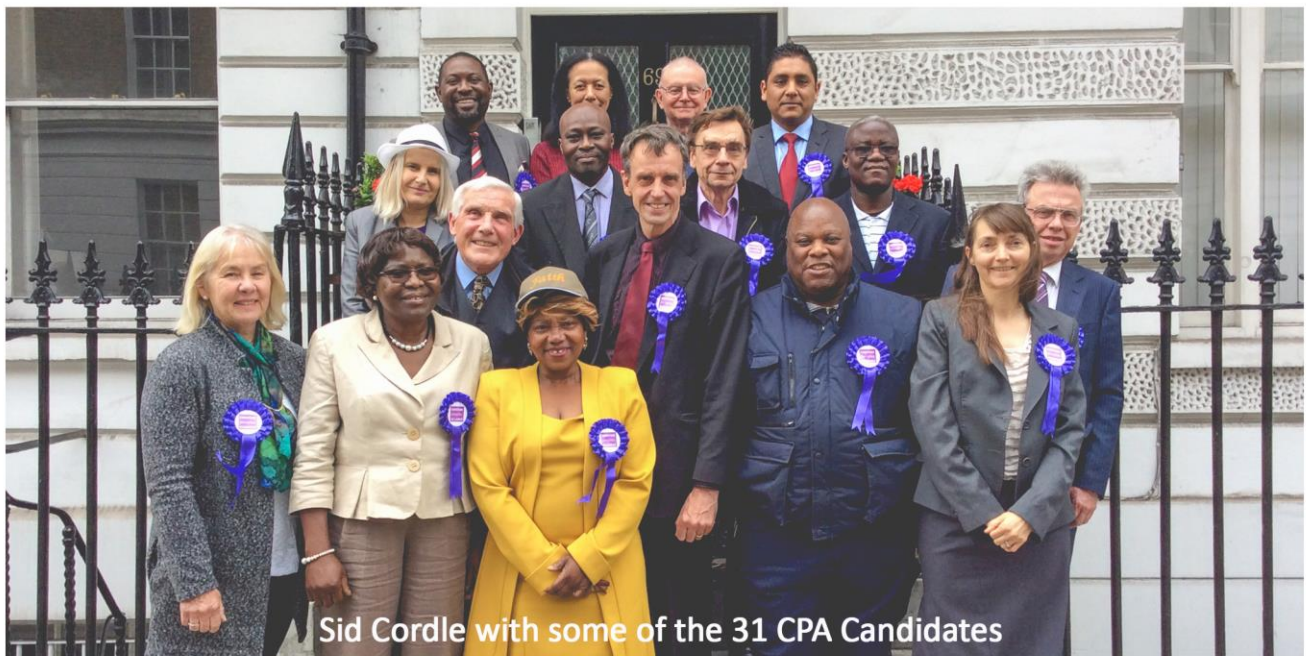


# CHRISTIAN peoples ALLIANCE

## GENERAL ELECTION 8 JUNE 2017 Party Manifesto



Sid Cordle with some of the 31 CPA Candidates

Published Thursday 18 May 2017

## 2017 GENERAL ELECTION MANIFESTO

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Leader's Introduction</b>  | 1  |
| <b>Basic Principles</b>   | 2  |
| <b>Brexit</b>   | 2  |
| <b>Wealth Creation and Employment</b>                                 | 4  |
| <b>Free Efficient Health Service</b>                                  | 5  |
| <b>Taxation Must be Fair</b>  | 8  |
| <b>Defence and Foreign Policy</b>                                     | 10 |
| <b>Greening the Economy and Transport</b>                             | 12 |
| Greening the Economy  | 13 |
| Transport   | 13 |
| <b>Reform the Banking System</b>                                      | 14 |
| <b>Immigration</b>  | 15 |
| Refugees and Asylum Seekers   | 15 |
| Unaccompanied Children  | 16 |
| Economic/Educational Immigrants                                       | 16 |
| People Trafficking  | 16 |
| Illegal Immigrants  | 17 |
| <b>Other Moral Issues</b>   | 18 |
| <b>The Importance of Marriage</b>                                     | 18 |
| <b>Adoptive Families</b>  | 19 |
| <b>Further Family Support</b>   | 20 |
| <b>Youth Policy</b>   | 21 |
| <b>The Sanctity of Life from Conception to Natural Death</b>          | 21 |
| <b>Care for the Less Able</b>   | 23 |
| <b>Issues relating to those on Low Incomes, including the Elderly</b> | 23 |
| <b>Morally Framed Education</b>                                       | 24 |
| <b>Integration Agenda</b>   | 26 |
| <b>Crime, Punishment and Restorative Justice</b>                      | 27 |
| <b>Housing and Development</b>  | 29 |
| Reform the Leasehold System for Flats and Houses                      | 30 |
| <b>The Political Process</b>  | 30 |



- life
- truth
- compassion



## Leader's Introduction

In Brexit, we face the biggest challenge in the UK's history since the reconstruction of the country after 1945.

Whilst we support much of Theresa May's approach thus far, it is abundantly clear that the EU will never negotiate good terms for our withdrawal. They do not want other countries to leave on the same terms. So they will seek to give us the worst terms possible. Indeed, we are already seeing this with an attempt to land us with a bill from £50 billion to £100 billion before they will start 'trade talks'.

'No deal' maybe a 'worst case' scenario – but, in order to succeed in any negotiation it is necessary to look at, and prepare for, all eventualities. And, the 'worst case' has a significant downside for the EU. For, with a committed budget of £135 billion (2017), the other 8 net contributing countries will have to find immediately that £7 billion to replace the net contribution from the UK.

But while (thus far) we largely support Theresa May's approach to the EU, this election is not only about the EU. Consequently, unlike this Tory Government, we would:

- Divert the £50 billion being spent on maintaining and renewing Trident into improving the NHS.
- Introduce a 5% Turnover Tax to ensure large multi-nationals pay their way in our society.
- Ensure that benefits for the disabled and mentally ill are maintained not removed.
- Provide emergency benefits for applicants while their claim is being assessed.
- Reallocate foreign aid to those who really need it – eg refugees in camps – and away from nuclear powers or those countries which persecute Christians eg the £486 million to Pakistan.
- Support marriages and families whose breakdown is costing the nation £48 billion a year.
- Have a pro-life stance, saving 186,000 babies a year.

Those are just some of the reasons why the Christian Peoples Alliance is standing candidates in this election - to put forward positive ways of helping the most vulnerable in our nation, not just speak about it or pay 'lip-service' to those we meet in the streets.

But effectively supporting the most vulnerable requires a complete change from Labour's policies. And so, unlike Jeremy Corbyn, the CPA is committed to:

- a sound economy in which top earner prosper and pay their tax – rather than having excessive tax rates;
- an effective NHS delivering excellent patient care and outcomes, regardless of whether that is be state, voluntary or private providers; and
- an effective education service with improving standards for all pupils, state and public.

The country is crying out for coherent opposition to the Conservative inability to understand how the poorest in society are affected by their policies. That is where we come in. We have clear coherent alternative that will help the poor and the elderly, improve services, and at the same time support and encourage business.

So, in this Manifesto, the Christian Peoples Alliance set out a fresh vision for an alternative society and I commend it to you.

Sid Cordle MBE

**Leader, Christian Peoples Alliance**

## Basic Principles

The Christian Peoples Alliance (CPA) sets out in this Manifesto a fresh vision for an alternative society. A society based upon six principles, each and all of which work in harmony together to produce a happier, healthier and economically more prosperous society. These principles are:

- The Effective Use of Resources
- The Empowerment of the Individual and Communities
- Active Compassion
- Reconciliation
- Respect for Life
- Social Justice

This is not the capitalism of Conservatism or the socialism of Labour; it is not the licence of the Liberal Democrats or the isolationism of UKIP, and it does not fit under any 'right', 'left' or 'centre' label. Instead it is a distinct political philosophy, proposing actual solutions to current issues in order to increase the vitality and well-being of all in our society.

In the following pages we will set out how these principles, as utilised by the CPA, will positively affect all aspects of life in Britain.

Before doing so we set out our five key policies for the 2017 Election:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Brexit                          | to engage in good faith in substantive negotiations with the rest of the EU but, should those negotiations not reach a mutually acceptable outcome, to be prepared to walk away from the EU.                  |
| 2. 5% Turnover Tax                 | to be levied on all sales in the UK above a fixed turnover level, so that tax is collected from those multi-nationals who divert their UK earnings to low-tax regimes by 'licence fees' or 'invoice address'. |
| 3. Cancellation of Trident         | with the up to £50 billion saving being used to forward fund the improvements required by the NHS.  |
| 4. Dealing with Air Pollution      | to save the approx. 40,000 early deaths every year in the UK, and improving the quality of life of many   |
| 5. Supporting Traditional Marriage | enabling families to grow together with fewer breakdowns, saving the UK approx. £48 billion a year  |

We now turn to these, and our other policies, in greater detail.

## Brexit

The greatest challenges we face over the lifetime of the next Parliament are the Brexit Negotiations and the after effects once we have left the EU.

Before commencing negotiations we need to recognise that the Referendum Result, followed by the serving of the Article 50 Notice, have had a serious effect on those who remain in the EU. For we have rejected them and the federalist concept of power gravitating to the centre. Instead we have opted for the concept of a separate sovereign state that will live in cooperation with, but not ruled by, other external states. But this has caused hurt and, in places, anger from some. As we are already seeing from their initial 'negotiating stance' they will seek to impose hard or even impossible terms for our withdrawal, both because they are hurt but also to discourage other countries from leaving the EU.



Consequently it is imperative that relationships between Britain and the other 27 States be improved. This does not mean going back on Brexit – the country made its decision on 23 June 2016 – but by taking moral and practical steps to take some of the angst out of the situation, the CPA would:

- Grant full rights of residence and work to all EU citizens who can show they are resident in the UK as at the date of publication of this Manifesto, Thursday 18 May 2017.
- Grant full rights of residence to all EU citizens who are married to or in a civil partnership with (or have booked weddings or civil partnerships) as at the date of publication of this Manifesto.
- Enter into Brexit Negotiations in good faith on the basis that these are not a ‘zero-sum game’ ie that a successful negotiation will end with both the UK and the EU ending up in a better place than if the negotiations break down.

Those negotiations will not, however, be on the 27 States’ basis that a financial settlement must be reached before trade talks can be started but that all matters must be discussed at the same time in parallel talks. If that is not acceptable to the 27 States, or if no acceptable deal can be reached on the basis set out below, then the CPA would repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and exit the EU without paying a penny more into its coffers from the date of our exit, falling back on World Trade Organisation rules. That would leave the 27 States with an approximate £7 billion a year hole to plug from Day One.

The matters to be agreed include:

- A mutually beneficial trade agreement between the UK and countries within the EU. The EU exports £89 billion of goods per year more to the UK than the UK does to the EU; whilst the UK exports £28 billion per year more in services to the EU.
- An effective ‘soft border’ between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and an equivalent ‘soft’ border between Gibraltar and Spain, though the effectiveness of these will have to be monitored.
- UK parliamentary control of UK borders.
- The UK Supreme Court being the supreme court for the UK.
- UK control of the seas around the UK for up to 200 miles or half way to the nearest country as per internationally agreed rules.

The CPA would also plan for a post-Brexit future by:

- Investigating the possibility of trade agreements with other countries. In particular with the new economic powerhouses of China, India, Brazil and Russia. These may be direct one-to-one or in partnership eg New Zealand lamb production and UK lamb production are at different times of the year, leading to the possibility of a combined export throughout the year to a third country. It is this type of new, co-operative, thinking that is needed.
- Investing in major industries (steel, shipbuilding, car, energy etc) to increase efficiency and increase production in a sustainable manner. As John Longworth, Director General of British Chamber of Commerce said in August 2014 “We need to invest and export more, innovate and build”.
- Continuing agricultural subsidies for the first five years after Brexit so as to provide continuity for farmers, whilst discussing with farmers the phasing out of subsidies (eg New Zealand) and the availability of capital injection to improve efficiency.
- Maintaining other EU grants for a minimum of three years (unless they were due to finish earlier).

- Invest in research and development and then patenting and implementation of new products (eg graphene).
- Investing in UK infrastructure, in particular High Speed Rail and a new London airport in the Thames Estuary with related links
- Conducting a review of all PFI contracts (hospitals, schools, government buildings etc) to ensure that they are providing value for money, introducing primary legislation if needed to rectify those contracts where excessive charges or profits are being made at the expense of society.

Whenever the Government puts money into an industry it will do it alongside the private sector by giving capital grants and taking a share in the industry in proportion to the investment made. It is not our aim for the State to take over our industries but to support and help them grow and give them a boost. We anticipate that by taking this approach the Government will be increasing wealth for itself as well as for the country as a whole.

These policies are practical outworking of the basic Christian Democratic principles of effective use of resources, the empowerment of the individual and communities and will lead to an increase in social justice as the (currently) more disadvantaged areas of the UK will be improved.

### **Wealth Creation and Employment**

These policies will also result in increased wealth, whether due to the effects of capital investment spreading down through the economy or the increased innovation and efficiency of UK production or the new trade routes opened up. That wealth must be spread throughout society. To this end the CPA will:

- Change the responsibility of company directors, such that they must consider best balanced interests to shareholders, employees, suppliers, the local community and wider society, with that being considered in a business process audit to be carried out and published every three years. This process audit to include rating of executives.
- Bonuses to be paid to everyone in a company, proportionate to their basic salary. If bonuses are paid only to executives then they will be taxed at 80% so the benefit flows out to wider society.
- Company share schemes must be allocated on the same basis to all employees (who have been employed for more than two years) with employee shares having enhanced voting rights, giving a greater say to employees in how their company is run.
- Reforming taxation on capital allowances so as to simplify the system and concentrate it on future expenditure by barring claims for pre-April 2012 expenditure.

These policies are designed to encourage both the effective use of resources and social justice, whilst empowering the individual.

## Free Efficient Health Service

The CPA is committed to

- a publicly funded, effective and value for money National Health Service;
- that promotes health and well-being and provides the best possible outcomes;
- is free at the point of delivery for all UK citizens;
- is patient focussed, with integrated health care on a geographical basis; and
- that has adequate additional funding for improvements to health and social care.

The CPA is completely committed to providing emergency treatment to all who need it, without first requiring payment. Whilst health insurance will be required by all coming to the UK the CPA will require payment or proof of insurance after emergency treatment or before non-emergency treatment, but subject always to that not affecting the wellbeing of the patient.

The CPA is committed to increase health and well-being of all residing in the UK and providing high quality health care when needed, regardless of through whom that is provided – the State, a charity or voluntary organisation or a private company. The CPA will seek to encourage and facilitate differing forms of partnership suitable for local circumstances by the NHS with local authorities, charities, non-profit and for-profit organisations and, above all, with patients. These partnerships will include:

- prevention and self-cure programmes – in particular relating to smoking, obesity and exercise, workplace health schemes and incentives, alcohol, excess sugar and salt;
- planning treatment (including prevention) in conjunction with individuals (who are often experts by experience) so that it is an agreed course of action to which they are fully subscribed;
- involving carers fully in that planning including respite planning;
- providing integrated health care on an appropriate geographical basis, breaking down the current barriers between primary and secondary care;
- promoting holistic patient-centred care;
- a more effective dovetailing of urgent and emergency care from NHS 111 and GP out of hours service through the 999 and ambulance service urgent care centres to full A&E and major trauma centres, such that the patient gets the most appropriate treatment at the appropriate level, quickest;
- encouraging and facilitating out-of-hospital services (including GPs and community services) to find appropriate ways within their communities of working at scale, whilst still maintaining the personal link with ‘my GP’;
- running further pilot schemes with locally integrated health and social care funding and clinical support, so that care homes and intermediate care homes can provide more appropriate beds at a lower cost whilst still having the support there if required, whilst freeing up several thousand beds for actual acute use;
- integration of physical and mental health aspects of care, with parity of esteem and 24 hour mental health teams in all A&E departments by 2020; and
- enable additional work to take place between the NHS and the voluntary sector to increase the provision of good quality terminal and palliative and respite care for infants, children and adults,

whether in their own homes or in hospices. This care will be benchmarked against the world's best examples of each.

The CPA will consult with the NHS about the most effective way of reducing bureaucracy, increasing efficiency and managing change so that the core principles of empowering individuals and local communities and the effective use of resources are dovetailed in with respect for life, social justice and active compassion.

In this vein other matters that the CPA considers to be important for the NHS are:

- a. Encourage nurse training to contain an increased sense of vocation and practical training.
- b. Have national standards of healthcare rather than targets.
- c. Restore a pro-life ethic across the NHS so that every member of staff is doing their best to assist the healing of a patient and where life is coming to an end, to provide the best care and quality of life.
- d. Improve the means for staff to identify and report their concerns about quality of care and patient safety without fear of recrimination for whistle blowing.
- e. Institute a no-fault liability system to allow members of staff to admit to mistakes. This will do three things:
  - allow any system malfunction and rectification to the benefit of future patients. Such a 'system malfunction' may be a member of staff who needs retraining or additional training, or being moved to other duties;
  - allow for the speedy compensation of the impaired patient, without a lengthy legal battle in which the medical professional/institution seek to deny liability; and
  - remove the expensive legal costs in fighting such cases which can be far more than the compensation. This in itself will be a saving of £418 million (2015-16) for claimants' lawyers as well as the money spent by the NHS on its lawyers.
- f. Enhance the voice of the patient and improve responsiveness to patients and public by improving the NHS complaints process.
- g. Enhance the capability and capacity of the NHS to plan and deliver appropriate change without calling on expensive external consultants, including increasing the influence of healthcare professional bodies, health staff and patient groups; and so restore responsibility for health planning to public health and clinical leaders.
- h. Use the purchasing power of the NHS to get the best deals for all NHS procurement.
- i. Encourage the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to put the symptoms of Type 1 diabetes in the red book given to new parents. A child is five times more likely to be diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes than meningitis, yet the symptoms are not documented in the red baby book that every new parent is given.

We will also ensure respect for older people and the people with long-term illnesses by working towards state funded personal care for the elderly and disabled people. As part of our 'partnership' proposals domiciliary home care services must be improved and the option of sheltered accommodation should be made available where it is the right solution for an elderly person. Where the best solution is for an elderly person to move in with a relative or close friend we would assess the possibility of a grant towards the cost of adapting the new premises or putting in an appropriate support package. The CPA would also reward



those who stay at home to look after an elderly parent by increasing the Carers Allowance substantially from £62.70 per week and not linking it to any other benefit. We would consult on how that may be increased due to age or frailty increasing as time passes.

#### Public Support

It will be essential that this programme of enhanced health care receives public support changes are not seen simply as a 'cost-cutting exercise'. In order to do this the CPA:

- propose an increase to the NHS budget contingent upon, and commensurate with, these improvements in health care taking place;
- encourage engagement and genuine consultation with local populations as well as health professionals;
- require improvements in local health care to be experienced before there is a transfer of resources; and
- encourage personal participation – in personal prevention programmes, membership of health boards or volunteering within the community.

In keeping with the core principles of the CPA, these improvements need to be, and be seen as, empowering individuals and local communities whilst being a more effective use of resources for a more effective health service with better outcomes.

#### Finance

The CPA would provide adequate funding for the NHS as it currently is. It will, however, require additional funding. There are two aspects of this. First an element of 'double funding' whilst the new schemes are being put in place and, second, to cover the annual funding gap from that which the NHS currently provides to an NHS fit for the UK for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This last is estimated at £30 billion a year by 2020/21. The CPA would look to fund that by:

- Cancelling the Trident renewal. Although it is believed that approximately £6 billion has already been spent, that would free up to £50 billion (less the cost of the Defensive Missile Shield – see Defence below) - £35 billion by not replacing the Trident submarines, with further savings of approximately £15 billion by not extending the life of the existing Trident submarines, and a further £2 billion a year in the running costs of the new Trident submarines. The initial massive savings from this cancellation would assist in the initial funding of the enhancement programme set out above.
- Having had the initial funding to implement the proposals set out above, the NHS should be able to make demand and efficiency savings (cutting back on duplication of services, providing better outcomes more efficiently by utilising staff and resources in new ways) of 2% - 3% per annum (currently 1.6% per annum). This would allow the current anticipated future annual £30 billion funding gap (2020/21) to be bridged.
- Utilising the sugar and salt tax for health purposes. The existing sugar tax is expected to raise £1 billion which goes to the Department of Education for school sports (ie well-being and prevention of obesity). The new taxes would not apply immediately (see Taxation below), but reliably may be expected to raise more than £1 billion a year. This would assist if the NHS efficiencies do not produce 2% - 3% per annum as currently envisaged.

## Taxation Must be Fair

Concretely the Christian Peoples Alliance is committed to seeking to balance the Government's books over the medium term. To this end it will be necessary to review the regulatory system and quangos. All the current measures will need to remain in force when we leave the EU but we do not have to keep any of them. We will need to keep what is working and repeal what is not useful. The Christian Peoples Alliance wants a much-reduced regulatory system in every industry which we believe can lead to lower taxation, but this review has to be conducted in an orderly and thorough fashion and there has to be an appeals system both for and against regulations that is thorough and robust.

In the meantime there is an anomaly in the tax system which must be corrected. In 2016/17 the taxation is as follows:-

Tax 0% £10,600 Nat Ins 0% £8,060

Tax 20% £42,600 Nat Ins Employee 12% to £43,004 Employer 14%

Tax 40% £42,600 to £160,600 Nat. Ins Employee 2% Employer 14%

Tax 45% over £160,600 Nat. Ins 2% Employer 14%.

(Normally when the Government gives the rates it gives them as the rate above the tax threshold so gives a 20% rate of up to £32,000 of additional income and 45% rate over £150,000. We have given the rate on total earnings.)

For self-employed people there is a standing Class 2 National Insurance payment to make of £2.80 a week and 9% on profits up to £43,000 2% above that. Tax is the same.

From this it can be seen that as soon as the tax rate climbs from 20% to 40% the National Insurance reduces so the marginal increase is 10% not 20%.

We propose as follows:-

Tax 0% £10,600 Nat Ins 0% £10,600

Tax 20% £42,600 Nat Ins Employee 12% , Employer 14%

Tax 30% £42,600 to £100,600 Nat. Ins Employee 12% Employer 14%

Tax 40% over £100,600 Nat. Ins 12% Employer 14%.

For self-employed people we propose a standing Class 2 payment to make of £2.80 and 9% on all profits above £10,600.

The effect of this will be that everyone earning less than £100,000 will be £507 per year better off, a high percentage of those earning £5,000 to £10,000 per year. People earning between £100,000 and £160,000 will be up to £5,500 per year worse off and people earning over £160,000 will be £5,500 worse off plus 5% of their remaining salary. For self-employed people the new 30% band will mean those earning between £41,865 and £100,000 will be up to £1,744.05 better off but those earning above £100,000 will progressively lose this benefit and start to pay more at a rate of 7% of their earnings.

This measure will take a big step towards combining tax and national insurance and so making tax simpler. It will also make the real tax rate paid much more transparent. It will give the greatest help to the lowest paid. If at the same time we are able to reduce tax rates we will.

The CPA will introduce a 'Turnover Tax' at 5% of turnover, payable quarterly in arrears along with VAT. We will consult on the minimum level of turnover to which this will apply but it is intended to ensure that appropriate tax is collected from those multi-national companies who make their money by selling in the UK but transfer their profits overseas by way of 'licence' and other 'costs' or 'invoice address'.

Part of this Turnover Tax will be used to offset the increase in business rates for many. This has especially affected small businesses, whose exemption limits have not kept pace with the increase in rateable values leading to an unjust increase imposed on small business with a 2017 rateable value from £15,000 to £40,000. These exemption limits will be restored.

The CPA will also work with other countries to require 'country by country' reporting by companies; open records of beneficial ownership to be available, and to increase the automatic exchange of financial accounting information between different tax jurisdictions. The CPA will start with the Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories, where these do not already conform to these requirements. The CPA considers that the current framework, by which individuals and companies can avoid paying their fair share of tax, causes the costs of running our society to fall disproportionately onto the shoulders of others. This must be brought to an end.

We will also review the effectiveness of the Government's reduction in Corporation Tax. If it has indeed been effective in getting businesses to relocate to the UK we will do nothing to stop that process. If not then large businesses should not avoid paying their fair share. We will introduce a reduced rate of half the normal rate for companies involved in manufacturing as the Irish have done to great positive effect. We need to encourage the growth of manufacturing in the UK and this measure will do a lot to encourage large manufacturing companies to base themselves here.

Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) changed from 1 April 2016 very much along the lines we proposed in our 2015 Manifesto. It wasn't in the Conservative Party Manifesto. It is welcome that they implemented our Manifesto on this issue rather than theirs. We would now change it further to introduce another SDLT rate above £4,000,000 at 20%.

Where commercial or residential properties are being purchased as income producing investments (eg buy-to-let) the SDLT would be 20%. The effect of this would be to decrease the price paid by the investor, leading to cheaper flats and houses for occupation and in the commercial field rebalancing of the price received by the seller and that received by the community.

Although we are not in favour of a 'mansion tax' that would adversely affect those who are income poor but live in a large house (often for historic or sentimental reasons), a revaluation of the Council Tax Bands is now well overdue. We would schedule this for mid-way through the next Parliament, with new bands being introduced at £500,000 and every £250,000 thereafter to £5,000,000. This will allow for the re-adjustment of relative prices in different areas across the UK since the 1 April 1991 valuation some 26 years ago. We would consult on the mitigation of any consequential effects on the 'income poor' following such a revaluation.

We will review the inheritance tax levels to see if they are working effectively. Rather than a flat 40% rate we favour a scaled increase starting at 20% and then rising to 30% and 40% for larger inheritances. We would seek to maintain the overall revenue from inheritance tax and possibly increase it if we can.

The Government has also introduced the tax we proposed in our 2015 Manifesto on drinks which contain sugar. We welcome that but would now go further and put a tax on all foods that contain salt and processed sugar (other than home produced cakes, jam etc sold for charity or non-profit causes). These taxes will take effect after a period (to be decided after consultation), allowing the food industry to decrease salt and sugar levels gradually over that time, whilst allowing individuals' tastes to become accustomed to the change.

We will clamp down on tax avoidance by making it illegal to offset losses from one company against the profit of another. In future each company will have to stand alone and if necessary loss making companies will have to close down. At the moment some people have created loss making companies as a way of tax avoidance.

Company pension schemes will continue to be given tax relief and encouraged but a threshold will be placed on the amount of tax free benefit that can be paid into a company pension scheme for an employee at £30,000 per tax year without incurring corporation tax. Sometimes these benefits have been used to make enormous payments to executives tax free. If those executives are over 55 they can effectively be receiving a massive tax free payment as 25% of the fund could immediately be drawn tax free. The idea of promoting company pensions is to help those in retirement across the board not as a tax loophole.

We continue to be appalled by the scandal of tax evasion and fraud that robs our society of the money it needs. It is now clear that the HSBC tax scandal involved 30,000 people and the Government were first informed of it in 2009. Then there is the Missing Trader Intra Community (MTIC) Tax fraud which has been going on unchecked for over 15 years and involves HMRC giving over £1 billion in VAT refunds to fraudsters. We will institute a full public inquiry into these scandals with prosecutions to the guilty. The cost of the enquiry will be nothing compared to the money that can be regained. Labour's call to ask HMRC to clamp down has not worked and will not work.

These policies are also designed to further social justice, whilst empowering the individual and encouraging the effective use of resources.

## **Defence and Foreign Policy**

The Christian Peoples Alliance seeks international peace and security by multilateral security initiatives reducing the amount of armaments in the world and reducing the international arms trade starting with our own.

The danger of a nuclear weapons exchange by intention or accident remains a credible possibility and nuclear proliferation among nations and into terrorist groups must be prevented. Nuclear weapon states must take practical steps to nuclear disarmament and thereby prevent nuclear weapon proliferation in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The CPA believes that it would never be a Christian act to use weapons of mass destruction, nor ask others to do it on their behalf. We would cancel the Trident renewal programme, utilising the savings (as set out above) for improving the NHS to increase the health and well-being of the citizens of the UK.

We believe that the focus of our defence spending should be on developing defensive systems including missile shields round the UK. We must work with other countries in Europe to achieve an effective shield, similar to that being installed in South Korea and already installed in Israel. Technology exists which is currently able to shoot down 95% of all incoming missiles, but this will improve to take its reliability nearer 100%. We must aim to be able to destroy incoming missiles as near as possible to the launch site so any

country thinking of launching them will know they are endangering their own people. We also want to develop technology that can lock onto incoming missiles and redirect them into the sea.

Now nuclear weapons are in the hands of other states and there is a real risk they may proliferate further into non-state hands, the Mutually Assured Destruction idea does not work. We will still have much more focus on poverty alleviation and other life giving projects for the common good than spending on weapons.

We believe in fair trade worldwide so that developing economies in the world can grow without competing with cheap subsidised products from elsewhere. This will need in some circumstances to be supplemented by overseas aid. Grinding poverty still holds 2.8 billion people around the world in its grip. For the Christian Peoples Alliance, poverty is not an accident. The CPA will therefore pursue policies including grant aid, loans and other forms of diplomacy and finance, so as to challenge the root causes of poverty, such as wars, generalised violence, persecution, human rights abuses, the arms trade, corrupt governments, the crippling debt burden and unfair trade practices that distort the economies of poor countries.

Whilst maintaining our foreign aid budget at 0.7% of GDP we will refocus it on helping refugees and to ensure people don't become refugees. We will also ensure that the emphasis of our foreign aid is on development for the recipient's self-sufficiency, rather than rewarding inefficiency and corruption, or funding politically correct causes, by working in partnership with those organisations, charities and governments that have shown themselves to be effective in utilising resources to achieve the maximum positive outcomes. The response to disasters such as that in the Philippines shows that the British people do care about those abroad that need help. We must be ready to extend a compassionate hand to anyone in our human family who needs it, wherever they are in the world.

We want a Britain that plays its full part in the world through the United Nations where we must maintain our permanent seat on the Security Council. We must be involved and give support to international peace agreements and international trade agreements. We must re-establish a close relationship with the Commonwealth and maintain the special relationship with the USA.

We will rebuild favourable trading relationships with any country in the world that wants to join with us in doing so to our mutual benefit provided they do not have an unacceptable human rights record. Prior to our membership of the EEC this was granted to Commonwealth countries and they will probably be the core of these new arrangements but not necessarily so. The reality is that before we joined the EEC, or the EU as it now is, we had a small trading surplus with the other EEC nations. After we joined that quickly became a large deficit. That means that our membership of the EU has been more beneficial to other EU nations than it has been to the British. We want to be a country that plays its full part in the world and seeks trade agreements with the new economic powerhouses of China, Russia, India and Brazil as well as the emerging powerhouse of Africa. Trade with Europe may initially be diminished if we leave the EU but we will then be in a stronger position to increase our trade with the rest of the world, especially the Commonwealth. Over time there is no reason why we should not develop mutually beneficial trading relations with the EU as indeed Switzerland and Norway have done both of whom have stayed outside the EU.

While persecution of Christians is being carried out so obviously and clearly by foreign Governments and non-Government bodies (including Boko Haram and Islamic State) we will give full support where we can to Christians and other faith groups who are being persecuted and offer them refuge wherever it is needed. We will seek international agreements to aid in their protection. All direct aid to Governments should be conditional on Christians and other faith groups not being persecuted. Thus, at present the UK Government is giving £441 million in aid to Pakistan whilst, under law 295C of the Pakistan Penal Code, if



anyone criticises the prophet Muhammad they have to be put to death (mandatory punishment). Thus Ms Asia Bibi is on death row because she said “Jesus Christ died for my sins, what has Muhammad ever done for you.” This cannot continue. Only on the release of Asia Bibi and with the repeal of this law can aid to Pakistan continue and we would work with other governments and agencies to ensure freedom of religious expression and the human right to change one’s religion here and throughout the world.

Israel is a small country in the heart of the Middle East surrounded by some very aggressive neighbours. Over the years these neighbours have tried three times to wipe them out in 1948, 1967 and 1973. There have been many attempts at peace most notably with Egypt and Jordan which have led to Israel returning land it has gained during wars in return for peace. They have also unilaterally withdrawn from the Gaza Strip in an effort to make peace with the Palestinians. Despite all these efforts they have enemies committed to wiping them off the map.

1. We assert the right of the nation of Israel to exist in peace, recognised by the PLA and Hamas.
2. We assert the right of Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim, to live in peace
3. We assert the duty of all people within Israel and without to engage in a democratic process to help bring peace in the region.
4. We assert the duty of the international community to support Israel in promoting these rights and duties.

### **Greening the Economy and Transport**

Although these are two separate matters they are closely interlinked, with our transport choices having a significant effect on the environment. Thus approximately 40,000 early deaths every year in the UK are currently attributable to nitrogen dioxide and particulates, primarily from diesel engines. However, in line with our principle of empowerment of local communities, transport strategies are primarily devolved to regional and local government.

At a national level the CPA would:

- institute a scrappage scheme for older diesel cars and vans;
- encourage regional and local government to institute Ultra Low Emission Zones in city and town centres and in the vicinity of schools and hospitals as soon as possible and no later than 2020;
- introduce the ‘red, yellow, green’ sticker system of car pollution identification and monitoring which has been shown to move motorists from high pollution cars (red stickers) to low pollution cars (green stickers);
- consult on the introduction of car sharing lanes on busy motorways that may only be used by a car that has three or more occupants;
- require all petrol stations to have an appropriate number of electric charging points;
- encourage regional and local authorities to move to 100% electric taxis and private hire vehicles, with all new taxis, private hire vehicles to run on electric and new taxi and private hire licences to use electric vehicles;
- encourage local transport authorities to move towards ‘100%’ green buses by 2022;
- invest in High Speed Rail to help revitalise the regions and eliminate internal air travel; and

- encourage regional and local authorities to physically separate cyclists and vehicles, have safer left-hand turns where appropriate and introduce traffic light priority for cyclists.

### **Greening the Economy**

Whilst dealing with pollution by transport is a major part of greening the economy it is not all of it. Consequently, the CPA would also:

- Consult on replacing subsidies so as to increase alternative electric production by solar, wind and tidal mechanisms at all levels (eg from solar panels on individual houses to large scheme tidal barrages).
- Consider funding research and development into better batteries and other electrical storage devices, again from house level to regional generators. This would be on the basis outlined at the end of the Brexit section of this Manifesto.
- Seek standardisation of recycling policies and materials across all local authorities.
- Impose a charge, similar to the 'carrier bag' charge on each item of non-recyclable packaging on any item sold. This will lead to manufacturers and consumers wanting fully recyclable packaging. The 'carrier bag' charge of 5p resulted in an initial drop of 85% from circa 7 billion in 12 months to 500 million in six months.
- Fund research into far greater use of recyclable materials eg making roads out of plastic.
- Utilise our diplomatic and investment strategies to reduce deforestation and increase reforestation both abroad and at home.
- Review the UK's Climate Change Agreement and Climate Change Levy to ensure it is working effectively at reducing emissions whilst allowing energy-intensive sectors of industry to work and compete effectively post-Brexit.
- Consult on the most cost effective way of insulating all UK homes to cut down on heat loss and thus on energy bills.
- Keep to the Paris Agreement 2015 whilst working towards the first five-year review in 2020, using our diplomatic and foreign aid and investment strategies to that end.
- Operate a 'safety-first' or 'precautionary principle' to all pesticides and insecticides (including neonicotinoids) such that they may only be used once shown to be safe.
- Refuse licences for genetically modified foods.

### **Transport**

With regard to air travel the CPA considers there has to be one large hub airport in the South of England. The CPA considers the ideal solution is to build a new hub airport in the Thames Estuary with six runways and linked to Crossrail and the Tube.

Sufficient initial work has already been done on design and costing by the Thames Estuary Research and Development Company. We will offer shares in the project and a bond to those who wish to lend money, as well as having a significant public share. This project will be integrated with the further regeneration of large parts of East London. When it is built Heathrow will be scaled down or redeveloped for housing.

There are approximately 140,000 (2015) personal injury accidents a year, averaging just under 400 a day, with (an average) 69 serious injuries a day (2016) and five deaths a day (2016).

- The CPA propose all vehicle drivers should be retested five years after passing their test to a higher advanced driving test standard with 10-yearly retests thereafter. Any driver shown to be unsafe may have their driving patterns restricted but may also re-take the test to have full privileges restored. Driving a half-ton of metal and glass on the roads, at speeds up to 30 mph or 70 mph is a privilege, rather than a right, and must be treated as such.
- As with other road users (eg motorcyclists having helmets, car drivers and passengers wearing seatbelts) cyclists also have responsibility for their own wellbeing and the CPA will require:
  - helmets of a suitable standard and luminosity to be worn;
  - clothing and backpacks to be worn of a suitable reflective luminosity for day and night (as appropriate);
  - lights, both front and rear, to be of an appropriate power and position so the cyclist will be seen, be able to be seen, but not 'blind' motorists; and
  - in all cases we will consult on the actual standards to be adopted.

## **Reform the Banking System**

Having debt based economic growth is bad for society. Debt is getting out of hand at all levels and measures must be taken to deal with it at all levels.

The Christian Peoples Alliance proposes:

1. An end to the right for the banks to create money (known as 'fractional reserve banking'). All money loaned out must either come from repaid mortgages, savings or loans from the Bank of England.
2. Consulting on a limit on the amount of interest that can be charged on loans to, say, interest rates above 5% above the Bank of England Base Rate (currently 0.25%) or 10% whichever is the higher. This level to be subject to review. An institution that routinely charges the maximum level would be subject to scrutiny with the power of the Regulatory Authorities to close it down. The aim of this is to tackle rogue lenders not good banks.
3. Separate the banking roles between saving and lending and riskier investment banks.
4. Giving the Bank of England the power to impose maximum multipliers for home mortgage loans and/or loan-to-value percentages. This will have the effect of dampening down (or increasing) house prices as is required by the economy and housing needs.
5. We will consult on how the Bank of England can be made much more transparent in its dealings and how measures can be introduced to bring it under greater democratic control. One suggestion is a supervisory board independent of the Government that has the power to see any Bank of England documents and demand the reconsideration of a decision. The supervisory board would also have the power to interview Bank of England Officials over any matter and veto appointments. The Supervisory Board could be called to account in the Administrative Court if it in turn overstepped its power. This accountability can and should be completely separate from the Government and at least some members should be elected. Others could be appointed by regulators.

## **Immigration**

It is essential we have a mature and balanced approach to this problem and avoid emotional rhetoric that can lead to racism and hatred of others. The Christian Democratic position is based on all of humanity being in God's Image (Imago Dei). This is not over-ridden by nationalism nor ethnicism which, themselves, lead to social discord. Consequently the CPA urges social peace within the global community and societal harmony within the UK.

The Christian Democratic position allows nationality change: indeed the UK has undergone many changes, such as Romanisation, Saxonisation and Normanisation. However, such changes must be by fair means not foul. Immigration must be fair.

### **Definitions**

The term 'immigrant' defines someone who has permanently moved into a country, while migrant generally refers to someone who has entered an area (or country) from outside for a short term work or educational objective. There are numerous instances where official migrants remain without permission beyond their legal term and so become illegal immigrants. Whilst immigration has been of great benefit to our country, unrestricted immigration is unfair, both on existing citizens and those who seek to settle here by legitimate and legal means; and its costs are considerable.

Consequently, the CPA immigration priorities are to provide a safe haven and to bring into the country those with the necessary skills who wish to live here. Once they have arrived CPA policy is that immigrants are to be treated as we treat our native born. That, however, is not, and should not be, at the expense of the values, freedoms and culture of our society.

### **Statistical Reality**

Population Density: England is the sixth most crowded country in the World. 1997-2010 showed a net immigration gain of about 2 million, with roughly 80% from non-EU countries, and figures project an extra net increase of 7 million by 2027, two-thirds of this by immigration. Approximately 45% of Londoners are now White British, down from 58% in 2001. Far right politics have been a reaction to fears of overcrowding and significant changes in the ethnic makeup of our population. The CPA takes both a realistic and grateful view of the natural and human resources that have come to the UK and does not base citizenship rights on any racial grounds.

## **Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

The Convention on Refugees 1951 (globalised by the 1967 Protocol) states that countries should offer first port of call shelter for those perceived to be fleeing from unjust persecution. If Port 1 is overloaded, subsequent ports should be open for fair distribution. The policies and actions of the UK Border Force must be audited for just ethical standards, including a proper up-to-date awareness of worldwide human rights issues, such as the way homosexuality or conversion to Christianity and other faiths can lead to serious persecution, including a death sentence, in many countries. We will give priority to those who have faced or may face persecution in such countries, consulting on those who have greatest need with preservation of life having the greatest priority.

## **Unaccompanied Children**

Currently we will also prioritise those unaccompanied children currently in France (especially the youngest and those who have family already residing in the UK) who are not receiving adequate shelter, protection or freedom from exploitation. We will consult on age appropriateness for those who should properly be considered 'children' for this policy.

In line with the Kindertransport (approx 10,000 children) and treatment given by the UK to them:

- these children are vulnerable; and
- they are passing through a 'safe country'; and
- will, in due time, make a valuable and useful contribution to British society; and so
- having made their home here should not be deported once they have reached the age of 18 except in the case of serious crime.
- The CPA will work with all appropriate statutory and voluntary agencies, including charities, to find appropriate adoptive and foster homes for those children.
- This programme will be 'until the crisis is over'.

## **Economic/Educational Immigrants**

The UK needs guest workers due to declining and ageing populations. But it is unjust to take migrant professionals from developing countries to meet our own skills shortages, whether nurses, doctors or IT specialists. This long-term issue will be addressed by our policies to support marriage and family life to reverse the domestic de-population trend.

Until the declining birth rate is reversed, the CPA will use a UK version of the American Green Card system for determining who can come to work in Britain, based on the current 5 Tiers. The system is basically designed to assess how useful applicants are likely to be to the UK workforce, or how genuine their claim to student status is. Its Tier 3, designed to monitor low-skill short-term economic immigration, has not been used since the European Economic Area (EEA) visa-free door remains open to EU citizens. Until Brexit future EEA access should have a monitored condition which makes migrant workers and their sponsors responsible for housing and medical cover independent of the State. This will broaden accountability and encourage self-responsibility for those without current citizenship status, whilst reducing the burden on the taxpayer. After Brexit EEA access will be treated on the system as non-EEA access, as the CPA considers all humanity, all should be treated equally.

## **People Trafficking**

The CPA would widely publicise an official mechanism to help immigrants enslaved (trafficked) without passport protection, and would, subject to availability of funds, consider assisting those voluntary organisations who work in this field. Economic migrants can, by stolen passports, be enslaved, their wages stolen by traffickers, and also deprived of many of the protections relating to health, pay, housing, travel, and other welfare needs that many of us take for granted. They can end up homeless and completely disempowered.



## Illegal Immigrants

There are an estimated 500,000 illegal immigrants in the UK, mostly in London. The UK Border Agency is tasked with finding and deporting them: it is costly and time consuming. We should not be legitimising illegal immigration but ensuring that the system is fair for those who wish to live and work here legally, and for genuine asylum seekers.

1. We reject a one-off Qualified Amnesty. It may cause financial and social problems down the line. Crime should not pay. There inevitably has to be a time, however, when illegal immigrants have been here so long without committing any crime and without recourse to the State that they should be allowed to remain. We consider this point to be 10 years though there should be a further limit of five years for such people before State benefits can be claimed.
2. We will reward voluntary surrender by more sympathetic evaluation or free repatriation if required. This more sympathetic evaluation will be especially so where the person coming forward voluntarily has the support of a significant part of the local community relating to their positive commitment to society and thus for their continued residence in the UK. We will, however, punish concealment with tough penalties. Attrition through enforcement could make it harder to obtain benefits such as paid employment, medical care, and formal education, significantly reducing the size of the illegal population at reasonable cost by making re-immigration the best option. We will then pay for the air fares of those returning on the condition that it is understood they will never be allowed to visit the UK again unless the cost is refunded.
3. It is crucially important that the citizenship status of both parties to a marriage should be checked and both parties fully warned about the possibility of illegal immigrants being denied a right to remain, before any wedding is conducted. Marriage should not be abused merely as a way of gaining citizenship status. However, there are valid marriages which are denied access to the UK by current rules, in particular 'the financial requirement'. This is currently £18,600 pa a year for a spouse with £3,800 for the first child and £2,400 for each subsequent child. Consequently any British citizen who is on a low income or who has been working overseas for many years in an unpaid or low paid voluntary aid programme and has married overseas (whether with or without children) is unlikely to be able to return to the UK without leaving their spouse and children behind. The CPA will consult on how this destructive policy on marriage may be rectified without allowing for the abuse of marriage for unlawful immigration.
4. We will greatly increase the efficiency and effectiveness in which our borders are managed. Outside of the EU this can be much more effective and fairer to all non-Britons wanting to come here.

## Other Moral Issues

Whilst there is a need to address all the issues set out above that are themselves moral issues, there is also an overwhelming need to address other moral issues. For the Christian Peoples Alliance the issues below are absolutely central to what we stand for and the policies in this section are to promote respect for life and the effective use of resources to empower individuals and communities within a context of social justice.

## The Importance of Marriage

Heterosexual marriage remains the fundamental building block for healthy society, and the safest environment for the bringing of children into the world. Statistically, very few horror stories of child abuse come from married households (Robert Whelan's Broken Homes & Battered Children, 1994, Family Education Trust). The Christian Peoples Alliance has detailed proposals to strengthen marriage and encourage its stability. Failure to do so cheapens lives, removes the sacred. Even financially, defending marriage makes sense, as Government figures show that marriage breakdowns cost the country almost £50 billion each year. What seems lacking is the political will to call marriage right, and interpersonal sex outside marriage as wrong in itself, and damaging.

Research shows that many couples are unprepared for marriage and parenting. We therefore have detailed proposals to strengthen marriage and encourage its stability and improve parenting.

- First, we would give a grant (initially set at £10,000 per couple) to be made available to all couples on the occasion of their first marriage provided that they go for at least five sessions of marital awareness training.
- Second, we would give a grant (initially set at £5,000) to be made available to all before or just after the birth or adoption of their first child, provided they go for at least five sessions of training in child raising, as the child is the priority.
- Third, we want the tax threshold to be fully transferable from husband to wife if there is a child under five in the family so that there is a tax benefit for one parent to stay at home with young children. Equally there will be an incentive for the other parent to look for work when the youngest child reaches age five. As resources make it possible we will extend this age limit preferably right up to age 12.
- Fourth, we will allow married couples to name two properties as their main home, one each, to end the Capital Gains Tax anomaly where unmarried couples are better off.

The reason for these measures is that research has shown that too many couples are sliding into marriage without properly thinking about what they are doing. Equally many parents receive little or no training and so do not cater for the needs of their children as they should. The whole of society will benefit from a change of culture which these measures will bring about.

One Christian leader stated regarding marriage, "at stake is the identity and survival of the family: father, mother and children. At stake are the lives of many children who will be discriminated against in advance, and deprived of their human development given by a father and a mother and willed by God. At stake is the total rejection of God's law engraved in our hearts." (Pope Francis 2010) Another said "Marriage is like a structural wall in a building. If we destroy marriage the whole of society can come crashing down." (Jonathan Olyede of the Global Day of Prayer)

Whilst looking to strengthen marriage we will not remove the legal concept of 'civil partnership' although we will consult on finding a better name for this form of committed relationship.

### **Adoptive families**

The CPA believes adoptive parents make a highly significant contribution to the lives of the children they adopt and to the community as a whole. They provide a home for a child (or children) in need and may end a cycle of abuse and/or neglect within families. Potentially they save a lot of social work costs and so they need and deserve support from government at all levels.

The CPA believes every effort should be made to ensure that once a child is placed with adoptive parents the placement succeeds. The cost of an adoption placement breakdown both in terms of emotional damage to the child and to the wider community should be avoided if at all possible.

Therefore we propose:

1. When advertising for new adoptive parents it should be recognised by government at all levels that a child's problems (such as learning difficulties, Attachment Disorder, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, foetal alcohol syndrome or the effects of physical or sexual abuse) do not disappear because the child is moved into an adoptive family.
2. Post-adoption support staff should be actively encouraged to assist adoptive parents in matters such as school placements, even when this requires them to openly disagree with their employers.
3. Every school should be encouraged to have a specific policy with regard to 'looked after' and adopted children that recognises the unique needs of this group and sets out how these will be addressed in the school situation. (The views of agencies such as Adoption UK and similar groups may be considered when policies are made.) Reports by Ofsted on schools and other institutions should include an assessment of how well the body concerned meets the needs of 'looked after' and adopted children.
4. Civil servants who have contact with adoptive parents should recognise the contribution the parents have made not just to their children but to the community as a whole. This contribution is often made at a very real cost to the parents concerned. The notion of 'win/win' whereby the community is seen as benefiting from the child being moved out of 'care' and the adoptive parents as benefiting by getting the child they want should be actively challenged and dismissed.
5. Courses in colleges and universities for the training of teachers, health professionals, social workers and others from the caring professionals should cover how to meet the unique needs of adopted children and their families. Wherever possible relevant agencies such as Adoption UK and similar should be included in the development of policies and training programmes.
6. Churches and other community groups should be encouraged to support adoptive families wherever possible.
7. Local authorities and other adoption agencies should be required to maintain a record of how many of the children they place with adoptive parents remain with those parents and how many are returned to 'care'.

When an adoption placement fails there should be a full investigation by the local authority. This investigation should lead to a report giving reasons for the placement failure and recommendations for future practice. It should be submitted to the department of the relevant minister of state. A summary of these reports should be presented annually to parliament along with recommendations for any legislative

or other changes that may be considered necessary. If the adoptive parents are not satisfied with the investigation then they should have the right to appeal to an independent inspector appointed by central government giving their reasons.

We would provide more respite centres for families experiencing breakdown and easy access to counselling and training in child rearing free of charge to anyone who wants to commit to participating in it.

Our concern is focussed on the needs of children and we should be doing all we can to rebuild a society where children live with their natural parents and, where that fails, in a safe, secure and welcoming adoptive family. Of course full help and support must and will be given to lone parents but not at the expense of seeking to solve the reason why families are breaking down in the first place.

There can and should be state recognition for other mutually supportive relationships where two people have lived together for a long time, including siblings, so that inheritance can be passed between them and they can be named “next of kin”. We have opposed all attempts to redefine the meaning of marriage and will repeal those laws which have already attempted to do this. As is normal in British politics we will not, however, make those laws retrospective.

Schools should not be used as an apparatus for social engineering and promoting the secular liberal agenda. They should respect the views of parents and the cultural background of pupils. Schools must not be able to take action against teachers who support real marriage and neither should any employer, government or otherwise be able to take action on this basis.

### **Further Family Support**

In order to give additional support to the family we will:

1. Restore Sunday as a day of rest and family time. We will make it obligatory to close most retail outlets by limiting the numbers that can be employed on any premises to five people on a Sunday, at Easter and at Christmas. We will also make it obligatory for government and local authority workers to be given the day off on Sunday if they want it and we will normally make it illegal to include compulsory Sunday working in any contract of employment.
2. Make available, free of charge, counselling for drug addiction and alcohol addiction, treating the addict as a patient rather than a criminal, and ensuring a 24 hour emergency service is provided for urgent methadone or similar prescription to help individuals and families cope with the terrible pressures that come through drug misuse.
3. Tackle child poverty by introducing new child tax allowances of £2,373 per child to all parents up to five per family. The cost of this has been estimated at £4 billion.
4. Allow parents who stay at home to receive enhanced child benefit in the early years to encourage parents to spend more time with very young children.

## Youth Policy

Britain's youth unemployment was around 13% at the end of last year. Changes to the welfare state for unemployed under 25s is creating a sense of hopelessness among some who have nowhere to turn from age 18 to 25.

At the same time the cost of living has increased albeit at a slower rate, but it is still rising while a lack of discipline in society has led young people to resort to loan sharks as a first option to manage bills. At the same time when the far right blames all society's problems on immigration, it encourages racism and a class hatred among the youth and even a gang psychology.

There are alarming reports of children engaging in emotional and physical abuse towards their parents and society so that it seems the breakdown of moral signposts from a very young age has become a norm.

The CPA proposes:

1. To reinforce and strengthen programmes to ensure unemployment is not an option for any young person. We want to see more resources allocated to encourage apprentice schemes and voluntary placements which can lead to full time employment after a period. These placements must not be motivated by greed for 'financial sweeteners' nor cheap labour but the desire to give a young person a chance. Rogue employers will be weeded out.
2. We want young people to have community mentors who can help them make the right decisions. The ethos of loving our neighbour has almost become outdated whereby we may not even know those who are living in our streets. If young people are engaged with their community then it encourages safer neighbourhoods and involvement with the elderly so they feel supported. We need more community spirit and less division. We want these community schemes to operate outside the police or social services.
3. These policies are also designed to empower the young within the context of increasing the quality of social justice within our society.

## The sanctity of life from conception to natural death

No life is unimportant or not worth living. The abortion statistics in the UK are a national tragedy. Over 7 million unborn children have lost their lives to abortion since the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act. In 2011 alone, for women resident in England and Wales, the total number of abortions was 189,931.

The Christian Peoples Alliance is unashamed to declare its commitment to the principle of respect for life. God values everyone equally and so every citizen from conception (fertilisation) to natural death deserves the protection of the law. The language of human rights is often heard in both our national and the European Parliament, but rarely that of the most basic human need – to be born, nurtured and protected without fear of death in utero. Abortion leads to increased exploitation of women, not their 'liberation'. Abortion violates the dignity and integrity of women. It leaves a trail of anger, guilt, resentment, depression and loss of self-respect. Whenever we act or speak, we pledge to do so, however, without judging or condemning any individual, especially any woman who has been involved in abortion.



This compassionate Christian approach also requires that we speak up for those who, because of age or infirmity, are perceived in many European states, to be a burden on others and will strongly oppose the growing euthanasia culture. EU member states which proclaim their commitment to equal opportunities for disabled adults often ignore their duty to afford equal protection to disabled pre-born human beings. They have adopted a double standard. We will use our voice in Parliament to challenge these primitive prejudices and fears concerning disability. Negative and defeatist, deeply insulting to the born disabled, eugenic abortion also causes severe trauma to the mother.

There are already demographic consequences of an anti-life culture. With birth rates falling dangerously below replacement levels, we now face major economic and social problems associated with an ageing population. The issue of live birth-rate in turn has implications for the question of migration. States which kill their unborn and do not support marriage and family life, are having to replace this missing workforce through liberalising the numbers of people they admit with inevitable issues relating to integration.

Much western aid to developing countries is ruthlessly anti-life, with tens of millions of taxpayers' money being spent on promoting abortion and sterilisation in China, Bangladesh and elsewhere. The CPA deplores such 'aid' programmes: they do not provide solutions to poverty but merely export our 'culture of death' to countries struggling to develop their economies.

In Parliament, we pledge ourselves to a nation in which all citizens enjoy equal status, in which the extended family is reinforced as the bedrock of social structure, where motherhood is once again respected, and where we use with wisdom the fruits of new scientific discoveries.

MPs for the CPA therefore pledge to:

- Allow those who have philosophical or moral objections to abortion to be able to conscientiously object into the processes leading to abortion.
- Step by step repeal the 1967 Abortion Act.
- Challenge the culture of death by seeking legislation which confers the full protection of the law on all human life from conception until natural death.
- Ensure recognition for the millions of women who have had abortions. Post-abortion trauma affecting many women must now be recognised and non-judgemental post-abortion counselling will be made available for any woman who wants it, no matter how long ago the abortion took place.
- End the practises of cloning, embryo experimentation and all reproductive technologies which lead to the intentional destruction of human life.
- Support legislation to prevent the patenting of natural genetic material, modifications to the human germline and the trade in sperm, ova and human beings at the embryonic stage of development.
- Outlaw voluntary, non-voluntary and involuntary euthanasia by omission or by direct act, including neonatal euthanasia and euthanasia of patients in a 'persistent vegetative state'.
- Seek the nationwide provision of pro-life pregnancy care services, including provision of accommodation for women made homeless by pregnancy, pregnant women with special needs and one-parent families.
- International aid will be ended to any agency or government which promotes abortion, euthanasia or forced sterilisation programmes, coercive contraception or other violations of human rights (e.g. arbitrary imprisonment or deportation, slavery, or sale of women or children).

- Enable additional work to take place between the NHS and the voluntary sector to increase the provision of good quality terminal and palliative and respite care for infants, children and adults, whether in their own homes or in hospices. This care will be benchmarked against the world's best examples of each.

### **Care for the less able**

It is obviously desirable to get people off benefit into work if at all possible. However we will exempt from this drive:

1. Anyone who is physically disabled to the extent that they need assistance to move around.
2. Anyone who is registered mentally disabled and has not been completely discharged.
3. We will remove the test of being "able to do any work" and replace it with the test "able to work in an occupation which the applicant is suited to perform". If it is deemed by a doctor that an applicant previously able to receive benefits is now "able to work in an occupation which the applicant is suited to perform" then we will not cease benefits until a job offer is actually made or until the applicant misses three interviews for jobs or at a job centre without reasonable cause. We will end the injustices portrayed in the recent film 'I, Daniel Blake'.
4. If an appeal is made against a decision to remove benefits those benefits will be kept in place until the appeal is heard. (These benefits include the current provision of a motability car.)

In addition, we will introduce a new rule that anyone who applies for benefits is given immediate help if there is a reasonable prospect that their application will be successful. This help will only be required to be paid back if it is shown that there has been serious dishonesty in the application and the authorities were misled. This should mean that the days when job centres are sending applicants to food banks are over.

### **Issues relating to those on Low Incomes, including the Elderly**

It is easy to assume that things cannot change for the British workforce. But it is possible, relatively quickly, to change the work patterns of substantial numbers of people for the better. Working with business organisations, unions and employers forums, the Christian Peoples Alliance will seek to increase the income those in the poorest sectors of society get. It will also identify ways of overcoming problems related to over-work, so that time is released for people to spend in rest and recreation and in developing relationships, especially with older relatives and with children.

1. We will review the minimum wage set at £7.50 per hour from April 2017 for adults over 25. The CPA aims to increase this to the current Real Living Wage of £8.45 per hour outside London and £9.75 per hour in London for all aged 18 and over as soon as practically possible following consultation. We believe this is a key factor in our drive to care for the poor and reduce poverty.
2. We will make zero hours contracts illegal except for employees under 21 or over 65. These distort the workforce by tying someone to a job from which they may be receiving no income at all and makes it very hard for them to find other work. Agencies are available for employers to get workers at short notice. The only reason for zero hours contracts is to have a reserve of cheap labour. It must stop. Where zero hours contracts do continue for the under 21s or over 65s anyone called in must be paid for at least two hours work.
3. Where benefits are used to avoid taking responsibility and finding work then they can be counterproductive to the community but we will always make sure that the poorest are cared for.

Christians have long been involved in many initiatives 'on the ground' in their communities, including foodbanks, debt counselling, and practical care for people on the streets. Low wages are not the only cause of poverty and we will always look for ways to help people who need help for whatever reason. We do not just talk good policies we act then out whether or not we are elected to public office. In everything we do we will seek to support all initiatives from the voluntary sector, including those from faith groups that help the poorest in our society.

For the elderly and severely disabled we will make it mandatory for Local Authorities to keep a full record of elderly and disabled citizens in their borough and to make an assessment of their risk to floods, snow, extreme weather or to natural disasters. Support must be put in place to ensure that those least able to care for themselves are looked after in the community and that full support is given to carers, especially those who are close relatives and tend to be forgotten.

The full new State Pension is currently £159.55. As finances allow the CPA will increase this to £200 per week at current prices but there after the CPA would keep a double lock – the higher of increase in inflation or average earnings but would remove the minimum increase of 2.5% a year. For once the pensioned have a reasonable figure on which to live it is not right that there is a transfer of resources (in real terms) from the young to the old that is greater than either average earnings or the rate of inflation.

The National Insurance record is used to calculate the new State Pension. 10 qualifying years are usually needed to get any new State Pension. The amount paid can be higher or lower depending on National Insurance records. It will only be higher if you have over a certain amount of Additional State Pension. We welcome these changes which finally put to bed all the argument over SERPS.

In general we consider the idea to allow people to cash in previously purchased annuities to be an ill thought out gimmick and do not support it. However there should be an exception for those who have annuities paying out small amounts, say less than £100 per month. Such amounts should not be offset against benefits.

### **Morally Framed Education**

A child's education is the prime responsibility of its parents which it is the duty of Government not to undermine. As Christian Democrats we oppose encroaching interference by the State in the content of the curriculum often in a very liberal and immoral way. As a result the content of the National Curriculum has become a key battle ground and it is set to become even more of a battle ground in the future.

The Christian Peoples Alliance says:

1. There should be no change in the current school structure with a mixture of private, state and voluntary schools. The issue is about the increasing the quality of educational outcome, not the means by which that is delivered. To this end money must be spread equally across the schools, not favouring any one form of school and where there is an imbalance that must be addressed by increasing resources to those who lack them but without taking away from existing providers.
2. Education means teaching all points of view, otherwise it becomes indoctrination, not education. Sadly today too much of our education is beginning to fall into the indoctrination category. It is not the aim of CPA to indoctrinate something different but to educate properly. Most notably:
  - a) Religious Education must explain what both the adherents of the religion believe in a clear way and it is good practice for adherents of a religion to be invited into a school to explain their

views. At the same time children should also be taught what critics of a religion teach and this must apply to all religions, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist etc.

- b) Sex education should teach both Christian values of marriage between a man and a woman for life and the need to preserve one's sexual organs for marriage and also the secularist view of having sex when you want it but using condoms to prevent disease. All children approaching puberty should know about sexually transmitted diseases and how and when they can be caught. What other religions teach about marriage should also be explained.
- c) As well as the more secularist concept of 'human rights', children will be taught the concepts of good and evil, right and wrong, morality enabling them to choose by which moral code they wish to live.
- d) When teaching history great care should be taken to express history from different perspectives and also to teach history which is relevant to the child. For instance, it is important that children learn about recent wars as well as British history from 1066. When talking about history children need to know the good and the bad and understand how the people at the time on different sides were feeling and what motivated them, not just the facts and the outcome.
- e) The idea of macroevolution should be taught as the majority position of the scientific community. However, the strength of Intelligent Design, which caused the long term leading atheist Antony Flew to side with Einstein and Aristotle in acknowledging God as universal creator, should be outlined. Flew's book, *There Is A God*, should be strongly recommended to all entrusted to teach science.

Parents should always have the right to know the details of the curriculum in their children's school and to withdraw their children from certain classes if they wish. Teachers should be encouraged to teach from different perspectives not just their own but they should have the right to express their views as well as teaching the views of others. The idea that a Christian teacher cannot say that they are a Christian and why they are a Christian is wrong, but they have to understand and also teach the secular viewpoint. Equally a secularist or homosexual teacher should be able to say they are secular or homosexual but understand and teach the Christian point of view

Christian worship in all schools was part of the 1944 Education Act. Today the CPA believes that all children should know what Christian worship is and the role it plays in our society. To get a full understanding they must participate in it and be encouraged to engage themselves if they wish to. However parents should equally always have the right to say they do not want their children to participate in Christian or other worship or any other religious activity.

Christian schools should be encouraged and if appropriate state funded but every effort should be made to ensure a broad curriculum in these schools and that other points of view are taught. If this is not the case then State funding should be withdrawn. Schools set up with a clear religious ethos should have the right to set their own admission policies. However if admission policies are set too narrowly then State funding may not be appropriate. These schools need to be the subject of a review, taking into account such matters as support for violence, attitudes towards women and towards those of other faiths if their people wish to convert. Whilst schools with either a secularist or a religious ethos have a right to exist, indoctrination should never be allowed to operate in British schools.

As far as school structures are concerned we will do all we can to provide a stable educational environment for children and where possible reduce class sizes. Stability is vital in education and constant changes leave children feeling insecure. Too many structural changes have been taking place over the past 20 or so years. At the same time the more individual attention children get, especially those with special needs, the better.

For universities the CPA wants open debate on all issues and to encourage close relationships between universities and the world of work. Our universities should increasingly become national debating centres and State funding should be given to encourage this process with certain debates and lectures being open to people from outside the university to come and participate. The CPA wants an open and free society where ideas can be expressed and no one lives in fear of expressing them.

**The CPA is in principle opposed to tuition fees which are saddling young people with debt from an early age. We will immediately consult on how we can increase funding for universities and maintain and increase student numbers without tuition fees.**

### **Integration Agenda**

The CPA believes totally in the freedom of religion. We will address all issues relating to other religions by encouraging and sponsoring national debate on the rights and wrongs of different religions. We will encourage the best minds in the world to come and take part in televised debates and encourage those debates to continue in our schools and universities. Under the Christian People Alliance there will be freedom to change religion for anyone at any time and freedom for anyone to express their views in a rational non-violent way. We believe this is the process that will undermine and destroy Islamic radicalism more than any other. We will, however, at the same time keep a very careful eye on anyone individual or organisation that supports hatred and violence and if necessary proscribe the organisation as illegal in the UK.

We would stop all state support for any organisations in the UK for which opposition to Christianity is part of their creed. We will give full support where we can to Christians and other faith groups who are being persecuted and offer them refuge wherever it is needed. We will seek international agreements to aid in their protection.

The CPA does not believe in state control of what people wear so we would not ban the burqa. There is widespread concern about the operation of religious courts in the UK. The CPA believes their operation should be reviewed and, if need be, regulated—to ensure they operate in accordance within the basic concepts of British jurisprudence. A parallel legal system can be very dangerous and should only exist if the judgements made are reasonable, a necessary part of the religion and within the basic concepts of British jurisprudence.

We believe these policies are in accord with the principle of social justice.



## Crime, Punishment and Restorative Justice

For a real and lasting reduction in crime we need to tackle its root causes. If Christian values of loving neighbours, loving enemies and forming lasting stable relationships are followed perfectly, then real crime will cease. However simply by promoting those values crime will reduce. The by-product of this will be safer streets, better parenting and a happier society. Our aim is to eliminate the yob culture and the “me first” society.

Relationships are absolutely key when we are talking about crime. Stable relationships of love and caring are needed in every society and are the fundamental basis of a Christian community. Of course everyone at some time in their life will make mistakes. When this happens as a society we should look first at restoration and only second at punishment. At the moment too easily we arrest people and bang them up in a police cell or jail without making any attempt to understand why the so called crime has been committed or what is happening. This frequently causes resentment and anger and needs to change to a process of ask questions first and seek to resolve a problem and arrest only as a last resort.

Where the criminal justice system has to be involved the central goal of the Christian Peoples Alliance is to repair the relationship between the offender and victim. This process ensures that victims can tell offenders the real impact of their crime and hopefully receive an apology. Offenders have a chance to understand the real impact of what they have done and do something to repair the harm. They will also have a chance to explain their motive to the victim and explain why they did what they did while at the same time they are held to account. Notwithstanding this helping the victim is central to the process. There is research which shows that this is the best way to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, reduce re-offending rates and has the by-product of cost savings and less fear of crime. This is not done in isolation and is not a soft option, people can still be sent to jail, but we would make it a vital part of the criminal justice system.

We are very keen to re-invigorate Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and these will be properly funded. At the same time support for street pastors and special constables will support the community approach. CPA policies are to invest in social institutions which encourage a law-abiding lifestyle and especially to support the family.

At the moment half of all offenders go on to recommit crime so at the moment the prison system on its own simply isn't working. New initiatives are desperately needed. In addition to the restorative justice system outlined above we will also:-

1. Launch a “pathway out of the life of crime” initiative to help parents whose children have been lured into crime. This will be linked in with our overall policy to support marriage and the family outlined above.
2. We will take a stricter approach to drug use because of the clear link between drug use and crime.
3. We will restore local authority licensing of the sale of alcohol and repeal the 24-hour licensing legislation to seek to reduce the number of alcohol related offences and the number of people who become alcoholics.
4. We will increase the resources being spent on vocational courses in prisons to give prisoners the best possible chance of working when they are released. Studies in America have shown that those who acquire vocational qualifications in prison are 33% less likely to offend.

5. The Gambling Act 2005 will be repealed and new controls put on casinos with mandatory warnings having to be placed in all betting shops that gambling can cause serious poverty. We will ban the advertising of all gambling just as the advertising of smoking has been prohibited.
6. We will oppose any attempts to relax moral laws such as legalising brothels or legalising prostitution. This undermines the welfare of society as a whole by treating women as sexual playthings rather than with real love and affection.
7. We want the recommendations of Ian Acheson on radicalisation in prisons implemented in full. This is a very serious problem which needs constant monitoring. The CPA will ensure that all prison officers getting appropriate training to spot radicalisation. We will also train them in countering it through effective debate.
8. We will consult on the introduction of mobile telephone and drone frequency blocking technology, preventing these in use in, or close by, prisons.
9. Under the CPA there will be freedom to leave or change religion for anyone at any time, and freedom for anyone to express their views in a non-violent way. Interference with those freedoms will be treated as 'hate-crime'.
10. There will, however, be no tolerance or acceptance of any individual or organisation that supports hatred and violence and we will if necessary proscribe any such organisation as illegal in the UK.
11. Social Media providers will be treated as 'publishers' not 'platforms' of any pornographic or violent material, or material promoting violent or otherwise illegal activity, such that they will become criminally liable for publishing it.
12. Human trafficking is an issue that has arisen in recent year and the authorities have been very slow to get to grips with it. Also called "modern slavery" the CPA will increase resources to see it stamped out for good.
13. The three year limit on any civil claim for damages, whether financial, physical or psychological due to criminal activity would be lifted. There is no reason why, because a criminal wins the lottery or receives an inheritance or similar more than three years after committing the crime that they should still be free of any obligation to recompense their victim (for the injury or damage caused, no matter how long before).
14. A recognition that, when a life is taken, whether accidentally or on purpose, that something significant has happened. We propose a payment of £100,000 payable by the person or organisation causing the death as a 'life compensation'. That is **not** to say this is the value of a life but that with their death something significant has taken place and that must be recognised by all concerned. It may be paid by the individual or others on their behalf or insured against. It will rest against the person causing death and against their estate (but no further) and survives bankruptcy.
15. We will consider the results of the current consultation on the Money Laundering Regulations so as to ensure that these are truly effective in dealing with crime and money laundering whilst not imposing unnecessary regulatory burdens on small businesses. At present they do not seem to be effective whilst causing undue time and cost on the businesses that have to implement them.

We make two further proposals relating to Extra Territorial Sovereignty:

1. anyone who harms a British Citizen abroad may be brought back to the UK for trial; and
2. any British Citizen who acts illegally abroad can be tried in the UK (including consideration by the Attorney General and referral to the Court of Appeal if sentence abroad was too light) with all sex offenders convicted abroad made to sign the Sex Offenders Register on return.

## **Housing and Development**

The breakdown of families and marriage coupled with increased immigration has together put the need for housing in our society under increased strain.

The first resort is not just to build more houses but to address some of the underlying causes of the increased need. This we have done elsewhere in this manifesto. Coupled with this where wealth has increased there is also an increased likelihood that some people will own both a working home in a city and a rest home of some sort away from a city.

Despite this even while the underlying causes are being addressed there will still be a need for more houses to be built. The CPA proposes:-

1. The process of encouraging more new housing to be built in city centres will be increased. As shopping habits are changing and more people are either buying on line or going to out of town shopping centres, old city centres can be re-invigorated by building as much housing as possible in city centres which will include new shops with flats above them. This housing is useful for anyone who does not want a garden, particularly young people, and in many cases reduces travel requirements so easing congestion on road and rail. It also helps the shopping centres themselves by increasing the number of people who live nearby and does away with places that are dead at night.
2. No further sell offs of social housing, with a reform of the Section 106 procedure to ensure that all new private housing schemes have an element, or payment towards, new affordable or socially rented housing provision.
3. Unused development areas will be identified and significant new sites will be made available for housing.
4. In an area where there are a significant number of empty houses if these cannot be brought back into use we will look at redevelopment to improve and invigorate an area. This will sometimes be painful in the short term but will always have long term benefits.
5. We will ensure that 90% of housing is CO2 neutral by 2050 through housing developments that are carbon neutral and by taking further measures to encourage the insulation of existing houses.
6. We will do our level best to avoid turning green sites into housing estates. This should only happen as an exception.
7. Second Homes to be a different use class in planning to main residence (to protect rural communities) with automatic planning permission for reversion from Second Home status to Main Residence status, but not the other way round. This will lead to an increase in current Second Home values faster than Main Residence values in the same area (as the supply of Second Homes is restricted), but that can be addressed, if need be, through Capital Gains Tax.

8. An urgent need for more good quality emergency night shelters for the homeless, with good quality but affordable move-on accommodation for those coming out of homelessness, to be provided using a mixture of voluntary, private and state sponsored provision. As with other matters in this Manifesto is about the quality of the provision, rather than who is the provider.

### **Reform the Leasehold System for Flats and Houses**

There is an urgent need to reform the Leasehold Reform legislation by which people may purchase the freeholds or extend their leases on their homes. This now dates back up to 50 years and is no longer fit for purpose. The CPA would:

1. Remove the concept of 'marriage value' from all lease extensions and freehold purchases. In relatively simple cases, of leases of less than 50 years outside of Prime Central London this will reduce the cost to leaseholders by up to £100,000.
2. Reduce the complexity of the timetabling of all claims and remove all the 'traps' in the legislation (to prevent the 'game-playing' of solicitors) resulting in a far simpler process, reduced costs and fewer professional indemnity claims.
3. Reform the 'commonhold' system so it is workable and require all new blocks of flats and blocks where the leaseholders purchase the freehold to be on the new revised commonhold basis.
4. Consult on bringing all leases of residential property under consumer legislation rather than just land law legislation, such that unfair terms in the lease can be voided by the courts. In particular, the CPA would introduce legislation such that all leases where ground rents increase by more than double every 25 years they become a fixed ground rent for the remaining length of the lease.

### **The Political Process**

The CPA considers that the following reforms to our political process are currently needed:

1. All voters should provide proof of identity when voting to avoid impersonation.
2. There should be a right of recall by the electorate of any sitting MP, but triggered only after a significant number of electors in that constituency demand that recall. We would consult on what that number or percentage of electors should be or calculated.
3. The introduction of Proportional Representation for all parliamentary and local elections.
4. The reform of the House of Lords, with all members of the Second Chamber being elected by Proportional Representation.

The above sets out the proposals the Christian Peoples Alliance put forward at the General Election 2017.