

Improve Transport Accessibility and Development

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Conference notes that:

- A. In the 2024 Budget, the UK Government announced major investments in transport, including:
 - a) Improvements in rail connectivity, such as:
 - i. Extending HS2 beyond Old Oak Common to Euston.
 - ii. Committing to East West Rail.
 - iii. The TransPennine Route Upgrade.
 - b) An increase in funding for road repair and renewal in England to £1,600,000,000.
 - c) An investment of £120,000,000 for 2025-26 to support the purchase of electric vans.
 - d) An investment of £200,000,000 for 2025-26 to support the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
 - e) A five-year £2,000,000,000 investment in the automotive industry.
 - f) An addition £100,000,000 investment for 2025-26 in cycling and walking infrastructure.
 - g) A five-year £975,000,000 investment in the aerospace sector.
 - h) Extending the Advanced Fuels Fund by a further year.
- B. Rail fares in England will increase by 4.6% in 2025, with most rail cards facing a £5 increase.
- C. The price cap on single bus fares in England will be raised from £2 to £3 in 2025, equivalent to a 1p income tax increase for those reliant on public transport.
- D. Young people's access to transport:
 - a) Can impact their:
 - i. Chances of accessing further and higher education.
 - ii. Employability.
 - iii. Physical and mental health.
 - iv. Sense of self-value
 - v. Capabilities in using transport options as adults.
 - b) Is limited by:
 - i. Poor provision of public transport services in areas such as rural communities.
 - ii. The UK's minimum driving age of 17 for cars, or 16 for mopeds or light quadricycles.

Conference believes that:

- I. Convenient access to transport is essential to ensuring:
 - a. Individual freedom and independence.
 - b. Connectivity within the UK.
- II. Mitigating climate change requires:
 - a. Greater use of public transport.
 - b. Electrification of transportation modes.
- III. Private road vehicle use should remain an option if public transport use is unfeasible.

Conference affirms Liberal Democrat commitment to:

- a. Making rail a genuinely convenient, affordable and environmentally friendly option for both passengers and freight.

- b. Devolving greater decision-making powers for public transport infrastructure to local authorities in England.
- c. Boosting bus services whilst maintaining the £2 single fares cap.
- d. Making public transport more affordable for young people.
- e. Reducing the climate impact of flying.
- f. Integrating bus, rail and light rail ticketing systems.
- g. Making electric vehicle charging cheaper and easier.
- h. Protecting motorists from rip-offs such as unfair insurance and petrol prices.

Conference urges the UK Government to:

- 1. Ensure that rail fares remain affordable for frequent commuters.
- 2. Undertake a comprehensive review of abandoned railway lines in England to assess which may be suitable to be reopened or redeveloped as light rail routes.
- 3. Undertake consultations to extend existing metro and light rail systems to towns not served by them but within travel to work areas in which they operate.
- 4. Support the creation of new halt stations to serve suburban communities located along or near existing railway routes.
- 5. Support the creation of new railway, metro or light rail terminals and associated infrastructure for:
 - a) Major airports.
 - b) Out-of-town shopping centres and retail parks.
 - c) Sports stadiums and other large event venues.
- 6. Lower the minimum driving age to 14 for:
 - a) Mopeds.
 - b) Motor tricycles
 - c) Light vehicles.
 - d) Quadricycles.
- 7. Extend support for electrification to:
 - a) Motorcycles.
 - b) Light vehicles.
 - c) Quadricycles.