Science and Innovation Working Group Remit

The remit of this group is to review the party's policies on Science and Innovation, and make updated proposals which communicate our values of liberty, equality, democracy, community, internationalism and environmentalism in a way which helps secure the election of as many Liberal Democrats as possible, at local, regional and national level, in order to promote our vision of society and remove from power a Conservative government that is failing the country.

The group will be expected to build on existing policy proposals as set out in the 2019 Election Manifesto, Policy Paper 145 *The Nature of Public Debate* and Policy Paper 150 *Towards a Fairer Society*. The group is expected to consider and address Liberal Democrat principles on diversity and equalities in developing their proposals.

This group will as a top priority:

- Develop up to three headline policies on science and innovation which the party can communicate widely to win votes.

The working group is specifically asked to consider the following:

- How can the UK remain a major science power and how can science and innovation contribute to improving the UK 's overall productivity? In particular:
  - How should the UK benchmark itself against other leading science nations?
  - Does the current institutional landscape for science and innovation work and how can it be improved? How do Universities fit into this?
  - How can we ensure British science retains strong international collaborative partnerships, especially with Europe, and ensure UK skills are recognised in the global research and innovation community?
  - How can we ensure we have the skills we need to be a leading scientific and technological nation, including through a competitive visa offer to attract the world's best and brightest?
  - How can the regional disparities in research and development funding be reduced and how can science and innovation contribute to 'levelling up'?
  - How can science and innovation contribute to making public services more efficient and effective?

- How can we meet the challenges posed by the development of Artificial Intelligence. In particular:
  - Questions over large scale data harvesting used to train and develop AI models.
  - ethical challenges such as over privacy and surveillance and potential bias/discrimination in AI.
  - The question of when is it permissible to allow human judgements to be replaced by AI.
  - The role for the Fairness, Accountability and Transparency (FAccT) framework in AI regulation.
  - Exploring the possibilities for a radical liberal vision for the role of AI in society, beyond existing models such as FAccT.

- How can UK science and innovation contribute to solving key challenges such as:
  - climate change
  - loss of biodiversity
  - counter disinformation/national security
  - global pandemics

The group will also consider the need for institutional change at central, regional and local government levels to embed these approaches firmly in policy.

The group will take evidence and consult widely both within and outside the party. This evidence should inform the group's proposals, which will be presented alongside an analysis of costs and an Equalities Impact Assessment. It will also need to feed into the Future of Work working group in terms of the employment and labour markets impacts of technological change.

A policy paper of no longer than 10,000 words should be produced for debate at Autumn Conference 2024. Prior to that a consultative session should be held at Spring Conference 2024, and a draft policy paper should be presented to the Federal Policy Committee by June 2024.