

# MAKING LUND BETTER

POLITICAL  
PROGRAM

**LIBERALERNA LUND  
THE LIBERAL PARTY PLATFORM FOR 2018–2022**



Liberalerna

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# 1 Introduction

Liberalism is about giving people the opportunity to grow. In our society, social mobility must be high. A person's background should mean less; ability and ambitions should mean more. Politics should be about tearing down obstacles and create conditions for development and growth – it should not be about deciding how we live our lives. We all have both rights and obligations; personal responsibility can never be replaced by political decisions. Politicians have a major responsibility for using resource and our taxpayers' money in the best possible way. The Liberal Party takes this obligation seriously.

Lund is a wonderful city with a unique cultural heritage that the Liberal Party is intent on managing in the best possible way to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. We strive to ensure Lund will continue to be a leading center of knowledge, innovation, commerce, creativity, and a rich cultural life. In this document we outline our plan for the city in covering a number of important areas:

- *Our plans for Lunds schools and access to learning;*
- *Developing for housing, commerce, and transportation and public centers and spaces;*
- *Managing the opportunities presented by internationalization;*
- *Ensuring that we take our environmental stewardship seriously;*
- *Providing for an open and engaged community throughout our lifetime;*
- *Caring for our older citizens;*
- *Ensuring a rich life for culture and recreation.*

Democracy works best when everyone participates, and to participate we need information. The Liberal Party recognizes that nearly 20 % of our residents have their roots in different parts of the world – coming to Lund for studies, work, research, for love, or fleeing conflict. We believe that this rich diversity is a resource Lund must take advantage of as we make our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Since many of our international residents, even those who are not citizens, have the right to vote in local and regional elections, and since many may not yet have a full command of the Swedish language, we are making the main points of our plan for Lund available in English.

We hope this helps you in your process of exploring the issues and deciding how you will vote. If you have more questions, or want to know more, please get contact us!

## 2 A Learning Lund

The freedom to change one's life begins with knowledge. Knowledge breaks barriers, opens new paths and enhances the individual's ability to make independent decisions. That is why the Liberal Party works tirelessly for better schools. We want all children, regardless of background, to be able to develop in the Swedish school system. The 'class journey' begins in the classroom. An equal and high-quality school is one of the best investments any society can make.

In the parliament, the Liberal Party works for a school system where knowledge is at the core. It means a school that provides students and teachers with work-related skills. It means a school that continuously evaluates knowledge to see who needs extra support, or extra stimulation, and gives each student the opportunity to also develop socially and emotionally. An important pillar of this work is developing democratic understanding and values, as well as promoting the ability to interact and jointly take responsibility for our society.

The Liberal Party views schools as one of Lund's most important development areas. Good schools have a cost. We have always prioritized schools in the municipality's budget work. This priority will be increasingly important in the future, given the large number of newly arrived children who are now coming to Lund and who will also need a school that works for them.

All schools in Lund will provide our students with high quality education that gives them the best possible conditions for further studies and a future career choice. To achieve this goal, we need well-trained, competent and committed teachers and school leaders.

**To make Lund a better place in terms of learning and education,  
the Liberal Party will**

- allow educators the time and opportunity to prioritize their educational tasks,
- support well-trained and committed teachers who can focus on their teaching,
- focus on knowledge and quality,
- ensure there is security and order in schools,
- ensure everyone at school, both students and staff, experience the working environment as positive,
- work to maintain and strengthen free school choice for our residents.

## 2.1 Free School Choice

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The Liberal Party views private schools as a complement, and fundamentally positive alternative, to municipal schools. All experience shows that monopoly leads to inefficiency and lack of innovation; all types of organizations win with a healthy competition. Research also shows that municipal schools are generally better in municipalities with a high proportion of private schools compared to municipalities with no, or a low proportion of, private schools.

The Liberal Party will work to protect and develop free choice of schools for all. Through better information and active measures, it must be possible for all students and parents to choose schools themselves. Quality requirements must increase and long-term care must be guaranteed for those who choose a private school. Private schools should follow the same rules as municipal schools. A jointly administered queue system with information about all schools in the municipality – public and private – should be introduced.

## 2.2 Pre-School

Nothing is more important than a good start in life. Early childhood programs and education gives a child greater chances to succeed later in life, and equalizes performance of students with different economic and educational family backgrounds. Therefore, pre-school must be readily available to all and have a learning perspective. Pre-schools should offer children safe care and stimulate their development.

To make Lund a better place for pre-school age children, the Liberal Party will work to

- protect the possibility for children whose parents are on parental leave to have at least 25 hours pre-school access per week,
- develop work with consistent child groups,
- provide early support for children who need it,
- ensure that all children can read when they finish pre-school,
- invest in networks for parents seeking assistance.

## 2.3 Primary School

Primary school must give each student the fundamental knowledge sufficient for them to succeed in society today. Teachers are the school's most important resource. Well-educated and motivated teachers, along with appropriate learning tools are the basis for a good school. Greater flexibility is required regarding the length of school hours, the student's workload and the school's working methods. Learning should not stay within the school's walls. The Liberals would like to see that pre-schools, primary schools and high schools work closely with the private and public sectors, to provide students an insight into reality.

### To make Lund a better place for primary school education, the Liberal Party will work for

- strengthening and promoting mastery of basic skills early: Mathematics, reading, and writing,
- additional educational support to be identified and provided as early as possible,
- the right to learning catered for children with special needs as well as for children that require assistance,
- homework assistance available in all schools, and in their own mother tongue as required,
- sufficient student counseling in a student's mother tongue to newly arrived students,
- a stress-free environment in schools where the focus is on knowledge and where students get tools to deal with stress,
- an open and developing climate where schools dare to take the opportunity to adopt new educational methods, such as to set up profile classes and profile schools.

## 2.4 Secondary School and Adult Education

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Secondary schools must have a broad range of education content and working methods. This is true both for students who want to study further at university, as well as students who want to go straight into the workforce. The Liberal Party promotes investment in attractive university preparatory, and first-class vocational education programs.

To make Lund a better place for secondary and adult education, the Liberal Party will work to

- increase the number and types of apprenticeships,
- strengthen language introduction for new arrivals and offer study guidance in their mother tongue,
- maintain options of accessing secondary education around Skåne,
- strengthen the contact with parents,
- develop study and career guidance,
- ensure that the adult education program (Komvux) offers additional and new career choices.

## 2.5 Additional Topics Related to Education

There are some additional areas related to education and personal development that the Liberal Party will work to further in the coming mandate period:

### 2.5.1 International Schools

The Liberal Party has always worked for a municipality of Lund's size and character to be able to offer a fully-developed and certified international upper secondary school and an international primary school. Since 2004, The Cathedral School (Katedralskolan) offers an International Baccalaureate (IB), as well as a public international primary school, The International School of Lund (ISLK). There are also important charter schools established in Lund that work to serve the increasing needs of our diverse and increasingly international population (e.g. Lund International School, Internationella Engelska Skolan).

Demand for these program increases every year, which we welcome. The Liberal Party will work to ensure continued high-quality choice in educational options for its international residents.

## 2.5.2 Language Introduction to New Arrivals

Language introduction for new arrivals must be prioritized so that the transition to national high school programs goes fast and smooth. Study supervision in the mother tongue often determines how the student can handle the transition and must be offered for a period time which can vary individually. Swedish for Immigrants (SFI) should be adapted situations where language studies is combined with working schedules.

## 2.5.3 University Courses in Parallel

It should be possible, for those students who have passed all courses in a specific subject to study a course in that subject at university in parallel with their upper secondary education.

## 2.5.4 Adult Education

Adult education plays an important role in personal development. It complements previous high school studies and opens the way to different types of university studies and new occupations. Swedish for Immigrants (SFI) plays a key role for the new immigrant's integration and professional life. Parts of adult education can be procured to lower costs from private sector organizations while retaining the quality. Distance learning is a good option, especially for more study-oriented adult students.

Vocational studies after a secondary school, is a good alternative to university education and provides qualified professional skills needed in working life. Therefore, the Liberal Party will focus on vocational adult education, preferably with an apprenticeship. The collaboration between the secondary school *Vipan*'s vocational program and *Komvux*, creates such development opportunities.

# 3 A Growing Lund

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## 3.1 Housing

There is a strong demand for housing in Lund, young people want to move away from home, elderly residents want to stay in their community while perhaps changing some living conditions. At the same time students, international researchers, new Swedes, immigrants, ex-patriates, people from other parts of Sweden come to Lund to study, or work. To meet this demand, the most important thing is that we build. The housing stock needs to reflect a variety of forms, sizes, and costs. But it is equally important how we build. We need to build in ways that take in the special characteristics of surroundings. It is of course most important that we build with people in focus and in addition to offering housing options, also meet the needs of recreation, interaction, and open spaces for nature in nearby areas.

### To make Lund a better place to live, the Liberal Party will

- plan for development of 1,200 new residences in the municipality each year,
- ensure high quality design and aesthetics in construction,
- counter economic and social segregation by offering varied housing forms in each neighborhood and area,
- concentrate development around strong public transport modes,
- develop the villages around Lund – Dalby, Genarp, Stångby, Södra Sandby and Veberöd – based on their own characteristics,
- support development of new residential areas closer to central Lund, even if it means building on unexploited land (e.g. the proposed Norränga development near Linero).

## 3.2 A Living Center

Part of what makes Lund a great place to live is our unique central business district which has a strong imprint of history stretching back to the Middle Ages. The Liberal Party will work to preserve and strengthen the attractiveness of the city center. This means a living center that changes and evolves, but on a scale and format that fits with the medieval city. In addition to having trade, housing, and workplaces, Lund's central districts should offer an interesting meeting place. This means a place for restaurants, culture and entertainment. The Liberal Party will put special focus on the development of Lund's public squares and market places, ensuring development individual character to draw residents and visitors alike to our central spaces.

### To make Lund's central business district a better place, the Liberal Party will

- support the development of a new central Cultural Center to serve as a meeting place for various cultural events and activities,
- develop cooperation between traders, property owners, and the municipality to work to develop commerce in the center,
- promote commercial activity by advocating longer opening hours selected days of the week,
- work for the beautification of Mårtenstorget and Stortorget,
- avoid development of car-dependent shopping centers,
- move the central railroad to a covered or tunnel solution so as to avoid interference with the medieval city center.

## 3.3 Commerce and Industry

Lund has a well-developed business environment from both a Sweden and international perspective. In Lund newly established as well as long established companies can draw on knowledge and innovation power offered by the university as well as our developing research sites like Max IV and ESS. Global studies have referred to Lund as being within a so-called 'Brain belt' and 'smart place' with high innovation power, and an ability to attract talent and skills. Moreover, belonging to the Greater Copenhagen economic region gives the advantage of being part of a region with approximately 3 million inhabitants. Today, Lund hosts internationally renowned and established companies such as TetraPak, Alfa Laval and Baxter (the former Gambro). Axis and Qlik are examples of more recent companies that have grown on the international

stage. In the future, Lund will hopefully be home to new large companies which have yet to grow, but have their genesis in ideas being developed today in Ideon Science Park, Sweden's first high tech incubator founded in 1983, or in Medicom Village which was founded when AstraZeneca left in 2012.

Lund must capture the needs, concerns and signals that come from entrepreneurs and innovators in our municipality. Good service, good infrastructure, well-known schools, varied housing and expanded public transport are examples of basic services that can be competitive advantages when companies and entrepreneurs choose their place of establishment. Holding and developing our position in a so-called 'Brain Belt' is not assured. Lund municipality must support what can keep us a step ahead.

**To make Lund a better place for commerce and innovation, the Liberal Party will**

- commit additional resources to business promotion and support activities within Lund but also outside the municipality to attract business and investment,
- promote that Lund is leader in an internationally recognized 'brain belt',
- develop Lund's role as an important part of an expanding region (Öresund / Greater Copenhagen),
- develop and offer different forms of incubators not only in medicine and technology but also within culture, art, and media,
- improve cooperation between government organizations and private actors for financing new businesses and industries,
- introduce targeted support measures aimed at attracting and keeping innovators and entrepreneurs who have started or are working to start business.

## **3.4 Internationalization**

The world is changing, communications and technology make our world smaller. Development today is characterized by increased demands for creativity and talent, and decreased distances between people and markets around the world, and need for business and research to be flexible and move between knowledge centers. Lund hosts cutting edge development and innovation through the university and research centers. Lund is also a commercial center for both established international companies and high-tech

start-ups. This is a unique combination that if leveraged in the right way can ensure a bright future for Lund.

The Liberal Party views internationalization as a positive force for the development of our city. People coming from different parts of the world bring experience, ideas, culture and energy which enriches the city and all who live and work here.

**To take best advantage of the opportunities of internationalization,  
the Liberal Party will work for**

- meeting different demands for housing options including rental properties, cooperative housing and villas,
- supporting international education needs at all levels (both public and independent options), and ensure that we have a strong International Baccalaureate (IB) program in our schools,
- ensure public information is available and accessible in different languages,
- support establishment of new cultural and commercial endeavors in the form of incubators in new areas like arts, culture, media,
- ensure flexible access to Swedish language studies (SFI) which can be combined with work,
- fight racism, sexism and intolerance in all forms,
- advocate for sensible policies around immigration that avoid ‘competence deportations’.

# 4 A Sustainable Lund

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## 4.1 Environment and Climate

Human activity is having a damaging effect on our climate, as well as land and marine biodiversity. Liberal environmental policy is about taking responsibility based on knowledge and market economy thinking. Research, development, and economic incentives are fundamental prerequisites for reversing the negative effects of climate change. There does not need to be a contradiction between economic growth and taking responsibility for the environment.

Everything depends on how economic growth is used. In Lund we have high ambitions in the work to improve the environment. The municipality has an important task in supporting and giving residents the knowledge and options to live climate-friendly. It should be easy for the individual to make environmentally sound decisions in their daily lives.

To make Lund a more sustainable city, the Liberal Party will

- work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
- work to ensure that the levels of air pollution continue to be below the environmental and health limits,
- support water and flood management,
- increase the proportion of climate-smart food served in the municipality's operations,
- facilitate recycling among businesses and residences,
- ensure that all pre-schools and schools are free of harmful chemicals and substances and substances,
- ensure that sludge from the waste treatment facilities is disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner,
- secure that the expansion of wind and solar energy takes place with consideration of aesthetic, cultural and environmental perspectives.

## 4.2 Parks and Nature

To make a city interesting and attractive, it is crucial that residents have opportunities for recreation and access to natural environments in their Liberalerna Lund

immediate area. Green spaces may have different characteristics, but in common they must offer areas to enjoy free time and nature in a safe and easily accessible way. Green spaces vary between cultivated urban parks, to green ways, and more ‘wild’ nature reserves.

**To make Lund a better municipality in terms of parks and green spaces, the Liberal Party will**

- work to ensure that parks and green areas are well tended and managed,
- create greenways through the city with the opportunity for recreation and exercise,
- protect and restore wetlands,
- support and develop nature tourism where possible,
- in cooperation with landowners, develop walking paths and strips between fields for access to our open landscape.

## 4.3 Communications and Transport

People often choose where they live based on access to high quality communications and transportation. To achieve our goals for housing construction, it is necessary that new residences be built throughout the municipality. Communication and transportation options must be developed so that is attractive to live in all parts of the municipality. It must be easy to get to and from home, and should be easy to make climate-smart choices. This requires an expanded, attractive, climate-friendly bus and rail system, good walking and cycling routes, developed electric vehicle charging units, and enhanced commuter parking.

We look forward to the development of the light-rail line operation between the Central Station and Brunnshög/ESS as an attractive way to get commuters onto public transportation. However, we see that there are no possibilities to expand the tram network in Lund city during the next four years. The first tramline must first be implemented, and its performance and consequences thoroughly evaluated before any future developments are planned.

**To ensure that Lund is a better municipality when it comes to transport and communications, the Liberal Party will**

- build more dedicated access bicycle paths connecting different parts of the municipality with each other,
- provide safe and aesthetically pleasing bicycle parking for all types of bikes at central communications points, shopping hubs, as well as at the central station,
- encourage car pools,
- ensure that public transport has good accessibility, good traffic density and minimal environmental impact,
- to eventually ensure that the main railroad line tracks at Lund C are developed into a tunnel,
- explore how the expressway E22 running through Lund can be covered.

## 5 An Open and Inclusive Lund

The last time we heard so many xenophobic voices as we do today was before and during the second world war. We have big challenges ahead of us, and Lund must show the way. The heartbeat of the Liberal Party are liberal democratic values. The Liberal Party is driven to create an equal, fair world, free from oppressions and dictatorship. Therefore, we want Lund municipality to actively counteract and prevent all forms of discrimination and intolerance due to gender, ethnicity, religion or other beliefs, disability, sexual orientation or age.

To make Lund more open and inclusive, the Liberal Party will work to

- ensure a good working place for people with functional hindrances, and secure that the municipality serves as a best example,
- encourage and support entrepreneurship among newly arrived residents,
- find new and more flexible forms of learning Swedish,
- increase the contact between school and private sector, for example the combination of SFI with work or internship.
- provide access to information where newly arrived residents can know both their rights and obligations.
- combat all forms of xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance.

## 5.1 Life for Senior Citizens

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Senior citizens comprise a group with an age difference of 25-30 years. In terms of age in years and age in mental or physical status, the difference is even greater. Today, many if not most seniors are active and healthier than previous generations, and many want to continue working at least until the age of 70. These possibilities should be encouraged in order access and utilize valuable knowledge. At the same time, of course, the demographics of an aging populations development is also a challenge. How does society guarantee that its oldest citizens will have a worthy standard of living in their later years? That older people are offered a safe living, meaningful leisure and gain more power over their daily lives? The individual's need for service and care, the right to choose, and the right to self-determination must be at the center of life, even the later years of life.

To make Lund a better place to live as a senior citizen, the Liberal Party will

- counter any form of discrimination against the elderly, so-called 'ageism',
- facilitate those who wish to continue their working life beyond the present retirement age,
- establish more residential options for seniors with varied service levels,
- investment in new technologies that can help people live independent lives longer,
- ensure that senior social hubs are open on weekends and holiday periods.

## 5.2 A Lund Available for Everyone

People with disabilities should have the same opportunities as everyone else to actively be part of the city. The Liberal Party envisions Lund as an easily accessible municipality. It is important to not just focus on the physical environment but also on the accessibility of information, culture, politics and other activities.

To make Lund more accessible for everyone, the Liberal Party will work to

- provide support options on an individual's own terms,
- ensure accessibility awareness in all activities involving the municipality,
- engage user organizations and other nonprofit organizations to participate and contribute to the development of activities,
- broaden the range of leisure activities.

## 5.3 Your Background Should Not Determine Your Future

Social liberal politics is about giving everyone the opportunity to develop and realize themselves and their dreams while there is a basic safety system at the bottom. All children deserve a good start in life with love, security and care. Safety and good development conditions are fundamental to human health throughout a lifetime. What is best for children should always be a primary focus.

Liberal policy must be characterized by incentives to go from social dependency to self-sufficiency. Our social policy must be characterized by freedom under the responsibility and expectations of the individual. This means that support measures should go to those who most need it, and that those who get support use it responsibly.

To make Lund a better place in ensuring opportunities are open to everyone, the Liberal Party will

- invest in high quality activities related to children and adolescents, with special focus on children who do not have support at home,
- expand preventive care work for children, young people and adults,
- increase cooperation between the different municipal administrations and civil society,
- promote opportunity availability of children and youth to participate in recreational activities.

## 5.4 Non-Profit Civil Groups and Organizations

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The best guarantee for a civilized society is to create trust through meetings and contacts between people. The links created between people in voluntary associations and organizations creates opportunities to collaborate and allows the growth of social connections, democracy, and welfare.

To make Lund a better place to get involved, the Liberal Party will work to

- create more meeting places,
- expand cooperation and exchange of experience between the civil society and the municipality,
- ensure that associations receiving municipal contributions actively promote democracy, equal values and gender equality,
- allow local resident associations and other non-profit organizations the possibility to present and promote their ideas related to their living area.

# 6 Culture and Recreation

## 6.1 Culture

A city that wants to be in the lead, must also lead in the area of culture. The arts, music, and creative pursuits complete life, open the mind and spirit. The municipality's role is to facilitate and support the conditions that allow the cultural arts to flourish, and creative individuals and groups which create Lund's cultural life to be active.

To make Lund's cultural life better, the Liberal Party will work to

- remove the queue for the music school and give opportunity to all the children to join a music school,
- protect district libraries,
- create long-term conditions for the free cultural life with the support of the municipality,
- ensure that Lund's art museum allows expression of art with broad, as well as cutting-edge, appeal,
- highlight Lund's cultural and historical environment by, for example, sign posting historical points of interests and streets, and supporting the activities and development of Kulturen, the culture and history museum.

## 6.2 Sports and Leisure

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Sport plays an important role in promoting public health as well as social interaction. The Liberal Party strives to develop the cooperation with sports associations. We also want to increase the scope for physical activities in addition to the traditional way of involvement with sport associations by creating more recreational spaces for spontaneous sports and athletics.

**To make Lund better when it comes to sports and leisure activities, the Liberal Party will work to**

- organize a "test a sport week" during the sports holidays, where children and youth can try out different sports for free,
- remove the parking fees at sports facilities for volunteer trainers and leaders,
- increased investment in maintenance of sport facilities,
- create more public spaces that encourages spontaneous sports and games.

**WE FIGHT FOR EVERY PERSON'S FREEDOM TO SHAPE THEIR OWN LIFE  
AND TO HAVE THE POSSIBILITY TO GROW AND DEVELOP.**

