

# Civil Legal Services Appeal Panels appointments

Justice Minister Naomi Long today announced the appointment of members of the Civil Legal Services Appeal Panels.

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## Leading the Way

Today, Liberal Democrat members have voted to approve the final report of our party's Policy Review.

This has been a massive project that the party's been working on since the General Election – with contributions from thousands of our members – and I hope you'll find the results both interesting and inspiring.

For the past year, I've had the privilege of chairing the fantastic Policy Review team, made up of activists, councillors, parliamentarians and policy experts from across the party and around the country.

I am incredibly grateful to them all for the time, dedication and effort they put into this important work for our party.

Together, we examined the opportunities and challenges facing the UK today, analysed how well existing Liberal Democrat policies address them, and took a huge amount of evidence from think tanks, academics and policymakers.

**But our most important job was listening to you: Liberal Democrat members and supporters.**

We ran an enormous programme of engaging with members at federal and regional conferences, as well as through an online consultation that received thousands of responses.

We heard what you think about the vision you want for the future of our country, and the areas where we need bold new policies to make that vision a reality.

**So I want to say a big thank you!** This report is your report. Its findings are your findings. I'm immensely proud of it, and I hope you are too.

You can read it here, please share it with anyone you think might be interested:

Read the review in full

**Ed Davey**

Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Chair of the Policy Review

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## **[“A second runway at Gatwick is a disaster” say Greens](#)**

21 September 2025 / 21 September 2025 by [Green Party](#)

Responding to the [news](#) that Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander has approved plans for a second runway at London Gatwick Airport, Green Party Leader, Zack Polanski, said:

“Signing off on a second runway at Gatwick is a disaster. It ignores basic climate science and risks undermining efforts to tackle the climate crisis. Labour keeps wheeling out the same nonsense about growth, but at what cost? What this really means is more pollution, more noise for local communities, and no real economic benefit. Expanding Gatwick is a tired, 20th-century answer to a 21st-century crisis. Labour’s obsession with ‘growth at all costs’ is driving us deeper into a climate breakdown and social inequality crisis.”

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## **[This Land is Your Land – Restoring Public Paths Through Nature](#)**



In the UK, access to public paths is shrinking. Thousands of miles of disused railway lines, canal towpaths and green spaces sit unused or blocked off.

Liberal Democrats have a vision to transform these forgotten routes into vibrant public paths for everyone to enjoy.

By creating a national legal framework to unlock thousands of miles of new walking, cycling, and horse-riding routes, we can connect communities, boost local economies, and improve health across the country.

**That's why today, Liberal Democrats members have passed new policy, to:**

- **Introduce a national legal framework** to turn disused railway lines into public rights of way, making grassroots trail campaigns easier, faster, and fairer to all parties, with fair compensation for landowners.
- **Create a long-term fund and incentives** for local authorities and communities to reclaim unused land – including railway sidings, airfields, and industrial sites – for walking and cycling routes, allotments, and green spaces.
- **Promote outdoor education** by ensuring every child experiences residential outdoor learning during their school years.
- **Improve canal and river towpaths** in partnership with the Canal & River Trust, enhancing habitats and public access.
- **Refresh and popularise the Countryside Code** to boost respect for nature and countryside etiquette.

Read our new policy in full

We believe every person should have guaranteed, fair access to Britain's beautiful green spaces, coastlines, and waterways. The Conservatives failed to deliver the investment and legal backing needed, we will fix that.

By unlocking disused routes and investing in nature and outdoor education, we can build a healthier, greener, and more connected UK.

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## [For People, For Planet](#)

The climate and nature crises are the defining challenges of our time. Yet despite the obvious urgency, both Conservative and Labour governments have failed to prepare the UK adequately for the damage already underway. Moreover, Reform and the Conservatives are now recklessly hellbent on making things worse by ditching our climate commitments, sacrificing the planet for future generations.

They have both ignored opinion polls which consistently show that a clear majority of people across the UK are worried about climate change and want the government to do more to tackle it.

The Liberal Democrats believe the UK can lead the world in fighting climate change, restoring nature, and building a cleaner, fairer economy. But this transition must be affordable, equitable, and create opportunities for communities and workers, not hardship.

**Today, Liberal Democrat members have passed policy to deliver a green transition that is good for people, good for the planet, and good for prosperity:**

- **Tackle the climate and nature emergencies equally**, rather than pitting one against the other, through integrating climate, nature and resilience policies.
- **Halve electricity bills** by investing in renewables, expanding grid capacity, and reforming the energy market to decouple gas and electricity costs.
- Set **zero carbon standards for all new buildings** and accelerate electric vehicle adoption with expanded charging infrastructure.
- Establish a **new UK-EU Energy and Climate Security Pact** to link emissions trading schemes and boost international cooperation.
- Introduce a **social energy tariff** and provide free home energy upgrades for low-income households.
- Launch a **National Climate Assembly** to involve citizens directly in

climate decisions.

- Invest in **green skills and apprenticeships**, and fund innovation in sustainable farming, land use, and zero carbon flight.
- **Protect communities from climate impacts** by developing clear adaptation strategies and increasing funding for local resilience.

Read our new policy in full

The scale of the challenge is immense, but so is the opportunity.

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in Europe, with many species at risk of extinction. The net zero economy is growing fast, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs, but we must ensure no community or worker is left behind. Renewable energy investments can lower bills, while nature-based solutions like flood defences save billions in damage costs.

These policies will protect our environment, strengthen our economy, and create a fair transition – so future generations inherit a healthier planet and a stronger society.

The Liberal Democrats will hold the government to account and deliver climate action that puts people and the planet first.

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