



# Autumn Conference

## Agenda

Birmingham 17th – 21st September 2011

## Clear Print Version

## In Government **On Your Side**

**This clear print Agenda matches as closely as possible the text of the published Agenda and motions have the same line numbering; page number cross references are correct within this clear print document; notices and adverts in boxes may appear in a different position; photos and graphics have been omitted.**

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(The cover of the published Agenda has a picture of Nick Clegg MP.)

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For further feature articles, general conference information, exhibition and fringe, see the separate **Conference Directory**.

For conference details and registration online: [www.libdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference)

## Conference Rally

### **In Government On Your Side – Delivering A Fairer Britain**

Co-hosted by our Scottish and Welsh leaders, Willie Rennie and Kirsty Williams. With Nick Clegg, Alistair Carmichael, Sarah Teather, Don Foster and David Heath. Highlighting how Liberal Democrats in government are making Britain a fairer, greener and more liberal country.

**Saturday 17th September 6.30pm – 7.30pm**

**In the main auditorium ICC Birmingham**

Conference photo pass required for entry

# Introduction

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Liberal Democrat autumn conference 2011.

Following a successful visit to Birmingham for a spring conference we have decided to return here for our autumn conference.

Although there are various changes since we came here last (not least being in government) I am sure that the one thing that will not change is the fantastic welcome Birmingham gave us.

Our agenda for this conference includes a good mix of policy motions and papers, set-piece speeches, presentations and Q&A sessions. We have allowed plenty of time for those attending conference to question Government Ministers as well as the Deputy Prime Minister, something you will not see the other political parties do.

The way we develop policy and question our MPs and Ministers makes us the only truly democratic political party, something we should shout about!

I look forward to seeing you all in Birmingham.

**Andrew Wiseman**

**Chair, Federal Conference Committee**

## **The Federal Conference Committee Is Here To Serve You!**

Andrew Wiseman, Chair; Sal Brinton, Vice Chair; Geoff Payne, Vice Chair, English rep; Robert Adamson; Qassim Afzal; Jon Ball; Lucy Care, FPC rep; Dee Doocey; Susan Gaszczak; Arnie Gibbons; Sandra Gidley; James Gurling FE rep; Jeremy Hargreaves, FPC rep; Linda Jack; Jenni Lang, Scottish rep; Chris Maines; Justine McGuinness; Joanna Shaw, FE rep; Ian Walton, Welsh rep; Adrian Beavis, Chief Steward, co-opted. (The published Agenda contains photographs of the above FCC members.)

Ex officio: Alistair Carmichael MP, Chief Whip; Tim Farron MP, Party President; Chris Fox, Chief Executive (non-voting).

# 500 Days Of Delivery

by Nick Clegg MP

Welcome to Birmingham.

We've been in government in Westminster for 500 days: 500 days of delivery. Liberal principles underpinning Liberal Democrat policies in national government.

According to the BBC, we are implementing 75% of our Manifesto commitments – our policies put onto the statute book, making a difference to people's lives up and down the country.

So what we debate here at conference matters more than ever. A shining example of that are the NHS reforms. At our spring conference in Sheffield earlier this year we agreed that reforms to the NHS were greatly needed – but that they should be reforms that aligned more closely with party policy.

So Liberal Democrats in government have ruled out price competition, made the NHS safe from any threat of backdoor privatisation, and ensured that decisions in the NHS are taken in an open, democratic and accountable manner. This is both a powerful demonstration of the difference Liberal Democrats are making in government and a strong endorsement of our party's proud democratic traditions and institutions.

Across government, long-held Liberal Democrat ideas are now being put into practice – from ending child detention for immigration purposes to increased investment in mental health provision; from setting up a Green Investment Bank to delivering the pupil premium in our schools; and from the general power of competence in the Localism Bill to the strengthened devolution of the Scotland Bill.

We have fundamentally changed the tax system for the better, with a tax cut for millions of low- and middle-income earners paid for with capital gains tax increases and a clamp down on tax evasion.

# 500 Days Of Delivery Continued

At the same time we are getting the big, difficult decisions right; governing as a part of a coalition in the national interest, and tackling the disastrous economic legacy Labour left behind.

Cutting public spending requires tough choices. It certainly isn't what I and other Liberal Democrat Ministers came into politics to do. But it is only by having Liberal Democrats in government that can we ensure it is done as fairly as possible.

Our voice in government must be loud and clear. Our challenge as a party is to ensure that the voters know what we have achieved. This conference gives us a perfect opportunity to do just that.

I look forward to our debates and discussions over the course of conference. I know that we will have many passionate debates about the policies and direction of our party and the government.

That is as it should be; that is what Liberal Democrat conference is all about.

**The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP is Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister**

**[www.libdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference)**

**Visit Us Online!**

The conference pages of the party website contain all you need to know about conference – and will give you the most up-to-date information and any last-minute changes. Visit: [www.libdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference).

# Auditorium Information

Everything you need to know concerning the main conference sessions at this year's autumn conference is listed below in alphabetical order. The main conference sessions take place in the auditorium in Hall 3 of The ICC – see map of Birmingham city centre and venue plan printed in the separate Conference Directory.

For general conference information, see the Conference Directory. If you have any questions on-site, please ask a steward or go to the Information Desk in the Upper Foyer at the top of the escalators in The ICC.

## Access

Access to all areas of The ICC is possible only with a valid, visible conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard. You will be asked to show your pass when you enter The ICC and you are required to wear the pass with the lanyard visible at all times within the building.

Please allow time for security check queues at The ICC during key times – particularly after lunch and ahead of popular events.

## Amendments To Motions

All motions are open to amendment.

Amendments must be signed by 10 voting representatives, or submitted by local parties, State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisations or Federal Party Committees.

The deadline for amendments is 13.00 Monday 5th September; they should be sent to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to [motions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motions@libdems.org.uk), or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. (Post will automatically be redirected if

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Lib Dem HQ moves premises in the meantime.) Please download a form from the conference papers page at [www.libdems.org.uk/AutumnConferencePapers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/AutumnConferencePapers).

Those submitting amendments are encouraged to include a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment. You are also encouraged to use our drafting advisory service; the deadline for draft amendments is 13.00 Monday 22nd August, to be sent to [motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk).

All amendments accepted for debate will be printed in Conference Extra – see page 8.

## Appeals

Appeals against non-acceptance of motions should:

- a) be typed clearly on one side of an A4 sheet;
- b) give a contact name and telephone number;
- c) include a copy of the original motion to which they relate; and
- d) specify the justification for the appeal and provide new information of which the Federal Conference Committee was unaware when it made its original decision.

Appeals must be signed by ten voting representatives, or submitted by local parties, State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisations or Federal Party Committees.

The deadline for appeals is 13.00 Monday 5th September; they should be sent to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to [motions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motions@libdems.org.uk), or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. (Post will automatically be redirected if Lib Dem HQ moves premises in the meantime.)

## Applicability Of Motions

The Federal Conference makes policy for the Federal Party. However, the English Party has ‘passed up’ responsibility for policy-making to the Federal Party in all

## INFORMATION

areas and the Welsh Party for some areas. The applicability of each motion is shown after the text of the motion in the Agenda on pages 20–116.

### **Auditorium**

The main conference sessions will take place in the auditorium in Hall 3 of The ICC. See the Conference Directory for a plan of the venue.

The Speakers' Table is located at the front of the auditorium.

Sign language interpretation will be provided during all sessions held in the auditorium. Please be mindful of not obstructing sightlines to the signers when moving around the auditorium.

An induction loop is available in specific seating areas within the auditorium. Please ask a steward to direct you to these seats.

For representatives who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual impairment, a small number of seats are reserved at the front of the auditorium. If you have any specific seating requirements in the auditorium, please approach an auditorium steward who will endeavour to help.

Please ensure that all mobile phones / pagers are switched off before entering the auditorium.

### **Conference Extra And Conference Daily**

Conference Extra will give any changes to the timings of conference sessions that are shown in the Agenda on pages 20–116, and will contain amendments to motions, topical issues, emergency motions for debate or the ballot and questions to reports, plus last-minute changes to the order of business, movers etc.

Conference Extra will be available to view online at [www.libdems.org.uk/AutumnConferencePapers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/AutumnConferencePapers) from Tuesday 13th September.

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Conference Daily will be published each day at conference and will include last-minute changes to the order of business, movers, amendments, emergency motions, etc. Please make sure you collect your copy each day, as the information it contains will always be vital to understanding the day's business.

Conference Extra and Conference Daily will be available at the start of each morning session from the Information Desk in the Upper Foyer of The ICC.

You can place an advert in Conference Daily to give up-to-date information about your organisation or event to conference-goers. For more information on advance booking prices and the booking form please see [www.libdems.org.uk/advertising.aspx](http://www.libdems.org.uk/advertising.aspx). Alternatively you can collect a booking form at the Information Desk on-site. The booking and copy deadlines for on-site bookings is 12 noon the day before you want your advert to appear.

## **Consultative Sessions**

Consultative sessions take place in the Hyatt Hotel on Saturday 17th September between 10.00 and 12.30. See page 23 for details.

## **Disabled Access And Facilities**

All areas of The ICC are accessible to wheelchair users via ramps or lifts and there are unisex wheelchair-accessible toilets on all floors. See also auditorium above.

See disabled access and facilities in the separate Conference Directory for further information.

## **Emergency Motions**

The slot at F48 is reserved for emergency motions or topical issues (see also topical issues on page 14). F22 is reserved for an emergency motion on phone hacking.

## INFORMATION

Emergency motion debates are debates with a vote, which make formal party policy like any other policy motion, but which refer to a development since the 29th June deadline for motions. Emergency motions must be signed by 10 voting representatives, or submitted by local parties, State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisations or Federal Party Committees.

The deadline for emergency motions is 13.00 on Monday 5th September. Emergency motions should be sent to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to [motions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motions@libdems.org.uk), or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. (Post will automatically be redirected if Lib Dem HQ moves premises in the meantime.) Please download a form from the conference papers page at [www.libdems.org.uk/AutumnConferencePapers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/AutumnConferencePapers).

Those submitting emergency motions are encouraged to include a short explanation of the emergency nature of the motion. You are also encouraged to use our drafting advisory service. The deadline for draft emergency motions is 13.00 Monday 22nd August and they should be sent to [motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk).

Emergency motions may be the subject of priority ballots among voting representatives. Ballot papers and the ballot box will be available at the Speakers' Table in the auditorium. The poll will be held, if necessary, between 09.00 and 13.00 on Sunday 18th September. If there is a simple choice between two motions, a card vote will be held in the auditorium at 10.55 on Sunday 18th September.

Emergency motions accepted for debate or ballot will be detailed in Conference Extra – see page 8.

## **Flash Photography**

Representatives vulnerable to epilepsy should note that flash photography is frequently used in the conference auditorium.

## **Interventions**

There will be interventions during debates F20, F24, F28 and F40. This procedure offers voting or non-voting representatives the opportunity to make concise (one-minute) speeches from the floor during the debate on the motion. Eligibility to make an intervention is the same as for making a speech (see speaking at conference on page 13).

Those wishing to speak during interventions should complete the form available from a steward in the auditorium. Speakers will be chosen by the chair by a random ballot and called to the intervention microphone on the auditorium floor. Three lights will be visible on either side of the stage: the green light comes on at the start of the intervention; the amber light will show after 40 seconds; the red light will come on at the end of one minute and the intervention must stop immediately.

## **Question And Answer Sessions**

This year's conference features four Q&A sessions, with the party leader (F27), on social mobility (F18), on the NHS (F36) and on international affairs (F46).

Any voting or non-voting representative may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) to any of these sessions and, if selected by the chair of the session, will be asked to put the question from one of the intervention microphones in the auditorium.

Questions may be submitted using a form which should be collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium up until shortly before each session (see the Agenda on pages 20–116 for times). Questions may also be emailed to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk) up until 17.00 on Thursday 15th September.

## **Questions To Reports**

Any voting representative can submit a question to any of the reports of the Federal Committees and the Parliamentary Parties, included in the separate

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reports document. The chair will select which questions will be asked during the session.

The deadline for questions to the reports of Federal Committees is 13.00 Monday 5th September. Questions should be sent to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk), or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. (Post will automatically be redirected if Lib Dem HQ moves premises in the meantime). Please download a form from the conference papers page at [www.libdems.org.uk/AutumnConferencePapers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/AutumnConferencePapers). Questions will be printed in Conference Extra – see page 8.

Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table in the auditorium on speaker's cards up until one hour before the start of the session.

Each of the reports of the Parliamentary Parties will be moved briefly, and voted on at the end of the session. During the session, any voting representative can submit a question on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the Westminster or European Parliaments (maximum 25 words), on a form collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table by 18.00 on Saturday 18th September. Questions may also be emailed to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk) up until 17.00 on Thursday 16th September.

## **Separate Votes**

Requests for separate votes on parts of motions may be submitted by any voting representative.

Requests for separate votes must be submitted in writing to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium, by the commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled, or, for debates scheduled for the first day of conference, by 13.00 Monday 5th September to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to [motions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motions@libdems.org.uk), or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. (Post will automatically be redirected if Lib Dem HQ moves premises in the meantime.)

## Speaking At Conference

Only three categories of people are entitled to speak in a debate at conference:

- Voting representatives (or substitutes), elected by their local parties or appointed ex-officio (e.g. MPs, PPCs, council group leaders, etc.), who have paid the full registration fee for conference.
- Non-voting representatives who have paid the full registration fee for the conference (this does not include day visitors).
- Persons who have been given permission to speak by the Federal Conference Committee.

No other person may be called to speak in debates, including during interventions. Anyone who is entitled and wishes to speak must complete a speaker's card to speak in the debate.

Speaker's cards can be obtained from the steward overseeing the block of seats in the auditorium in which you are sitting, from the Information Desk in The ICC from 13.00 on Saturday and from the foyer of the Hyatt Hotel from Friday evening.

You must complete all sections of the speaker's card legibly. Hand the completed card to a steward in the auditorium before the beginning of the morning or afternoon in which the debate occurs. If this is not possible, hand it in well in advance of the debate.

Lengths of speeches for each debate are shown after each motion in the Agenda on pages 20–116.

The speaker's rostrum in the auditorium has three lights. The green light is switched on at the beginning of the speech. The amber light is switched on 60 seconds before the end of the speech. The red light is switched on when all the time is used up, and speeches must stop immediately. Duplicate lights will be visible to the audience on either side of the stage.

### **Topical Issues**

The slot at F48 has been reserved for topical issues or emergency motions (see also emergency motions on page 9).

Topical issue discussions, unlike other debates at conference, will not make party policy, but are intended to allow representatives and spokespeople an opportunity to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference, but where it might be premature to move to formal policy-making.

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any voting representative, and should be emailed to [motions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motions@libdems.org.uk) by 13.00 on Monday 5th September. Emails should include full contact details of the submitter and may include up to 100 words explanatory background.

The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should not include an expression of opinion. For example, 'The Chaos on the Railways' would be acceptable, 'The Chaos on the Railways can be solved by Renationalisation' would not.

The topical issue to be discussed is chosen by officers of the Federal Conference Committee and Federal Policy Committee and will be detailed in Conference Extra – see page 8.

The person submitting an issue that has been chosen will be expected to speak for five minutes to introduce the discussion. The relevant Parliamentary spokesperson will be invited to respond. At the end of the debate a member of the Federal Policy Committee will sum up the main points and suggest any further actions.

### **Twitter**

During conference week, we will be tweeting live from the auditorium. For updates on who's speaking, when agenda items are about to start and how conference has voted, follow us at: [www.twitter.com/LibDemConf](http://www.twitter.com/LibDemConf)

## **Voting Status and Voting / Non-Voting Photo Passes**

You will only be able to register as a voting representative if the Party's Membership Department has:

- 1 already received written notification from an elected officer of your local party that you have been elected as a voting representative; or
- 2 already received written notification from an officer of your local party that you are a substitute elected by your local party Executive after a voting representative has informed them that s/he is unable to attend.

For a voting photo pass to be sent out before conference this information must have been received by Monday 1st August. Otherwise you will be sent a non-voting photo pass.

If you have received a non-voting photo pass and believe you are a voting representative, you need to get an officer of your local party to inform Membership Services (see below) in writing of the elected representatives of your local party. Your voting status cannot be changed over the phone.

If you are attending conference as a substitute voting representative, you need to get an officer of your local party to write to Membership Services (see below) with the name, address and membership number of the representative you are substituting for, as well as your own full details, before 13.00 Monday 1st August.

Write to:

Membership Services, 4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3NB (post will automatically be redirected if Lib Dem HQ moves premises in the meantime), or email [membership@libdems.org.uk](mailto:membership@libdems.org.uk).

## **Website**

For conference details online, please see: [www.libdems.org.uk/AutumnConference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/AutumnConference)

## Services For The Blind And Visually Impaired

A range of electronic versions of the Conference Agenda and Directory, Training Schedule and policy and consultation papers are available for download online. These include PDF files, plain text files for blind computer users and clear print versions (designed in line with RNIB guidelines). Download from the conference papers page at: [www.libdems.org.uk/AutumnConferencePapers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/AutumnConferencePapers)

If you are unable to access the Internet and would like any files emailed or posted to you, contact the Conference Office on 020 7227 1350 or at [conferences@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferences@libdems.org.uk)

For clear print copies of any papers whilst at conference (e.g. Conference Daily), ask at the Information Desk.

## Speaking In Conference Debates

Debates are the heart of federal conference: they're where the party sets its policy and decides its future direction. Unlike in the other parties, the Liberal Democrat conference is sovereign, and what it decides really matters.

Any party member can speak in debates: all you need is to be registered as either a voting or a non-voting representative. Then fill in and submit a speaker's card and wait to see if you're called in the debate.

Speaker's cards are available from the Speakers' Table and from the stewards in the auditorium. They can also be collected from the Information Desk in The ICC or the foyer of the Hyatt Hotel.

There are three key points to remember to maximise your chances of being called:

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### **1 submit your card well in advance**

If you hand your card in late, in a popular debate you're virtually guaranteeing you won't be called. The chair and aide team for the debate always meet well in advance to plan the debate – sometimes the previous day.

### **2 fill in your card completely**

The second major mistake potential speakers make is not to fill in their card completely. As well as the information on the front of the card (name, local party, for or against the motion, etc.), there are two sections on the back, for relevant background (professional or consumer experience, party background, etc.) and for a brief outline of what your speech is going to be about.

These sections are needed for the chair and aide to balance the debate – to make sure that people with relevant experience are called (not necessarily to the exclusion of others, but professional or user backgrounds are always valuable), and to make sure that they don't call a whole string of people who'll make the same point.

### **3 make sure it's readable!**

Don't take this as an invitation to fill every square centimetre of the card; and don't write illegibly, or in very small letters, or in green ink ... the easier you make it for the chair and aide to read your card the more likely you will be to be called.

## The Order Of Debate At Conference

Policy and business motions: generally, conference will consider a motion in the following way:

Proposer of the motion speaks

V

Proposers of any amendments speak in turn

V

Speakers will then be called on all sides of the debate with the chair seeking to ensure balance

Interventions will be taken (if listed on the agenda)

V

Summators of the amendments will speak in turn

V

The Summator of the motion will speak

V

The chair will take votes on the amendments and separate votes (if any) in turn – for and against

V

A vote will be taken on the motion as a whole

Voting: decisions on the motion, on amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting.

Separate vote: any voting representative can submit a request for a separate vote – for procedure and deadlines see page 12. When a separate vote is taken, the chair shall ask conference to vote on whether to delete or retain the specified words or section.

Counted vote: the chair of the session may decide that a vote is so close that it needs to be counted. Alternatively, if any voting representative wants a counted vote, they may request one from the floor; if fifty other voting representatives stand and show their voting cards in support, a count will be taken.

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Procedural motions concern the procedure by which conference operates. They are:

- 1 Reference back (to stop debate and send the motion to a specified body for more work);
- 2 Next business (to stop debate and move to the next item of business on the agenda);
- 3 Suspension of standing orders (to lift one or more of the rules governing the operation of conference).

They may be submitted by voting representatives in writing at the Speakers' Table together with a statement of reasons of 75 words or less.

They generally work in the following way (there are some exceptions – see Standing Orders on page 117 for specific guidance):

The chair reads out the statement in support of the motion, submitted in advance

V

A vote will be taken on whether there will be a mini-debate on the motion

V

The mover of the motion may speak

V

Someone to oppose the motion may speak (the standing orders generally set out who that is)

V

Other speaker may be taken (this is not common)

V

Conference votes on the motion

Voting: decisions on procedural motions are made by simple majority of those voting, except for the suspension of standing orders, which requires the support of two-thirds of those voting.

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# Saturday 17th September

10.00 Consultative Sessions  
–12.30

## Local Government Finance

Allegro	Chair:	Cllr Chris White
Hyatt Hotel	Rapporteur:	To be announced

## May 2011 Elections

Andante	Chair:	James Gurling (Chair, Campaigns and Communications Committee)
Hyatt Hotel	Rapporteur:	Tom Smithard

## Mid-Term Review

Sonata	Chair:	Norman Lamb MP (Chair, Federal Policy Committee)
Hyatt Hotel	Rapporteur:	Polly Mackenzie

Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than the full-scale conference debates for conference representatives and other Party members to participate in the party's policy- and decision-making process. Each session examines a particular topic and hears contributions from party members and in some cases outside speakers.

# Saturday 17th September Continued

The sessions will be organised by the relevant Policy Working Group or other party body. Where appropriate, the conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final policy papers. Consultative papers for the sessions will be included with the Directory mailing.

## 14.30 Party Business

Chair: Tim Farron MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F1 Formal Opening of the Federal Conference by Cllr Paul Tilsley MBE, Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council and Liberal Democrat Group Leader**

## 14.40 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Alan Sherwell

Aide: James Gurling (Chair, Campaigns and Communications Committee)

### **F2 Report of the Federal Conference Committee**

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

## Saturday 17th September Continued

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 5th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 11. Questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 13.40 on Saturday 17th September.

### **F3 Report of the Federal Policy Committee**

Mover: Norman Lamb MP (Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 5th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 11. Questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 13.40 on Saturday 17th September.

### 15.10 Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Chris Maines

Aide: Baroness Doocey AM (London)

### **F4 Lords Elections by 2015**

22 conference representatives and Islington

Mover: Lord Tyler

# Saturday 17th September Continued

Summation: Mark Pack

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 i) The commitment of Asquith's Liberal Government in the 1911 Parliament Act to "substitute  
3 for the House of Lords as it at present exists a Second Chamber constituted on a popular  
4 instead of hereditary basis" but that "such substitution [could not] be immediately brought  
5 into operation".
- 6 ii) The commitments of all three major UK parties in their 2010 manifestos to complete  
7 comprehensive reform of the House of Lords.
- 8 iii) Labour's three previous manifesto commitments to Lords reform in 1997, 2001 and 2005.
- 9 iv) The longstanding policies of the Liberal Democrats, and of our predecessor parties, in favour  
10 of a wholly or mainly elected Lords, demonstrated in repeated manifesto commitments.
- 11 v) That the Coalition Government is the first to honour its manifesto pledges on House of  
12 Lords reform by publishing a draft Bill and White Paper to bring democracy to the second  
13 chamber of Parliament.
- 14 Conference congratulates Nick Clegg and David Cameron for making a joint commitment to  
15 elections in 2015, after 13 years of Labour dithering and failure. Conference condemns Labour's  
16 divided, opportunistic and hypocritical response.
- 17 Conference believes that the White Paper proposals:

## Saturday 17th September Continued

- 18 a) Will ensure neither heredity nor patronage determines who sits in Parliament.
- 19 b) Retain the primacy of the House of Commons by leaving the Parliament Acts in place.
- 20 c) Retain the best of the existing House's independent spirit and long-term thinking while
- 21 allowing the public to choose those who legislate on their behalf.
- 22 d) Will strengthen Parliament as a whole in its ability to check the power of the Executive.

23 Conference further believes that the Joint Committee on Lords Reform will need particularly to  
24 examine the issues of:

- 25 1. Gender balance and diversity in the new chamber.
- 26 2. The size of the House, the likely workload of its members, and its working practices.
- 27 3. Which proportional electoral system to use.
- 28 4. Whether or not to retain a small appointed element.

29 Conference welcomes the Joint Committee's commitment to constructive pre-legislative scrutiny  
30 of the draft Bill and congratulates the Government on being the first to bring forward legislation  
31 after a century of broken promises by previous administrations.

32 Conference reaffirms its commitment to longstanding party policy, and to repeated manifesto  
33 commitments, in favour of an elected House of Lords and calls on Parliament to ensure that  
34 legislation is in place to make Lords elections happen in 2015.

Applicability: Federal.

# Saturday 17th September Continued

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, and for requests for separate votes, is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6 and 'separate votes' on page 12. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

## 15.55 Speech

Chair: Jo Shaw  
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

### **F5 Speech by Lynne Featherstone MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Equalities and Criminal Information**

## 16.15 Policy Motion

Chair: Jenni Lang  
Aide: Arnie Gibbons

# Saturday 17th September Continued

## F6 Employment and Support Allowance and Work Capability Assessments

Liberal Youth

Mover: George Potter

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 i) That eligibility for the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) benefit is determined by the  
3 Work Capability Assessments (WCAs) which are currently carried out by Atos Healthcare, a  
4 private company.
- 5 ii) That currently 70% of assessed rejections which go to appeal are subsequently overturned,  
6 though the appeal success rate is lower for claimants without representation.
- 7 iii) That the way in which WCAs are conducted has been criticised by Parliamentary Inquiries  
8 and by the Tribunal Judiciary.
- 9 iv) That the Liberal Democrat-Conservative Coalition Government has stated its aims to  
10 support people who are fit to work move off state benefits and into work and support those  
11 currently unable to work to prepare for work in the future.
- 12 v) The on-going reviews of Work Capability Assessments led by Professor Malcolm Harrington,  
13 which have made recommendations on how the WCA process can be improved.
- 14 vi) That the Government has so far implemented the vast majority of the recommendations  
15 made by Professor Malcolm Harrington.
- 16 vii) The Government's Welfare Reform Bill proposals to simplify the appeals process for

## Saturday 17th September Continued

17 claimants.

18 Conference believes that:

- 19 A. It is the duty of a compassionate society and government to provide the necessary support  
20 for those who are unable to support themselves.
- 21 B. The old Assessment procedure, when claimants were assessed using a 'tick box'  
22 questionnaire, did not take into account the claimant's medical history as provided by their  
23 GP and/or Consultant.
- 24 C. The new Assessment procedure must aim to reduce the number of cases which are  
25 overturned on appeal.

26 Conference calls for:

- 27 1. The Government to continue to implement Professor Harrington's recommendations on  
28 reforming the WCA as a priority, in addition to an emphasis on:
- 29 a) Clearer Assessment criteria and descriptors, to make it more apparent under what  
30 circumstances ESA is paid.
- 31 b) Ensuring greater accuracy in Assessment, particularly for those with fluctuating  
32 conditions.
- 33 c) A less stressful Assessment process.
- 34 d) People with disabilities getting the support they need.

# Saturday 17th September Continued

- 35 2. Opposition to an arbitrary time limit on how long claimants can claim contributory ESA.
- 36 3. All ESA claimants going to appeal to be given access to adequate representation.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, and for requests for separate votes, is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6 and 'separate votes' on page 12. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

## 17.00 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Gareth Epps  
Aide: Susan Gaszczak

### **F7 Report of the Federal Executive**

Mover: Tim Farron MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 5th September, to the Policy Unit,

# Saturday 17th September Continued

Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 11. Questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.00 on Saturday 17th September.

## **F8 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee**

Mover: Duncan Greenland (Chair, Federal Finance and Administration Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 5th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 11. Questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.00 on Saturday 17th September.

17.20 Close Of Session

# Sunday 18th September

## 09.00 Party Business

Chair: Baroness Barker  
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

### **F9 Accreditation for Party Conference**

Yeovil, Brent and 42 conference representatives

Mover: Stephen Gilbert MP

Summation: David Grace

1 Conference accepts the need for physical security measures to protect those attending but does  
2 not accept that such measures can interfere with the democratic decision-making processes of  
3 a political party.

4 Conference affirms that Liberal Democrats have always defended and promoted the fundamental  
5 rights of freedom of association and assembly, protected by Article 11 of the European  
6 Convention of Human Rights, by Article 12 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European  
7 Union and by Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

8 Conference recalls that:

9 a) The preamble to the party constitution states that “We will at all times defend the right to  
10 speak, write, worship, associate and vote freely...”.

## Sunday 18th September Continued

11      b)      The party's general election manifesto specifically proclaimed "The best way to combat  
12                      terrorism is to prosecute terrorists, not give away hard-won British freedoms".

13      Conference therefore condemns the system of police accreditation adopted for this conference  
14      which requires party members to disclose personal data to the police and which is designed to  
15      enable the police to advise that certain party members should not be allowed to attend.

16      Conference therefore calls upon:

17      1.      The Parliamentary Party and Liberal Democrat Ministers to question the current police  
18                      guidance on accreditation and to seek to persuade the Home Office to change guidance on  
19                      current practice to reflect the rights of association and assembly and the internal democracy  
20                      of all political parties.

21      2.      The Federal Conference Committee to negotiate security arrangements for future  
22                      conferences which protect the privacy of members' personal data and which respect the  
23                      party's constitution and internal democracy.

24      3.      The Party President to ensure that conference arrangements respect Article 6 of the federal  
25                      constitution which provides that Local Parties elect representatives and that no other  
26                      body within or without the party has the power to exclude in advance their attendance at  
27                      conference.

# Sunday 18th September Continued

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.30, Saturday 17th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

## 09.45 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball  
Aide: Sandra Gidley

### **F10 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance**

Mover: Rosalyn Gordon (Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 5th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 11. Questions selected will be detailed

# Sunday 18th September Continued

in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 17.45 on Saturday 17th September.

## **F11 Report of the Diversity Engagement Group**

Mover: Baroness Brinton (Chair, Diversity Engagement Group)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 5th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 11. Questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 17.45 on Saturday 17th September.

## 10.00 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball

Aide: Sandra Gidley

## **F12 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats**

Commons: Alistair Carmichael MP (Chief Whip) and Lorely Burt MP (Chair, Parliamentary Party)

Lords: Lord McNally (Leader) and Lord Shutt (Chief Whip)

Europe: Fiona Hall MEP (Leader) and Chris Davies MEP (Chief Whip)

# Sunday 18th September Continued

Each of the reports will be moved briefly, and voted on at the end of the session, but the bulk of the session will be used to allow conference representatives to put questions on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the Westminster and European Parliament to the panel. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 18.00 on Saturday 17th September. Questions may also be emailed to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk) until 17.00 on Thursday 15th September. The chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See 'questions to reports' on page 11.

## 10.55 Presentation

Chair: Linda Jack  
Aide: Justine McGuinness

### **F13 Presentation by Liberal Democrat Group on London Borough of Sutton**

The presentation will be given by Cllr Sean Brennan, Council Leader, and other Sutton Borough Councillors.

## 11.15 Speech

Chair: Robert Adamson  
Aide: Jenni Lang

### **F14 Speech by Sarah Teather MP, Minister of State for Children and Families**

# Sunday 18th September Continued

## 11.35 Policy Motion

Chair: Justine McGuinness

Aide: Sandra Gidley

### **F15 Higher Education Fees for Part-Time Students**

Watford

Mover: Cllr Belinda Brooks Gordon

Summation: Baroness Brinton

1 Conference notes that:

2 i) 40% of present undergraduates are part-time students and this may well increase with the  
3 introduction of the new student funding scheme from 2012.

4 ii) Part-time students are more likely to come from the most non-traditional and hard-to-reach  
5 groups and are vital to achieving the Government's aim of widening participation at our  
6 universities.

7 iii) Most part-time students study at their local university or further education college while living  
8 at home, and many continue working part-time (often on low incomes) during their courses.

9 Conference welcomes the Coalition Government's proposals to extend the system of loans and  
10 financial support to part-time Higher Education students from 2012, recognising that:

## Sunday 18th September Continued

- 11 a) The previous Labour system discriminated against those who choose (through necessity  
12 or work or family commitments) to study part-time, having forced them to pay their fees up  
13 front.
- 14 b) Under the new Government proposals, from 2012 part-time students will have equality with  
15 full-time students for financial support for fees for the first time.

16 Conference notes the principle in the Coalition Government's higher education funding proposals  
17 that courses are free at the point of study, and that students are not expected to start to make  
18 contributions to re-pay their student debt until they finish their course.

19 However, conference further notes with concern that:

- 20 1. The regulations propose that part-time students must start to repay their student debt three  
21 and a half years after the start of their course, when no part-time degree student will have  
22 completed their studies. This means that part-time students would be paying back their  
23 loan before they have finished studying.
- 24 2. By contrast, all full-time students on extended four year degrees will only have to repay after  
25 four and a half years.

26 Conference therefore calls on the Government to review these proposals so that no part-time  
27 student is treated less fairly than a full-time student.

Applicability: England.

# Sunday 18th September Continued

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 11.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.30, Saturday 17th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

## 12.20 Speech

Chair: Lucy Care

Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

### **F16 Speech by Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury**

## 12.40 Lunch

## 14.30 Policy Motion

Chair: Justine McGuinness

Aide: Jo Shaw

# Sunday 18th September Continued

## F17 Education Credit

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Baroness Walmsley (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Education and Families)

Summation: James Kempton

1 Conference believes that:

- 2 i) No child's future should be determined by the circumstances of their birth.
- 3 ii) Education is the main driver of social mobility and key to achieving a diverse and successful
- 4 economy.
- 5 iii) Government can best ensure that every child reaches their full potential through a holistic
- 6 approach to welfare and education with continuity from early years through to employment.

7 Conference welcomes:

- 8 A. The Government's commitment to fairness in education and giving every child the best start
- 9 in life.
- 10 B. The Coalition Government's implementation of the Liberal Democrat Pupil Premium for
- 11 children on Free School Meals, which will result in a total of £2.5 billion extra for schools by
- 12 2014/15.
- 13 C. The extension of 15 hours free early years provision to disadvantaged two-year-olds, as well
- 14 as all three- and four-year-olds.

## Sunday 18th September Continued

15 D. The new powers for Academies to prioritise admissions to children on Free School Meals.

16 Conference nevertheless notes that:

17 I. More can be done to support disadvantaged pupils and their families.

18 II. Up to 3% of children who are eligible for Free School Meals are not registered for this benefit  
19 for a variety of reasons including: the stigma surrounding Free School Meals; their families'  
20 travelling lifestyles; and a lack of implementation of existing 'good practice' to drive up  
21 registration.

22 III. With the introduction of the Universal Credit, the criteria under which Free School Meals and  
23 the Pupil Premium are allocated will have to change.

24 Conference therefore calls for:

25 1. The Government to adopt a new wrap-around package of support called the 'Education  
26 Credit'.

27 2. This package to support children and their families from the early years through to  
28 employment and to be 'joined up' across relevant departments of government.

29 3. All efforts to be made to utilise best practice to ensure that all those entitled to the benefits  
30 receive them.

## Sunday 18th September Continued

- 31 4. Eligibility for this support to start at the income level used for calculating child poverty across  
32 government, and families not to lose the benefits all at once when their income rises.
- 33 5. As resources allow, the Education Credit package eligibility criteria to be expanded to  
34 include:
- 35 a) All children up to the age of 19 who meet the existing eligibility criteria.  
36 b) All 'Looked After' children, regardless of their financial circumstances.
- 37 6. As resources allow, the Education Credit package to be expanded to ensure that all eligible  
38 children receive (in addition to the existing Free School Meals and extension of early years  
39 provision):
- 40 a) 15 free hours of early years provision from the age of two.  
41 b) Free transport for all pupils and students below the age of 18 attending schools or  
42 colleges, in line with the provisions already in place in London.  
43 c) A free breakfast and midday meal if required.  
44 d) Face-to-face careers advice and assistance with a work experience placement.  
45 e) Support for the purchase of a computer and broadband access, with a maximum of  
46 three children per household per computer.  
47 f) The maximum musical instrument teaching eventually decided upon in the  
48 Government's response to the Henley Report.

## Sunday 18th September Continued

- 49 g) Access to the Healthy Child Programme and priority of access to locally delivered  
50 parental support programmes.
- 51 7. As resources allow, the Education Credit package to be expanded to ensure that all schools  
52 with a certain percentage of Education Credit children receive (in addition to the existing  
53 Pupil Premium):
- 54 a) Parent Support Advisers so that local services utilise a holistic approach and all children  
55 get access to the best schools.
- 56 b) Additional support for the music education programme in schools.
- 57 8. Charities that wish to support children on Education Credit with education enrichment  
58 activities to have priority from the Big Society Bank.
- 59 9. The Government's guidance to schools and colleges on how the Bursary Scheme will be  
60 allocated to highlight the need for preferential treatment for Education Credit students.

Applicability: England.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

# Sunday 18th September Continued

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.30, Saturday 17th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

## 15.30 Question And Answer Session

Chair: Baroness Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)  
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

### **F18 Question and Answer Session on Social Mobility**

Panellists will include:

- Rt Hon Simon Hughes MP, Advocate for Access to Education
- Baroness Hussein-Ece, Commissioner, Equality and Human Rights Commission
- Sarah Teather MP, Minister of State for Children and Families
- Steve Webb MP, Minister of State for Pensions

A chance for conference representatives to put questions on any social mobility issue to a panel including party spokespeople and outside experts. Conference representatives may

# Sunday 18th September Continued

submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Sunday 18th September. Questions may also be emailed to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk) until 17.00 on Thursday 15th September. The chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See 'questions and answer sessions' on page 11.

## 16.20 Speech

Chair: Qassim Afzal  
Aide: Susan Gaszczak

### **F19 Speech by Tim Farron MP, President of the Liberal Democrats**

## 16.40 Policy Motion

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)  
Aide: Baroness Doocey AM (London)

### **F20 Protecting Individuals and Communities from Drug Harms**

Glasgow South, Liberal Youth and 23 conference representatives

Mover: Ewan Hoyle  
Summation: Sir Graham Watson MEP

# Sunday 18th September Continued

## 1 Conference notes:

- 2 I. That drugs are powerful substances which can have serious consequences for the individual  
3 user and society in general; and that it is therefore right and proper that the state should  
4 intervene to regulate and control the use of such substances as it does the consumption  
5 of legal drugs such as alcohol and tobacco and both prescription and over-the-counter  
6 medicines.
- 7 II. That the misuse of drugs can blight the lives of individuals and families and the purchase of  
8 illegal drugs can help to fuel organised crime.
- 9 III. The need for evidence-based policy making on drugs with a clear focus on prevention and  
10 harm-reduction.
- 11 IV. That there is increasing evidence that the UK's drugs policy is not only ineffective and  
12 not cost-effective but actually harmful, impacting particularly severely on the poor and  
13 marginalised.

## 14 Conference further notes:

- 15 i) The positive evidence from new approaches elsewhere, including Portuguese reforms that  
16 have been successful in reducing problematic drug use through decriminalising possession  
17 for personal use of all drugs and investing in treatment programmes.
- 18 ii) That those countries and states that have decriminalised possession of some or all drugs  
19 have not seen increased use of those drugs relative to their neighbours.
- 20 iii) That heroin maintenance clinics in Switzerland and the Netherlands have delivered great

## Sunday 18th September Continued

21 health benefits for addicts while delivering considerable reductions in drug-related crime and  
22 prevalence of heroin use.

23 iv) The contribution of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to the 2010 Drug Strategy  
24 consultation which states that “people found to be in possession of drugs (any) for personal  
25 use (and involved in no other criminal offences) should not be processed through the  
26 criminal justice system but instead be diverted into drug education/awareness courses or  
27 possibly other, more creative civil punishment”.

28 v) The report of the Global Commission on Drug Policy whose members include former UN  
29 Secretary General Kofi Annan, former heads of state of Colombia, Mexico, Brazil and  
30 Switzerland, the current Prime Minister of Greece, a former US Secretary of State and many  
31 other eminent world figures, which encouraged governments to consider the legal regulation  
32 of drugs in order to, “undermine the power of organised crime and safeguard the health and  
33 security of their citizens”.

34 vi) That the United Kingdom remains bound by various international conventions and that any  
35 re-negotiation or new agreements will require international co-ordination.

36 Conference believes that:

37 A. Individuals, especially young people, can be damaged both by the imposition of criminal  
38 records and by a drug habit, and that the priority for those addicted to all substances must  
39 be healthcare, education and rehabilitation, not punishment.

40 B. Governments should reject policies if they are demonstrated to be ineffective in achieving  
41 their stated goals and should seek to learn from policies which have been successful.

## Sunday 18th September Continued

- 42 C. At a time when Home Office and Ministry of Justice spending is facing considerable  
43 contraction, there is a powerful case for examining whether an evidence-based policy  
44 would produce savings, allowing the quality of service provided by these departments to be  
45 maintained or to improve.
- 46 D. One of the key barriers to developing better drugs policy has been the previous Labour  
47 Government's persistent refusal to take on board scientific advice, and the absence of an  
48 overall evaluative framework of the UK's drugs strategy.
- 49 E. The Department of Health and devolved equivalents should take on a greater responsibility  
50 for dealing with drugs.

51 Conference calls for:

- 52 1. The Government to immediately establish an independent panel tasked with carrying out  
53 an Impact Assessment of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, to properly evaluate, economically  
54 and scientifically, the present legal framework for dealing with drugs in the United Kingdom.
- 55 2. The panel also to consider reform of the law, based on the Portuguese model, such that:
- 56 a) Possession of any controlled drug for personal use would not be a criminal offence.  
57 b) Possession would be prohibited but should cause police officers to issue citations for  
58 individuals to appear before panels tasked with determining appropriate education,  
59 health or social interventions.

## Sunday 18th September Continued

- 60 3. The panel also to consider as an alternative, potential frameworks for a strictly controlled  
61 and regulated cannabis market and the potential impacts of such regulation on organised  
62 crime, and the health and safety of the public, especially children.
- 63 4. The reinvestment of any resources released into effective education, treatment and  
64 rehabilitation programmes.
- 65 5. The widespread provision of the highest quality evidence-based medical, psychological  
66 and social services for those affected by drugs problems; these services should include  
67 widespread availability of heroin maintenance clinics for the most problematic and vulnerable  
68 heroin users.

Applicability: Federal, except 4 (lines 63–64), which is England and Wales, and E (lines 49–50) and 5 (lines 65–68) which are England only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see ‘speaking at conference’ on page 13.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See ‘interventions’ on page 11.

## Sunday 18th September Continued

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.30, Saturday 17th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

18.00 Close Of Session

# Monday 19th September

09.00 Party Business

Chair: Arnie Gibbons

Aide: Qassim Afzal

## **F21 Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy**

Federal Executive

Mover: To be announced

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 a) The Federal Executive is proposing that there be no change in the Minimum, Concessionary,  
3 Youth and Student SAO or Freshers Fair subscription rates, and no change in the Federal  
4 Levy.
- 5 b) The Federal Executive is proposing that the recommended rate should rise from £60 to  
6 £62.
- 7 c) The proposed minimum rate, together with our concessionary rate of £6 for those receiving  
8 or entitled to receive state benefits, maintains our position of offering access to the widest  
9 possible proportion of society.

# Monday 19th September Continued

10 Conference resolves that for the year 2012:

11 1. The recommended subscription rate shall be £62.

12 2. The minimum subscription rate shall be £12.

13 3. The concessionary subscription rate for those in receipt of, or entitled to, state benefits  
14 other than child benefit or state pension shall be £6.

15 4. Those paying their subscription through the Youth and Student SAO shall pay a minimum  
16 of £6 or, where a new member joins at a Freshers' Fair event, a special introductory rate  
17 of £1.

18 5. Nothing in this motion prevents a State Party from setting a recommended rate or rates  
19 of subscription by its internal procedures which is higher than that agreed by the Federal  
20 Conference.

21 Conference further resolves that for the year 2012 the Federal Levy on new members shall be  
22 0% of the subscription paid and the Federal Levy on renewal subscriptions shall be 44%.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

# Monday 19th September Continued

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 18th September, see 'separate votes' on page 13.

## 09.30 Emergency Motion

Chair: James Gurling (Chair, Campaigns and Communications Committee)  
Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F22 Emergency Motion: Phone Hacking**

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion on the subject of the phone hacking scandal.

The deadline for emergency motions is 13.00, Monday 5th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'emergency motions' on page 9. The motion selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

# Monday 19th September Continued

## 10.30 Speech

Chair: Sandra Gidley

Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

### **F23 Speech by Edward Davey MP, Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs**

## 10.50 Policy Motion

Chair: Baroness Doocey AM (London)

Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F24 Facing the Future (Policy Development Agenda Policy Paper)**

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Norman Lamb MP (Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference welcomes policy paper 100, Facing the Future, as a programme of policy
- 2 development for the rest of this Parliament which is both optimistic and forward-looking, but
- 3 also recognises the scale of the challenges we face, and which is inspired by our core values
- 4 which put people first.

# Monday 19th September Continued

- 5 Conference supports its re-affirmation of Liberal Democrat values and principles, with an  
6 emphasis on:
- 7 A. Empowering individuals to make the best of their lives regardless of their social  
8 background.
  - 9 B. Supporting flourishing communities.
  - 10 C. The wider distribution of political, economic and social power.
  - 11 D. Championing the rule of law, civil liberties, and human rights.
  - 12 E. Challenging all forms of unfair discrimination.
  - 13 F. Sustainable development, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the  
14 ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
  - 15 G. The development of international co-operation and democratic institutions to spread and  
16 safeguard human rights, and to protect humanity from global threats.
- 17 Conference acknowledges the major challenges facing Britain and the world and understands  
18 that this results in many people having fears and anxieties about the future, but also identifies the  
19 opportunities available to us in the coming years, and so recognises the need to:
- 20 i) Rebuild the public finances and reduce unemployment while at the same time reforming the  
21 economy onto a more economically and environmentally sustainable basis.
  - 22 ii) Increase equality of opportunity and reverse trends towards greater inequality.
  - 23 iii) Give international leadership in tackling climate change and achieve more sustainable use of  
24 natural resources.

## Monday 19th September Continued

- 25 iv) Reform our political institutions, re-engage the public with the democratic political process,  
26 and further devolve political power to nations and communities.
- 27 v) Adapt Britain's foreign and defence policies to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing  
28 international landscape.
- 29 vi) Address the needs of a growing and ageing population.
- 30 vii) Reform the public services to help them to deliver high quality, responsive services fairly to  
31 the entire population.
- 32 viii) Tackle crime, in particular the growing threat of internationally organised crime and electronic  
33 crime, while upholding vital civil liberties.

34 Conference endorses the priority areas identified for policy development to provide us with a  
35 distinctive platform for the next General Election informed by our values, including:

- 36 a) Taxation, including tax avoidance.
- 37 b) Sustainable Sources of Growth and Jobs.
- 38 c) Housing.
- 39 d) Tackling Inequality.
- 40 e) Supporting Working Families.
- 41 f) Crime and Justice.
- 42 g) Defence.
- 43 h) Immigration and Identity.
- 44 i) Public Services.
- 45 j) The Challenges of an Ageing Population.

## Monday 19th September Continued

- 46 k) Skills and Post-18 Education.
- 47 l) The Transition to a Zero Carbon Britain.
- 48 m) Sustainable Use of Natural Resources.
- 49 n) Gender Equality.
- 50 o) Political Reform and Participation.
- 51 p) Europe.
- 52 q) Mutualisation and Employee Ownership.

Applicability: Federal, except c (line 38), i (line 44), and k (line 46) which are England only, and f (line 41) which is England and Wales.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 11.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 18th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

# Monday 19th September Continued

## 12.20 Speech

Chair: Jo Shaw

Aide: Arnie Gibbons

### **F25 Speech by Rt Hon Dr Vincent Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills**

## 12.40 Lunch

## 14.30 Policy Motion

Chair: Baroness Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Linda Jack

### **F26 Tackling Violence Against Women**

15 conference representatives

Mover: Rt Hon Tom Brake MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Home Affairs, Justice and Equalities)

Summation: Baroness Hamwee (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Home Affairs, Justice and Equalities)

# Monday 19th September Continued

1 Conference notes with concern that:

- 2 I. Last year alone there were over one million female victims of domestic abuse in England and  
3 Wales.
- 4 II. Only 10% of local authorities offer dedicated specialist services for Black and Minority Ethnic  
5 women, even though ethnic minority women are vulnerable to specific forms of violence such  
6 as female genital mutilation and forced marriage.
- 7 III. 70% of women seeking asylum in the UK have suffered rape or other sexual violence.
- 8 IV. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Children said with respect to the UK: “The state  
9 should always consider child victims of these criminal practices, including child prostitution,  
10 exclusively as victims in need of recovery and not as offenders”.
- 11 V. A Refuge study showed an alarming prevalence of attitudes that reinforce violence against  
12 women: for example, that over 75 per cent of 11–12 year olds thought it was acceptable for  
13 women to be hit if they make men angry.

14 Conference believes that:

- 15 i) Violence against women is a violation of human rights.
- 16 ii) Violence against women is both a cause and a consequence of deep-rooted inequality  
17 between women and men.
- 18 iii) All women have the right to live free from fear, abuse and exploitation.
- 19 iv) While the Government’s current efforts to end violence against women and girls are to be  
20 welcomed, there is still more than can be done.

## Monday 19th September Continued

21 v) Any approach to tackling Violence Against Women must take a cross-governmental  
22 approach, ensuring that there is a focus on prevention; that victims are not blamed or  
23 criminalized; and that individuals are empowered to break free from abusive situations or  
24 relationships.

25 Conference therefore welcomes:

26 A. The launch of the Government's cross-department, strategic action plan, Call to End  
27 Violence Against Women and Girls, and in particular its statement that "our approach to  
28 tackling violence against women and girls is a test of this Government's capability to build a  
29 fairer society".

30 B. The policies that have resulted from this action plan, including, amongst others, the £28m  
31 stable funding the Home Office has committed for funding of specialist rape services over  
32 the next four years: providing more training and early intervention programmes, and better  
33 support for victims.

34 C. The Government's decision to opt in to the European Union Directive on Human Trafficking,  
35 which significantly strengthens the assistance offered to victims of human trafficking and  
36 the ability of the UK to prosecute perpetrators, and also to the proposed EU European  
37 Protection Order which will enhance cross-border safety for domestic violence victims.

38 D. The appointment of a Liberal Democrat Minister, Lynne Featherstone MP, as the  
39 Government's International Violence Against Women champion.

## Monday 19th September Continued

40 Conference nevertheless calls on the Government to act further to achieve its objectives by:

41 1. Seeking to prevent violence happening in the first place through work towards culture  
42 change; using all means available to raise awareness of the issues including through the  
43 education of children in relationships and consent, and the training of teachers.

44 2. Protecting victims through:

45 a) Ending the criminalisation of child prostitutes.

46 b) Training agencies and border officials to identify vulnerable applicants and handle  
47 delicate cases, including recognising that the trauma suffered by victims may not  
48 immediately manifest itself, and that for some women and girls specialised support and  
49 time to recover are essential.

50 c) Issuing guidance to prosecutors and judges to prevent women suffering from domestic  
51 violence, who have retracted their evidence against their partner because of fear and  
52 intimidation, from being prosecuted for false allegations.

53 d) Enabling vulnerable families to stay together by implementing the Corston  
54 Recommendations, which would see a gradual closure of all women's prisons and their  
55 replacement with some small custodial units for serious and dangerous offenders, and,  
56 for most women offenders, a larger network of support and supervision centres in the  
57 community.

## Monday 19th September Continued

- 58 3. Empowering women through:
- 59 a) Providing better and more supportive systems in schools and social services (such as  
60 health visitors and midwives) through which women and children can report abuse.
- 61 b) Allowing those who have escaped abusive relationships and are living in refuges to  
62 continue to work and remain economically independent.
- 63 c) Retaining services for ethnic minority women so that those who need culturally specific  
64 services feel able to ask for help.
- 65 d) Requiring all licensed sex establishments to advertise a free-phone hotline, where  
66 clients could report concerns and victims could self-report.
- 67 4. Taking an international approach through working towards signing the Council of Europe  
68 Convention on Violence Against Women, which would will further strengthen our domestic  
69 efforts to combat violence against women.

Applicability: England and Wales, except 3 a) (lines 59–60) and 3 c) (lines 6–64) which are England only, and A (lines 26–29), C and D (lines 34–39), 2 b) (lines 46–49), 3 b) (lines 61–62), and 4 (lines 67–69) which are Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see ‘speaking at conference’ on page 13.

# Monday 19th September Continued

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 18th September, see 'separate votes' on page 13.

## 15.15 Question And Answer Session

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Jenni Lang

### **F27 Question and Answer Session with Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister**

A chance for conference representatives to put questions, on any topic, to the leader of the Liberal Democrats in a 'Town Hall' style event. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Monday 19th September. Questions may also be emailed to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk) until 17.00 on Thursday 15th September. See 'question and answer sessions' on page 11.

# Monday 19th September Continued

## 16.00 Policy Motion

Chair: Baroness Doocey AM (London)

Aide: James Gurling (Chair, Campaigns and Communications Committee)

### **F28 Preparing the Ground: Stimulating Growth in the Digital Economy (Information Technology Policy Paper)**

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Dr Julian Huppert MP (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference believes that IT has the power to transform our society by empowering citizens,
  - 2 improving and extending services, and enabling innovation. Conference therefore endorses
  - 3 the proposals in policy paper 101, Preparing the Ground: Stimulating Growth in the Digital
  - 4 Economy, to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to benefit from the digital revolution by:
- 5 A. Creating a fair environment for innovation and business.
  - 6 B. Improving digital inclusion and skill levels in the population and in government.
  - 7 C. Reducing regulation and red tape.
  - 8 D. Safeguarding the essential freedom of the internet, while ensuring the reasonable.
  - 9 E. Protection of individuals and businesses.

# Monday 19th September Continued

10 Conference in particular welcomes the paper's proposals to:

11 1. Create a focus on growth in the creative industries by:

Option A:

- 12 a) Supporting the rights of creators to benefit from what they do and make.
- 13 b) Targeting government policy at helping existing businesses grow and supporting  
14 innovative start-ups.
- 15 c) Repealing sections 3–18 of the Digital Economy Act, which lack a robust evidence  
16 base and democratic legitimacy.
- 17 d) Setting up an independent review of the true impact of file-sharing on the creative  
18 industries to establish more clearly the relationship between illegal activity and legitimate  
19 sales.

Option B:

- 20 a) Recognising the importance of and protecting the intellectual property rights of  
21 creators.
- 22 b) Targeting government policy at helping existing businesses grow and supporting  
23 innovative start-ups.
- 24 c) Reducing red tape, repealing sections 17 and 18 of the Digital Economy Act, and only

## Monday 19th September Continued

25 implementing other sections (especially 9 to 16) if and when there is a robust evidence  
26 base and democratic legitimacy to justify so doing.

27 2. Protect the essential freedom of the internet by:

28 a) Putting in place additional safeguards for online freedom of speech.

29 b) Making it clear that the Government will not allow a two-tier internet, and will hold to  
30 the principle of net neutrality, if necessary through regulation.

31 3. Create a level playing field for business by:

32 a) Broadening the definition of research and development tax credits to apply better to IT  
33 research and development, and ensuring that they are more accessible to small and  
34 medium-sized businesses.

35 b) Taking a leading role in establishing links between universities and the creative  
36 industries.

37 c) Suspending IR35 in order to gather more data on permanent abolition.

38 4. Restore the ownership of data to citizens by:

39 a) Establishing the central principle that data should belong to the individual to whom it  
40 refers.



# Monday 19th September Continued

- 59 free to access via mobile phones and on public wi-fi networks.
- 60 c) Accelerating and improving the roll-out of faster broadband by promoting online  
61 government services and working with industry to improve infrastructure where  
62 necessary.
- 63 7. Stimulate political involvement by:
- 64 a) Encouraging Parliament to present information on its business that is aimed at  
65 members of the public, not procedural experts.
- 66 b) Introducing online public consultations during the writing stage of the legislative  
67 process.
- 68 c) Giving citizens the right to petition government at all levels, and to receive a  
69 proportionate response from decision-makers.

Applicability: Federal, except 3 b) (lines 35–36), aspects of 5 b) and c) (lines 50–54), and aspects of 6 (lines 55–62) which are England only.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see ‘speaking at conference’ on page 13.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See ‘interventions’ on page 11.

# Monday 19th September Continued

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 18th September, see 'separate votes' on page 13.

There will be a vote between Options A (lines 12–19) and B (lines 20–25) in section 1 of the motion.

## 17.10 Speech

Chair: Robert Adamson  
Aide: Justine McGuinness

### **F29 Speech by Norman Baker MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport**

## 17.30 Party Business

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)  
Aide: Lucy Care

# Monday 19th September Continued

## **F30 Recognition of Specified Associated Organisations and Associated Organisations**

Federal Executive

Mover: To be announced

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference notes that the Federal Executive has completed the review of Specified Associated
- 2 Organisations (SAOs) and Associated Organisations (AOs) required by Article 13.3 of the
- 3 Constitution and reported upon it in its report to Conference.
  
- 4 Conference agrees that:
  - 5 1. As a result of this review, the Federal Executive recommends that the following organisations
  - 6 have their status as SAOs renewed until 2015:
    - 7 a) Agents & Organisers Association.
    - 8 b) ALDC (Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors).
    - 9 c) ALDES (Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers & Scientists).
    - 10 d) Liberal Youth.
    - 11 e) PCA (Parliamentary Candidates Association).
    - 12 f) WLD (Women Liberal Democrats).

## Monday 19th September Continued

13 2. As a result of the review, the Federal Executive recommends that the following organisations  
14 have their status as SAOs provisionally renewed until 2015 subject to the following  
15 conditions:

16 a) DELGA (Liberal Democrats Lesbian & Gay Association) – provisional acceptance  
17 subject to successful implementation of plan to reverse membership decline and  
18 increase from 200 at present to the minimum threshold of 250 by the end of 2012.

19 b) EMLD (Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats) – provisional acceptance subject to amending  
20 constitution to comply with Article 4.5 of the Constitution and more information on the  
21 Annual Accounts to be submitted by Federal Conference in September.

22 3. As a result of the review the Federal Executive recommends that the following organisations  
23 have their status as SAOs suspended from the list in the Constitution as no documents  
24 were been submitted by the motions deadline; if the requisite documents are not submitted  
25 by Federal Conference in September the following organisation will be downgraded to AO  
26 status:

27 a) Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association.

28 4. As a result of this review the Federal Executive recommends that the following organisations  
29 have their status as AOs renewed until 2015:

## Monday 19th September Continued

- 30 a) Humanist and Secularist Liberal Democrats.
- 31 b) LDCF (Liberal Democrat Christian Forum).
- 32 c) LDDA (Liberal Democrat Disability Association).
- 33 d) LDEG (Liberal Democrat European Group).
- 34 e) LDFAF (Liberal Democrat Friends of the Armed Forces).
- 35 f) Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel.
- 36 g) Liberal Democrat Friends of Kashmir.
- 37 h) Liberal Democrat Friends of Pakistan.
- 38 i) Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine.
- 39 j) Liberal Democrats for Peace & Security.

40 5. As a result of the review the Federal Executive recommends that the following organisations  
41 have their status as AOs provisionally renewed until 2015 subject to the following  
42 conditions:

- 43 a) Green Liberal Democrats – provisional acceptance subject to receipt of 2010 Accounts  
44 by Federal Conference in September.
- 45 b) LDEA (Liberal Democrat Education Association) – provisional acceptance subject to  
46 amending the constitution to comply with Article 4.6 and also to include confirmation of  
47 PPERA compliance.
- 48 c) Liberal International (British Group) – provisional acceptance subject to amending  
49 constitution to comply with Article 4.6.

## Monday 19th September Continued

- 50 6. As a result of the review the Federal Executive recommends that the following organisations  
51 have their status as AOs suspended from the list in the Constitution until further notice as no  
52 documents have been submitted; if the requisite documents are not submitted by Federal  
53 Conference in September both of the following organisations will remain suspended:
- 54 a) ALDTU (Association of Liberal Democrat Trade Unionists).  
55 b) DAGGER.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 13.

18.00 Close Of Session

# Tuesday 20th September

## 09.00 Party Business

Chair: Caroline Pigeon AM (London)

Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F31 Standing Order Amendment: Emergency Motions**

17 conference representatives

Mover: Baroness Jolly

Summation: Jeremy Hargreaves

- 1 Delete 4.4, emergency motions, and 4.5, ballots for emergency motions, and insert:
- 2 4.4 Emergency motions
- 3 a) The Committee shall ensure adequate time is allocated for debate of emergency motions.
- 4 b) The Committee may put any emergency motion on the agenda for debate.
- 5 c) The Committee may hold a ballot to select any emergency policy motions to debate. If one
- 6 or more ballots is held the committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the
- 7 representatives attending conference as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time
- 8 for the ballot.

Applicability: Federal.

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

The existing text of standing orders is given on pages 117–135 of this Agenda. A standing order amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

### **F32 Constitutional Amendment: Federal Appeals Panel**

Islington

Mover: Mark Pack

Summation: Caspar Woolley

- 1 In clause 14.6 of the Federal Constitution, delete:
  
- 2 The Panel shall determine and publish its own procedures (provided that the same are not

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

3 inconsistent with this Constitution and subject to confirmation by conference). It shall also  
4 publish its decisions on its interpretation of this Constitution.

5 And insert:

6 The Panel shall determine and publish its own procedures (provided that the same are not  
7 inconsistent with this Constitution and subject to confirmation by conference). The Panel  
8 shall publish once a year, at the time of the party's autumn conference, a report containing  
9 its procedures, all of its decisions on its interpretation of this Constitution since the previous  
10 report, a summary of each of its other rulings since the previous report and any other  
11 matters the Panel shall see fit to include.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

# Tuesday 20th September Continued

A constitutional amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

## 09.40 Policy Motion

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

Aide: Jo Shaw

### **F33 Science Not Stigma: Ending the Blood Ban**

14 conference representatives

Mover: Dij Davies

Summation: Chris Ward

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 a) Men who have had sex with men (MSM), even with a condom, are banned from donating  
3 blood in the UK for life.
- 4 b) Women who have sex with MSM individuals are prevented from giving blood for 12 months,  
5 effectively excluding long-term partners of men who have had sex with a man only once in  
6 their lifetime from donating.
- 7 c) The UK currently suffers from low levels of blood stock, particularly for certain blood types.
- 8 d) Heterosexual men and women who have had unprotected sex in a high-risk HIV country  
9 can give blood after one year.

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

10 e) Nick Clegg and David Cameron both made comments prior to the election that the MSM  
11 blood ban should end.

12 f) Blood donations are not all individually screened for HIV, unlike in other developed  
13 countries.

14 Conference believes that:

15 1. The safety and well-being of those who require blood transfusions should always be  
16 paramount.

17 2. There is currently a high demand for certain blood types and the situation of low blood  
18 stock could be exacerbated by any future epidemics or pandemics, having catastrophic  
19 consequences for those who require blood transfusions.

20 3. The restrictions placed on the MSM group are inconsistent with the restrictions placed on  
21 other 'high risk' groups.

22 4. The criteria for being eligible to give blood should be based on the risk posed by the  
23 behaviour of the individual, not their membership of a certain societal grouping.

24 5. Removing the outright ban will give way to between one and two million new donors, based  
25 on statistics suggesting that around 6% to 10% of the male population are gay or bisexual.

26 6. Each individual blood donation should be subject to the most sensitive forms of screening  
27 available to ensure risk of transfusion-transmitted infections are absolutely minimal.

28 7. A five or ten year MSM deferral is not sufficient in terms of increasing the number of  
29 donors.

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

30 8. The outright ban on men who have sex with other men from donating blood in the UK  
31 should be removed.

32 Conference calls for blood donations to be subject to the most thorough and advanced  
33 screening available to ensure minimal risk of transfusion-transmitted infections.

34 Conference resolves to urge the Government to end the outright ban on the MSM group  
35 from donating blood; to end the twelve month deferral on female partners of that group; and  
36 subsequently to work with medical experts and organisations to ensure adequate criteria and  
37 restrictions are put in place that reflect the risk posed by the behaviour of each individual.

Applicability: England only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

# Tuesday 20th September Continued

## 10.20 Policy Motion

Chair: Susan Gaszczak

Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

### **F34 Adult Social Care**

10 conference representatives

Mover: John Pugh MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Health and Care)

Summation: Baroness Jolly (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Health and Care)

- 1 Conference believes in a social care system that:
  - 2 A. Enhances the independence, privacy and dignity of individual citizens.
  - 3 B. Encourages individual health and well-being, whilst meeting the needs of a changing
  - 4 society.
  - 5 C. Empowers service users and their families, enabling them to make fully informed decisions
  - 6 about every aspect of the care they receive.
  - 7 D. Improves fair access to services and promotes intergenerational equity.
  
- 8 Conference welcomes the Coalition Government's commitment to provide additional investment to
- 9 support social care, reaching £2 billion per year by 2014-15, and further welcomes the Commission

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

- 10 on the Funding of Social Care and Support (Dilnot Commission) recommendations and the Law  
11 Commission report on Adult Social Care.
- 12 Conference calls on the Government to:
- 13 1. Use the publication of the Dilnot Commission recommendations as a basis for implementing  
14 long-overdue reform of the social care system, including to:
- 15 a) Ensure that people are protected from the high costs of their social care.  
16 b) Devise access criteria and a transparent assessment system which enables users and  
17 their families to understand their entitlements and liabilities and to plan their care.  
18 c) Work with local authorities to devise a sustainable system of deferred payments, which  
19 is fair to individuals and enables communities to develop new social care services.  
20 d) Extend the means testing threshold, guaranteeing support for those of lower means.
- 21 2. Implement the Law Commission's main recommendations, including to:
- 22 a) Put wellbeing at the heart of all decision-making about the care of older people, using  
23 new statutory principles.  
24 b) Build a single, streamlined assessment and eligibility framework to be implemented  
25 consistently nationwide.  
26 c) Protect service users from abuse and neglect with a new legal framework.

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

- 27 d) Place adult safeguarding boards on a statutory footing thereby giving them greater  
28 powers to prevent abuse.
- 29 e) Improve portability within the social care system, allowing service users to receive  
30 continuity of support and ensuring they do not have to negotiate a new care package  
31 when moving between local authority areas.
- 32 f) Allow for new joined-up commissioning arrangements that focus on quality of  
33 outcomes, rather than quantity of supply. Local authorities would commission providers  
34 to supply a package of services with the aim of maintaining independence or reducing  
35 dependency.
- 36 3. Create an independent Older People's Commissioner for England, funded in part by the  
37 private care industry, who would:
- 38 a) Champion the rights of older people.  
39 b) Commission research into older people's needs and new service models.  
40 c) Ensure that older people are involved in decision making on issues of concern to them  
41 and their families.
- 42 4. Ensure that older people and their families have access to high quality, independent  
43 information and advice about care services, eligibility and funding.
- 44 5. Devise a complaints system that guarantees complaints made by staff and service users are  
45 responded to effectively, quickly and sensitively.

# Tuesday 20th September Continued

Applicability: England only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

## 11.15 Speech

Chair: Linda Jack

Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

### **F35 Speech by Steve Webb MP, Minister of State for Pensions**

## 11.35 Question And Answer Session

Chair: Baroness Jolly (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Health and Care)

Aide: Baroness Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

# Tuesday 20th September Continued

## **F36 NHS Reform Report Back**

Panellists will include:

- Paul Burstow MP, Minister of State for Care Services
- John Pugh MP, Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Health and Care
- Baroness Williams of Crosby
- Dr Graham Winyard, former Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England and Medical Director of the NHS

A chance for conference representatives to put questions on the NHS Reform Bill, to a panel including party spokespeople and outside experts. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 09.40 on Tuesday 20th September. Questions may also be emailed to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk) until 17.00 on Thursday 15th September. The chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See 'question and answer sessions' on page 11.

## 12.20 Speech

Chair: Susan Gaszczak

Aide: Lucy Care

## **F37 Speech by Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change**

# Tuesday 20th September Continued

12.40 Lunch

14.30 Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball

Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

## **F38 A Green Stimulus for Economic Recovery**

10 conference representatives

Mover: Stephen Williams MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on the Treasury)

Summation: Baroness Parminter

- 1 Conference recognises the need for economic recovery in the UK to be based substantially
- 2 on investment in manufacturing industry and infrastructure, reducing the UK's dependence on
- 3 financial services and spreading prosperity round the country.
  
- 4 Conference reaffirms its commitment to the goal of a zero-carbon Britain, and welcomes
- 5 the Coalition Government's action in setting a level for the UK's carbon budget for 2023–27
- 6 equivalent to a 50 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025, thereby providing a
- 7 clear long-term incentive for low-carbon investments.

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

8 Conference believes that economic recovery based on a return to business-as-usual patterns  
9 would be economically and environmentally unsustainable, and calls on the Government to  
10 pursue a green growth strategy centred on the development of low-carbon and environmentally  
11 sustainable technologies, industries and infrastructure.

12 Conference recognises that this green growth strategy will generate new jobs, promote exports  
13 of new technologies and reduce fossil fuel imports, thereby protecting UK businesses and  
14 consumers from oil and gas price rises and improving the UK's competitiveness in international  
15 markets.

16 Conference applauds the steps taken so far by the Coalition Government to promote green  
17 growth, including in particular the Green Deal energy efficiency programme and support for  
18 apprenticeships, the creation of the Green Investment Bank, the establishment of the low-carbon  
19 Technology and Innovation Centre, reform of the electricity market to provide clear incentives for  
20 investment in renewable energy, and subsidies for the purchase of electric vehicles.

21 Conference calls for the Coalition Government to:

- 22 1. Place green growth at the heart of its strategies for recovery from recession and the creation  
23 of sustained economic prosperity.
- 24 2. Identify the barriers to green growth, including shortages of investment capital, skills, training,  
25 design and manufacturing capacity, deficiencies in grid infrastructure and low spending on

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

- 26 energy research, development and deployment, and take urgent action to address them.
- 27 3. Ensure that the planning system fully supports green growth.
- 28 4. Provide financial support to critical investments in the skills, infrastructure and innovation  
29 needed to support the green growth strategy.
- 30 5. Ensure that the Green Investment Bank is able to play its full part in the green growth  
31 strategy, including by introducing legislation in the next parliamentary session to establish  
32 the Bank's remit and guarantee its permanence and independence.
- 33 6. Develop government procurement policies to promote the rapid expansion of low-carbon  
34 and other environmentally sustainable technologies and services.
- 35 7. Ensure that UKTI and ECGD are fully integrated into this strategy, increasing their support  
36 to low-carbon sectors, and withdrawing fully from supporting all fossil fuel-related sectors,  
37 including legislating, if necessary, to modify these agencies' remits.

Applicability: Federal, except 3 and 4 (lines 26–28) which are England only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

### 15.30 Speech

Chair: Lucy Care

Aide: Baroness Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

#### **F39 Speech by Andrew Stunell MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government**

### 15.50 Policy Motion

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

#### **F40 A New Purpose for Politics: Quality of Life (Quality of Life Policy Paper)**

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Lord Marks QC

Summation: Jeremy Hargreaves (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

- 1 Conference welcomes policy paper 102, A New Purpose for Politics: Quality of Life, as a  
2 statement of Liberal Democrat policy on the importance of quality of life and policies to achieve  
3 it.
- 4 Conference affirms that:
- 5 i) Pursuit of a good quality of life, for themselves and others, is most people's main aim in life.
  - 6 ii) The importance of maximising quality of life, through mechanisms other than simply  
7 increasing economic prosperity, has historically not received the attention in public policy  
8 that it deserves.
  - 9 iii) New research techniques allowing wellbeing to be measured are very welcome tools to help  
10 in improving quality of life.
  - 11 iv) Supporting people to make their own choices to maximise their quality of life, through  
12 both economic and non-economic means, should now become the central goal for public  
13 policy.
  - 14 v) The Liberal Democrat approach to improving quality of life should be based on traditional  
15 Liberal principles of supporting and equipping people to take their own decisions about their  
16 lives.
- 17 Conference welcomes the Government's action for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to  
18 collect information on wellbeing, which will help inform further action to improve quality of life,  
19 and calls for:

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

- 20 A. The traditional liberal tools of information and education to be at the heart of supporting  
21 people to improve their quality of life.
- 22 B. The creation of a National Institute of Wellbeing to oversee the collation, development and  
23 presentation of research evidence and best practice, and to comment on the success of  
24 government policies and other measures in increasing wellbeing.
- 25 C. The National Institute for Wellbeing to create and maintain a Wellbeing Index, allowing the  
26 public to compare how successfully large organisations promote quality of life, as a means  
27 of driving further improvement.
- 28 D. The broadening of public health education to cover public wellbeing education, to help  
29 people make informed choices.
- 30 E. The role of wellbeing to be included in schools' Personal, Health and Social Education  
31 (PHSE) curricula.

32 Conference believes that:

- 33 1. Government should make promoting quality of life an integral part of policy-making,  
34 particularly through:
- 35 a) Health and wellbeing boards including a range of wellbeing elements in their local  
36 health and wellbeing strategies.
- 37 b) The UK Government appointing a cabinet-level champion for wellbeing, supported by a  
38 small official unit to drive policy-making across government

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

- 39 c) The European Union appointing a European Commissioner Champion for Wellbeing.  
40 d) Existing suites of statutory Plans incorporating a Wellbeing Plan, and using wellbeing  
41 impact assessments.  
42 e) Future Liberal Democrat manifestos considering including a Wellbeing Thread,  
43 explaining the impact of our policies on improving quality of life.
- 44 2. Public services should be accountable to the people they serve and calls for local public  
45 services to take action to present a more joined up face to users.
- 46 3. Good mental health is crucial to quality of life, welcomes the Government's commitment to  
47 widening access to cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), and calls for:
- 48 a) Improved access to a wider range of therapies to improve quality of life.  
49 b) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to be reviewed to ensure they  
50 provide a sufficient service.
- 51 4. Communities are crucial to quality of life, and we should support them, and specifically calls  
52 for greater use of civic awards to recognise contributions to the community.
- 53 5. Advertising plays an important role in our lives, and that government should consider actions  
54 to educate and inform people to understand and handle media advertising.

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

- 55 6. Experiences in the first three to five years of your life are crucial to your future  
56 quality of life and should continue to be a priority for investment.
- 57 7. Counselling and other similar support can significantly increase very low wellbeing and  
58 should be more widely available.
- 59 8. Activities outside work such as sport and other physical activity, the arts and voluntary  
60 activity are valuable in promoting wellbeing and should continue to be supported.
- 61 9. Working arrangements are key factors in overall quality of life and welcomes:
- 62 a) The actions which many employers already take to help maximise their employees'  
63 quality of life, and would like to see this approach extended to other workplaces,  
64 especially to the lowest-paid.
- 65 b) The information we now have about what makes a workplace which is good for its  
66 employees' quality of life.
- 67 c) The importance of the option of flexible working to wellbeing, and welcomes the  
68 Government's commitment to extend the right to request flexible working to everyone.
- 69 Conference further believes that:
- 70 i) It is not for government to set targets for employee satisfaction and the extent of flexible

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

- 71 working; however there is a role for improved information on them, to help level the power  
72 balance between employers and employees.
- 73 ii) The 9,000 or so largest organisations in the UK which together employ 50% of the UK  
74 workforce, should therefore, by 2014, report on employee satisfaction and the extent of  
75 flexible working.
- 76 iii) The existing power to disqualify someone from being a company director for financial  
77 impropriety should be extended to serious failure to protect employees' wellbeing.
- 78 iv) Mutuals contribute to employees' sense of control over their work, which is an important  
79 factor in quality of life, and should be encouraged.

80 Conference notes that our surroundings have a significant impact on our quality of life, and  
81 therefore calls for:

- 82 I. The promotion of quality of life to lie at the heart of the planning framework.
- 83 II. Planning frameworks generally to promote open space and exposure to the natural  
84 environment.
- 85 III. Local people to have the ability through a petition to call a referendum on the proposed sale  
86 of any public open land, including school playing fields.

Applicability: Federal, except D and E (lines 28–31), 1 a) (lines 35–36), 1 d) (lines 40–41), 2, 3 and 4 (lines 44–52), 6, 7 and 8 (lines 55–60) and I, II, and III (lines 82–86) which are England only.

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 7.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

### 17.20 Party Business

Chair: Arnie Gibbons

Aide: Qassim Afzal

# Tuesday 20th September Continued

## F41 Community Politics

Bermondsey & Old Southwark, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Brentwood & Ongar, Ceredigion, Chester, Eastbourne, Eastleigh, Glasgow North, Glasgow South, Havering, Hillingdon, Montgomeryshire, Romsey & Southampton North, Westmorland & Lonsdale and 17 conference representatives

Mover: Tim Farron MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Summation: Cllr Richard Kemp

- 1 Conference notes that because of our position as the smaller party in a Coalition Government,  
2 the need for a strong and distinctive Liberal Democrat political identity is more important than  
3 ever before.
- 4 Conference further notes that:
- 5 i) Much of our success has, in the past, been born out of our commitment to ‘community  
6 politics’, engaging energetically with the communities we serve and delivering for them.
  - 7 ii) In the preamble to the constitution, we commit to enabling all citizens to “contribute fully to  
8 their communities and to take part in the decisions which affect their lives”.
  - 9 iii) The nature of communities is changing: as well as being geographic they can be based  
10 on interest or identity and therefore make use of the internet and social media alongside  
11 traditional methods of communication.

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

12 iv) Following a set of disappointing results in the May 2011 elections, as well the defeat in the  
13 Alternative Vote referendum, there is a need at every level of the party to reassert the Liberal  
14 Democrats' commitment to the communities we serve.

15 Conference reaffirms its determination to maintain the independent and distinctive voice of the  
16 Liberal Democrats. Conference also reasserts our commitment to the communities we serve  
17 through a strengthening of the party infrastructure to ensure our continued hard work and  
18 campaigning at national and local levels translates into electoral success thanks to genuine  
19 positive action in our local areas.

20 Conference believes that:

21 a) Our movement into power locally and nationally in recent times is hugely positive, but it has  
22 also had a tendency to divert us from the principles and practice of 'community politics'.

23 b) 'Community politics' for Liberal Democrats should be both tactic and ideology at all levels  
24 of the party: town hall to Whitehall ensuring that Liberal Democrat candidates deserve and  
25 achieve success through electoral opportunities each year.

26 c) The Liberal Democrats are a very important community in their own right which the party  
27 nationally needs to engage with.

28 d) The party should make a renewed commitment to the principles of 'community politics'  
29 as outlined at the 1970 Eastbourne Liberal Assembly, using an approach that has been  
30 updated to ensure its contemporary relevance in the current political climate.

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

31 Conference therefore calls for:

- 32 1. A renewed strategic emphasis on ‘community politics’: our role as political activists is to help  
33 organise people in communities to take and use power, to use our political skills to redress  
34 grievances, and to represent people at all levels of the political structure.
- 35 2. The party’s parliamentarians and decision-making bodies to ensure that the policies and  
36 positions they develop are conducive to community politics and are worded and presented  
37 in such a way to help the community activist.
- 38 3. Politicians at all levels of the party to ensure dialogue with the communities they serve  
39 through ‘pavement politics’ including: residents surveys, street surgeries, public meetings  
40 and effective use of social media.
- 41 4. A continued emphasis on building campaigning capacity, recruiting members and activists  
42 and raising money.
- 43 5. A reaffirmed determination that the bodies within the party responsible for training and  
44 development have sufficient resources to ensure that members and activists across the  
45 party have the tools they need to ensure success.
- 46 6. Improved methods of communicating with members and activists across all levels of the  
47 party to ensure a strong, efficient and effective infrastructure that will help both to win  
48 election campaigns and help those activists serve their communities to the best possible  
49 level.

Applicability: Federal.

## Tuesday 20th September Continued

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

18.00 Close of session

# Wednesday 21st September

09.00 Party Business

Chair: Qassim Afzal

Aide: Baroness Doocey AM (London)

## **F42 Interim Peer Election Regulations**

Federal Executive

Mover: To be announced

Summation: To be announced

- 1 In rule 1, after ‘The Chief Executive shall be the Acting Returning Officer.’, insert: ‘The rules of
- 2 the Federal Appeals Panel shall make provision for a process to replace the Chair in this role if
- 3 necessary.’.
  
- 4 In rule 4, delete ‘2010’ and insert: ‘of the year in which the election is held’.
  
- 5 In rule 5, after ‘Former Liberal Democrat’, insert: ‘(and predecessor party)’.
  
- 6 In rule 6, delete ‘in print ready form’ and insert: ‘as a high resolution PDF or text-only Word
- 7 document’.

# Wednesday 21st September Continued

- 8 In rule 7, delete entire text and insert:
- 9 7. Each candidate shall be responsible for supplying material that verifies, to the satisfaction of  
10 the Acting Returning Officer, any statement in his or her personal election address claiming  
11 that he or she is endorsed by any individual or organisation. Such material must accompany  
12 the candidate's personal election address artwork.
- 13 In rule 10, delete ' , including the Conference Gazette, '.
- 14 In rule 15, after 'the Leader of the Liberal Democrats and', insert: 'those nominated by the  
15 Leader'.
- 16 In the appendix 'Election Address Supplement to Rule 6':
- 17 After 'All artwork should', delete 'preferably'.
- 18 Delete:
- 19 Your first side of paper can contain portrait artwork containing whatever the candidate wishes.  
20 However, on the second side of paper candidates will be allowed 300 words (text only) to answer  
21 the following questions:
- 22 • 1 How would your experience enable you to fulfil the role of a working Peer?

## Wednesday 21st September Continued

- 23 • 2 What would you aim to achieve as a Liberal Democrat member of the House?
- 24 • 3 To which policy areas would you wish to contribute?
- 25 • 4 How would your work as a Peer help the party in general?

26 After 'no later than 12 noon on', delete 'Wednesday 29th September 2010' and insert 'to be  
27 inserted'.

### Current Interim Peer Election Regulations:

1. The Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall be the Returning Officer. The Chief Executive shall be the Acting Returning Officer. The Deputy Acting Returning Officer will be the Head of Compliance and Constitutional Support. Other Deputy Acting Returning Officers may be appointed if required.
2. The Federal Executive shall draw up a timetable every two years for the receipts of nominations, dispatch and return of ballot papers and the counting of the votes for each election covered by these regulations.
3. Nominations may be submitted by 25 Conference Representatives and must be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate. They must also include a declaration of interests and probity form similar to the one used for Parliamentary candidates.
4. Candidates must have been a fully paid up Liberal Democrat member for at least one year prior to 1st August 2010.
5. Former Liberal Democrat MP's, MEP's, MSP's and AM's shall automatically go on the list ex-officio and so shall not be eligible to stand.

## Wednesday 21st September Continued

6. Each candidate shall be entitled to include in the mailing of ballot papers for each election in which he or she is a candidate a personal election address covering up to two sides of A5 paper, printed by and at the expense of the Federal Party. Election address artwork in print ready form must reach the Acting Returning Officer at an address and by a date to be notified (see further instructions at the end).
7. Candidates must not include endorsements of themselves by others in the artwork that they supply.
8. No candidate may incur, or directly or indirectly authorize or cause to be incurred, any further expenses on campaigning at any time before or after the close of nominations.
9. Lists of the names and addresses of conference representatives are confidential and shall not be released for the purposes of the election.
10. No party publication, including the Conference Gazette, may accept advertisements in support of or in opposition to candidates.
11. No material published or circulated by or on behalf of a candidate shall defame by name or implication any other candidate and no candidate shall so defame any other candidate in the course of personal canvassing.
12. The Returning Officer shall have the power to disqualify before declaration of the result, or unseat if declared elected, any candidate who is found to be in breach of regulations 4, 7, 8 or 11 but shall not exercise such power without first offering any such candidate the right to make representation, and having regard thereto.
13. All contested elections shall be conducted by secret ballot and the single transferable vote. Counts shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of the Electoral

## Wednesday 21st September Continued

Reform Society's publication How to Conduct an Election by the Single Transferable Vote. If the Specified Proportions of men and women are not elected by the operation of the above rules, the Returning Officer shall conduct such further counts as he or she considers necessary and declare elected those members of the under-represented sex and declare not elected those members of the over-represented sex who would or would not have been elected with such larger and smaller numbers of members as would cause the correct number of that sex to be elected.

14. Those elected to the panel will serve for four years unless they resign by writing to the Chief Executive of the Liberal Democrats. The advisory panel to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats shall also have the power in exceptional circumstances to remove people from the elected list.
15. Those elected to the panel will be subject to the scrutiny of an advisory panel to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats and to the separate scrutiny of the House of Lords Appointments Commission.
16. Any Party member may lodge, in writing, a formal complaint of infringement of election regulations forthwith upon becoming aware of any alleged infringement and not more than 21 days after the declaration. The written complaint should be addressed to the Acting Returning Officer and specify in detail the nature of the infringement. The Returning Officer shall then decide, in full consultation with the Acting Returning Officer, whether there is sufficient evidence and grounds to uphold the complaint, but shall not do so without offering any candidate concerned the right to make representations, and having regard thereto.

## Wednesday 21st September Continued

17. Appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer must be referred to the Federal Appeals Panel within 14 days of the decision. For the purposes of appeals under these regulations the Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall not act as a member of the Federal Appeals Panel, and the other Panel members shall appoint one of their number as Acting Chair.
18. If a complaint is made prior to the declaration of the result, the Returning Officer shall have the power to postpone such declaration until the determination of such complaint or, where an appeal is made against his decision, until the determination of such appeal.

### Election Address Supplement to Rule 6:

Each candidate is entitled to submit camera-ready artwork covering up to one side of A5 paper (148 x 210mm leave a margin of at least 5mm all round) and a second side containing written answers to the required four questions. Your artwork must be submitted as a high resolution pdf with all pictures and fonts embedded and it is up to you to make sure it will reproduce as you want it when sent to the printers. If you cannot supply a high-resolution pdf then a text only word document is the only acceptable alternative. All artwork should preferably be submitted by e-mail.

Your first side of paper can contain portrait artwork containing whatever the candidate wishes. However, on the second side of paper candidates will be allowed 300 words (text only) to answer the following questions:

- 1 How would your experience enable you to fulfil the role of a working Peer?
- 2 What would you aim to achieve as a Liberal Democrat member of the House?

# Wednesday 21st September Continued

- 3 To which policy areas would you wish to contribute?
- 4 How would your work as a Peer help the party in general?

In the election booklet the two A5 sheets for a candidate will be facing each other.

Artwork and text must reach the Returning Officer no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 29th September 2010. PDF artwork files can be submitted by email to [returning.officer@libdems.org.uk](mailto:returning.officer@libdems.org.uk).

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

In accordance with article 8.4 of the Federal Constitution, party election regulations are subject to ratification by the Conference but are not open to amendment.

## **F43 Federal Committee Election Regulations**

Federal Executive

Mover: To be announced

Summation: To be announced

## Wednesday 21st September Continued

- 1 In rule 1, after 'The Chief Executive shall be the Acting Returning Officer.', insert: 'The rules of
- 2 the Federal appeals panel shall make provision for a process to replace the Chair in this role if
- 3 necessary'.
  
- 4 In rule 2, after 'cast their ballots electronically,' insert: 'and to view the candidates' election
- 5 addresses electronically. The Returning Officer may carry out electronic communications with the
- 6 electorate to facilitate the election'.
  
- 7 In rule 4 (a), delete 'in camera ready form' and insert: 'as a high resolution PDF or text-only Word
- 8 document'.
  
- 9 Delete rule 4(d) and renumber accordingly.

### Current Election Regulations:

1. The Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall be the Returning Officer. The Chief Executive shall be the Acting Returning Officer. The Deputy Acting Returning Officer will be the Head of Compliance and Constitutional Support. Other Deputy Acting Returning Officers may be appointed if required.
2. The Federal Executive shall draw up a timetable for each year's receipts of nominations, dispatch and return of ballot papers and the counting of the votes for each election covered by these regulations. The Returning Officer may make provision for voters who

## Wednesday 21st September Continued

wish to do so to cast their ballots electronically, and to view the candidates' election addresses electronically.

3. Nominations may be submitted by:

- a) Any Local Party;
- b) Any Regional Party;
- c) Any State Party;
- d) Any Specified Associated Organisations; or
- e) Any two Voting Conference Representatives with valid membership.

and must be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate. For the election of Councillor Reps see rule 14(b).

4. (a) Each candidate shall be entitled to include in the mailing of ballot papers for each election in which he or she is a candidate a personal election address covering up to one side of A5 paper, printed by and at the expense of the Federal Party. Election address artwork in camera ready form must reach the Acting Returning Officer at an address and by a date to be notified.
- b) Each candidate shall be responsible for supplying material that verifies, to the satisfaction of the Acting Returning Officer, any statement in his or her personal election address claiming that he or she is endorsed by any individual or organisation. Such material must accompany the candidate's personal election address artwork.
- (c) No candidate may incur, or directly or indirectly authorise or cause to be incurred any further expenses on campaigning at any time before or after the close of nominations.
- (d) Candidates or their supporters must not use e-mail, e-groups, cix conferencing or

## Wednesday 21st September Continued

websites during these elections to promote their candidacy,

(e) Candidates must not carry out any activities during the election period, which may be viewed as treating.

5. The names and addresses of conference representatives are confidential and shall not be released for the purposes of the election.
6. (a) No party publication, including the Conference Gazette, may accept advertisements in support of or in opposition to candidates.  
(b) Candidates may not use Liberal Democrat News to specifically promote their candidacy but all other articles are permissible.
7. No material published or circulated by or on behalf of a candidate shall defame by name or implication any other candidate and no candidate shall so defame any other candidate in the course of personal canvassing.
8. The Returning Officer shall have the power to disqualify before declaration of the result, or unseat if declared elected, any candidate who is found to be in breach of regulations 4 or 7, but shall not exercise such power without first offering any such candidate the right to make representation, and having regard thereto.

...

14. (a) These Regulations shall be used for the biennial elections to the Federal Executive, Federal Conference Committee, Federal Policy Committee, International Relations Committee and ELDR Delegation.  
(b) They shall also be used for the election of Principal Councilor Representatives on the Federal Executive and the Federal Policy Committee except section three shall

# Wednesday 21st September Continued

read: Nominations shall be submitted by any two Principal Councillors with valid membership and must be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

In accordance with article 8.4 of the Federal Constitution, party election regulations are subject to ratification by the conference but are not open to amendment.

## 09.30 Policy Motion

Chair: Sarah Boad

Aide: Susan Gaszczak

### **F44 The Arab Awakening**

10 conference representatives

Mover: Martin Horwood MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on International Affairs)

Summation: Lord Wallace of Saltaire

# Wednesday 21st September Continued

- 1 Conference welcomes:
  - 2 i) The popular movements for change across the Middle East and North Africa.
  - 3 ii) The resulting progress in some countries towards democracy and constitutional reform.
  - 4 iii) UN Security Council Resolution 1973, the valuable humanitarian assistance to the people  
5 of Libya and the Libyan Interim National Council's commitment to a free, secular and  
6 democratic Libya.
  - 7 iv) The UK Government and the European Union's commitment to the region, particularly  
8 through the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Deauville Partnership.
  
- 9 Conference condemns violent repression and denial of human rights in Libya, Syria, Yemen,  
10 Bahrain and wherever it may occur.
  
- 11 Conference believes that:
  - 12 A. Democracy, justice, free expression, free association and self-determination are universal  
13 human rights.
  - 14 B. Such human rights can discourage conflict, enhance prosperity and economic development,  
15 and build real long-term stability in the region.
  - 16 C. Countries which embrace freedom and pluralism should feel its full economic, social and  
17 political benefits.

# Wednesday 21st September Continued

18 Conference calls for:

19 1. Governments across the region to respond peacefully to popular opposition, respect human  
20 rights, and move decisively towards constitutional and security sector reform coupled with  
21 free and fair elections.

22 2. The UK Government, together with the European Union and the G8, to support peaceful  
23 transition wherever possible by:

24 a) Providing better incentives for the region, for instance by strengthening the European  
25 Endowment for Democracy, improving trade access in key economic sectors and  
26 positively considering visa facilitation and visa liberalisation, all conditional on respect for  
27 human rights, progress in reform and transition to open and transparent government.

28 b) Ensuring that sufficient funds are allocated within the EU budget from 2014-20 to  
29 ensure the long-term success of the European Neighbourhood Policy and that the \$20  
30 billion promised to Egypt and Tunisia is delivered under the Deauville Partnership.

31 3. Learning from mistakes in Iraq, the international community to prepare a comprehensive  
32 and well-resourced post-conflict stabilisation strategy for Libya, and for the UK Government  
33 urgently to improve civil-military coordination between the Foreign & Commonwealth Office,  
34 Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development.

## Wednesday 21st September Continued

- 35 4. The Liberal Democrat federal Party to work with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy,  
36 European Liberal Democrats, Liberal International and sister parties in the region and with  
37 Liberal Youth and young people to encourage a peaceful transition to democracy in the  
38 region.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 5th September; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 6. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Tuesday 20th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

### 10.15 Speech

Chair: Jenni Lang  
Aide: Sandra Gidley

**F45 Speech by Rt Hon Michael Moore MP, Secretary of State for Scotland**

# Wednesday 21st September Continued

## 10.35 Question And Answer Session

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

Aide: Baroness Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F46 Question and Answer Session on International Issues**

Panellists will include:

- Lord Ashdown, Chair of the Humanitarian Emergency Response Review
- Jeremy Browne MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
- Baroness Falkner, Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on International Affairs
- Nick Harvey MP, Minister of State for the Armed Forces
- Martin Horwood MP, Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on International Affairs

A chance for conference representatives to put questions on any international issue. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 18.00 on Tuesday 20th September. Questions may also be emailed to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk) until 17.00 on Thursday 15th September. The chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See 'question and answer sessions' on page 11.

# Wednesday 21st September Continued

## 11.20 Speech

Chair: Cllr Chris Maines

Aide: Linda Jack

### **F47 Speech by Kirsty Williams AM, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats**

## 11.40 Emergency Motion Or Topical Issue

Chair: James Gurling (Chair, Campaigns and Communications Committee)

Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F48 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue**

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or discussion of an important current political issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Monday 5th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'emergency motions' on page 9 and 'topical issues' on page 14. Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Conference Extra.

Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

# Wednesday 21st September Continued

Topical issue timing – introducer of issue and spokesperson's response: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

12.40 Lunch

14.30 Party Business

Chair: Tim Farron MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

**F49 Party Awards**

**F50 Appeal**

Speech

**F51 Speech by the Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP**

15.45 Close Of Conference (approx.)

# Standing Orders For Federal Conference

## Glossary Of Terms

### **Business motion**

A proposal to conduct the affairs of the Party in a particular way or to express an opinion on the way affairs have been conducted.

### **Business amendment**

A proposal to change a business motion. Any such proposal should be significant, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.

### **Committee**

Throughout these standing orders, Committee means the Federal Conference Committee unless otherwise qualified.

### **Constitutional amendment**

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

### **Secondary constitutional amendment**

An amendment to a constitutional amendment. This must not introduce new material.

### **Consultative session**

A meeting where selected areas of policy or strategy are considered in greater depth than is possible in full debates.

### **Day visitor**

Someone who has paid the appropriate day visitor fee. Day visitors are not entitled to speak or vote in full sessions of conference.

## STANDING ORDERS

### **Elected representative**

A person elected by a local party or an SAO to represent them at conference. This term does not include substitutes appointed to replace an elected representative at a particular meeting of conference. It does include elected representatives who have not registered for a particular meeting of conference.

### **Emergency motion**

A proposal which relates to a specific recent development which occurred after the deadline for submission of motions. Emergency motions must be brief.

### **Emergency amendment**

An amendment to a motion which relates to a specific event which occurred after the deadline for the submission of amendments. It must be brief and uncontentious.

### **Full session**

Any part of the conference agenda during which debates, topical issue discussions or discussion of business, including formal reports, takes place. This specifically excludes formal speeches such as those by the Leader or Party Officers.

### **Non-voting member**

A party member who has paid the appropriate registration fee, but, because they are not an elected representative, is not entitled to vote at conference. A non-voting member is, however, entitled to submit a speaker's card for any item on which voting members may submit a speaker's card.

### **Point of order**

A suggestion to the chair of a debate that the conduct of the debate, as laid down in the standing orders, has not been followed correctly.

### **Policy motion**

A proposal to adopt a new policy or reaffirm an existing one. This includes motions accompanying policy papers.

## STANDING ORDERS

### **Policy amendment**

A proposal to change a policy motion. Any proposal should be of significant importance, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.

### **Policy paper**

A paper prepared by the Federal Policy Committee and submitted to conference for debate under the terms of Article 5.4 of the Federal Party constitution.

### **Procedural motion**

A proposal that the conduct of a debate should be changed in a specific way. Procedural motions are:

#### **Move to next business**

A proposal that the conference should cease to consider an item of business and immediately move to the next item on the agenda.

#### **Reference back**

A proposal to refer a motion or amendment to a named body of the Party for further consideration.

#### **Request for a count**

A request to the chair that a specific vote be counted and recorded rather than decided on the chair's assessment of a show of voting cards.

#### **Separate vote**

A request to the chair of a debate that a part or parts of a motion or amendment should be voted on separately.

#### **Suspension of standing orders**

A proposal to relax specific standing orders for a stated purpose.

### **Special conference**

An additional meeting of the conference requisitioned by the Federal Executive,

## STANDING ORDERS

Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 200 conference representatives under the provisions of Article 6.6 of the Federal constitution.

### **Standing order amendment**

A proposal to change these standing orders.

### **Secondary standing order amendment**

An amendment to a standing order amendment. This must not introduce new material.

### **Topical issue discussion**

A discussion on a policy issue of significant and topical relevance, conducted without a vote.

### **Voting member**

A person who is entitled to vote at conference. This term includes substitutes replacing conference representatives for a particular meeting of conference. It does not include conference representatives who have not paid any registration fee that may be in force nor does it include day visitors or observers who are not conference representatives.

# Standing Orders

## **1. The conference agenda**

### 1.1 What is on the agenda

The agenda for each meeting of conference, other than a special conference, shall include time for:

- a) One or more consultative sessions; save that the Committee may decide not to hold any consultative sessions at a spring conference.
- b) A business session or sessions for the consideration of reports from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords, the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament, the Federal Executive, the Federal Finance and Administration Committee, the Federal Policy

## STANDING ORDERS

Committee and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, reports from any other body the Committee considers appropriate, accounts, the annual report, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments.

- c) Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers).
- d) Emergency motions.
- e) Topical issue discussions.
- f) Any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate.

The time to be allocated to each type of business and the order of that business shall be decided by the Committee provided that conference may decide not to take any particular item on the agenda.

### 1.2 Conference or council of state parties

In addition, time before or after any meeting may be agreed with the relevant state party for a meeting of the conference or council of that party.

### 1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).
- b) Business motions (including amendments and emergency business motions and amendments), constitutional amendments and secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal Executive, Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives. Business motions, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.
- c) Motions accompanying policy papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives.
- e) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any voting member.

## STANDING ORDERS

### 1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

All motions and amendments must be submitted to the Committee. They must be typed clearly and accompanied by the name, address and telephone number(s) of a person authorised to agree to their being composited or redrafted. Motions submitted by conference representatives must be accompanied by all their signatures, names and addresses.

### 1.5 The deadlines by which motions, amendments, reports and questions to reports must be submitted

The Committee shall specify:

- a) The closing date for the receipt of policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers), business motions, constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders, which shall be at least eight weeks before the start of conference.
- b) The closing date for the receipt of amendments to motions published in the agenda and emergency motions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- c) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with the agenda. Any supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference with the permission of the Committee.
- d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference, except for questions to the reports of the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament, where the closing date shall be at least one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- e) Notwithstanding 1.5(d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(d). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.

## STANDING ORDERS

### 1.6 Notification of deadlines

All dates specified under Standing Order 1.5 shall be notified to conference representatives and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper may be treated as notice for this purpose.

### 1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances

In special circumstances the Committee may specify later dates than those indicated above. In particular, where developments which, in the opinion of the Committee, are of great importance have taken place after the closing date for emergency motions and questions to reports, the Committee may make time available for an additional emergency motion or for a statement to be made on behalf of the Party or for additional questions to be submitted to reports.

## **2. Consultative sessions**

### 2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions

The subjects for debate at consultative sessions shall be chosen by the Committee on the advice of the Federal Policy Committee and, where appropriate, the Federal Executive, and published in the agenda. Two or more such sessions may be held simultaneously.

### 2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

Any member of the Party may be called to speak at a consultative session and, with the approval of the chair, non-members with relevant expertise may also be called.

### 2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

At the discretion of the chair a vote by show of hands may be taken to indicate the weight of opinion among members present on any issue that has been debated.

## **3. The agenda**

### 3.1 The shortlisting of motions

The Committee shall draw up the agenda and shall decide which of the motions

## STANDING ORDERS

duly submitted shall be included in it. The Committee may allocate time for one or more policy or business motions to be selected by ballot. Copies of motions not selected shall be available for inspection and will be supplied to any conference representative on payment of a copying charge and postage.

### 3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

Save as detailed below in Standing Order 4.3, all proposed amendments to the constitution or standing orders must be either selected for debate or included in a ballot to allow conference representatives to determine an order of priority for allocating time.

### 3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

The Committee shall, in drawing up the agenda, have due regard to the balance of State and Federal policy debates and in particular shall as far as possible organise the agenda so that all matters which relate solely to one or more state parties but not all State Parties or the Federal Party shall be considered at either the beginning or the end of the conference.

## **4. Selection of motions and amendments**

### 4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

In drawing up the agenda the Committee shall seek to reflect the range of views in the Party as indicated by the motions and amendments submitted. The Committee may:

- a) Treat any severable part of a motion or amendment as a separate motion or amendment.
- b) Redraft a motion or amendment so as to improve expression, remove inaccuracy or superfluity or take account of new developments.
- c) Composite similar motions or amendments.

### 4.2 Selection of amendments

The Committee shall decide which of the amendments duly submitted to each motion shall be selected. No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Committee it is insubstantial, outside the scope of the motion, or tantamount to a

## STANDING ORDERS

direct negative of the motion.

### 4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

The Committee may refuse to select a motion for amendment of the constitution or standing orders if, in their opinion, it is:

- a) Similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate or ballot at the same meeting of conference.
- b) Similar in effect to a motion that has been rejected at either of the last two meetings of conference.
- c) In the case of amendments to the constitution, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of the constitution which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- d) In the case of amendments to standing orders, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of standing orders which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- e) Ambiguous.

### 4.4 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

- a) It is similar in effect to another motion that has been selected for debate or ballot.
- b) It is similar in effect to a subject chosen for a topical issue discussion.
- c) It is unclear as to its meaning or intent or is, in the opinion of the Committee, too poorly drafted to provide a sensible basis for debate.
- d) It falls outside the definition of emergency motions.

No amendment shall be taken to any motion selected under this Standing Order.

### 4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.4, must be placed either on the agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection by Conference. The Committee may hold separate ballots to select which of a range of emergency policy motions and which of a range of emergency business motions to debate. If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the representatives attending Conference as soon as practicable and

## STANDING ORDERS

shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall decide how many motions shall be debated in the time available.

### 4.6 Emergency amendments

The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to select emergency amendments for debate.

### 4.7 Topical issue discussions

The choice of subjects for topical issue discussions shall be made by the Officers of the Committee in consultation with the Officers of the Federal Policy Committee. In choosing the subjects, the Officers shall have regard to the significance and topicality of the subjects proposed and whether they are likely to provoke a lively discussion.

## **5. Special Meetings**

### 5.1 Timetabling of special meetings

The Committee shall, as soon as practicable after the requisitioning of a special meeting of the conference, fix a date for the meeting, draw up the agenda and, if appropriate, specify a date for the submission of amendments. The meeting shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of requisition save that the Committee may allow time for emergency motions and for business which is formal or, in its opinion, uncontentious.

### 5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

In setting dates for the submission of motions and amendments and giving notice thereof and of the conference itself the Committee shall endeavour to follow the timescales laid down elsewhere in these standing orders but, where this is not practicable, the Committee shall set such dates as it sees fit.

## **6. Appeals**

### 6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

The Committee shall provide written reasoning to the nominee of the proposers for

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the rejection of any motion or amendment. The proposers may appeal, in writing, to the next meeting of the Committee. Any such appeal shall provide reasons why, in the opinion of the proposers, the expressed reasons for rejection are not valid. If the appeal is allowed, the motion or amendment shall be treated as an emergency motion or amendment according to the stage of the agenda-setting process at which the appeal has been allowed.

### 6.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference

Any person excluded from conference by a decision of the Chief Steward shall have the right of appeal to the Committee at the next of its regular meetings. The exclusion shall remain in force pending the appeal. If the person who is excluded is a voting member of conference, their local party or SAO shall be contacted immediately and invited to appoint a substitute for the remainder of the conference.

## 7. The Chair

### 7.1 Who chairs conference

The President, if present, shall normally take the chair at the formal opening and closing of conference and when the Party Leader is making a formal speech from the platform. At all other sessions the chair shall be appointed by the Committee. Normally no person shall chair more than one session at any meeting.

### 7.2 The chair's aide

The Committee may appoint an aide or aides to assist the chair of each session.

## 8. Conduct of Debate

### 8.1 Variation in the order of business

The Committee may propose to the conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the agenda. Such variation shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.

### 8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

Once the Committee has included a motion or amendment, or part of a motion or

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amendment, in the agenda, may not be withdrawn except by leave of conference.

### 8.3 The order of debate

The Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments and options will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments and options (or their nominees) shall have the right of reply in the same order (except that where an amendment or option has not been opposed during the debate, the chair of the session shall have the right to direct that its movers shall not exercise their right of reply), after which the mover of the motion (or the mover's nominee) shall have the right of reply. Votes shall then be taken on the amendments and options in the order in which they have been moved and, finally, on the substantive motion. The Committee may direct that part of any motion or amendment or groups or amendments may be the subject of a separate debate.

### 8.4 Topical issue discussions

The Committee shall direct the order of the discussion. Normally the proposer of the subject shall speak first, and a representative of the Federal Policy Committee shall speak last.

### 8.5 Who may speak

Only voting or non-voting members may speak at a full session of conference, save that other persons may speak in the following circumstances:

- a) As a member of the Federal Policy Committee representing that committee in a policy debate.
- b) As a member of the Federal Conference Committee representing that committee in debates on standing orders and matters of conference procedure.
- c) As a member of the Federal Executive representing that committee on matters of party business.
- d) If called by the chair of the session, after the Committee has given permission. Such permission shall only be given exceptionally.

Additionally the Committee may invite any person to address the conference as a guest.

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### 8.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees

Provided that the Federal Policy Committee is not proposing the motion or any of the amendments to be taken in a debate on a policy motion or on motions relating to the policy-making processes of the Party it shall have the right to nominate a person to report its views on the subject before the conference. The Federal Executive shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution, as shall the Federal Conference Committee on motions relating to the proceeding and procedures of the conference and to amend standing orders. Such a person shall be called to speak for the same length of time as the person replying on behalf of the mover of the motion.

### 8.7 The selection of speakers

Voting and non-voting members wishing to speak in any debate shall submit a speaker's card, prior to the commencement of the debate in which they wish to speak, stating whether they wish to speak for or against an amendment, the motion or part of the motion. The chair shall be responsible for the choice of the speakers and shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between the different viewpoints in the conference, but may announce a departure from this rule if there is an overwhelming preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side. The chair shall have the discretion to accept speakers' cards after the start of the debate. Save as provided for in these standing orders, no person may speak more than once in any debate.

### 8.8 The length of speeches

The Committee shall set out in the agenda time limits for speeches.

## **9. Voting at Conference**

### 9.1 The method of voting

Voting cards shall be issued at each meeting to voting members. The Committee may direct that voting on any issue be by ballot. Subject thereto all votes at full sessions shall be taken by show of voting cards.

## STANDING ORDERS

### 9.2 Counting of votes

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

- a) If the Committee has so directed.
- b) If the chair so directs.
- c) As the result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.5 below.

A recount will only be held if the chair is not satisfied that the first count was accurate.

### 9.3 Separate votes

A separate vote may be taken on a part of a motion or amendment:

- a) On the direction of the Committee.
- b) At the discretion of the chair.
- c) As a result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.4 below.

## 10 Points of Order

### 10.1 Making a point of order

Any voting member may rise on a point of order which shall be taken immediately except that, during a vote, no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the conduct of the vote. The chair's decision on all points of order shall be final.

## 11 Procedural Motions

### 11.1 Next business

- a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.
- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the

## STANDING ORDERS

person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.

d) The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting being to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

### 11.2 Reference back (moved by a representative)

a) A voting member, who has not already spoken in the debate, may, at any time before the chair has asked the first speaker in reply to stand by, submit, in writing, a request to refer back the motion under debate. The submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a statement of the reasons, including reasons why voting against the motion would not achieve a similar result, not exceeding 75 words.

b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. If more than one request is received, the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken with respect to any motion.

c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to refer. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the reference back, it falls.

d) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

e) If the substantive motion is referred to the Federal Executive, the Federal Policy Committee or the Federal Conference Committee that body shall, in its report to

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the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

### 11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

- a) The Federal Policy Committee may, at any time before the beginning of the debate on a motion, submit, in writing, a request to refer that motion to the next meeting of the conference. The chair shall announce the existence of such a request at the start of the debate.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. A nominee of the Federal Policy Committee will speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair shall have discretion whether to allow other speakers on the request.
- c) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- d) If passed, the Federal Policy Committee shall, before the next meeting of the conference, circulate its reasons for acting under this section and its comments on the motion and any amendments thereto accepted for debate.

### 11.4 Separate vote

A voting member of conference may request that the chair take a separate vote on a part of a motion or amendment provided that such a request is in writing and received by the commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled. If the debate is scheduled for the first day of conference, the request must be received in writing by the same deadline as that for emergency motions. The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to take a separate vote. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair of the debate shall have discretion to accept a request for a separate vote if it is received in writing after this deadline.

### 11.5 Counted vote

Any voting member may ask for a counted vote, which shall be taken if the request is supported by 50 members rising in their places and showing their voting cards.

## STANDING ORDERS

### 11.6 Suspension of standing orders

- a) A voting conference member may, during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of standing orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 75 words, to the chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.
- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the constitution, nor any part of these standing orders which govern:
  - i) The rights of, or timetable for, submission of motions and amendments.
  - ii) Consultative sessions.
  - iii) Procedural motions for next business or suspension of standing orders.
- c) No motion to suspend standing orders to introduce a motion or amendment on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.
- d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.
- e) A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of the conference members voting. If the procedural motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

### 11.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

## 12 Reports

### 12.1 Which reports are tabled

The business session or sessions of the conference must include consideration of

## STANDING ORDERS

reports from the bodies listed in Standing Order 1.1(b).

### 12.2 Submission and selection of questions

A voting member may submit questions to any report tabled for consideration, by the deadlines set under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e). The Committee shall publish in advance of the report session all the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (d) which are in order, compositing similar questions where appropriate.

### 12.3 Whether questions are in order or not

A question shall be ruled out of order if it asks the body submitting the report about issues which are outside its duties and responsibilities. If the question could be answered by another body reporting to the same conference, the Committee may transfer the question to that body.

### 12.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered

After the report is moved, the mover, or their nominee, shall answer the questions in turn. After each question has been answered, the voting member who submitted the question will be given the opportunity to put a supplementary question, speaking for a maximum of two minutes, and the mover, or their nominee, will be given an opportunity to respond. The chair shall determine the time given to the mover in moving the report and replying to questions. The chair shall also determine how many of the published questions, and how many of the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (e), can be taken. After the conference the Committee shall publish the answers to all questions submitted under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e) which are in order, and to all supplementary questions asked.

### 12.5 Approval or rejection of reports from Federal Party committees or sub-committees

Any report tabled by a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for approval by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move the rejection of any part of the report or of the report as a whole. A voting member wishing to move a rejection shall submit a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report, stating the section(s) which they wish to have rejected. All moves to reject a report must be

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debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between moves to reject the same part of the report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

### 12.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies

Any report tabled by a body other than a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for receipt by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move not to receive the report, by submitting a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report. A move not to receive a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between more than one move not to receive the same report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

## **13 Amendment of Standing Orders**

### 13.1 Amendment of standing orders

These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of conference voting on a motion duly submitted and selected in accordance with standing orders. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from meeting to meeting.

## **14 The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee**

### 14.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

At its first meeting after a new election the Committee shall elect a Chair, who must be a member of the Committee directly elected by conference, and at least one Vice Chair, who must be members of the Committee either directly elected by conference or elected by one of the State Parties.

# The Federal Party

## Officers Of The Federal Party

Leader	Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
President	Tim Farron MP
Chair of FFAC	Cllr Duncan Greenland
Treasurer	Richard Duncalf
Vice President (England)	Jonathan Davies
Vice President (Scotland)	Craig Harrow
Vice President (Wales)	John Last CBE
Chief Executive	Chris Fox

## Federal Executive

The FE is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Federal Party, including overall strategy, campaigning, organisation and staffing. The Federal Finance and Administration Committee and the Campaigns and Communications Committee both report to the FE.

The FE has 29 voting members: the Party President (who chairs it) and three Vice Presidents; the Leader and two other MPs; one peer; one MEP; two councillors; three state party reps; and fifteen members directly elected by conference reps.

## Federal Finance And Administration Committee

The FFAC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party, directing its administration and ensuring its compliance with the provisions of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. It is responsible to the FE, but also reports directly to the Federal Conference.

The FFAC has 14 voting members: the Chair (Cllr Duncan Greenland), Party Treasurer and five other members (elected by the FE); the Party President; three

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state party reps; and the Chief Executive and two other members of Federal (HQ and Parliamentary) staff.

### **Federal Policy Committee**

The FPC is responsible for researching and developing policy and overseeing the Federal Party's policy-making process. This includes producing policy papers for debate at conference, and drawing up (in consultation with the relevant parliamentary party) the Federal election manifestos for Westminster and European elections.

The FPC has 29 voting members: the Party Leader and four other MPs; the Party President; one peer; one MEP; three councillors; three state party reps; and fifteen members directly elected by conference reps. It must be chaired by one of the five MP members, and is currently chaired by the Leader.

### **Federal Conference Committee**

The FCC is responsible for organising the two Federal conferences each year. This includes choosing the agenda from the policy and business motions submitted by conference reps, local, regional and state parties, specified associated organisations and Federal committees, and taking decisions on topics such as venues, registration rates and other administrative and organisational matters. It works within a budget set by the FFAC.

The FCC has 21 voting members: the Party President; the Chief Whip; three state party reps; two reps from the FE and two from the FPC; and twelve members directly elected by conference reps. It elects its own chair, who must be one of the directly elected or state party reps.

The members of the FCC are shown on page 3.