

Dear Colleagues,

2024#3 Conservative Values in Policy-Making

For 18 months ahead of the general election, CPF groups offered their suggestions for the Party's manifesto. This included meetings of CPF members with the PM's top policy advisers in Downing Street during the two months ahead of the election being called. As a result of this input:

- 3-in-5 (60%) commitments in the Party's manifesto could be traced back to ideas proposed by CPF groups
- 1-in-3 (32%) of the CPF Members' suggestions were reflected in the published manifesto

You can find a "CPF Top 40" of these manifesto commitments in the appendix to this consultation.

Since the general election, several CPF Members have suggested that the CPF consider how policy-making works and that we "discuss, deliberate and outline the future direction, values and leadership of the Party, from an activist/member perspective." That is what this consultation briefing seeks to enable in a constructive and forward-looking manner.

Please submit your responses to the questions in this briefing paper using the online response form published alongside the paper on the CPF website. The deadline for sending your response is 9am Friday 27th September. Findings will be discussed at Party conference.

We look forward to hearing your ideas,

The CPF Management Team

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Setting the scene

The Constitution of the Conservative & Unionist Party states that “Its purpose is to sustain and promote within the Nation the objects and values of the Conservative Party”. From Sir Robert Peel’s 1835 Tamworth Manifesto to Michael Ancram’s 2007 booklet “*Still a Conservative: Conservative beliefs and principles for the Twenty-first Century*”, the Party has regularly attempted to set out its values—to define what makes us Conservatives. In theory—and ideally in practice—these values are the unchanging set of principles that explain who we are and that should be evident in all that we do as a Party. They are applied afresh by each new generation as we develop new policies in response to emerging challenges, ensuring that the Conservative movement stays relevant and up to date. With the Party choosing a new leader, now is a good time to re-examine these foundations.

In 2017-18, over 1,200 CPF members and about 4,000 wider Party members helped us to identify the common set of values that define who we are and inspire our policies:

1. Pro-freedom (freedom of choice, liberty, free speech)
2. Pro-defence (strong national defence, security, safety)
3. Pro-justice (rule of law, justice)
4. Pro-enterprise (living within our means, support for responsible free market economy)
5. Pro-democracy (patriotism, limited government, pro-family, sovereignty, localism)
6. Principled (fairness, integrity, pragmatism, respect)
7. Responsible (personal responsibility and self-reliance)
8. Forward-looking
9. Pro-opportunity (equality of opportunity for all, aspiration, empowerment, education, social mobility)
10. Compassionate (prioritising the vulnerable, social justice, civic-minded)
11. Pro-community (diversity, tolerance, inclusive, openness, international)

Questions for discussion

1. On a scale of 0-10, to what extent do you think each of the values identified by Party members through the 2017-18 CPF consultation should define the Party and its activities?
2. If you could add one more value to the list, what would it be?
3. How important to you are the aspects of each value identified in brackets (e.g. for “pro-freedom”: *freedom of choice, liberty and free speech*)? are there any extra aspects that you think are missing?
4. On a scale of 0-10, to what extent do you think each of the following stakeholders are involved in the process of (i) making and (ii) presenting the Party’s values and policies:

a. Party leader	e. Ministers’ special advisers	i. Voters
b. Cabinet members	f. CCHQ’s Conservative Research Department (CRD)	j. The media
c. Backbench MPs/Parliamentary candidates	g. Party/CPF members	k. Think tanks
d. Members of the House of Lords	h. Party donors	l. Civil servants
		m. QUANGOs
5. In what ways do you think the Party could improve how it develops and applies the Party’s values and policy?
6. In what ways do you think the CPF could improve how we identify, refine and promote Conservative policy ideas?
7. How might these values be better embedded in all aspects of the Party and its activities?