# make the difference



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## Introduction

This Costings Supplement should be read in conjunction with the Liberal Democrat Manifesto 1997.

The figures are the changes to existing Government revenue and spending plans arising from the Liberal Democrats' Manifesto commitments. With the exception of the specified costed items, all Departments will have to work within current spending plans.

The Manifesto indicates some long term policy aims. The achievement of such aims is contingent upon increasing revenues from the higher economic growth which our policies will generate over time. Therefore, they do not feature in this document.

Our policies will boost the economy and get people back into work. This way, we will save money by getting people off benefits. Nothing has cost the taxpayer more than the Conservatives' economic mismanagement over the last 18 years.

Government borrowing to finance net capital expenditure over the economic cycle must be distinguished from borrowing to finance current expenditures, which should be zero over the economic cycle. The present very high levels of total Government borrowing mean that it would be inappropriate to raise current borrowing to finance our programme. Indeed, Liberal Democrat economic policies would cut the Conservatives' planned levels of Central Government borrowing by reducing the interest costs of financing the present National Debt.

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#### Education

Table A, line I, represents the main component of our commitment to invest an extra £2bn per full year in Education, funded by putting an additional Ip on the basic rate of income tax. That level of investment would take until the second year of the Parliament to achieve.

Our priorities for this £2bn are set out in the Education chapter of the Manifesto and are reflected in Table A, lines I(a.) to I(e.). The top priority is high quality early years education for every 3 and 4 year old child whose parents want it [I(a.).] Line I(b.) increases funding for books and equipment in schools - including doubling this budget in the first year. Line I(c.) costs reducing primary school class sizes so that no child between the ages of 5 and 11 will need to

be in a class of more than 30. Line I(d.) covers the cost of properly financing Special Educational Needs provision.

Other monies [I(e.)] will be spent on: improving teaching standards, community use of schools, and, in particular, higher and further education.

Line 2 covers our commitment to invest an extra £500 million over a Parliament to tackle the backlog of repairs and maintenance work to buildings.

We would raise the basic rate of income tax by Ip in the pound in order to finance our Education investment. Given the continuing high levels of public borrowing and the recent cuts in public expenditure, such a step will prove necessary. Line 3 therefore reflects the revenue yield from an extra Ip on the basic rate of income tax.

#### Table A.

Net Cost:	0	300	450	450	350
3.) Ip on Basic Rate.	(1,250)	(1,750)	(1,750)	(1,850)	(1,850)
2.) Buildings Repair.	0	50	150	200	100 -
(e.) Other.	20	720	795	870	920]
(d.) Special Needs.	80	80	80	80	80
(c.) Class Size Reduction.	200	400	400	450	475
(b.) Books / Equipment.	750	400	300	200	100
(a.) Early Years Education.	200	400	475	500	525
[of which:					
1.) Education Investment	1,250	2,000	2,050	2,100	2,100
£m					
Years:	١,	2.	3.	4.	5.

## Education

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## Jobs and the economy

Table B, Line I, gives the net cost of our Benefit Transfer Programme, which eventually saves money by assisting long term unemployed people back into work, thereby saving money on benefits, and increasing tax revenues.

Line 2 shows the cost of our new measures to assist small and medium sized business, and shows the extra money which will be provided for support to industrial research and development. Line 3 gives the monies which will be transferred from the military R&D Budget to

pay for civil research and development.

Line 4 shows the money raised by tackling Government waste and inefficiency. This includes excessive expenditure on private consultants (up to £865m per year in total), publicity (up to £250m per year), empty government properties (up to £200m per year), and other departmental spending. It also includes savings from other measures such as the abolition of the Funding Agency for Schools and the administration involved in the Government's nursery voucher scheme, and from cutbacks to the running costs of the DTI and the Cabinet Office. By the fifth year, the savings are equivalent to some 0.13% of planned Government expenditure.1

Table B.

Net Cost:	(240)	(300)	(370)	(430)	(490)
4.) Spending Cuts.	(260)	(310)	(370)	(420)	(470)
3.) Military R&D Cut.	(25)	(50)	(100)	(125)	(150)
2.) Research/Innovation.	25	50	100	125	150
I.) Work. Benefits. /Benefit Tran	sfer Prog. 20	10	0	(10)	(20)
£m			265		
Years:	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

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## Environment

Table C, Line I, shows the cost of reducing VAT on energy conservation materials to 8 per cent.

Lines 2-3 cover the costing of cutting Vehicle Excise Duty for smaller engined cars, over one Parliament, paid for by raising road fuel duties. This would be implemented in two stages.

#### Table C.

3.) Duty Adjustment.  Net Cost :	(800)	(900)	(900)	(1,800)	(1,800)	
2.) Cut VED.	800	900	900	1,800	1,800	
£m I.) VAT Cut.	10	10	10	10	10	
Years:	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	

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## Secure communities

Table D, Line I, covers our measures to tackle homelessness and bring empty properties back into use.

Line 2 relates to our new Mortgage Benefit initiative for first time buyers. Line 3 shows the revenue switched from Mortgage Interest Tax Relief for new borrowers.

Line 4 covers the net cost of scrapping the

shared residency requirement for those under the age of 25.

Table D, Line 5, relates to our crime prevention strategy.

Line 6 shows the cost of putting 3000 additional police officers on the beat.

Line 7 measures the re-direction of funds from the prisons building programme to crime prevention and policing.

#### Table D.

Years:	Ĺ.	2.	3.	4.	5.
£m					
I.) Housing Support.	10	50	25	20	0
2.) Mortgage Support	100	225	350	450	550
3.) MIRAS revenue.	(100)	(225)	(350)	(450)	(550)
4.) Shared Residency.	10	25	25	25	25
5.) Crime Prevention.	20	40	25	30	0
6.) Extra Police.	60	65	70	70	70
7.) Prisons Building.	0	(10)	(50)	(100)	(110)
Net Cost:	100	170	95	45	(15)

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## Secure communities

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## Health and community care

Table E, Line 1, covers the cost of abolishing charges for eye and dental check ups and freezing prescription charges.

Line 2 covers: a 6 month halt to finance driven closures pending an audit of needs; reducing waiting lists to 6 months within 3 years; and boosting frontline patient care with higher NHS staffing.

Line 3 covers increasing NHS resources to keep pace with increasing cost pressures. This includes our commitments on NHS dentistry.

Line 4 estimates the monies saved by cutting unnecessary bureaucracy through the organisational changes which we propose.

Line 5 includes the earmarked revenues from increasing the duty on tobacco products by the equivalent of 5p extra on a packet of cigarettes, and from the monies raised by our plans to extend employers' national insurance contributions to all taxable benefits in kind.

Line 6 covers replacing the Invalid Care Allowance with a more generous Carer's Benefit.

#### Table E.

<ul><li>5.) Duties/ NIC Loophole.</li><li>6.) Carer's Benefit.</li></ul>	(560)	(570) 45	(570) 45	(570) 60	(570) 60	
<ul><li>3.) NHS Boost.</li><li>4.) Management Savings.</li></ul>	0	20 (50)	100 (100)	300 (150)	385 (185)	
£m  1.) Abolish Charges.  2.) More Staff/Cut Waits.	190 350	195 350	200 350	205 200	215 200	
Years:	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	

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## Opportunities

Table F, Line I, gives the cost of increasing the personal tax allowance by £200, taking almost 500,000 people out of income tax altogether.

Line 2 shows the yield from introducing a new upper rate of income tax of 50% on taxable incomes of over £100,000 per annum.

Line 3 shows the yield from our programme to clamp down on tax avoidance and evasion. This includes greater targeting of corporate tax avoidance, and of VAT avoidance and evasion, more effective policing of the taxation of benefits in kind and a tax hotline to target tax cheats. It also covers removing inheritance tax loopholes, tackling other tax loopholes such as capital gains tax reinvestment relief, the taxation of trusts, the tax reliefs on certain types of venture capital trusts, and the avoidance of tax liabilities through offshore evasion.

Line 4 relates to a new Low Income Benefit. Line 5 shows the cost of our childcare initiatives.

Line 6 shows the effect of boosting the pensions of those pensioners in greatest need. Line 7 is the net cost of restoring income support to 16 and 17 year olds. Line 8 covers introducing a new Partial Capacity Benefit to replace the disability working allowance.

Line 9 shows the net cost of restoring benefits to asylum seekers, while speeding up the processing of their asylum claims. Line 10 gives the net revenue raised by our proposals to tackle Social Security fraud and over-payments, including measures to reduce Housing Benefit fraud, and National Insurance Contribution avoidance and evasion. It also includes our plans to reduce administration costs by bringing together the administration of Income Support and Housing Benefit. Line 11 gives the net cost of our voluntary Citizens Service.

Table F.

Years:	١.	2.	3.	4.	5.	
£m.						
I.) Tax Allowances Up.	900	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	
2.) 50% £100,000+.	(660)	(1,450)	(1,500)	(1,550)	(1,600)	
3.) Tax Avoid/Evade.	(450)	(530)	(550)	(575)	(590)	
4.) Low Income Benefit	165	175	150	150	140	
5.) Childcare.	20	30	40	50	50	
6.) Pensions.	0	265	390	515	640	
7.) 16/17 Benefits.	175	175	175	160	150	
8.) Disability Assistance.	50	75	75	75	75	
9.) Asylum Seekers.	50	40	30	20	10	
10.) Tackling Soc.Security Fraud.	(200)	(350)	(450)	(450)	(450)	
11.) Citizens Service.	40	110	110	125	100	
Net Cost:	90	(260)	(330)	(280)	(275)	i i

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## Reforming politics and Britain in the world

Table G, Line I, costs the Liberal Democrats' programme to reform politics and renew democracy, estimated net of savings, such as from scrapping unnecessary quangos.

Line 2 covers expenditure during the first Parliament on increasing overseas aid to meet the UN target over 10 years.

#### Table G.

2.) Overseas Aid.	30	60	100	160	315	
<ol> <li>Constitutional Reforms.</li> <li>Overseas Aid.</li> </ol>	30 30	30 60	20 100	0 160	0 315	
Years: £m.	I.	2.	3.	4.	5.	

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# Summary of net costings figures

Table H summarises the previous tables.

#### Table H.

Net Cost :	0	0	0	0	0
7.) G Politics/Overseas.	60	90	120	160	315
6.) F Opportunities.	90	(260)	(330)	(280)	(275)
5.) E Health and community care.	(20)	(10)	25	45	105
4.) D Secure communities.	100	170	95	45	(15)
3.) C Environment.	10	10	10	10	10
2.) B Jobs and the economy.	(240)	(300)	(370)	(430)	(490)
I.) A Education.	0	300	450	450	350
Years: £m	Ĭ.	2.	3.	4.	5.

The Liberal Democrats' Debt Reduction Strategy.

The Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, and the level of borrowing to fund current expenditure, remains high for this stage of the economic cycles Therefore we will raise the basic rate of income tax by Ip in the pound to fund our education investment.

Our policies to lock in economic stability will allow more stable and sustained growth. Over time, this will bring the PSBR back down towards balance more rapidly than under the Government's plans.

Our proposals to establish an operationally independent UK Reserve Bank and to join EMU, if the Maastricht-based economic criteria are properly met, would reduce the level of (long-term) UK interest rates. This would cut UK debt interest payments substantially and reduce current borrowing by billions of pounds by the end of the Parliament. We would use these savings to reduce the PSBR to around the level of net public sector investment.

NOTE: The specific commitments in the Scottish Liberal Democrat Manifesto and the Liberal Democrats' Manifesto for Wales fall within the overall costings framework as set out above. They do not imply any net costing commitments in addition to the figures in this Supplement.

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## Summary of ret costings figures

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