

Conference Daily

Tuesday 26 September

Liberal Democrats Autumn Conference

Bournemouth, September 23-26 2023

Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Tuesday 26 September. Please read in conjunction with the **Agenda & Directory** and **Conference Extra**.

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Timetable for Tuesday 26 September

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14.30–15.30	F47	Speech: Sir Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats	
15.30		Close of conference	

Directory Updates

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If no page number is indicated next to a session or item of business, there are no changes or additional information to that in the Conference Agenda. Please note that timings are approximate only and some items of business may occur earlier than indicated.

Report back for Monday 25 September

F27	Policy motion: Connecting Communities – Building a Transport Network Fit for the 21st Century	Passed (Amendments One, Two & Three Passed)
F28	Policy motion: <i>Food and Farming</i> (Policy Paper)	Passed (Amendment One Passed)
F30	Policy motion: Scrap the Voter ID Scheme	Passed
F31	Policy motion: <i>Tackling the Housing Crisis</i> (Policy Paper)	Passed (Amendments One, Two & Three Passed)
F33	Policy motion: Standing with Ukraine	Passed (Amendment One Passed)
F34	Standing order amendment: Speaker Card Selection	Defeated
F35	Business motion: Membership Subscription and Federal Levy	Passed (Amendment One Passed)

For the text of motions and amendments, please refer to the Autumn 2023 Conference Agenda & Directory and Conference Daily for Monday 25 September 2023.

Tuesday 26 September

F36 Emergency motion: Protecting the European Convention on Human Rights

11 members

Mover: Layla Moran MP.

Summation: David Chalmers.

1 Conference condemns the comments made by Conservative ministers
2 during summer 2023, including Home Secretary Suella Braverman and
3 Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick, about their desires to leave the
4 European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

5 Conference notes with concern reports arising in August 2023 that the
6 Conservatives may campaign to leave the ECHR.

7 Conference further notes that:

8 i) The European Convention on Human Rights has strong British
9 roots, counting Winston Churchill as a key architect and the UK
10 as the first country to formally ratify it.

11 ii) The only country to have left the Convention is Russia.

12 ii) The Convention plays a crucial role in underpinning the Belfast
13 (Good Friday) Agreement.

14 iii) For the first time, the Conservative Government has invoked
15 the ability to ignore injunctions from the European Court of
16 Human Rights in their Illegal Migration Act, passed earlier this
17 year.

18 Conference believes that:

19 a) The comments of Ministers such as Suella Braverman are yet

- 20 another deeply concerning indicator of the Conservatives'
21 failed ideological approach to the UK's relationship with
22 Europe, which prioritises division over working pragmatically
23 with our allies.
- 24 b) The ECHR is an important guarantor of human rights, which the
25 Conservatives have all too frequently disregarded while in
26 Government.
- 27 c) The UK's full participation in the European Convention on
28 Human Rights is a crucial part of our commitment to protect,
29 defend and promote human rights internationally.
- 30 d) Conservative Ministers' comments only serve to do harm to
31 the UK's global reputation and to deeply undermine the
32 leading role we should be playing as upholders of the ECHR
33 and within the Council of Europe.
- 34 Conference commends the work of Liberal Democrat parliamentarians to
35 champion both the European Convention on Human Rights, and the
36 Human Rights Act that incorporates the Convention into domestic law.
- 37 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrats' commitment to fixing the
38 UK's broken relationship with Europe, in line with the four-stage roadmap
39 set out in Liberal Democrat policy paper 144, Rebuilding Trade and
40 Cooperation with Europe.
- 41 Conference calls on the Government to:
- 42 1. Unequivocally commit to staying in the European Convention
43 on Human Rights.
 - 44 2. Ensure that all current UK legislation is compliant with the
45 Convention, making amendments where necessary and
46 scrapping the Illegal Migration Act in full.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover; 5 minutes; all other speakers 3 minutes.

Background briefing

This motion updates policy in response to the recent Conservative attacks on the European Convention on Human Rights. It builds on existing human rights policy as set out in policy motion and paper *For A Fair Deal* (September 2023).

F37 A Child Maintenance Service that Works for Children

Background briefing:

This motion updates and develops policy on children and their welfare.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019) and policy paper 128, *Every Child Empowered: Education for a Changing World* (March 2018).

F38 Federal Board

Q1. Submitted by Joe Norris

How is the Board doing with implementing the recommendations of the Thornhill Review?

Q2. Submitted by Fraser Graham and Joe Norris

Since the establishment of Federal Council, how many of Federal Board's decisions have been called in for consideration, and have any been challenged or changed following input from Federal Council? How could the relationship between the Board and the Council be improved?

Note: Both submitters of this composite question will be entitled to a supplementary question.

Q3. Submitted by Joe Norris

What has been your committee's worst mistake, and what have you learnt from it?

Q4. Submitted by Chris Nelson

What is being done to ensure that Federal Party safeguarding protocols are fully implemented throughout the Party, including a safeguarding lead in every Local Party?

Q5. Submitted by Joe Norris

What work has been done to make sure that we're getting value for money from our suppliers?

Q6. Submitted by James Bliss

Do you think it was an effective use of money for the party to send the future fund mailing to all party members, including some under 18s, and why was this not targeted by age? Can you push for the party to start collecting date of birth at membership signup for all members like every other political party, and to work to collect that data for all current members?

Q7. Submitted by Joe Norris

Which areas of the party's work are the hardest to raise money for?

Q8. Submitted by Trish Kilgour, Zoe Hollowood and Toby Keynes

Does the Federal Board agree that people with gender critical beliefs are welcome in the Liberal Democrat Party and their speech is permitted and protected as per the code of conduct? Is the revised Definition now fully implemented in the party's disciplinary processes? And will it consult with members on appropriate steps to create a more tolerant and respectful environment within the party?

Note: All three submitters of this composite question will be entitled to a supplementary question.

Q9. Submitted by John Grout and Alistair Calder McGregor

Does the Federal Board agree that no-one should be enslaved by poverty, ignorance, or conformity, and if it does, why does it feel that those attempting to get the party to embrace so-called 'gender-critical' beliefs have a place in the Liberal Democrats? And can it confirm that bigots are not welcome in the party?

Note: Both submitters of this composite question will be entitled to a supplementary question.

Q10. Submitted by Joe Norris

Do you think it is reasonable to expect members to opt in to another membership upgrading request, and what is the plan if this fails?

Q11. Submitted by Zoe Hollowood and Trish Kilgour

Do you agree that party officers could benefit from additional training on the code of conduct and the Equality Act 2010? What training around the Equality Act has been provided to Federal Board & Federal Committees and are there plans for local parties to be offered training also?

Note: Both submitters of this composite question will be entitled to a supplementary question.

Q12. Submitted by Joe Norris

Do you think party bodies get value for money on the IT services they pay for through HQ, which are often costly bespoke solutions with teething issues?

Q13. Submitted by Fraser Graham

The code of conduct says that when one witnesses transphobia one must challenge it in case the person doing it does not realise they are being transphobic. Every time I have seen someone challenge transphobic behaviour it results in the challenger being piled on and accused of abuse. Could board supply an approved form of words for issuing such a challenge?

Q14. Submitted by Joe Norris

Is it realistic to expect a 'significant surplus' during a general election year?

Q15. Submitted by Mark Johnston

With respect to the Board's responsibilities under Article 23 (Complaints Procedure) are all protected characteristics equal? Or are some protected characteristics more equal than others?

Q16. Submitted by Joe Norris

What is being done to ensure that the agent training days are accessible, so that we can train the agents we need?

F38B Federal Appeals Panel

Q1. Submitted by Joe Norris

Do you hope to reduce the practice of single member consideration of cases, once the state party appointments to FAP are filled?

Q2. Submitted by Joe Norris

Would the Panel be more effective if its administration was placed within the Standards team at HQ, to ensure smooth communication when dealing with cases?

Q3. Submitted by Fraser Graham

Your appendix on procedure for oral hearings is allowing for the presence of lawyers to provide support to any party. Is this a change for current procedure? In addition, is this not placing those without funds to engage a lawyer at a distinct disadvantage within the appeals process?

Q4. Submitted by Fraser Graham

Your report seems to suggest that complaints should not be made over 'philosophical or political disagreements' where people are 'merely expressing personal opinions that others may find offensive or objectionable.' Can you provide an example of such opinions which should not be reported? Also, can you confirm that racist, homophobic, sexist or transphobic behaviour is still viewed as incompatible with party membership?

F39 Campaign for Gender Balance

Q1. Submitted by Janey Little

What can party members do at the grassroots level to encourage more young women to stand as candidates and get more involved in the party?

Q2. Submitted by Fraser Graham

What are CGB doing to ensure that a large gain in MPs next election would not result in a return to a majority male parliamentary group?

F40 Federal Campaigns and Elections Committee

Q1. Submitted by Joe Norris

What has been your committee's worst mistake, and what have you learnt from it?

Q2. Submitted by Tim Harcourt

Will the party prioritise political reform as a major campaign platform?

Q3. Submitted by John Grout

How does FCEC feel the rollout of new party tools (Fleet, Targeted Email, etc.) is going, and what would they like to see next?

Q4. Submitted by Joe Norris

Why did FCEC think it acceptable for the Party Leader to criticise national house building targets, in contradiction of party policy at the time?

Q5. Submitted by Joe Norris

In your efforts to stand more candidates, do you have any top tips for local parties trying to field a full slate?

Q6. Submitted by Joe Norris

How is FCEC making sure it is collaborating with the states and regions in its work?

Q7. Submitted by Fraser Graham

With the recent spate of by-elections, have any lessons been learned which can feed back into general election campaigning going forwards?

F41 Federal International Relations Committee

Q1. Submitted by Joe Norris

What has been your committee's worst mistake, and what have you learnt from it?

Q2. Submitted by Fraser Graham

Given the rolling back of LGBT+ rights in parts of the USA (such as Florida), what can we as liberals be doing to campaign internationally to prevent the loss of already hard-earned rights for the LGBT+ community?

F42 Federal Council

Q1. Submitted by Joe Norris

What has been Federal Council's worst mistake, and what have you learnt from it?

Q2. Submitted by Fraser Graham and Joe Norris

Since Federal Council was established, how many Federal Board decisions have been called in for consideration? We're any decisions challenged or sent back to Federal Board for reconsideration? Is Federal Council succeeding in being the being critical friend to Board, or is it too adversarial?

Note: Both submitters of this composite question will be entitled to a supplementary question.

Q3. Submitted by Joe Norris

How can Federal Council ensure it is concerned with all the aspects of Board's work, and doesn't hyper-focus on just a few issues?

Q4. Submitted by Joe Norris

What steps have been taken to put together a formal work plan for Federal Council?

Q5. Submitted by Joe Norris

What are your thoughts on Federal Council's current remit, and how it fits in with the wider structure of the party?

F44 Tackling the Nature Crisis (Policy Paper)

Amendment One

ALDC

Mover: Cllr Vikki Slade.

Summation: Richard Cole.

1 After 1. c) (line 37), insert:

2 d) Empowering and funding local government to increase the network
3 of local nature reserves and to ensure they are well managed, to
4 move to nature-friendly management policy of council land,
5 including highway verges and farm land.

6 *After 5. d) (line 77), insert:*

7 e) Funding coastal local government authorities to increase the
8 monitoring of the health of coastal waters and to develop ways to
9 increase the communication of the results.

10 *After 8. c) (line 117), insert:*

11 d) Allowing local government to put sustainability at the core of
12 purchasing policy and fully funding councils for any cost involved in
13 delivering this.

14 *After 9. a) (line 121), insert:*

15 b) Funding local authorities to invest in their planning departments to
16 ensure they are able to properly assess plans for environmental
17 improvement, and resourcing local authorities to properly defend
18 planning appeals when they deem applications to be inadequate on
19 environmental improvement grounds.

20 *After 10.d) (line 145), add:*

21 e) Empowering local government to continue to develop and deliver
22 practical local action to tackle climate change.

Background briefing:

This motion and the accompanying policy paper update and develop policy on the natural environment, including farming, fishing, planning, biodiversity, water quality and resource use.

They build on existing policy as set out in the policy motions *Ending Sewage Discharges* (March 2022) and *Back British Farmers* (March 2022), the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019), policy paper 139, *Tackling the Climate Emergency* (September 2019), policy paper 129 A *Rural Future: Time to Act* (March 2018), and policy paper 93 *Our Natural Heritage* (2009).

Directory Updates

Left luggage

A left luggage facility will be available at the Highcliff Marriott between 08.00 and 17.00 on Tuesday 26 September. Please note that capacity is limited and will be available on a first-come first-served basis. A charge of £2 per item will apply.

Live stream

The conference will be streamed live at libdems.org.uk/conference-live in case you miss any sessions or want to watch again!

Lost Property

Any lost property should be handed in to the Information Desk in the foyer of BIC.

We want to hear from you!

Conference attendees will be sent a feedback survey link. Please let us know about your experience at conference.

Future Conferences

Spring Conference 2024

15-17 March 2024, York

Autumn Conference 2024

14-17 September 2024, Brighton

More info is on our website (including how to book hotel accommodation):
www.libdems.org.uk/conference

Training Updates

TRAINING AND SKILLS TUESDAY LATE MORNING 11.00-12.15

The following training session has been cancelled:

Introduction to Lighthouse

Join us to learn the basics of how Lighthouse works, what you can use it for, and how to do some basic tasks as well as make sure you comply with the law. This session is ideal for people just starting out using Lighthouse.

LDHQ Tech Team

Branksome Suite, BIC

Conference Timetable, York, 15-17 March 2024

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00 Wednesday	15 December 2023
Motions deadline	13.00 Wednesday	10 January 2024
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00 Monday	19 February 2024
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00 Monday	4 March 2024

2023 Bournemouth Autumn Conference Appeal

The General Election is coming

So the next ballot paper any of us see may very well be the General Election.
So the appeal today is to underline the urgency of the situation.

You see, any money you can donate now we can spend before Christmas, and if we can spend it before Christmas it will go much much further than money after Christmas.

The Conservatives are election rules for their benefit, so we need to act now.

Any money you can donate will go to campaign organisers, office space so that our amazing volunteers can work together, on leaflets and social media, and on national and local campaigns that get our message out that having a Lib Dem MP is vital for their area, and best for the country.

So please donate, so that we make sure we elect as many new MPs as we possibly can all around the country. And we ensure our current MPs are re-elected.

As Dave McCobb, director of campaigns, said to 'Tilly, please tell everyone that it's so important we raise and spend as much money as possible before Christmas. We can make a huge impact in 2024 if we can invest people's donations now.

And if we can do that we can turn Dave's Christmas Dream into reality.

Scan QR code with your camera to donate or visit
www.libdems.org.uk/appeal

