



Manifesto for Carolyn Cobbold

Why I want to serve on the Federal Policy Committee

Sound policies are vital for a political party. They provide credibility and trust and help put values into action. We hear that voters want instant solutions to complex problems – but they are beginning to realise that slogans and pledges of fast fixes are only that. In my view, only the Liberal Democrats are working on sound policies that solve real problems and deliver change. I'd like to contribute my blend of technical skills and expertise, community leadership and campaigning experience to that work.

About Me

My community, professional and academic experience provide the skills to make a meaningful and positive impact on a committee dealing with evidence-based, aspirational yet practical policies across a wide variety of areas.

I have a mechanical engineering degree, a Masters in the History of Science and a PhD from Cambridge University in the history of science, risk and regulation.

For 20 years I worked as a risk management journalist for a leading US publication, researching, analysing and reporting on risks faced by international corporations. My work included property, financial, environmental, employment and health risks. Among the topics I covered were climate change, complex financial instruments which led to the 2008 financial crash, the impact of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Avian Flu, government and EU regulation, transport and property risks and employee benefits.

I also have over two decades of experience in community advocacy, climate adaptation and sustainable planning. In 2001 I organised a bi-national workshop on climate change adaptation which led to Europe's largest coastal realignment scheme. The Medmerry scheme won awards for community engagement, climate adaptation and engineering and was highlighted at COP26, COP28 and by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as a global pioneer in climate adaptation and sustainable coastal management.

In 2001 I also co-founded the Manhood Peninsula Partnership, a non-profit organization that brings together local communities, government agencies, local authorities and other bodies to address the unique environmental, social and economic challenges facing a low-lying area of the south coast extremely vulnerable to the impact of climate change. The MPP facilitates collaboration to promote sustainable solutions, including climate resilient planning policies, improved drainage and economic regeneration.

My academic work investigates the interactions between science, commerce, government, culture and the law, especially around environment, food and technology. I have lectured and published on these issues.

I have served as a primary and a secondary school governor, as a deputy chair of a Parish Council and a volunteer for a homeless charity.

I have been an active Liberal Democrat supporter since 2016 and, as a volunteer, helped Jess Brown-Fuller MP in her 2024 election campaign, as a canvasser, researcher and press assistant. I am currently working on Martin Tod's campaign to win Super Mayor for Hampshire & the Solent for the Liberal Democrats.

My Priorities

To help produce deliverable, electable, evidence-led, fair, pragmatic and community supported policies. Policies which provide for climate adaptation, sustainable and affordable development, inclusive access and opportunities for education and employment, integrated and effective health and social care, and support for industry, science and technology and the arts to help Britain build a successful economy.