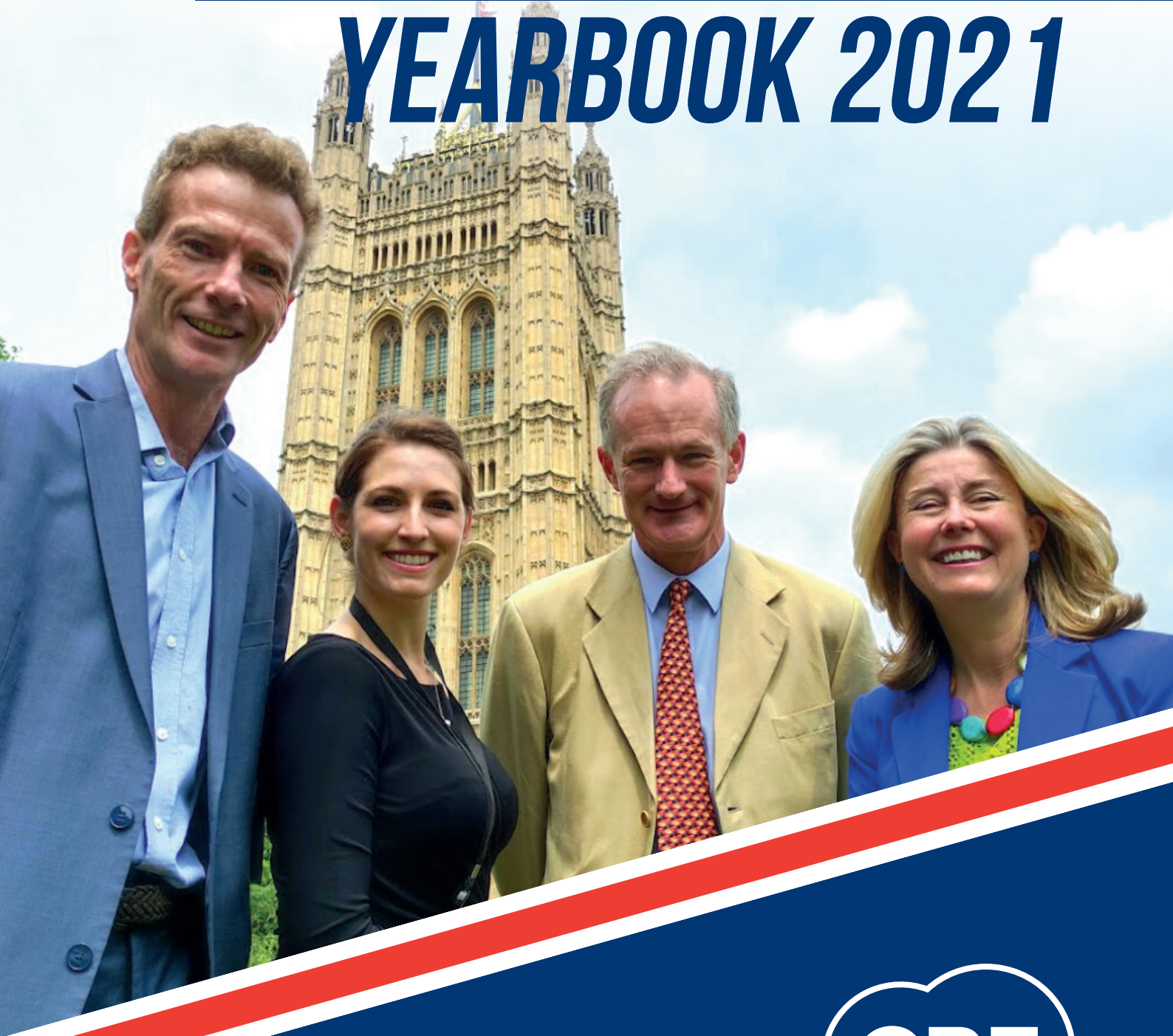


CONSERVATIVE

POLICY FORUM

YEARBOOK 2021



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Introduction by John Penrose MP

Chair of Conservative Policy Forum

As we build back better from the pandemic, the need for fresh ideas has never been greater. Big changes need big thinkers, and the premium on imagination and vision to sketch out the different paths our country could take is sky-high.

The Conservative Policy Forum loves moments like this. It's what we were created to do. We harness the ideas and energy of our members, keeping the Conservative movement's vitality and thinking fresh so the Party's leaders always have a tasty pot of ideas bubbling away on the fire, ready to be used.

This yearbook is a first for us. It's the result of a competition for fresh ideas which we've been running throughout the year, and it's a great example of the intellectual energy and vitality that's coursing through the Party's veins. As ever with CPF, the ideas it contains are proposals from our members to our leaders, not official policy from either the Party or the Government. But if you're looking for an interesting, thought-provoking (and perhaps even challenging) set of proposals to get your brain moving, this is a good place to start. And if you've got an idea of your own, or want to see more fresh thinking from other Conservatives too, then please try our website at www.conservativepolicyforum.com. It's got far more than we could fit in a single yearbook—and joining is free.

Message from Cllr Anna Firth

Voluntary Director of Conservative Policy Forum

March 2020 – October 2021

The past eighteen months have been exceptional. Communities across the country have responded magnificently to the pandemic showing that our country is at its best when the sense of national purpose is clear. As we look to the future, we have a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to modernise, to innovate and to move forward as individuals and as a society. The Conservative Policy Forum is central to that task.

There have been many achievements at the Conservative Policy Forum over the last eighteen months and I hope as you read this Yearbook you will hear and recognise the ideas and voices of many CPF leaders, CPF members, champions and volunteers whose determination and resilience to keep grassroots policymaking alive throughout the pandemic has been the story of this year. We are grateful to each of the judges—including senior policy advisors, parliamentarians from both houses and senior volunteers—who gave up their time to read through all the proposals and to select the winning proposals.

Since the December 2019 general election, the Conservative Policy Forum has consulted on ten major policy areas, spanning the whole range of Government, involving local CPF groups in over 300 constituencies. Alongside the consultations we have held three roundtables with Ministers and two largescale zoom meetings with Secretaries of State. We have also received nearly 500 new policy proposals in the largest grassroots policy-gathering exercise ever, in partnership with the Conservative Women's Organisation, as part of the "Tell No.10" project. Two very successful Policy Pitch competitions have also been held.

Digital innovation has continued and we have created sixteen digital National Policy Discussion groups and held a record 40 online nationwide policy discussions with members and thought-leaders across the political spectrum and beyond. I am particularly proud that CPF members have campaigned on the telephone and in person at every Parliamentary by-election and during the local elections demonstrating that far from just being armchair political pundits, the CPF is a campaigning force to be reckoned with!

As businesses and charities have contracted and, in some cases, closed, the Conservative Policy Forum has expanded and moved forward. Six months ago I was delighted to welcome five new CPF Champions, Penny-Anne O'Donnell, Neva Novaky, Ahmereen Reza OBE, Lance Austin and Gareth Lyon to the CPF team, and I would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment. Consequently, we end the first 18-month period of my Voluntary Directorship with membership at an all-time high, with around 7,400 members.

I would also like to welcome our five new student champions, Daniel Grice, Emma Mi, Oliver Hall, Sophia Worringer and Clemmie Taylor-Smith, who have already begun the all-important job of ensuring freedom of speech not only remains alive and well in our University towns and cities, but that it extends to Conservative voices as well!

Finally, I would like to thank all the incredible CPF Leaders and CPF members who have given so much to Ministers and to the No.10 Policy Unit this year.

The Conservative Policy Forum is the home for anyone and everyone who wants to improve our Party and its policies. It is crucial for feeling the pulse of the Party and staying in touch with the country. The best policies are made by listening to those who believe in them enough to go out and campaign for them—come rain, come shine! Above all, freedom is hammered out on the anvil of discussion, dissent and debate.

Growth of the CPF 2015-2021

Dr John Hayward, CPF Manager

When I was recruited to re-energise the CPF, more than five years ago, I agreed on the condition that the voice of CPF members would in future be heard—and be seen to be heard. Five years on, the CPF is described by some as “the most influential think tank in the UK” and “the most rapidly growing members’ group within the Conservative Party.”

The vast majority of contributors are normal people serving on the frontline of their local communities. Many have valuable insights into how the implementation of policy is and is not addressing the perceived needs and concerns of people in the areas where they live and work. In fact, while mostly a subset of the wider Party membership, demographic analysis of those who participate in the CPF has revealed that the CPF more closely resembles the country at large than it does the Party membership. Over the past five years, our mailing list has grown from 1,300 to around 7,400 and in the last year alone, 70 new groups have submitted responses to our national policy consultations.

Of course, transforming the CPF did not happen overnight. I have worked with three different CPF Chairmen, four different Vice-Chairmen and three different CPF Voluntary Directors; and, together, we have worked under three different Prime Ministers. Within CCHQ, I have also worked as part of three different departments.

Some initiatives have proved more successful than others. Two years before mandated working from home and home-schooling introduced many more people to video conferencing, I started to create opportunities for members to interact with secretaries of state via CPF webinars. While these online events mostly ran smoothly, there was one occasion in particular when the technology failed miserably, leaving none more frustrated than me.

After the 2017 general election, I initiated a Party-wide consultation into Conservative values. This encouraged members to reflect on the often-unspoken values and assumptions that underpin all of our campaigning and policymaking as a party. Then, in 2019, when the party leadership contest was triggered, I began compiling a rolling document based on all the CPF contributions of the previous two years, structured around these core Conservative values. Next I encouraged members to identify how our values should be reflected in the policies that we seek to champion and implement. Thus, when the 2019 general election was called, I had already collated a Members’ Manifesto ready to share.

Similarly, as soon as the country was locked down last year and the elections were postponed, I produced a new consultation on how we might respond to the situation, along with a guide for how associations could run online discussions via Zoom. With in-person social and campaigning activities cancelled, CPF meetings were just about the only interaction that some associations felt able to offer their members. Although the dynamics of virtual meetings leave much to be desired, one advantage is they enable people to participate for whom geographic distance is otherwise an obstacle. So, going forwards, dialling in to events should probably remain an option we continue to offer members.

As policy was changing so swiftly at that time, I was compiling a weekly summary of new responses to the consultation for the Party’s leadership. Usually, it can take up to four months from the time that I first explore with government departments what questions they would be interested in hearing members’ views on to when I produce my report summarising the hundreds of pages of suggestions that I receive from across the country.

So, when our pandemic consultation came to an end, I wanted to find a way to maintain a more timely mechanism for gathering members' input. This led me to trial and then introduce more widely the first CPF snap polls. Well-received by the Party and policymakers, these look set to become another of the regular features offered by CPF, enabling members to feed into how the government formulates its policies and helping to identify the relative popularity of various policy ideas.

My background was in international development and a personal highlight of the last five years has been working through the Party's International Department (with whom, as part of the broader Outreach team, my position was first located) and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy with politicians and activists in newly-emerging and developing democracies. Having delivered on my ambition for CPF members to have genuine input into the development of future policy, I am now drawing on the training that I have delivered abroad to promote greater awareness of what makes for effective policymaking. I hope that through my endeavours CPF members are now better equipped: not just to serve as influential members of their communities, but also to become the next generation of policymakers—locally and nationally—as civil servants, special advisers and elected politicians.

Implement a Substantive ‘Buy British’ Campaign

Terry Cunningham (Warrington North CPF)

Policy title	A Substantive ‘Buy British’ Campaign
Statement of Problem	1.It is sometimes difficult, when shopping to determine origin of products. 2. Companies with overseas Tax HQs are not paying their fair share towards UK society
Proposal	Use a mandatory 2 or 3 flag system on all consumable products to show: 1. country of origin or manufacture (allow a proportionate display to highlight those products where greatest % is produced) 2. country of Tax HQ or country of main profit taking
Objectives	1. Increases in British production and supply 2. greater public awareness of companies which are paying their way in Uk with taxes
Expected long-term impact	1. Increased domestic economy 2. improved tax receipts 3. improved goodwill towards UK products
Supporting evidence or experience of others	Many countries have undertaken domestic buy programmes, including UK, and they normally improve domestic consumption of domestic production
Cost and costing rationale	Marketing to be done nationally, and costs for that to be absorbed by govt and offset against improved taxes. costs for companies may have to be offset with grants, again offset by improved receipts, but many of the costs will be borne by companies themselves
Department responsible	Treasury and Industry
Mechanism for evaluation	1. Domestic consumption levels 2. Levels of imports 3. Improved Tax returns
Accountability for implementation	Chancellor and Industry minister
Promotion of vision, values and principles	The policy embodies Conservative values

The BBC's Global iPlayer

Piers Daniell (Stratford-on-Avon CPF)

Policy title	Make the BBC iPlayer a globally available media platform
Statement of Problem	The BBC is our soft power around the world. With the wealth of content, technical capability the ability for BBC's iPlayer to complete globally with the likes of Prime, Netflix and Disney is there it just needs to be enabled.
Proposal	Enable the BBC to offer iPlayer as a globally available subscription service.
Objectives	Enable the BBC to offer iPlayer across the world for a subscription. This would enable a huge increase in legal take up of content, increase revenues and everything is in place currently to enable this to happen. It could happen immediately and would offer the opportunity of reducing the need on the UK population to support it through the licence fee.
Expected long-term impact	Media (online, television) is how most people are gathering their information in the modern age, this would widen the UK's reach over time
Potential unintended consequences	The BBC would become more commercial but the ability to offer a subscription service globally would also increase the preserved need for localised content
Supporting evidence or experience of others	Netflix, Disney and Prime all manage to offer a globally accessible subscription service for content. Companies like HBO in the US are now also offering subscription services.
Cost and costing rationale	Self-funded by the subscription fee. Would offer the ability in the future to lower the cost of the current licence fee.
Department responsible	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
Mechanism for evaluation	Take up of users across the world who currently don't have access to iPlayer.
Accountability for implementation	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
Promotion of vision, values and principles	The access to unbiased information should be readily available for all, the BBC is one of the leading suppliers of content with high levels of integrity. Access to iPlayer to all for a subscription would potentially lower the licence fee for UK residents

Ban large goods vehicles (LGVs) from the right-hand lane of two-lane motorways

Frank Dowling (Canterbury CPF)

Policy title	Ban LGVs from the right hand lane of two-lane motorways.
Statement of Problem	1) Perceived “lane hogging” which frequently leads to frustration and consequent reckless driving. 2) PCV drivers running out of legal driving hours.
Proposal	Ban LGVs (HGVs over 7.5 tonnes) from the right hand lane of two-lane motorways. This is in line with many European countries’ regulations.
Objectives	LGVs take up to 20 minutes to overtake another, 30 minutes are not unknown, while some continually “leap frog”, driving at speeds between 50 and 56 mph. This holds up other traffic for substantial periods of time. The lower speeds can cause PCV drivers with tight schedules to run out of driving hours, especially if they have been unexpectedly held up elsewhere, causing distress to their passengers and problems/expense for their employers. LGVs do not have passengers, so running out of hours is not as important an issue as for PCVs.
Expected long-term impact	Safer roads – less frustration. Less risk of PCV drivers running out of hours with consequent upset to passengers.
Potential unintended consequences	None
Supporting evidence or experience of others	Any driver who regularly uses the M2 between Junctions 4 & 7 in the daytime, as well as many other motorways, will understand this.
Cost and costing rationale	Negligible
Department responsible	Transport
Mechanism for evaluation	n/a
Accountability for implementation	Police
Promotion of vision, values and principles	Promotes safety, responsibility and respect

The Family Boost Scheme

Attieh Fard (Surrey Heath CPF)

Policy title	The Family Boost Scheme
Statement of Problem	Maternity pay or shared parental pay is for less than one year whilst childcare costs are paid from the age of 2 in limited circumstances. Parents with 2-year-old children are not eligible for childcare costs if one of the parents is studying, training for a new job, or gaining experience.
Proposal	Maternity or shared parental pay be payable for a period of 2 years at 80% of a person's salary capped at £2,500. Thereafter, parents who attend work, training, study, work experience, an internship should be eligible for childcare costs. This will be offered to families where parents earn less than £100k per annum.
Objectives	increase opportunities for parents who would otherwise be caring.
Expected long-term impact	Society will have healthier younger families, healthier children, a stronger economy and an increased level of equal opportunities.
Potential unintended consequences	Some families may elect to train but not use their training for work. This policy does not address the issue of domestic abuse and a parent who is being controlled by another.
Supporting evidence or experience of others	Sweden offers 480 days of leave to parents of children. https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1130&langId=en&intPagelId=4808
Cost and costing rationale	Every adult would be invited to take part in a Family Boost investment plan; parents of children can also take part on their behalf. This would be similar to pension contributions. Anyone who contributes will be able to claim a full salary when having children. Whilst costs are initially increased, the government will save on child services costs, policing, mental health, etc.
Department responsible	Department of Work and Pensions
Mechanism for evaluation	The following data can be gathered to measure the success of the scheme: 1- NHS can confirm impact of children on mental health 2- Social Services to assess when parents of young children have the most problems? 3 DWP to assess how many families of children under the age of 4 are unemployed.
Accountability for implementation	Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Promotion of vision, values and principles	A world-leading family support policy would support hard-working families and reward them for their commitment to healthier social life; tackle inequalities in the modern world and help children.

House Deposit Save as You Earn Scheme

Stephanie Kelly (Guildford CPF)

Policy title	House Deposit Save as You Earn Scheme (HDSAYE) - An employer and employee funded House Deposit Scheme for the under 30s.
Statement of Problem	It's hard to save a house deposit and home ownership for young people is now 20% lower than previous peaks.
Proposal	Under the HDSAYE scheme those aged 18 – 30 will be able to make additional voluntary contributions into their workplace pension at double current employee contribution levels and will be allowed to withdraw funds that would meet a 20% house deposit from funds amassed by the age of 30. Employee contributions will benefit from tax relief, making it attractive for participants, and employers will contribute as normal. HDSAYE will enable a couple earning average wages to save a deposit for an averaged priced house in just four years. The scheme will use existing workplace payroll and pension infrastructures to strengthen adoption and minimise the cost of design and administration. Contributions made to pension schemes after house purchase or after the age of 30 would not be available for a house deposit. For the avoidance of doubt, there would be no requirement for anyone to take part in the scheme and it would operate on an opt-in basis like any savings product
Objectives	Increase home ownership across the UK from 64% to 74% (1% above the peak in 2007) and increase the proportion of 25–34-year-olds owning their own home from 41% to 60% (1% above the 2003 level).
Expected long-term impact	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased home ownership and financial security for 'generation rent' 2. Increased voter engagement amongst the young 3. Levelling up across the generations
Potential unintended consequences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pensions may be smaller, though overall financial health will be greater 2. A contraction of the buy-to-let market 3. Reduction in income tax receipts for the Treasury
Supporting evidence or experience of others	87% of people would choose to buy rather than rent a home (Ministry of Housing, 2019). In 2007, 73% of people owned their own home versus 65% in 2018 (Statista, 5 July 2021). In 2003, 59% of 25-34 year olds were owner occupiers; in 2018 this was 41% (Ministry of Housing et al, 2019-2). Auto-enrolment works; Pension Regulator statistics show 84% of those aged 22 to 29 pay into a pension, compared to 25% before auto-enrolment began. Buying rather than renting improves lifetime prosperity (Mostafa and Jones, 2019).
Cost and costing rationale	As the scheme uses existing pension infrastructures, there will be minimal extra costs to launch and run the scheme. Reduction in income tax receipts will be offset with taxes designed to reduce house price inflation and increase supply.
Department responsible	Department for Work and Pensions, supported by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Mechanism for evaluation	Scheme success will be measured by: the increase in home ownership in the targeted age group and overall; costs for the scheme being in line with the budget set; tax revenue being impacted in accordance with modelling.

Accountability for implementation	<p>The DWP would be responsible for the correct administration of the scheme and the MHCLG would be responsible for measuring scheme success.</p>
Promotion of vision, values and principles	<p>The Conservative Party is the party of home ownership and this policy supports the principle brilliantly. Labour’s approach to solving the housing crisis is to build more affordable homes without addressing how people will save to buy a home in the first place. This powerful, innovative, vote winning policy also supports the Party’s goal to level up between the generations. We are helping people build a stronger financial future based on home ownership and pensions.</p>

Environmental Services Bonds: Protecting Nature through Market Innovation

Simon Lamb (West Dorset, Sherborne CPF)

Policy title	Environmental Services Bonds: Protecting Nature through Market Innovation
Statement of Problem	Worldwide destruction of old forest and other “high conservation value areas” (HCVA). Carbon release. Species decline. Soil impoverishment and desertification. Social & economic exclusion & poverty.
Proposal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create an investment vehicle establishing strong market value for the carbon-sequestering and biodiversity properties of HCVA, eliminating destructive opportunity costs 2. Direct funds from developed nations and investors to provide bond coupon 3. Create robust management structures to channel investment proceeds equitably to participating nations and their community-based partners 4. Dedicate coupon to HCVA restoration and capital to green development 5. Set up an oversight infrastructure to ensure required outcomes 6. Prioritize the inclusion of indigenous peoples in decision making, and formally establish their roles and rights as land stewards
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preserve HCVA and protect biodiversity in perpetuity 2. Achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals 3. Enable diverse international investors to engage directly in earth stewardship via the restoration and conservation of HCVA 4. Achieve no-net-increase in CO2 emissions in participating nations 5. Secure just and sustainable futures for indigenous populations through legal rights, cultural freedom, and economic inclusion 6. Fund green economic development and improved social services in countries with significant HCVA 7. Fund the restoration of impoverished soils and bring them back into sustainable production through regenerative agricultural practices
Expected long-term impact	Permanent protection for large areas of HCVA. Significant carbon sequestration. Recovery and permanent conservation of ecologically valuable habitats. Benefits for science, research and development. Green economic and social services development in poor countries. Reduction in social and economic exclusion resulting in reduced poverty, and greater social, economic and political stability. HCVA universally regarded as valuable capital assets worthy of protection.
Potential unintended consequences	None envisaged at this time. Pilot scheme recommended.

Supporting evidence or experience of others	REDD+ scheme. Forestry offset/credit schemes. Carbon offset schemes are troubled by diverse verification issues
Cost and costing rationale	Capital from green impact investors. Long-term, guaranteed coupon is from G20 countries. \$25bn pa could secure \$1 trillion in bond sales, permanently protecting / improving up to 900m acres of HCVA
Department responsible	Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs. COP26 President Designate
Mechanism for evaluation	Geospatial technology, independent assessors, uptake rates
Accountability for implementation	Trustees, professional managers, participating national governments
Promotion of vision, values and principles	It is recommended that consensus is sought on an issue of such universal importance.

Citizen Volunteer Force

Tania Mathias (Richmond Park CPF)

Policy title	Citizen Volunteer Force
Statement of Problem	COVID-19 has shown us that future health/chemical/biological/radiation/nuclear emergencies can benefit from a pool of trained volunteers along the lines of the current Army Reserve (previously known as the Territorial Army).
Proposal	Training of volunteers including current COVID-19 volunteers, NHS volunteers, St John's Ambulance, Red Cross volunteers and Duke of Edinburgh award students can be coordinated. The volunteers can all be on a "Citizen Volunteer Force" (CVF) national database and offered further training modules that are matched for individual volunteer interests. Employers can be given incentives to allow their volunteers who are CVF volunteers to have up to a day's leave, once a month, for CVF training.
Objectives	<p>Different modules can be designed by national and local governments. Volunteers would be in local networks.</p> <p>Monthly training can include emergency training with experiential learning together with input from Health/International development departments and the Army.</p> <p>A Citizen Volunteer Force app. can be linked to the Good Samaritan app.</p>
Expected long-term impact	Ensuring a skilled rapid response volunteer force is ever present for future emergencies.
Potential unintended consequences	Existing charities may see the new volunteer force as a threat or duplication.
Supporting evidence or experience of others	There was a citizen force during the Second World War that continued into the 1950s but was disbanded. That network of trained volunteers has never been replicated, although some parts of the United Kingdom have kept such a force.
Cost and costing rationale	Government assistance for employers giving time off to Citizen Force volunteers can be aligned with the current payment system in place for employers who have employees who are Armed Force reservists.
Department responsible	Defence and Health.
Mechanism for evaluation	Retention of volunteers. Feedback of training days.
Accountability for implementation	Defence and Health depts.
Promotion of vision, values and principles	Harnessing volunteer skills and improving local networks have been proven to make a difference in times of emergencies requiring rapid response.

Traffic-light Eco-labelling

Caroline Newton (Henley CPF)

Policy title	Traffic-light Eco-labelling: A proposal for a simple, universal system of product labelling to indicate the environmental impact of consumer goods
Statement of Problem	Reducing the environmental impact of goods bought in the UK is an important policy priority. Many consumers would be happy to ‘do their bit’, but rarely have a simple way of knowing – at point of sale – the environmental footprint of individual products.
Proposal	Every product would have to carry a label indicating 3 separate measurements: the carbon footprint of the product; the distance it has travelled from source to consumer; the impact on nature (destruction of habitats vs biodiversity gain etc). For online vendors, the grading system for each product would have to be displayed prominently on the website. This would require some form of standardised system for making those judgements, that allows for the complexity of some for a product comprising various components. To be effective it would need to be relatively simple to calculate and very simple to understand. It would specifically include a symbol demonstrating whether the product comes from the UK.
Objectives	To inform consumers of the environmental impact of products so they can make an informed choice when they purchase. To encourage vendors to source items from “environmentally friendly” producers closer to home. It would reflect the cost on the environment of long supply chains and long-distance sea and air freight.
Expected long-term impact	A positive impact on the carbon and nature footprints of goods sold in the UK. A boost to UK producers and an inducement to produce to higher environmental standards.
Potential unintended consequences	It would be an additional cost (financial and bureaucratic) to vendors and producers. An assurance scheme of this sort would need to be rigorously designed and audited to ensure public trust; there is a risk of corruption and dishonesty – particularly in relation to suppliers in less transparent jurisdictions. If public trust is too low – or the system is too complicated for producers to implement and for consumers to understand – it would have minimal impact.
Supporting evidence or experience of others	The UK uses a traffic-light system on food produce, which many consumers use to inform their choices. The simpler French ‘Nutri-source’ system (which grades food by a letter depending on the overall nutritional quantity) could be an alternative model to apply an ‘environmental impact score’. French studies have shown this to have had a big impact on consumers’ choices.

Cost and costing rationale	Initial start-up funding for the scheme would come from central govt, but thereafter would be paid for by producers (and therefore consumers)
Department responsible	BEIS/DEFRA
Mechanism for evaluation	Market research from consumers about the extent to which the scoring system affected their purchasing choices. Reports from companies about how it has affected sales & about how straightforward (or weighty) it is to manage. It may be an element in a measurement of increased purchasing of local, UK produce.
Accountability for implementation	The Govt agency responsible for devising the system (both the scoring system and for the auditing of it) – and the Govt dept (BEIS) responsible for that.
Promotion of vision, values and principles	We are taking action to reduce carbon emissions, improve biodiversity, and support local, UK producers. We are empowering consumers to make the right decisions for the environment.

Britain's first online academy, delivering free and interactive lessons to students of all ages

Shabana Raman (Canterbury CPF)

Policy title	Closing the education gap – a 21st century vision putting education at the heart of levelling up
Proposal	Every child to have access to free, top-quality online teaching every holiday, at the weekend and after the school-day if needed.
Objectives	Extending educational opportunity to every child aged 6 to 16 in a very timely manner.
Expected long-term impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making online learning a valued additional part of our educational landscape for schools, parents and students – in addition to, but not as a replacement for classroom teaching. - Upskilling of teaching professionals. - The possibility of framing innovative teaching and learning strategies for the future.
Potential unintended consequences	Potential for students to prefer online learning to classroom-based face-to-face lessons and possible disruptions as a result.
Supporting evidence or experience of others	An example of the solution proposed here is the non-for-profit Kent-based Invicta National Academy, which has provided over 132,000 live, interactive, free, online lessons taught by fully-qualified teachers to over 12,000 children.
Cost and costing rationale	This scheme which is already being piloted in the county of Kent would cost less than a million pounds a year – 0.001% of the current education budget of £92.3 billion.
Department responsible	Department of Education
Mechanism for evaluation	This will be measured either by the Department of Education or by OFSTED or by both at a national level. At a granular level, partner schools across the country will be assessing the teaching and learning on a regular basis.
Accountability for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Education - OFSTED
Promotion of vision, values and principles	Providing equal opportunities for all. This policy will help us demonstrate the Conservative party's core value of providing opportunities for the many not the few.

Mental Health Response: The Fourth Emergency Service

Ella Robertson McKay (Cities of London and Westminster CPF)

Policy title	Mental Health: the fourth emergency service
Proposal	A fourth emergency service which deals with mental health crises – to comprise of law enforcement and paramedics with mental health specific training. When you dial 999 – you will be asked “police, ambulance, fire or mental health response” – there will be a clear place to turn when you see someone in mental distress. For mentally ill people in crisis, they will be met with a trained mental health team who can provide the support they need and be taken to an appropriate facility rather than the police station.
Objectives	The primary objective is to ensure that people in acute mental distress are met by first responders who are able to help them effectively. The second objective is to reduce pressure on other first responders, A&E and police stations.
Expected long-term impact	Mental health patients will receive specified care, leaving other services to deal with crime and physical health emergencies.
Potential unintended consequences	This is a major innovation and will require significant restructuring of parts of the NHS and custody suites.
Supporting evidence or experience of others	Stockholm’s mental health ambulance – an emergency vehicle with two trained nurses and a driver – seeks to free up police resources, to allow officers to focus on fields they are the experts in. On a typical shift the mental health ambulance is dispatched to five or six emergencies.
Cost and costing rationale	The UK government and devolved governments are pouring unprecedented funds into mental health –
Department responsible	Home Office, Ministry of Health and Social Care
Mechanism for evaluation	Patients in mental health crisis receiving care in a timely manner, Amount of police time spent addressing mental health issues, Amount of ambulance time spent addressing mental health issues
Accountability for implementation	This would fall primarily within the remit of the Ministry of Health and Social Care
Promotion of vision, values and principles	The Conservative Party are the only Party with a true vision for radically reforming mental health care

How to raise tax revenue without raising taxes

Lynn Riley (Weaver Vale CPF)

Policy title	Civic Contributions (or put your money where your mouth is)
Statement of Problem	Post-pandemic need for extra funding at a time when people want to give. The public is very tuned to the NHS/social care with public figures calling for it.
Proposal	Create opportunity for people to make a voluntary contribution to their tax code for a specific public service (e.g. NHS)
Objectives	Test national appetite to raise income tax by 1% for named use.
Expected long-term impact	Mobilise the national buy-in to boost funding for certain functions of the state, like the NHS. Opportunity to rethink a simplification of the tax system to boost philanthropy. (Civil Society Strategy)
Supporting evidence or experience of others	Pioneering new approach to building civil society on back of pandemic experience. Using nudge principles to get individuals to start a movement of public philanthropy.
Cost and costing rationale	Policy would be self-funding. Platforms already exist for public giving, so a trusted third party could front the pilot.
Department responsible	The Treasury, but it could be DCMS.
Mechanism for evaluation	This is easily quantified as it is specific numbers of people and specific financial contributions. It could be measured by a variety of demographic metrics like geography, age, socio-economic, etc.
Accountability for implementation	The British Public: Try for a year to establish public appetite. Ultimately people will either give or they won't. Government will have made the offer to fund some innovative new approach to creatively funding public services.
Promotion of vision, values and principles	This is an opportunity for the public who have the means and the motivation to lead by example in funding what is important to Britain.

Financial Education Bill

Rajan Sehmi (Runnymede and Weybridge CPF)

Policy title	Financial Education Bill
Statement of Problem	Earning income, earning money, is what makes the world revolve. It is the motivation that inspires labour. Yet our young people need more help to understand it and make the best use of their resources.
Proposal	Financial Education to be run in the curriculum, possibly alongside the current GCSE Mathematics curriculum or PSHE. Topics discussed may include how money works, where it comes from, how to budget and disburse earnings. Engaging with agents, negotiation and how to make the best use of funds.
Objectives	Ensure young people have increased Financial Literacy. Units passed in exams. Very achievable given the correct teaching. Quite simple to implement. In the next curriculum refresh cycle.
Expected long-term impact	Our country's population would be more frugal, yet targeted in spending. Leading to the right goods and services being purchased, resulting in the public having more money to spend on merit goods, such as healthy food and goods that yield positive externalities.
Potential unintended consequences	A slight loss in revenue for luxury goods, however there will always be solid demand for these goods.
Supporting evidence or experience of others	NZ and Australia have financial literacy schemes, resulting in the 4th and 5th best financial literacy in the world. https://www.cnb.com/2014/07/08/teen-financial-literacy-test-country-with-most-money-smarts-not-the-us.html
Cost and costing rationale	The costs are determined based on hiring researchers and teachers to decide the best elements for the curriculum. We already have many people who work in government in these roles so I imagine it should not cost a lot.
Department responsible	Department for Education
Mechanism for evaluation	A competitive result in the 'Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's' assessment. Can be recorded as part of the survey or independently.
Accountability for implementation	Department for Education
Promotion of vision, values and principles	The Conservatives continue to support education, We're increasing school funding by £14 billion, £400 million in education for 16-19-year olds, including further education and sixth form colleges, to give our young people the skills they need for well-paid jobs in the modern economy.

The creation of an ‘NHS Reserve Force’

Nick Stovold (Wiltshire Area CPF)

Policy title	To create an ‘NHS Reserve Force.’
Proposal	To create an NHS ‘Reserve Force’ in the same way that the TA operates would allow for a nimble, flexible work force that could be deployed as and when required. Roles would be both clinical and administrative, including reserve triage nurses, GPs, vaccinators, drivers and administrators all of whom would help to relieve pressure on full-time staff. The NHS Reserve Force would be a salaried entity but would be much cheaper to run than significantly increasing the size of the regular NHS.
Objectives	To assist the NHS To allow full-time professional NHS staff to get on with the priorities of addressing healthcare issues for the public at large. Reducing the stress on many doctors and nurses during times of increased pressure. To help reduce the backlog of patients awaiting treatment and operations consequently.
Expected long-term impact	A more flexible NHS Reserve entity could be utilised when required, which would mean resources could match demand when needed. Doctors and nurses would be able to spend more time on actual healthcare rather than administrative duties or having to be deployed into other sectors outside their core expertise which can mean patients receiving delays to their treatment in these areas. This would underline how the Conservative party is the party of the NHS.
Potential unintended consequences	Retention and recruitment of personnel could be challenging initially.
Supporting evidence or experience of others	The TA is successfully deployed to support the regular Army in the same way in times of need, whether on military operations or at times of domestic need such as during flooding events or natural disasters, allowing regular military personnel to continue with their core duties, unaffected.
Cost and costing rationale	The NHS Reserve Force would be funded by central government, potentially via a specific ‘NHS Reserve Force tax levy’ across the entire tax spectrum.
Dept responsible	The Department for Health and Social Care.
Mechanism for evaluation	One would be able to evaluate wait times for operations or medical procedures in the way the ONS currently does. Likewise with vaccination programmes, it would be straightforward to assess the pace of vaccination efforts based on separate areas’ use of NHS Reserve Force personnel. It would be possible to provide tangible data to illustrate the impact of an NHS Reserve Force in relieving the pressure on the health service/system.
Accountability for implementation	A Minister in the Department for Health and Social Care.
Promotion of vision, values and principles	The Conservative Party is committed to the NHS and healthcare that is free at the point of use.

Carers Allowance – change to terms to allow full-time degree study

Dave Thomsett and Charlene Maines (Rowlands Castle CPF)

Policy title	Carers Allowance- change to terms to allow fulltime degree study.
Proposal	Remove rule that prevent payment of Carers Allowance for those undertaking full time 3 yr. Degree Course. (Current rules removes carers allowance for study over 3 hours a day /21 hours a week).
Objectives	Recognise the valuable role played by carers in support of disabled. A quick win, facilitated by remote learning and modern IT.
Expected long-term impact	Graduate carers able to take well paid employment 3 years earlier. Improved prospects for career enhancement, whilst still working from home.
Potential unintended consequences	Some of those accepted for a full-time course will find the demands too onerous. (Universities are sympathetic to changes in students' circumstances, including caring responsibilities and adapt accordingly)
Cost and costing rationale	This proposal is about carers retaining an allowance they are entitled to. Allows opportunity for carers to take a full time degree and become tax payers 3 years earlier. Initially tax neutral but potentially positive in medium term through increased tax take.
Department responsible	DWP
Mechanism for evaluation	Number of carers graduating after taking full time 3yr degree course. DWP.
Accountability for implementation	DWP
Promotion of vision, values and principles	Demonstrates support for carers – facilitated by Govt. led IT initiatives.

Recycling Innovation and the Free Market

Emma Ware (Epsom and Ewell CPF)

Policy title	Recycling Innovation and the Free Market
Statement of Problem	Recycling levels have flatlined in recent years and in 2019/20 124 Local Authorities reported a fall in recycling.
Proposal	Open up the domestic waste kerbside collection market. Residents are free to choose frequency of collection, extent of kerbside recycling, specialist services and higher levels of customer service. The ensuing market would need to innovate to compete; levels of clean recycling would increase.
Objectives	Open the market so residents can choose an improved waste collection/ recycling service. The introduction of competition will drive investment and innovation into a greener waste collection service. There is a competition in the waste sector market for residential kerbside collection (11% of the market), however the LA acts as an agent between the supplier and the resident. This is not the case for commercial collection (89% of the market). It would not need a huge shift in practices to bring the residential market in line with the rest of the waste sector. The climate emergency is the most pressing issue for governments around the world not just in the UK. A simple change in process would be all that is required, there are already many private firms carrying out commercial recycling.
Expected long-term impact	Higher levels of recycling from residential waste, innovation in the industry driven by competition. Increased consumer choice. A reduction in council tax.
Potential unintended consequences	A risk of more collection lorries, however the commercial market has shown that similar companies tend to serve similar areas and the idea of daily collections has not materialised.
Supporting evidence or experience of others	288 million tonnes of waste is collected in the UK every year, 89% of which is commercial: we are already doing this. It is also the case in many European countries, including Ireland.
Cost and costing rationale	No Government investment required, legislative change only.
Department responsible	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Mechanism for evaluation	DEFRA in conjunction with the waste collection companies can monitor the levels of recycling coming from residential collection.
Accountability for implementation	DEFRA together with a waste sector watchdog.
Promotion of vision, values and principles	Conservatives believe that a free-market drives innovation and investment. We lead the world in green technologies and by bringing the element of competition driven by the desire of the British people to support climate change initiatives we can top the league tables for recycling. The consequential growth of the waste collection industry would create more jobs.

CPF Consultations

“[This past year] has shown – if there was any doubt – that deep wells of talent, kindness, ingenuity and resourcefulness exist in every village, town and city of the United Kingdom. The Government’s task is to mobilise that extraordinary spirit, matching talent with opportunity and unleashing our nation’s full potential.”

(Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, Introduction to The Queen’s Speech, May 2021)

Nationwide policy consultations are the traditional staple of CPF activity. In a typical year, CPF Groups across the country hold five discussions based on a policy brief and questions published by the CPF. We take a break from our consultation programme ahead of elections in order to prioritise campaigning—those who have an interest in policy are best placed to champion the Party’s policy commitments; and at least seven out of eight CPF members actively campaign for target seats in elections and by-elections.

Usually, our consultation topics are chosen in order to be relevant to the government’s stated policy agenda. Similarly, our questions are formulated in consultation with the appropriate government department. This ensures that the responses from CPF members address matters that really are under consideration and therefore have genuine prospect of helping to influence future policy decisions. The CPF could and occasionally does explore territory “off-piste” but there would be little point in encouraging members to spend time proposing solutions to problems for which there is no expectation that time in the Parliamentary calendar might be found.

In 2020, the CPF in fact held seven nationwide consultations: the regular five, on topics aligned with the December 2019 Queen’s Speech; a bespoke one on policing and crime prevention to support the campaigns of our Police & Crime Commissioner candidates; and another on the pandemic that we produced as soon as the elections that had been due to be held in May were cancelled and lockdown was announced. The regular five included an overview of the Queen’s Speech and went on to consider the environment and animal welfare; infrastructure, investment and devolution; workers and families; and health & social care and education.

So far in 2021, consultations have focussed on the Union & constitution and the post-lockdown recovery. We also worked in partnership with the Conservative Women’s Organisation to produce a paper on topics that were chosen through a grassroots-led initiative: promoting lifelong training; supporting family life; and addressing the adult social care challenge. Our current consultation is the first of three on topics identified by CPF members: our relationship with the state.

Since the general election of 2019, at least 3,000 members from over 300 constituencies have participated in the CPF consultation programme. Anybody who is not already involved in their association’s CPF Group is missing out on a unique opportunity to contribute suggestions to the Party’s policymakers and their advisers in government. As the Director of the Prime Minister’s Policy Unit comments elsewhere in this volume, “grassroots engagement in policymaking enables the fine tuning of existing commitments and helps generate creative solutions to evolving challenges.” Of course, not every policy proposal will be adopted. Indeed, very many will need to be refined, when subject to closer scrutiny. Yet, the more people who participate in seeking to improve our communities today, the better prepared we will be as a country to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Find out more and get involved via our website, at: www.conservativepolicyforum.com/signup

CPF Snap Polls

We first introduced CPF snap polls in June 2020. Since then, they have become a regular additional members-only benefit for those who receive the CPF’s electronic updates. The initiative has been very positively received by the Prime Minister’s Policy Unit, government departments and the Party’s leadership.

On average, members are invited once a month to give their opinion on policy matters that would profit from more timely input than our traditional consultations allow. Typically, around 1,500 members let us know their views. This enables us not only to identify overall levels of support, but also to explore regional and demographic differences. For instance, the snap poll on questions of interest to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—from gene editing and fishing to renewable energy and pollution—found an inverse relationship in support for issues that might be characterised as “use new technology” and “protect nature”.

Over the past year, topics have included the reopening of schools, potential Treasury proposals, Labour ideas for wealth taxes, Christmas Bubbles and returning to work, the Spending Review, the Budget, the environment, immigration, and the Queen’s Speech, as well as more open-ended questions about the kinds of policies that members would like to see.

If you are not already involved and would like to be one of the people helping to shape current policymaking decisions, then be sure to join our mailing list via our website, at:
www.conservativepolicyforum.com/signup

CPF Management Team

CPF Chairman: John Penrose MP

John Penrose, the MP for Weston-super-Mare, was appointed the Chairman of the CPF in September 2019. He previously served in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, as a Lord Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury, and as Minister of State to Northern Ireland.

CPF Vice-Chairman: Peter Booth

Peter is Vice President of the National Convention. He has held many offices within the party from his time at university and over many years. He believes that the most important voluntary role is being constituency chairman because they co-ordinate members locally into an election-winning team, and part of that is getting members involved in policymaking through the CPF. Peter has been a constituency chairman for seven years, first Brighton and then Cornwall.

CPF Voluntary Director: Cllr Anna Firth

Anna was elected as the National Voluntary Director of the Conservative Policy Forum in April 2020. She is a Barrister, Sevenoaks District Councillor, and the Co-Founder and Chief Executive of the Invicta National Academy, a multi-academy Trust helping children of the UK catch up on missed learning during COVID-19. She is an advocate for the environment, health equality and social justice. She is on the Board of the Conservative Environment Network and also a Judge for the Speaker's Trust. Prior to entering politics, Anna was a healthcare Barrister for twelve years, also using her legal skills as a Charity Trustee for West Kent MIND and as an Academy Governor."

CPF Manager: Dr John Hayward

John has provided consistent leadership to the CPF since early 2016. With a background in science, he has "a keen understanding of the Party's grassroots" and "his clear, evidence-based analysis and quiet diplomacy transformed the CPF from a mere talking shop to an indispensable part of the Party's policy development." John also works with politicians internationally to develop policy-based election platforms, to widen civic participation and to promote best practice in policymaking. He has twice received public awards for his "outstanding record of service and devotion to duty" and for accomplishments that "promote excellence, uphold integrity, and foster creativity."

CPF Head of Digital & Innovation: Katrina Sale

Katrina is the Managing Director of Venture and Victory, a digital innovation consultancy. She is the Founder of anti-trolling campaign We Go High, and a Director for not-for-profit Green Skills Library. Within the party, she has served as a CWO chair, Communications Director of Conservative Progress, Deputy Director of Conservative Friends of Afghanistan and Vice-Chair of Conservative Friends of the Crown. She stood as a candidate in GE2019.

CPF Champions

Area Leadership Champion: Ahmereen Reza OBE

Ahmereen is the principle owner of AR Consultancy, advising charities and small businesses on strategy and business development, and a Non-Executive Director at the Southern Housing Group. She is the co-founder of the charity Developments in Literacy UK, which educates girls in under served areas of Pakistan and provides ESOL courses for British Multi-ethnic minority mothers of under-performing students in the UK. Ahmereen received an OBE in 2020 for her charity and interfaith work. She stood as a candidate in 2017. Ahmereen is a Director for the Conservative Friends of Pakistan and a GLA candidate.

Area Leadership Champion: Gareth Lyon

Gareth has been a borough councillor for eleven years, including being on the local cabinet, and currently serves as Chairman of his local Association where he has successfully raised the membership to record levels. Gareth has fifteen years experience working in policy roles – most of that in membership bodies in health, care, science, technology and education. Gareth believes in making sure that the Conservative Party is a strong and clear voice for Conservative values and that our policies reflect our members' beliefs and aspirations.

Online Discussion Groups Champion: Lance Austen

Lance is a lecturer in Accounting at Exeter College and an experienced teacher in Business. He worked in Business at executive level before moving on to teach the subject. Lance is a Councillor for Ivybridge in Devon and the Vice Chair of the Audit Committee on South Hams District Council. He is also the chairman of the Ivybridge branch of the Conservative Party, a member of Conservative Friends of Israel, The Conservative Education Society and was an approved candidate on the Parliamentary candidates list prior to the last election.

Virtual Programmes and Publications Champion: Neva Sadikoglu-Novaky

Neva works in the private sector and has worked in policymaking and in think tanks on both sides of the Atlantic from Brussels to Washington DC. She is currently a Fellow at Localis think tank and has been a Fellow at the Washington DC-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. She has experience in transforming ideas into policy-proposals. She has drafted policy proposals and legislation as well as supported elected politicians in policymaking. Neva is a Conservative party activist. She was a parliamentary candidate in the 2019 general election and a candidate in the 2019 European Parliament election. She leads the Surrey CPF.

CPF "Tell No 10" Champion: Penny-Anne O'Donnell

Penny-Anne is a District Councillor and Overview and Scrutiny Chair in Stratford Upon Avon, as well as the local CWO Chair and Deputy Chair for the Regional West Midlands. She stood in GE2019. A former Deputy Chair Political, she has introduced Connect Calling teams, vote source training and resurrected CPF. Penny-Anne ascertains that for our party to truly inspire and engage with our voters, our policies and manifesto must reach across society, and believes that both Parliament and aspirational policies must reflect our population. She is a 50:50 Parliament #AskHerToStand Director. Penny-Anne is a Consultant Speech and Language Therapist, running an independent clinical practice for over two decades.

Student Champion – London: Sophia Worringer

Sophia is a parliamentary researcher for Iain Duncan Smith MP. Prior to this she worked for the Centre for Social Justice authoring Family Structure Still Matters and for a Member of the House of Lords focusing on various aspects of family policy including prisoners' families, domestic abuse policy and Family Hubs. Sophia is a proud Liverpoolian and studied History at King's College London.

Student Champion – South East and South West: Oliver Hall

Oliver grew up across the South East and Midlands and is currently a Law student at The City Law School in London. He has been a member of the Conservative Party since 2017, and currently serves as the Deputy Chair Membership and Fundraising for his local Conservative branch in North Oxfordshire. He has a keen interest in social mobility and access to education, including having worked with Stonewall and Oxfordshire County Council on their anti-bullying policies.

Student Champion – Wales, NI and Scotland: Clemmie Taylor-Smith

Clemmie is currently studying Philosophy and Politics at the University of Edinburgh. She has been a grassroots activist since she could walk and has continued this commitment through establishing the South-west Surrey Young Conservatives. From this, she has acquired skills in people management as well as coordinating social media accounts. She is currently a podcast manager at the Macmillan forum for interdisciplinary discussion. Her interests include coding, app development and she hopes to launch an app in the coming year. Clemmie is also a member of 'The Decision Problem' think tank.

Student Champion – East and West Midlands: Daniel Grice

Daniel was born and raised in the Black Country and is proud to have come from his humble beginnings to be where he is today, despite having severe dyslexia and autism. He has managed to not just complete an undergraduate degree in history and politics but also managed to do a Masters degree specialising in political engagement specifically for disabled people. Daniel hopes to encourage young people to freely express their conservative values, feel pride in doing so regardless of their background, and not just go with the tide of voting for left-wing political politics. Daniel also has an additional ambition to improve disabled representation within politics, a group that deserves to have people representing them and their interest.

Student Champion – North East, North West and Yorkshire & Humber: Emma Mi

Emma is a junior doctor and a clinical fellow at NHS England, where she works on healthcare policy and strategy. She previously studied medicine at the University of Cambridge. She is passionate about healthcare reform, health technology and research. A dedicated Party activist, she is a Vice President of Conservative Young Women.

CPF Alumni

The CPF is proud of the partnership that it has enjoyed with members who have gone on to serve in Parliament.

- **Lord Andrew Sharpe** (former Vice Chairman)
- **John Penrose**, MP for Weston-Super-Mare (present Chairman)
- **George Freeman**, MP for Mid Norfolk (former Chairman)
- **Flick Drummond**, MP for Meon Valley (former Voluntary Director)
- **Gareth Davies**, MP for Grantham and Stamford (former Champion)
- **Luke Evans**, MP for Bosworth (former Champion)
- **Virginia Crosbie**, MP for Ynys Môn (former Champion)
- **Joy Morrissey**, MP for Beaconsfield (former Champion)
- **Andy Carter**, MP for Warrington South (former Group Coordinator)
- **Jane Hunt**, MP for Loughborough (former Group Coordinator)
- **Anthony Mangnall**, MP for Totnes (former Group Coordinator)
- **Angela Joy Richardson**, MP for Guildford (former Group Coordinator)
- **Amanda Solloway**, MP for Derby North (former Group Coordinator)
- **Ben Spencer**, MP for Runnymede and Weybridge (former Group Coordinator)

Notes



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YEARBOOK 2021

