



English Democrats Manifesto

PUTTING ENGLAND FIRST

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SECTION 1 - Introduction; Aims and Objectives

1.1.1 The aims and objectives of the English Democrats are set out in this and succeeding manifestos.

The broad aim of the English Democrats is to build a society which accommodates the interests of all the people of England. We aim to do this in an enlightened and democratic way.

1.1.2 It would be unrealistic at this stage for the English Democrats to set out detailed policies on every issue. We believe that good politics is a matter of good judgement and pragmatic decision-making within the bounds of general principles and objectives. We have set out below the general principles and objectives that guide us.

1.2 Democracy

1.2.1 We are committed to government of the people, by the people, for the people. Those with power to affect our way of life must be answerable to the people.

1.2.2 Democracy is much more than the ability to choose, from time to time, between broadly similar parties which compete amongst themselves for power. Real democracy is measured by the ability of the people to manage their political, economic, physical, and cultural environment.

1.2.3 We favour directly elected executive mayors as a means of revitalizing local government.

1.2.4 We favour reforming our voting system for English elections to ensure a fair and more democratic representation using a proportional representation system, where the percentage of votes in England would reflect the percentage of elected representatives in England.

1.3 Guiding Principles

The English Democrats will be guided by the following general principles: -

1.3.1 The state should serve the collective interests of its citizens.

1.3.2 We wish to see a modern and wide-ranging Bill of Rights founded on traditional English civil liberties.

1.3.3 The English Democrats seek a far-ranging freedom of access to information.

1.3.4 Wherever reasonably practicable, public appointments should be chosen by direct election.

1.3.5 Power should be devolved, as and when practical, within all spheres of government and service provision, including, for example, the education and health services.

1.3.6 Devolution within England should be through the existing system of local government, subject to modifications that are necessary to meet the needs of a workable and efficient democratic system.

1.3.7 The aim should be to enable local people to identify with Local Authorities. We must reverse the trend towards remote and unaccountable decision-making.

1.3.8 We favour - recognition for traditional counties, which would include the reunification of Yorkshire.

1.3.9 We favour the use of referenda in local government with a view to using referenda in other tiers of government if the experiment proves successful. A system like that used in Switzerland should be the model. This would enable citizens to petition for a referendum on certain policy issues.

Proposed changes to the constitution should be referred to the electorate in referenda. The results should be binding. There could be a role here for the Second Chamber as guardian of the constitution.

Rules are needed for the timing and funding of referenda with the aim of making them as fair as possible to all parties involved.

1.4 Liberty

1.4.1 We support moves to maximise individual liberty and reduce state involvement in people's lives.

1.4.1.1 People may assume any identity that they want, but they have no right to deprive other groups of their rights in so doing. These rights include the right to privacy (bathroom use), sports events, safe spaces such as women only waiting rooms, shelters, and intimate cosmetic procedures

1.4.1.2 We hold that gender is determined by biology.

1.4.1.3. Any other identity chosen is for social purposes only and not for legal purposes. And no law may be made that attempts to alter these biological identities.

1.4.2 The Party regards itself as the defender of the freedoms, rights, and obligations of the individual. No law or regulation may be passed that treats people as being part of a group. No law may be passed giving or denying rights to, for example: the 'black community, the Christian community, the white community, for men, for women, or for Muslims etc.

1.4.3 This policy will be followed in schools where any officially sponsored activity can only be made if it is based on the natural characteristics of our nation. So, for example no group may be given a higher mark because they are a member of a particular group.

1.4.4 No activity can be organised that excludes members on the basis of their gender, race, or ethnicity. unless it is an activity that genuinely splits people into groups for the sake of child protection. This does not apply to activities where gender is a natural characteristic in performance such as some sports.

1.5 A Parliament for England

1.5.1 The English Democrats campaign for an Independent England, an Independent England would have an English Parliament, English Prime Minister, and directly elected English Members or Parliament sitting in the English Parliament.

1.5.2 We reject the plans for regional assemblies because, among other things, they will promote disunity and conflict with England.

1.5.3 The English Democrats' will study the future findings of the English Constitutional Convention (ECC) and may accommodate ECC findings within future party policy.

1.5.4 With an Independent England the Barnett formula would automatically cease. The formula institutionalised discrimination against the people of England by ensuring that public spending in Scotland and Wales is far higher per head of population than in England.

1.6 The English Flag

1.6.1 We call for the compulsory flying of the English flag, the cross of St George, on all state-maintained public buildings in England.

SECTION 2 – Devolved Matters

The English Democrats campaign for an Independent England. An Independent England would have an English Parliament, English Prime Minister, and directly elected English Members sitting in the English Parliament. Items previously classed as 'Devolved matters' will therefore be the responsibility of the English Parliament in an Independent England.

2.2 Public Services

2.2.1 We believe that it is the responsibility of government to ensure that all citizens have access to high quality healthcare and education, which should be free at the point of supply. Public services should not be seen as a minimal safety net for the less fortunate.

2.2.2 While all public services should be the responsibility of government, where appropriate, use should be made of the private sector to provide the elements that make up those services.

2.2.3 It is important that our finite resources be used as efficiently as possible. Government should be responsible for providing a police force and judicial system which enjoys public confidence.

2.2.4 The immediate provision of public services should not be gained at the cost of long-term debt. We have no right to defer the cost of services so that they become a burden for future generations.

2.3 State Accountability

2.3.1 We call for the state to publish clear and comprehensive annual accounts, in the same way that private companies do. These comprehensive public accounts would list all taxes collected and list all expenditure items and would link to detailed information on each specific area.

2.3.2 We call for this information to be accessible from a single website.

2.4 Health

2.4.1 We are committed to making the National Health Service an efficient organisation which provides a high-quality service for all citizens.

2.4.2 The need for improvement is such that it may be necessary to adopt a simplified approach to structure and management.

2.4.3 The priority given to a patient's treatment should be based on medical need, not artificial management targets. Bearing this in mind, we would create a N.H.S. Inspectorate on a similar basis to the very successful schools Inspectorate. Its purpose would be to raise standards of service, ensure equal quality of healthcare throughout England, and check malpractice in both the NHS and the private healthcare sector.

2.4.4 Care in the Community as a policy has manifestly failed, not only to protect the public, but also to protect the mentally ill, partly through inadequate funding. English Democrats policy is that if it is considered that an individual poses a significant risk either to themselves or to the public, they should remain in secure care.

2.4.5 NHS services must not be made freely available to non-nationals.

2.4.6 All those entering England must have valid health insurance covering their stay. Those seeking residency must provide proof of passing full health checks by an accredited clinic or doctor for HIV, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Hepatitis, and other diseases if such are prevalent in their home country.

2.4.7 Entrance into England will not be permitted for those who have contagious or debilitating illnesses which could threaten public health, compromise their private health insurance, or are likely to place an unacceptable burden on the NHS.

2.5 Disability

2.5.1 The English Democrats would seek means for providing greater education, training, and employment opportunities for the disabled and chronically sick.

2.6 Education

2.6.1 As in other public services, there is a need to constantly improve standards. The quality of education should be equal throughout England.

2.6.2 England's prosperity is not based on natural resources but on the skills and enterprise of her people. Our well-being is bound up with the quality of education and training. Education is an expensive investment, but ignorance is even more costly, in personal, economic, and social terms. With an Independent England the Barnett formula would cease, a substantial proportion of the funds released to England from the ending of the Barnett formula should be used to reduce class sizes, increase teachers' pay, and improve buildings and equipment.

2.6.3 We recognise that for social and economic reasons, some sections of the English population do not appreciate the importance of providing their children with a positive attitude to education. This lapse has contributed to the emergence of an anti-authority youth-culture which sees education and the discipline needed for successful learning as a form of repression to be rebelled against. This is part of a wider social and cultural problem that cannot be tackled by teachers and funding alone.

There is much evidence to suggest that properly socialised into their history and culture young people, and especially children, take a generally positive view of their society and this helps them to have a positive view about themselves. Children who are culturally well integrated into their society are more likely to be good citizens, less likely to commit crime and more likely to participate in the community. The English Democrats will ensure that the school curriculum promotes the teaching of English history and culture in which English children can take pride.

2.6.3.1 The teaching of English history must be done in such a manner that tells our nations story, and that it neither hides, nor condemns, nor glorifies any aspect. Students must be taught to properly analyse and debate the pros and cons of any aspect of historical record, both in its original context, in the current context and its importance now.

2.6.4 The English Democrats would encourage positive attitudes to education as part of a wider programme for promoting communal values. When education is widely seen as an aid to greater freedom, happiness and prosperity, schools will become more pleasant places for pupils and teachers, and educational standards will rise.

2.6.5 Primary & Secondary Education

2.6.5.1 The English Democrats support parental choice. Where there is a demand for it, schools should be able to free themselves from local education authority control and be run independently in a way that suits local needs.

2.6.5.2 The English Democrats support the continued work of the Schools Inspectorate in the provision of independent information on the quality of education in schools.

2.6.6 Higher and Continuing Education

2.6.6.1 The English Democrats would provide greater resources for continuing lifetime education and thereby enhance the opportunities open to all citizens.

2.6.6.2 An Inspectorate similar to that of the Schools Inspectorate should monitor and report on the education and effectiveness of all continuing education establishments in England.

2.6.7 Balance in Education-

2.6.7.1 The English Democrats advocate a rebalancing of education so that craft & vocational options are given equal emphasis to academic options.

2.6.7.2 Our non-academic people must be valued and praised.

2.6.7.3 We oppose the lowering of academic standards in order to increase graduate headcount statistics.

2.6.7.4 Academic examination standards should be restored to a pre-1985 level.

2.7 Transport

2.7.1 Only the state can bring together the resources and long-term strategic planning that is necessary for the creation of an integrated transport infrastructure.

2.7.2 Transport policy should give proper weight to economic, environmental and public service considerations. These issues need to be considered when planning and building a cheap, efficient and safe integrated transport system.

2.7.3 There should be greater local involvement in transport planning and a more equal distribution of resources throughout England.

2.7.4 Greater use should be made of light railways, trams, cycleways and pedestrian friendly areas.

2.7.5 The motorist has become an easy target for prosecution and fund-raising. The imposition of speed cameras has become a revenue raising exercise. Prosecuting motorists does not count as fighting crime. Motorists already pay, via fuel tax and road fund licences, far more than is needed to maintain and improve the road network. Too much emphasis is placed upon road tolls, bridge tolls, speeding fines, congestion charges as well as parking fines and penalties. Speed cameras should only be used as a last resort and only for safety reasons.

2.7.6 Proposed improvements to the transport network have been shelved by the government citing costs, and yet Scotland continues to benefit from like schemes. There should be a review by the English Government of all transport projects abandoned by the UK Government.

2.7.7 It is unfair that foreign vehicles should have free access to our road network. A toll should be introduced on all vehicles entering this country to ensure that they pay the full cost of the wear and tear on our road system which they cause.

2.8 Housing

2.8.1 Housing supply and pricing is being severely distorted by the levels of immigration into England. First time buyers find it difficult to afford a home of their own and need to take on large mortgages and the attendant interest payments. Social housing is currently insufficient to meet demand.

2.8.2 With our pledge to bring mass immigration to a complete end and to expel illegal immigrants, then the pressure on housing will be lessened.

2.8.3 The English Democrats advocate a fairer points system for the allocation of social housing, giving greater priority to local people and those who are married and in work. Publicly funded affordable housing purchase/rental schemes should only be available to first time buyers who are citizens of this country.

2.9 Agriculture and Fisheries

2.9.1 English agriculture should be organised and, where necessary, financed in a way that suits English interests. Likewise, English fishing grounds should be treated as a national resource and be managed by a body which includes representatives of the English fishing industry.

2.9.2 The aim of English agriculture should be to provide good quality food at a reasonable price. This should be done in a way that is environmentally friendly. Concern for the environment should not cause us to lose sight of the fact that the primary role of farmers is to produce food.

2.9.3 The whole array of agricultural subsidies and marketing schemes needs overhauling. The strategic aim should be to help those in temporary need, and secure reliable supplies. To this end we favour greater use of targeted support, and fewer general subsidies.

2.9.4 Support, where appropriate, would be provided for farmers who wish to switch away from factory farming to mixed farming and organic production.

2.9.5 Schemes to encourage the local production and distribution of food will be developed. In all areas of agriculture, we should seek more environmentally friendly and healthy production.

2.9.6 We should strive to ensure that all rules and regulations which are applied to domestic production are also applied to imports.

2.9.7. We must treat animals humanely. The measure of the way that we treat them is indicative of the kind of people we are. The English Democrats would amend “The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulations 2015” so that all such animals being slaughtered for food consumption will be rendered insensible to pain prior to having the throat cut with death supervening by bleeding. Without one law for all it will be impossible to have a coherent society. There will be no exemptions.

2.10 Ecology and the Environment

2.10.1 The English Democrats believe that the resources of land and sea should be used in a way which gives due consideration to the long-term consequences. Each generation holds the environment in trust for future generations. We should not leave them to bear the cost of our selfish and short-sighted behaviour.

Guiding principles

2.10.3 Zero-pollution hydrogen fuel-cell power-packs are available, sized to power vehicles through to large buildings and entire localities. We support programmes to develop a hydrogen supply infrastructure, with particular focus on hydrogen originally created using renewable energy. We support the establishment of English pilot towns that will generate their own power using hydrogen fuel cells. We call for the scheme to be rolled out across England upon successful completion of the pilot trials.

2.10.4 Greater use of renewable resources and the more efficient use of energy. This should include encouragement for Green industries, especially energy generation, and the construction of energy efficient buildings.

2.10.5 Laws to prevent and deter pollution. The polluter should be made to pay.

2.10.6 Controls on noise pollution from roads, airports, domestic, and other sources.

2.10.7 All major planning decisions should be subject to an efficient and speedy system of public enquiry with the final decision being made by an English Parliament.

2.10.8 The English Democrats promote much tighter restrictions on green-field development and a better use of brown-field sites.

2.10.9 The English Democrats encourage the use of local building materials and designs throughout England. Greater consideration should be given to aesthetics. Our towns and cities have for many years been plagued with ugly buildings and uninspired uniformity of design. The fault for this often lies not with architects or planners but with those who determine the allocation of funds. Too often the overriding consideration for new buildings and development projects is cost. Modern architectural designs and building techniques could, in the proper place, greatly improve our environment.

2.10.10 Improvement in building standards, e.g. better sound insulation and larger minimum room sizes.

2.10.11 The English Democrats will initiate greater local control of planning and other environmental issues.

2.10.12 The English Democrat will promote viable village communities with affordable accommodation for the young.

2.10.13 Animal experimentation is to be sanctioned only in connection with human health and where no practicable alternative exists.

2.11 Policing

2.11.1 Policing is an increasingly difficult job due to changes in our society, which now lacks the social cohesion and shared values that once gave us a mostly peaceful and well-ordered way of life. Our cities have become places where it is impossible to perform traditional communal policing.

2.11.2 English Democrats seek a return to a system of policing which recognises the principle that all citizens are treated equally. In their efforts to prevent crime and catch criminals the police should not be hindered and demoralised by unreasonable ideological constraints.

2.11.3 We should not lose sight of the fact that the basis for the maintenance of law and order in England rests on a firm foundation of active participation by law-abiding citizens. A relationship of trust and co-operation between citizens and police is essential to effective policing and the prevention of crime. With that in mind, it is reasonable to expect that policing should not be oppressive. The aim is a peaceable society in which liberty and justice can flourish.

2.11.4 It is essential that the police force be adequately trained and resourced.

2.11.5 Police forces should be more democratically accountable than at present. This would require the election of Chief Constables or the Police Authorities which appoint them.

2.11.6 English Democrats call for the creation of a scheme enabling businesses to pay for their security staff to train and register as Special Constables, their powers of arrest applying to their place of work and its neighbouring streets. Such registered security staff would be subject to Police staff performance monitoring and discipline.

2.12 The Legal System

2.12.1 The primary role of a legal system is to provide the means for settling disputes. It should enable those who suffer loss, in the form personal injury, theft, or damage to property, to be properly compensated by the party at fault. Laws, and the penalties for breaking them, should comply with the principles of natural justice. As societies have become more complex, so have their law codes. To a great extent, this is unavoidable.

2.12.2 However, states and their governing elites are extending the reach of law into areas that infringe upon individual liberties. The result is a body of law which is more restrictive and complex than it need be. Many of the customs and principles of English law are being undermined in the political quest for greater conformity with Continental ideas and practices. Law is being used as a tool for imposing dogma. One of the consequences of these changes is that the police are increasingly being made the enforcers of political doctrine and moving further away from their traditional role of upholding the delicate balance between Order and Liberty.

2.12.3 To obtain justice, citizens must feel able to consult and employ the services of the legal profession. Many people are deterred from this by the procedures and costs of the present legal system. Improvements have been made in recent years but more needs to be done to make the system user friendly and efficient.

2.13.4 The English Democrats favours less law and a simplification of law. There are far too many matters currently covered by the criminal law. There should be a drastic reduction and rationalisation of the number and extent of criminal offences.

2.13.5 We must reform the jury system but not abandon it because the jury provides a democratic check on the legal system. The law is not the property of lawyers; it belongs to the people and should serve their needs. Our preference is for a return to comprehensible, just and effective law. Given its current chaotic state, the law

should be codified.

2.13.6 Once the criminal law has been properly codified, the English Democrats would ensure that the criminal law is vigorously policed and enforced.

2.13.7 Except in an emergency there should be a single annual implementation date for new law. This will help rectify the current muddled situation where no one can be sure, without considerable effort or expense, whether a clause of a new Act has been brought into force or not. Also, some rules, for example the Civil Procedure Rules, are being rewritten so frequently that new editions are being published more than once a month! This leads, not surprisingly, to the shameful situation where no-one, not even the judiciary, can be sure of the current rule in force without first making unreasonable efforts to research the point.

2.13.8 To avoid such excessive complexity developing again, a monitoring system should be devised which ensures that new law is unambiguously comprehensible and properly and efficiently enforceable. This could be a function of a reformed Second Chamber.

2.13.9 The English Democrats respect the right of victims of crime to defend themselves and their property against criminals. The English Democrats would extend the right of self-help.

2.13.9.1 People should be allowed to use simple non-lethal means of self-defence such as pepper sprays, or CS gas sprays.

2.13.9.3 The Government has the right to request the National Standards Authority to prepare reasonable Standards for the preparation of such devices. They may pass a law that requires the manufacturers of such products to follow the national standards.

2.13.9.4 Such devices should be no more harmful than tasers currently used by the Police

2.13.9.5 The police in England seem increasingly unwilling and unable to help our people when attacked or burgled. So, if elected, our Police Commissioner candidates will require their Chief Constables to grant firearms and shotgun licences for personal protection, as well as CS gas and pepper spray items (of the sort commonly available over the counter on the Continent).

These will be for the purposes of citizens protecting themselves and their property.

This is in accordance with the actual law. We will direct Police Constables to ignore the unlawful Home Office, politically motivated, guidance to the contrary.

2.13.9.6 The English Democrats respect the rights of citizens who are victims of crime to defend themselves and their property against criminals. The English Democrats regard this as no more than the traditional English right of self-help.

2.13.9.7 Furthermore it will be Force policy that no police officer who is called to a scene of a burglary or other situation where a victim of crime has defended themselves or their property against a criminal or criminals shall be permitted to arrest the victim. If, in breach of this policy a police officer does arrest the victim, then the Chief Constable will be directed to indicate to that officer that their chances of promotion within that constabulary are thereby ended.

2.13.9.8 Any Chief Constable instructed as above who does not comply with our Police Commissioner's instructions shall be forthwith dismissed by our Police Commissioner.

2.13.10 The English Democrats believe that every victim of a criminal offence should have the right to address the court on the question of sentence and for the court to be required to bear the victim's views in mind when passing sentence.

2.13.11 It is not acceptable that 100,000 hardened criminals commit over half of all crime in the U.K. Once a criminal is identified as beyond effective rehabilitation he or she must be kept out of the community until no longer a risk.

2.13.12 Prisons should be designed and equipped so that prisoners are not subject to degrading conditions. Prison space should be increased rather than release offenders early, and there should be sufficient prison space to allow the imprisonment of deserving offenders.

2.14 Drugs and Alcohol

2.14.1 English Democrats believe that government should encourage a healthy lifestyle which makes the minimum use of "recreational" drugs of all kinds and only reasonable use of alcohol. The Government's drug policy is failing to control the use of illegal drugs and its alcohol policy appears to be making the problems worse.

2.14.2 The English Democrats favour an independent, and open minded, English enquiry into alcohol and drug abuse. Medical Cannabis to be available, by prescription, for conditions where it has been approved by the regulatory body of England.

2.14.3 The current policies for dealing with problems of addiction are not working adequately and there is an ever-rising tide of criminality arising from, in particular, drug abuse. Addiction problems are very difficult to solve and require careful analysis. One particularly frustrating aspect of addiction is that family and friends are often aware of the plight of the addicted person but unable to do what is best for them. One area of reform should be greater provision for addicts to be subject to compulsory treatment in secure care.

2.14.4 All those who commit criminal offences whilst under the influence of drugs or alcohol should be subject to compulsory assessment and if found to be addicted should immediately be taken into such care.

2.14.5 The most important aspect of the fight against drug dealing criminals is that any policy should seek to destroy their market, protect the public, and punish offenders.

2.14.6 The English Democrats intend to raise gaol sentences for drug dealing in Class A drugs graduating from a fixed five-year term as a minimum doubling it for any subsequent re-offence.

2.14.7 Registered Class A drug addicts will be placed in secure drug rehabilitation schemes rather than sent to prison, where active participation in the detoxification programme will be a requirement of their sentence. Failure to comply with the detoxification programme may result in secure custody within a prison environment as per a graduated tariff based on previous antecedence.

2.14.8 Addicts with children will be put on the 'at risk' register and custody of children will be dependent on an addict's ability to detoxify. Addicts failing to successfully complete detoxification will not have their children returned to them, the rights of the children must be paramount and either familial custody or foster parents will be sought until detoxification has been completed. The return of children will be conditional on regular detoxification checks.

2.14.9 Addicts wishing to seek help for their addiction will be registered at a specific medical centre, one which is outside of the GP network.

2.14.10 The government will provide a dedicated County based Drug Management Service for those who are addicted to Class A drugs. Registration as a drug addict will require regular visits to the centre under a personally structured drugs management programme.

This might include:

2.14.10.1 Maintenance doses of drug to which the person is addicted whilst awaiting to attend a detoxification scheme

2.14.10.2 Provision of supervised medical care and clean syringes to minimise contamination & safe disposal.

2.14.10.3 Maintenance doses for repeatedly defaulting addicts

2.14.10.4 Family Health Visitor Sessions - to ensure children of ex addicts are thriving

2.14.10.5 Employment/Training/Housing referrals and counselling

2.14.10.6 Those who commit criminal offences, and who are found to be using drugs, will be expected to prove that they were not funding their drug use by their criminal activity. Those who fail to do so will be placed on a drug's rehabilitation programme and will be detained until they have been free of drug use for 6 months. Upon release, they will be monitored to ensure that they remain drug free and will be re-detained if they fail to do so.

2.15 Population Policy

2.15.1 Successive British governments have failed to recognize the need for a properly formulated population policy. The increasing number of pensioners will increase the size of the population in the short term and the low birth-rate will decrease the size of the population in the long term. Government policies need to prepare for the consequent tax and welfare implications. The English Democrats believe that funded pension provision will contribute to addressing the long-term costs of caring for the elderly, as will giving the elderly a greater priority in public spending decisions. A more family friendly outlook to society will help address the low birth-rate.

2.15.2 Surveys show that young women are keen to have children at a sufficient birth-rate to ensure the long-term stability of the size of the population. They are however currently deterred due to difficulties in acquiring housing, financial pressures and employment difficulties. A population policy should involve a more family friendly stance and include the following:

- * The introduction of joint taxation and transferable tax allowances for married couples, who have parental responsibility for a child, which will help those dependent upon a single wage and will help where a mother [or father] stays at home to care for children full time. The government should not be trying to force mothers who wish to stay at home out to work.
- * The recreation of a properly functioning labour market, by ending mass immigration, which will help achieve the aim of full employment and so provide jobs for the young.
- * The abolition of fees for higher education.
- * Steps to ensure a supply of affordable housing. This will be helped by ending mass immigration.

2.15.3 The English Democrats also recognize the impact of population changes on the economies, societies and the environment of developing countries and support the appointment of a Royal Commission to advise government of the implications for overseas aid and foreign policy.

2.16 Broadcasting, Media and the Arts

The English Democrats campaign for an Independent England, an Independent England would have an English Parliament, English Prime Minister, and directly elected English Members sitting in the English Parliament.

2.16.1 With an Independent England the British Broadcasting Corporation would cease. The English Government would be required to create an English Broadcasting Corporation, this may include transferring over the English Departments of the British Broadcasting Corporation into the newly formed English Broadcasting Corporation.

2.16.2 The English Government will appoint a Minister for Broadcasting, Media and the Arts to oversee the English Broadcasting Corporation.

The World Service would be run by the English Broadcasting Corporation.

2.16.3. English Broadcasting Corporation would be given a strong community ethos with a requirement that its programming, particularly the factual element, be based on the views of the community as evidenced by impartial national polling, which polls would be publicly available. Minority views should be covered to the extent that research shows they are prevalent in the country.

2.16.3.1. English Broadcasting Corporation would have a two-tier governance structure with a board of directors consisting of both executive and non-executive members reporting to a governing body. The current governing body is a collection of the 'Great and the Good' appointed by the 'Great and the Good' and is totally unfit for its current role let alone the role of an English community broadcaster. For this reason, the governing body would be elected by viewers.

2.16.3.2. The Board's role would be to fill its community broadcasting role through an appropriate selection of artistic, broadcast modes (TV, radio, internet etc.) and financial means. The governing body's role would be to supervise only the community aspect of broadcasting and the appointment of the Chairman and Managing Director of the board of English Broadcasting Corporation.

2.16.3.3 The success of the current management would be judged by; the annual governors' report, audience figures, complaints, an Annual Report and financial audit and a bi-annual value for money study carried out by a body like the National Audit Office.

2.16.4 English Broadcasting Corporation would be financed solely by its own sales and subscription from viewers. The License Fee would be abolished.

SECTION 3 – Reserved Matters

The English Democrats campaign for an Independent England. An Independent England would have an English Parliament, English Prime Minister, and directly elected English Members sitting in the English Parliament. Items previously classed as 'Reserved matters' will therefore be the responsibility of the English Parliament in an Independent England.

3.1 Families

3.1.1 It is often overlooked that our society is founded on the institutions of marriage and family life. The family is the place where cultural and moral values are most successfully passed from one generation to the next.

3.1.2 The English Democrats favour the promotion of marital families, consisting of mother, father and children, as the preferred building block of our society.

3.1.3 The English Democrats wish to create a social and financial environment where men and women can enjoy the opportunity of a career and also raise a family.

3.1.4 New attitudes and practices are needed so that raising a family is no longer seen as a second-best option to the maximisation of wealth and leisure.

3.1.5 We need families with children because without them our nation and way of life will cease to exist.

3.1.6 We need young people to train as nurses, doctors, police, teachers, soldiers and all the many other occupations that a society requires.

3.1.7 It is English Democrat policy to strive to make family life culturally desirable. We will advocate taxation and welfare policies that are conducive to family life.

3.2 Pensioners

3.2.1 There should be proper provision of pensions and care for elderly citizens so that they are able to enjoy a decent standard of living. Restricting pensions has for too long been an easy way for successive governments to cut spending when the priority should have been full employment and hence reducing the cost of maintaining both official and unofficial unemployed. Pensioners should be a priority.

3.2.2 The following objectives should be pursued.

3.2.2.1 The best pension entitlement that can be afforded.

3.2.2.2 A tax system that rewards rather than, as at present discourages thrift. This should involve the creation of funded schemes for future pension savings for individuals similar to those in Australia and Chile.

3.2.2.3 Equality of treatment between the public sector and private sector employees for both the provision of pensions and the age of retirement

3.2.2.4 a more flexible retirement age, thus allowing people more freedom to choose the date of their retirement.

3.2.2.5 Improvements in the provision of specialised medical care and services for the elderly.

3.3 The Economy

3.3.1 A Mixed Market Economy-The English Democrat favour a market economy but not an unrestrained market economy. Trade and industry should, within reason, meet the needs of the society within which it operates. Societies should not be expected to subvert their democratic and cultural institutions to meet the needs of trade and industry. More consumption does not necessarily produce more happiness. A healthy economy is a mixed economy.

3.3.2 The English Democrats promote expansion of our manufacturing sector and halt the trend towards an over-reliance on service industries. It is a fallacy that manufacturing industry is low-tech metal-bashing which can be replaced with service industries. Most of the service sector does not provide high-tech jobs. Catering, retailing, warehousing, and call-centre work is mostly low-tech, low paid work. The aerospace, electronics, pharmaceutical, and engineering industries should be the bedrock of our economy and the core around which a high-skill, high-pay service sector is built. In furtherance of this policy, and in the interests of a healthy economy, there should be an industrial policy which promotes and expands manufacturing industry. Manufacturing is an essential part of a modern and prosperous economy.

3.3.3. Business Clusters - If England is to compete on an international basis it needs to develop high productivity business clusters which generate that productivity through competition, innovation, investment, effective management and skills development, collaboration on appropriate matters and the development of a business environment conducive to cluster development.

Experience has shown that these clusters are often concentrated geographically and require public investment directed through a focused and competent local government structure itself subject to and having to respond to competitive forces.

The English Democrats will support a sustained programme of cluster development through:

targeted public investment in all stages of the local value chains of clusters managed locally and jointly with their industrial clusters,

appropriate changes to competition, regulation, and company law,

ensuring universities, colleges and schools develop the organisational structures to strengthen their engagement in their business environment of which they are a part,

funding public research institutions to carry out this role and where necessary establishing new research institutions, ensure that the financial institutions in this country play their part in providing investment for cluster development enthusiastically and whole-heartedly and play a positive role in the business environment of which they are a part and from which they benefit,

challenging business management to improve its skills to the level demanded of internationally competitive organisations and to work with the educational bodies to improve skills in their workforce and their business environment

ensuring that quality and continuous improvement is part of the business environment,

improve technology commercialisation through improvements to the university-business environment

ensure that the appropriate statistical information is collected and made available to all.

3.4 Economic Independence

3.4.1 Appropriate encouragement and targeted support should be given to ensure that certain strategic resources are produced in England. Complete self-sufficiency is impossible; however, we should ensure that we are not placed in a position where we are unable to defend our vital interests because we lack control of the necessary strategic resources.

3.4.2 Our economy and currency should be managed, as far as possible, by our own government. States may be less independent than they once were, we should resist those who would leave our economic well-being in the hands of global corporations and institutions. We should retain what independence and control we have and strive to gain more.

3.4.3 The English Democrats advocate support for core "strategic" industries without which England would not be able to maintain her economic well-being. Many vital, highly capital-intensive industries are unlikely to be restarted by private entrepreneurs alone. Examples are energy (including coal mining); agriculture, manufacturing (including shipbuilding, bearings and machine tools), transportation, water, aviation and defence to name but a few.

3.4.4 There should be some emphasis on supporting strategic industries in the North of England, where there is less overcrowding and more affordable housing for workers.

3.4.5 A key method of support to these strategic industries is for the public sector to purchase from them, especially during downturns in their open market.

3.4.6 The English Democrats also favour support to these industries from the government intellectually, educationally and via private-public financing arrangements, although we recognise that there isn't a prevalence of business skills and experience within government circles.

3.4.7 As a last resort, where it is necessary to avoid the loss of a strategic industry, we advocate the purchase of a government-held "golden share" which can be sold as and when the industry regains stability.

3.4.8 We recognise that England's ability to implement its own industrial strategy is impaired by its being subject to UK authority: the English Democrats support independence, subject to referendum authorisation.

3.5 A One Country Economy

3.5.1 There should be a more equal spread of government, and government directed spending throughout England. This objective could be furthered by an English Parliament committed to ensuring that good public services and the infrastructure for a modern economy exist in all parts of England.

3.5.2 The economy has been damaged by successive British government commitments to the globalization, mass immigration and the EU. There has further been an excessive growth in the number of quangos and other excessive bureaucracy and politically correct non-jobs, which need to be cut. Priority must be given to the preservation of core services for ordinary people. The English Democrats support a zero-base budgeting approach to the funding of quangos in that those quangos which cannot justify their continued existence should see the funding either reduced or eliminated.

3.5.3 There should be a restriction of overseas aid to humanitarian aid only. Monies saved should be used to increase the training of doctors and nurses in this country so that we no longer need to poach these professionals from developing countries where they are needed.

3.5.4 Mass immigration should no longer be a replacement for a properly functioning labour market, where a shortage in a particular sector of the workforce is reflected by an increase in wages and so attracting more local people into that occupation. Work permits should only be issued on a very restricted basis for professional skills not available in this country or to wealthy businessmen who will bring business and wealth into the country.

3.5.5 Leaving the EU should allow the extension of territorial waters to the international standard of a 200-mile limit and will help create jobs in the fishing industry, which has been so badly affected by the Common Fisheries Policy. Leaving the EU should further allow the removal of much unnecessary red tape, reducing industries' costs and helping competitiveness.

3.5.6 Greater priority should be given to manufacturing. The economy needs to be less dependent upon the City and financial sectors. Consideration should be given to the introduction of a Tobin Tax, or transaction tax, to help repay the cost of the bank bailout and tax measures will be introduced to penalize excessive bank and City bonuses. The

banks should be compelled to rebuild their balance sheets and not allowed to plunder the taxpayers' monies given to them to fund their bonus payments and other forms of remuneration.

3.5.7 There should be a comprehensive system of banking regulation, including making the Bank of England responsible for regulating all banks and depository institutions. There should be higher liquidity and capital requirements. Banks should be compelled to take out insurance against running out of capital. Commercial banks and investment banks should be separated. Banks should be reduced in size and allowed to fail as any other business, the priority being to protect the monies of the public and not the bankers. A recreation of genuine building societies would be beneficial. The law should be changed to impose a duty of care upon the banks, liquidators and receivers towards bank customers, allowing the customer to sue for negligence.

3.6 Taxation

3.6.1 We call for honesty in taxation policy.

3.6.2 We oppose the imposition of stealth taxes, such as the tax on pension scheme dividends, because such dishonest taxes are tantamount to theft by the state.

3.6.3 We support the ring-fencing approach to taxation for major areas of public expenditure such as health and pensions, whereby taxes are collected for a specific purpose and the state cannot redirect those funds to a different purpose.

3.7 Employment & Welfare Provision

3.7.1 We believe that the government should pursue policies which provide the conditions necessary for full employment.

3.7.2 Welfare payments should, where possible, be linked to employment and retraining schemes. We support the principle of National Insurance benefits, such as Unemployment Benefit, providing short to medium term relief. Income Support should provide a net for citizens with dependent families or other commitments requiring additional support.

3.7.3 The National Insurance system has been allowed by successive governments to become unacceptably open to abuse. There are currently millions more National Insurance numbers than the adult population of the whole of the United Kingdom. The scheme should be immediately overhauled to prevent fraud and duplication.

3.7.4 Once this process has been completed, there should be vigorous enforcement of the rule those persons without a valid national insurance number should not be allowed to undertake paid employment or claim any form of welfare benefit.

3.7.5 Child maintenance allowances or any public monies paid to parents for their children should only be claimable if the child is resident in the country. Such allowances are only to be paid to citizens of this country.

3.7.6 Obtaining allowances to which people are not entitled through fraud or deception should carry a prison sentence and the possibility of the confiscation of assets to repay fraudulent claims.

3.7.7 Any provision of welfare for non-citizens should only be on the basis of reciprocal rights between states.

3.7.8 The English Democrats would replace the Minimum Wage with the Living Wage so as to reduce the financial pressures faced by the lower paid.

3.7.9 Increasing populations exacerbate the dangers we face from increasing use of natural resources and environmental pollution. England itself now has one of the highest population densities in Europe leading to higher and increasing financial costs for public services such as housing and education and an ever-increasing welfare bill. It is a matter of question whether the English economy can meet these fiscal needs without increasing taxes to unsustainable levels. For these reasons the English Democrats will cap relevant welfare payments to a life-time

maximum family size of three children. This policy would be applied so its impact would be spread out over many years.

3.7.10 Carers Allowance - People in receipt of Carers Allowance should not be penalised through limitations being placed on their own potential earnings. If the Carer meets the requirements for receiving a Carers Allowance, then their own potential earnings should not affect the receiving of the Carers Allowance.

3.8 Sovereignty

3.8.1 Sovereignty is the ability to make and enforce law subject to no higher authority.

3.8.2 Sovereignty belongs to the people, who lend it to democratic institutions.

3.8.3 We have the inalienable right to determine the nature of the institutions which exercise our sovereign powers and the conditions on which they do so.

3.9 The European Union

3.9.1 The English Democrats favour European co-operation and trade, co-operation and trade with other nations or trading blocs would be an essential part of England's international trade, but we will not sign up to trading agreements which undermines the independence, sovereignty, and democratic institutions of England.

3.11 World Trade

3.11.1 Global corporations should view their ability to trade in a society as a privilege, not an absolute right. Governments should do their best to ensure that global corporations treat their societies no less favourably than others. For example, if corporations choose to regard the world as a global market when considering labour and other production costs, they should also treat it as a global market when it comes to pricing. If they produce in China, their prices for goods and services should reflect that. Differential pricing zones are a hindrance to fair and free trade and should not be tolerated.

3.11.2 Changes need to be made to the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the way it is governed. Our government should take the lead in pushing for reform of WTO rules and structure or produce plans for a new organisation to take its place. Any attempt to resurrect the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), or something similar, should be resisted.

3.11.2.1 The Multilateral Agreement on Investment was scheduled to be signed in spring 1998 but it was so ambitious and extreme that it proved impossible to gain the necessary support. The aim of MAI was to ensure that global corporations could operate beyond the control of states. If MAI or an agreement like it ever came into effect, it would make corporations the legal equal of states. Corporations would be able to move capital and plant around the world as they pleased and sue any state which interfered. MAI was to be an institution, similar to WTO and the World Bank, with an appointed body which would enforce its rules.

3.11.3 The English Democrats advocate a "fairs fair" policy of international reciprocation, whereby England matches any restrictions imposed by other countries that adversely affect England. For example, English companies aren't allowed to take control of Swiss companies, so the reverse should be applied.

3.12 Globalism

The English Democrats campaign for an Independent England. An Independent England would have an English Parliament, English Prime Minister, and directly elected English Members sitting in the English Parliament.

3.12.1 Our parliamentary democracy is being weakened. One of the principal reasons for this is that the UK government and Westminster parliament gave away many areas of policy and legislation. Power was steadily being passed to the European Union, along with global institutions, and global corporations. Policies and Legislations which still reside with the global institutions, and global corporations, is still required to be brought under UK government and Westminster parliamentary control. Powerful organisations over which we have no democratic control are creating political and economic structures that serve their interests not ours. In doing so, they are destroying our

way of life and communal cohesion.

3.12.2 The globalism being inflicted on us is neither desirable nor inescapable. It is not the product of an inevitable historical process. We need not stand by and allow our identity and way of life to be sacrificed to its needs.

3.13 Defence

3.13.1 The English Democrats supports continued membership of NATO as a strictly defensive alliance which does not interfere in the internal affairs of its member states.

3.13.2 Our armed forces should enjoy the highest standards of training and equipment. Their primary role should be as a fighting force. The resources devoted to them should match the commitments they are expected to fulfil. The main purpose of our armed forces should be to protect our country and the interests of its people.

3.13.4 The English Democrats are opposed to the use of our forces in operations where they are in effect serving as mercenaries of a foreign state.

3.13.5 Members of the armed services who suffer injury in the service of their country should be quickly and properly cared for and compensated. The abolition of the military hospitals was irresponsible and will be reversed. An independent veteran's association should be created to provide better care for, and help with re-settlement of, ex-service personnel into civilian society.

3.13.6 We would retain a nuclear deterrent but explore other means for providing an effective strategic defence.

3.14 Foreign Policy

3.14.1 The English Democrats seek a global system consisting of independent nation-states, each with its own identity, character, and culture. Each state should be free to trade in a way that suits its needs and customs.

3.14.2 The English Democrats favour special co-operation and links with those states, wherever they may be, which uphold the principles of national self-determination and fair trade.

3.14.3 Overseas aid should be provided in furtherance of these ideals and in accordance with the needs of English national interests.

3.14.4 Our history as a maritime trading power has provided us with a unique web of relationships, of which we should make use. We are in a position where we need not be ruled by either Brussels or Washington. We need the self-confidence and will to forge a truly independent foreign policy.

3.15 Immigration

The English Democrats campaign for an Independent England. An Independent England would have an English Parliament, English Prime Minister, and directly elected English Members sitting in the English Parliament. Immigration would come under the control of the English Parliament.

3.15.1 We need to change immigration policy so that it better reflects the needs and wishes of the people of England.

3.15.2 There should be a points system for entry to England which is based on the Canadian and Australian model. Points should be awarded for, among other things: educational and professional qualification; family links with England; financial resources; the ability to speak English. In other words, entry should be determined by our needs as a society and the ability of newcomers to be absorbed into the prevailing public culture. High priority should be given to creating a peaceful society which is bound together by shared values and perceptions.

3.15.3 The wishes, security and interests of the people of England should be the dominant factors in determining asylum and immigration policies for England.

3.15.4 Should there be an economic need for immigration it should be met by the employment of people on fixed term work permits.

3.15.5 Our aim should be to meet the need for skilled workers from within. A points system should be used to bring an end to mass immigration and only allow that immigration which is in the national interest. A points system should not be used to facilitate and legitimise a continuation of mass immigration.

3.15.6 Immigrants should not be a burden on the taxpayer and should be economically self-sustaining. This requires that the wages paid to immigrants should be at a level necessary for those immigrants to pay sufficient tax revenues to meet expected welfare and other public-sector costs – or else that their employers make payment for the shortfall. Furthermore, immigrants and/or their employers should make payment a capital sum to reflect a full contribution to the existing capital wealth of the nation, such as schools, hospitals, roads, housing etc. Those potential immigrants who are unable or unwilling to make these payments will not be allowed into the country.

3.15.7 International law is not fixed for all time. We should not feel bound by rules that were devised several decades ago when circumstances were very different. Asylum seekers should seek asylum in a state adjoining or nearby the state from which they are fleeing. None of the England's immediate neighbours are terrorising regimes. The England should refuse to accept any further asylum seekers and should instead give financial assistance to genuine refugees in their own or neighbouring countries, where such financial assistance will have the greatest beneficial impact.

3.15.8 In order to end the mass inflow of asylum seekers into England, England must withdraw from the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees. With an Independent England the UK would cease, as such its membership of the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees would cease.

3.15.9 Our principle concern is to preserve and build on what is left of English cultural unity and social cohesion. The preservation of our identity and culture are at least as important as economic considerations.

3.15.10 The English Democrats does not accept the fallacious but widely publicised economic arguments for mass immigration. For the most part they greatly exaggerate the economic benefits and wholly ignore the economic, social, and cultural costs. The people of England have never voted for nor supported mass immigration.

3.15.11 The English Democrats support whatever measures are necessary to bring mass immigration to a complete end. Such measures should include:

3.15.11.1 Thorough border controls with all inward and outward movements through ports being logged to provide the best quality information on migration movements.

3.15.11.2 Stronger visa requirements for countries with a reputation for illegal movements.

3.15.11.3 The deportation of all illegal immigrants. There should be no amnesties. Illegality should not be rewarded by the granting of citizenship. Nor should organised crime rackets be allowed to profit from people smuggling. Discovered illegal immigrants should be offered the choice between cooperatively returning straight home or sent to a distant offshore holding centre during the processing of their repatriation case.

3.15.11.4 The repeal of the Human Rights Act and the withdrawal from the European Convention on Human Rights. Both of these flawed items of legislation have perversely assisted criminals while offering little of substance to the law-abiding population.

3.15.11.5 Punitive fining and possible withdrawal of trading rights of companies, company directors and other employers who employ illegal immigrants.

3.15.11.6 The deportation of all those immigrants who have been convicted of a criminal offence or who are advocates of, or active supporters of, extremist behaviour of a violent, separatist or destabilising nature.

3.15.11.7 The strengthening of the customs and immigration services and the vigorous enforcement of the law. The English Democrats recognise that successive Labour and Tory governments have failed to enforce our laws-

3.15.12.2 Given the level of mass immigration overwhelming England all immigration may be stopped for up to five years (to be reviewed thereafter) with an exception made only for limited fixed term work permits essential or highly important to England. Our points system will at all times be secondary.

3.15.12.3 Irresponsible immigration policies in recent years means that some populations in the U.K. are predicted to grow large enough to challenge for cultural and political dominance in the coming decades with a view to eliminating English culture and values. One such example is Radical Islam that has been allowed to establish itself in Britain and represents an increasing threat to our society, freedom and way of life.

Although it must be stated that many Muslims reject the more radical interpretation of Islam it also seems to be the case that many mosques in the UK follow a form of Islam that is incompatible with democracy. According to Innes Bowen in the Spectator 14/6/14 a database of British Islam showed that only 2 out of 1700 mosques in Britain follow a modernist interpretation of the Koran. This means that increasing numbers of the Muslim community are becoming radicalised and want to see the establishment of Sharia in this country.

There is of course no place for democracy, equality or human rights in the Sharia legal code and this also makes Sharia Law incompatible with Western Civilisation and modern secular liberal democracy.

The English Democrats will adopt a zero-tolerance policy of any practice that conflicts with traditional English laws or values:

1. We believe that all those involved in terrorist or terrorist related activity, where possible should have their UK citizenship revoked, be deported and never allowed to return to the U.K.

2. An English Democrats government will ensure that in future immigrants who it believes may not conform to and support English values and laws will not be admitted, or if already in England they will be deported when disco

3. In order to mitigate the problems that already exist an English Democrat government will:

I. Put an end to multiculturalism and political correctness

II. Institute a programme of education for Islamic community leaders and Imams and extend this to other religions causing concern.

III. Require all religious establishments to apply a legal code of conduct and teaching as required by Parliament.

IV. Strict enforcement, and extend where necessary, existing rules about teachings that are not acceptable in schools, state or private, places of religion or at public or private meetings.

V. Encourage codification of Religious legal systems, laws and rules of evidence so that they comply with the law of England.

VII. An obligatory acceptance by all residents of and visitors to England that they will respect and abide by the laws of the land including the English value that the Law of the Land is above all including the monarch, parliament, religions, security forces and so on.

VIII. Obligatory lessons and an exam in all schools and colleges about English values, and the supremacy of English law and of democracy and taking a positive and active part in society within these bounds. The exam will be an entrance requirement for anyone wishing to follow any degree or diploma course or any professional qualification and these may not be awarded without a pass in the exam.

IX. All schools, state and private, will hold a monthly assembly where students will pledge their allegiance to England, its parliament and its laws.

3.16 England and Multi-Culturalism

3.16.1 It is a fact that during the past forty year's people of many different cultures have come to live in England. Our country is in that sense a multi-cultural society. However, multi-Culturalism is an ideology which suggests that a mix of many cultures in one society is desirable and that it is the duty of government to actively encourage cultural diversity within the state. Further, it suggests that all cultures should be treated as equal. A logical extension of this is that all languages, histories and law codes should be treated equally. This is clearly impossible in a unified country. All ethnic groups should be free to promote their own culture and identity, but the public culture of England should be that of the indigenous English. The wearing in public of clothing designed to conceal one's face is at variance with English culture and current security considerations. The European Court of Human Rights supports this view with its ruling ECHR 191 (2014).

This position is consistent with the rights of indigenous nations everywhere.

3.16.2 The repeal of the Human Rights Act and the withdrawal of the UK from the European Convention on Human Rights. Both flawed items of legislation have perversely assisted criminals while offering little of substance to the law-abiding population. The English Democrats will implement the English Bill of Rights Approved by the Parliament for England.

3.17 The English

3.17.1 It is common for those who assert their English identity to be challenged in a way that would be considered insulting if directed elsewhere. To avoid misunderstanding, and to meet the demands of those who are hostile to any assertion of Englishness, we have set out below what we mean by the English.

3.17.2 The English can be defined in the same way that other nations are defined. To be English is to be part of a community. We English share a communal history, language and culture. We have a communal identity and memory. We share a 'we' sentiment, a sense of belonging. These things cannot be presented as items on a checklist. Our community, like others, has no easily defined boundaries but we exist, and we have the will to continue to exist.

3.17.3 The history of England, its artefacts, and its historical figures, including street designations and memorial plaques should be preserved in perpetuity.

3.17.4 No item of English history may be permanently removed from the record, but if the population so, decides, may be removed to a museum for permanent display.

3.17.5 The population may only decide on the removal or change of any item of its history through a local referendum, except that of London, as the Capital of England such matters must be decided by a national referendum

3.18 The People of England

3.18.1 The people of England are all those English citizens who live in England.

3.18.2 In electoral terms, the people of England are all those English citizens who are on the electoral roll of an English constituency.

3.18.3 The people of England therefore include the people of many nations, all of whom share a common English citizenship.

3.18.4 The residency requirement for citizenship will be extended to a minimum of 10 years from its current level of 4 years.

3.19 Political Correctness

3.19.1 The English Democrats share the public concerns as to the harm caused to our society by political correctness.

3.19.2 The English Democrats unreservedly condemn this intolerant creed. We reject the self-righteousness of political correctness and condemn the ideology as an evil. Political correctness is incompatible with a free and democratic society.

3.19.3 One key aspect of political correctness is that a person, an institution or a government is politically correct when they cease to represent the interests of the majority, and become focused on the deliberate subversion of English national culture and interests, the denigration of English history and of the English themselves, and the promotion of the objectives of minority pressure groups.

3.19.4 Political correctness is grounded in the capture of state institutions, with official spokespeople, legislative powers and sanctions for breaches of political correctness. It is this capture of state institutions which makes political correctness so oppressive and dangerous. This must end.

3.19.5 The English Democrats will take whatsoever measures are necessary to remove political correctness from both national and local government, including the various quangos and other government bodies funded either directly or indirectly by the taxpayer. These measures will include the following three steps:

3.19.5.1 Firstly, those educational establishments, legal establishments, quangos, departments or other government organisations that are promoting political correctness will be fundamentally reconstituted and/or have their funding withdrawn or, where appropriate and if possible, be closed. The so-called Commission for Equality and Human Rights will be closed. Private organisations that promote political correctness will not be awarded government contracts.

3.19.5.2 Secondly, the English Democrats recognise that those institutions that are run by state appointees are the most detached from public opinion and are more likely to become politically correct. The English Democrats will, where practical, ensure that senior public employees, such as police chief constables and senior judges, are democratically approved by the community they serve. This will be achieved either via direct elections or via approval by democratically elected representatives. Many senior public posts will be subject to a maximum occupancy period, for such senior public employees to be accountable to the public will form a part of a bulwark against political correctness.

3.19.5.3 Thirdly, the English Democrats will carry out a review of all laws and regulations, and will amend or, where appropriate and if possible, completely repeal those laws and regulations that foster and promote political correctness.

3.20 St George's Day

3.20.1 The people of England should be able to celebrate St George's day as a National Holiday.

3.21 Sport

3.21.1 The English Democrats supports full independence of the English Nation in international sport. An England team in all team sports in internationally recognised competitions, an English Olympic Committee, and the right of all players in individual sports to describe themselves as being of English Nationality.

3.22 A Parliament for England

The English Democrats campaign for an Independent England. An Independent England would have an English Parliament, English Prime Minister, and directly elected English Members of Parliament sitting in the English Parliament.

3.22.1 We reject the plans for regional assemblies because, among other things, they will promote disunity and conflict within England.

3.22.6 With an Independent England the United Kingdom would cease, we would seek a new special relationship between the nations of the former UK. This could be pursued through a Council of the Isles, an organisation like the Nordic Council in which all members are treated as equals. Representatives serving on the Council would seek areas where members could co-operate for their mutual benefit.

3.23 The Constitutional Case for Reform

The English Democrats campaign for an Independent England. An Independent England would have an English Parliament, English Prime Minister, and directly elected English Members sitting in the English Parliament. An Independent England would automatically stop MPs from other nations voting on English issues.

3.23.1 It was Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for West Lothian, who asked why MPs representing Scottish constituencies should be able to vote in the UK Parliament on matters affecting England (e.g. health and education) when MPs representing English constituencies are unable to vote on similar matters affecting Scotland? There are some, like Lord Chancellor Irvine, a Scotsman, who suggests that the best way to deal with the West-Lothian question is not to ask or answer it. Such insufferable arrogance is a very good reason for opening the position of Lord Chancellor to public election.

3.23.2 Of at least equal importance to who is able to vote on legislation, is who is able to initiate policies and legislation. MPs representing Scottish and Welsh constituencies can be appointed as Ministers (e.g. transport) and thereby initiate policies that affect only England. In a similar way they can, as members of the Cabinet, take part in the formulation of policy and legislation for England.

3.23.4 Furthermore, legislation affecting only England is subject to scrutiny and amendment in the House of Lords, whereas Scottish legislation on devolved matters is not subject to the approval of a second chamber.

3.23.5 There is also the issue of English under representation in the House of Commons -England has 40 fewer MPs than is warranted by its population size. This means that English votes are worth less than Scottish votes.

3.23.6 Finally, the Barnett formula, which was devised in 1978 to undermine support for the Scottish National Party, is grossly unfair to England. It was justified on the grounds that there needed to be 20% higher expenditure in Scotland in order to bring its public services up to the standard in England. The allocation of funds was to be based on relative need. There has been no assessment of need since 1976. In 1997 Scotland was the third richest region in the UK with a provision of public services that far exceeded those available in many parts of England. The formula is clearly a political expedient and not based on a proper assessment of need. Many parts of England are more deserving of special funding than is Scotland. The Barnett formula should be ended immediately, and a new scheme devised that would both direct resources to those parts of England which are in greatest need and raise standards generally.

3.23.7 It can be seen that solutions like the one proposed by the Conservative Party, known as 'English votes on English laws', will neither redress the unfair treatment of the people of England nor help produce a coherent constitutional settlement. It is a completely inadequate response to the problems outlined above. A remedy must address much more than who votes for what. It needs to consider who initiates policy and who has a mandate to do so. The Conservative Party has so far been unable to offer a sensible solution to the problem because it is obsessed by the need to preserve the Union at whatever the cost to England. Their obsession is a weakness, which Scottish politicians in Scotland, in Westminster, and in government, are able to take advantage of.

3.23.8 The Labour Party and government are dominated and controlled by Scots so it is understandable that they should be enthusiastic about a Scottish Parliament and the preservation of Scottish identity. A more pressing reason for the creation of a Scottish Parliament was their concern to preserve the dominant position of the Labour Party in Scotland. In their actions they feel no guilt about giving preferential treatment to Scotland. They clearly have little empathy with the English or their interests.

3.23.9 The Liberal Democrats and their former Scottish leader Charles Kennedy, despite their frequently expressed concerns for democracy and fairness, are opposed to putting those ideals into effect by allowing the people of England to have a parliament of their own.

3.24 The Barnett Formula

The English Democrats campaign for an Independent England. An Independent England would have an English Parliament, English Prime Minister, and directly elected English Members sitting in the English Parliament. With an Independent England the Barnett formula would automatically cease.

3.24.1 In 1996/7, total expenditure per head of population on services in Scotland was 24% higher than in England. That figure is for all public service and welfare spending, including that on social security. If we look at spending in those policy areas which have been devolved to Scotland, it can be seen that spending is on average 31% per person higher in Scotland than in England. Spending in Scotland on health and personal social services was 22% higher; education 31% higher; transport 31% higher; trade, industry, energy and employment 55% higher; housing 87% higher; agriculture 123% higher. This additional funding for Scotland under the Barnett formula amounts to £12 billion each year.

3.24.2 This unjustified and unfair institutionalised discrimination against the people of England will not end until they make their displeasure known. One way of doing that is to join and vote for the ENGLISH DEMOCRATS.

3.24.3 Furthermore, legislation affecting only England is subject to scrutiny and amendment in the House of Lords, whereas Scottish legislation on devolved matters is not subject to the approval of a second chamber. As a consequence, the English Democrats would offer a referendum choice on either reforming the chamber to consist of 100 elected Senators or of abolishing it totally. If an elected Upper Chamber is chosen and it feels it needs advice on practical matters it would have the powers to set up specialist committees of external experts to report and recommend actions that could be taken.

3.25 Monmouthshire

3.25.1 The English Democrats consider that the position of Monmouthshire in Wales is anomalous, as historically it had mostly been part of England until recent boundary re-organisation. Accordingly, we would wish to see a county referendum in Monmouthshire as to whether the people of Monmouthshire would wish to be treated as being part of Wales or part of England.

3.26 Policy on Council Tax/Domestic Rates

The English Democrats campaign for an Independent England. An Independent England would have an English Parliament, English Prime Minister, and directly elected English Members sitting in the English Parliament.

3.26.1 Our policy is: -

3.26.1.1 An Independent England.

3.26.1.2 The domestic rates system in England, and any changes to it, should be controlled by an English Government.

3.26.1.3 Fairer funding for England resulting from the abolition of the Barnett formula will significantly improve resources made available to English local authorities. This increase will allow English local authorities to reduce rates or to provide additional services without increasing rates in real terms.

3.26.1.4 Longer term changes to local authority funding and to the domestic rates structure in England can then be considered and in the context of any proposed changes to other policies, such as business rates, abolition of the pension fund tax credit and the powers and authority of local authorities in England relative to the powers and authority of an English Government to ensure that local taxes fairly reflect people's ability to pay.

3.27 English Tourism

3.27.1 The English Democrats call for British Tourism to be converted into English tourism bodies, focused on the growth of the English tourist industry.