

Soaring Personal Cost of Social Care

House of Commons Library analysis commissioned by the Liberal Democrats shows that across the country there has been an eye-watering rise in family care costs, with individual contributions to local authority social care rising 60% between 2020/21 and 2024/25, from £2.93bn to £4.68bn. At least 1 in 7 people over 65 now run up care costs of over £100,000 in their lifetime.

Wirral's Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Chris Carubia says: "Every week in Wirral, I speak to families who have reached breaking point. Too many people are being left isolated and unsupported without the care they need. The crisis in social care is a millstone around the neck of our community. It's clobbering families, squeezing budgets for our local council services and undermining our NHS.

There have been 22 failed attempts to fix social care in the last few decades. We have to do



things differently this time. Liberal Democrats want to work across the party divide in order to find a lasting solution to this crisis.

My priorities are clear: family carers must be at the heart of any proposals, everyone in Wirral should be able to get care regardless of means, and no one should lose their home or life savings on catastrophic care costs."

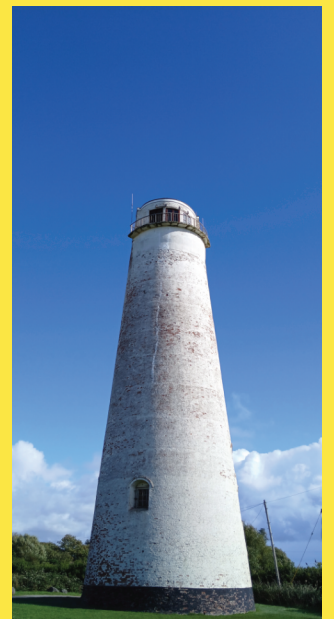
Peak Cluster - Carbon Capture is the Wrong Priority

With 5 heat waves and two thirds of the country in drought, 2026 was the year we stopped talking about climate change as something that would happen in the future. So why do Wirral Liberal Democrats oppose the CO₂ pipeline through Wirral?

We need to see more investment in renewable energy, electrification, energy efficiency and a circular economy. There is much better value to be had for the government support, which is being provided through the National Wealth Fund, through these types of projects. Emissions can be brought down faster than by subsidising costly high

tech solutions such as carbon capture and producing hydrogen from natural gas; techniques that simply lock in current dependencies on fossil fuels.

Cement manufacturers can reduce their carbon emissions through decarbonising their energy use and maximising replacement of clinker with calcined clay. Yes, they would still need to do more. But to build a vast new infrastructure when the future scale of the sector is unknown, is to commit public money that cannot then be spent on more pressing priorities.



The vent stack for the facility near Meols would be 50 metres high, taller than the 33 metre Leasowe Lighthouse.



Water - Not for Profit

2026 was also the year vast parts of the country entered drought. Whilst the weather and climate change is obviously a factor. Private water companies have contributed to this crisis through their failure to invest in building reservoirs and fixing leaks. Now they want to profit from their failure by charging more for water through something called surge-pricing when reserves are low. Liberal Democrats say no. This is our water and our environment. This comes on top of the failure to properly manage the sewage system with all the river pollution incidents of the past few years.

Many people would like to see the privatised water companies nationalised, but the Liberal Democrats believe there is a better answer. Struggling water companies should be placed into Special Administration, private equity could then be stripped of control with the business

restructured as a not-for-profit mutual, owned by the public and its customers.

We must stop the sewage and now water supply crisis by replacing the failed privatisation water model with public-benefit mutuals; owned by the people rather than the state, and run for public health and the environment, not private profit.



Liberal Democrat Councillor Allan Brame at a local United Utilities facility

Cheaper Electricity - break the link to gas

Generating electricity from renewables is now significantly cheaper than gas, and half of the UK's electricity comes from renewables. But people aren't seeing the benefits in their bills. That's because the wholesale electricity price is set by the most expensive fuel in the mix – and in the UK, that's almost always gas. Simply put, we are over paying for renewable energy because the price we pay for the electricity renewables generate is based on the price of gas despite the fact that none of it is used - madness.

So if we're going to bring energy bills down – and make sure people see the benefits of cheap renewable energy – we have to break the link between the cost of electricity and the price of gas. Government must fix our broken energy market. Together with more investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy, the potential is there to halve our electricity bills.

Breaking the link between gas and electricity prices so bills are no longer at the whim of

volatile global markets and actions of Trump and Putin, and are instead based on the prices of cheap renewables.



Liberal Democrat Council Group Leader Cllr. Chris Carubia at the Birkenhead Grid Substation in Prenton, which provides electricity to 162,000 homes across Wirral.

Sorting our blocked grids

Lib Dem councillors have been pressing the Council to invest in new 'gully suckers' for the past two years - now they have finally arrived and are starting the work of unblocking grids.



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