use energy more efficiently in order to keep down the costs of decarbonisation.

F11 - A Better Deal for Britain's Workforce

A number of people fought hard to get this motion onto the agenda, and while the motion itself contains little to object to we are a bit baffled quite why they thought it sensible to promote this motion immediately prior to an election in which the unions will be launching vicious attacks on us as a party while pouring millions of pounds into supporting the Labour Party.

Be that as it may we hope the amendment which has been submitted reiterating our desire for the unions to be non-partisan is accepted for debate.

F18 - Freedom of Expression in Europe and Beyond

We welcome this motion. Not only is it highly topical but free speech is increasingly under attack and an explicit statement that there is no right not to be offended is welcome.

F20 - Education Funding

The pupil premium will be one of our best legacies from our time in this Government so it is right that we should celebrate it and take it further into the next.

OMOV

The FE is holding a consultative session on OMOV on Friday afternoon – Hall 1b at the ACC, 15:00 which we urge all supporters of OMOV to attend.

Welsh Conference

We were very pleased to hold a well-attended fringe event for the first time this year at the Welsh Liberal Democrats conference - meaning we have now held fringe events in Wales, Scotland and England. With Liberal Reform's membership and board members spread around the UK, we all recognise the unfairness of Westminster-centric policy making and unlike some other political groups are keen to engage with people and their ideas from around the country.

Conference updates

Liberal Reform will be producing our daily conference updates - if you would like to receive them please e-mail us on briefing@liberalreform.org.uk

Want to write for us or get involved? Just email - team@liberalreform.org.uk. Or to find out more about Liberal Reform please visit - <http://www.liberalreform.org.uk>.

