

CONFERENCE AGENDA AND DIRECTORY

AGENDA AND DIRECTORY

Liberal Democrats Spring Conference

York

17-19 March 2023

Clearprint

This clear print / large text version of the Conference Agenda and Directory matches as closely as possible the text of the published Agenda and Directory.

Page number cross references are correct within this clear print document. Some information may appear in a different place from it's location in the published Agenda and Directory. Complex layouts and graphics have been omitted.

Welcome to the Liberal Democrat Spring 2023 **Conference Agenda and Directory**.

If you have any questions on-site, please ask a steward or go to the Information Desk in the main foyer of York Barbican.

Conference venue

York Barbican, Paragon Street, York YO10 4AH

Please note that access to York Barbican is only possible with a valid conference pass.

Conference hotel

Novotel York Centre, Fishergate, York YO10 4FD

Official fringe venue

Hilton York, 1 Tower Street, York YO1 9WD

Further information, registration and conference publications (including plain text and clear print versions) are available at: www.LibDems.org.uk/Conference.

Contents

Welcome to York from Ed Davey MP and Mark Pack	3-4
Conference information	5-11
Exhibition:	12-21
List of exhibitors	12-13
Directory of exhibitors	14-21
Fringe & training guide:	22-46
Friday fringe	23-25
Saturday fringe	26-34
Training & Skills Programme	35-46
Agenda:	47-85
Agenda index and timetable	47-48
Agenda Information	49-54
Friday 17 March	55
Saturday 18 March	55-80
Sunday 19 March	81-85
Standing orders	86-104
Federal Party	105

In the printed Agenda and Directory there is:

- Map of York – inside back cover of
- Conference hotel plan on page 17
- Conference venue plans on page 18

Published by The Conference Office, Liberal Democrats, 1 Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PN.

Layout by Frankie Singleton, frankie.singleton@libdems.org.uk.

FEATURE

Welcome to Conference

from Sir Ed Davey MP

Welcome to the Liberal Democrats' Spring 2023 conference. It's fantastic to be back amongst friends for our first in-person conference since 2019 – made particularly special for me as my first since becoming leader.

And what a time to be back! Liberal Democrats are winning again. In the last few years we've shown decisively that we can beat the Tories in their former heartlands - electing three brilliant new MPs to represent their local communities.

The British people have been taken for granted for far too long – and it's clear they're fed up. Families across the country are suffering because of the cost of living emergency. But still, they are ignored by an uncaring Conservative Government that offers no leadership whatsoever.

It's with this in mind that we gather for our conference.

Our winning by-election campaigns have shown that people want a fairer, better way of life. Our conference is an opportunity to show voters across Britain that the Liberal Democrats do care. We are listening to them, acting on their concerns, and fighting for a fair deal for the future.

Hopefully we'll have some fun along the way, too!

Have a great conference.

Sir Ed Davey, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

FEATURE

Welcome to Conference

from Mark Pack

It's lovely to be returning to York for our first in-person conference this Parliament. That is not only because I know how much we've missed in-person conferences, but also because York is where I first joined the party. Some lucky letterboxes on the south side of the city centre were the recipients of the first Focus leaflet I artworked.

Back then, the idea of a Liberal Democrat council leader in York seemed a far off dream. But thanks to the dedicated local campaigners, the dream was made real, and we're meeting in a city with a Liberal Democrat council leader.

Nor is York a rare exception. In fact, after the last May elections the number of Lib Dem majority councils returned to the level it was at before the Coalition government.

This May's local elections in England provide an enticing opportunity to increase that number further, turning our policies into practical action to improve people's lives in more communities.

The closer we get to the next Westminster general election, the more important focusing in on our top winnable Parliamentary seats becomes. But alongside that, we need to continue to spread our growth as a party more widely, making progress in local government elections across the whole country.

Our conference in York is an important part of the run-up to the May elections, with great opportunities for training, inspiration, exchanges of ideas, securing media coverage and policy making.

Whether you're coming in person, or joining online, I hope you enjoy conference, and make good use of it to boost our campaigning in your own area.

Please don't hesitate to grab me for any questions you have, or drop me an email on [**president@libdems.org.uk**](mailto:president@libdems.org.uk).

Mark Pack, President of the Liberal Democrats

Conference Information

If you have any questions on-site, please ask a steward or go to the Information Desk in the main foyer of York Barbican.

Be aware that flash photography is frequently used in the auditorium. Please ensure that all mobile phones are on silent before entering the auditorium.

Please note that access to York Barbican is only possible with a valid conference pass.

Accessibility

If you assistance at the venue, please contact the Information Desk where our dedicated access steward will be on hand to help. If you need assistance or information in advance, contact the Conference Office on:

conferences@libdems.org.uk

Auditorium facilities

- A wheelchair ramp at the back of the stage; the chair of the session will ensure wheelchair users are called in plenty of time to access the stage.
- An Infrared hard of hearing system, which can be linked to hearing aids through use of venue packs.
- Sign language interpretation during all auditorium sessions; a number of seats are reserved for attendees using this service, at the front of the auditorium to the left of the stage.
- Reserved seats at the front of the auditorium for those who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual impairment.

Mobility aids

The Liberal Democrats have a limited number of electric scooters available for use around the conference venue - please note that they need to be returned each evening for charging. To request the use of an electric scooter, tick the appropriate box when registering, or prior to conference contact:

conferences@libdems.org.uk

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Conference Access Fund

We have established a Conference Access Fund to improve accessibility for members attending conference.

The fund consists of a contribution from the conference budget as well as donations from party members. Contributions made by members are ring-fenced; where applicable, unused donations will be carried over to the next conference.

For details see: www.libdems.org.uk/access-fund

Accommodation

Accommodation can be booked via our local partner, Visit York, on: www.visit york.org/conference/liberal-democrat-spring-conference.

You are welcome to stay in York with a local Party member, for a low-cost donation to local party funds.

For more info email: info@yorklibdems.org.uk

ATM

Please note there is no ATM facility inside the venue, although there is one next door in the nearby Co-op store which is free to use. Venue bars and catering outlets are unable to provide cashback.

Cloakroom

York Barbican does not have a cloakroom; however rails will be available for attendees to leave coats at their own risk. Please do not leave bags unattended at any point within the venue.

Please note that under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into York Barbican.

Coffee, tea, water - refills

As part of our green policy, please bring your own water bottle. Free refills will be available from the bars in the Barbican Foyer.

Please bring your own reusable coffee cups for use within the Barbican (they must be clean and in good condition).

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Conference Extra and Daily

Conference Extra is published ahead of conference and Conference Daily each day at conference, containing updates to the agenda including changes to timings, amendments, topical issues, emergency motions and questions to reports, available at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

Limited hard copies of Conference Daily will be available each morning from the Information Desk and of Conference Extra from the RISO/ SHARP stand in the exhibition.

Be green - Go paperless!

Distribution of literature

Distribution of literature is not allowed inside or directly outside York Barbican. Excessive distribution of promotional literature is not in line with the party's environmental policies.

Any persons attempting to bring a large number of fliers into the conference centre may be prohibited from entering and a dilapidation charge will be levied against any organisation or individual responsible for 'fly-posting'.

Federal Board helpdesk

The Federal Board helpdesk is situated by the Information Desk. Members of the Federal Board will be available to have strategic conversations with members at the following times:

Saturday	18 March	10.30-12.30
Saturday	18 March	14.00-16.00

Federal Conference Committee helpdesk

Members of the FCC will be available to give advice at the Information Desk at the following times:

Friday	17 March	17.00-18.00
Saturday	18 March	09.00-10.30
Saturday	19 March	14.00-16.00

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

First Aid

In the event of needing First Aid, please speak to a conference steward or go to the Information Desk. The stewards will arrange for First Aiders to attend and/or request a paramedic.

Information Desk

The Information Desk is located in the main foyer of York Barbican and is open as follows:

Friday	17 March	16.30-18.30
Saturday	18 March	08.30-18.30
Sunday	19 March	08.30-13.30

You can contact the Information Desk by email:

conferenceinformation@libdems.org.uk

Internet access

Free wifi is available at all our official venues:

Barbican:

Network name: Barbican Free - enter your email address, click 'get online' and accept terms & conditions.

Novotel:

Network Name: Novotel - enter your email address, click 'connection'.

Hilton:

Network Name: Hilton Honors - enter the promotional code: Libdems23 then click 'connect'.

Left luggage

On Sunday 19 March please store your luggage at your hotel after checkout. Alternatively, there is a secure, complimentary luggage service in operation at the Novotel in Meeting Rooms 5 & 6. There will be a charitable box if you wish to donate to one of the hotel's chosen charities.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

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 will be handed into the Information Desk in the Barbican Foyer.

Pronouns

If you wish to add pronouns to your badge, please pick up the relevant sticker from the info Desk.

Q&A sessions

There will be a series of Q&A sessions during conference where you can ask questions of our spokespeople. All sessions take place in York Barbican, Lendal Room. See page 22 for more details.

Quiet room

Unfortunately due to venue restrictions we are unable to provide a quiet room at this event. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Recycling facilities

Recycling facilities are available throughout the York Barbican. Please make use of the collection bins. All of the straws, cutlery and crockery at the York Barbican are either degradable or reusable and all of the plastics are recyclable.

Refreshments

For a range of hot food options, snacks and beverages, head to the Fishergate Bar & Cafe. If you're in a rush - sandwiches and savoury snacks are available in the exhibition area. The Novotel and Hilton also have a variety of options available.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Registration on-site

On-site registration is located in the Box Office of York Barbican and is open at the following times:

Friday	17 March	16.30-18.30
Saturday	18 March	08.30-17.30
Sunday	19 March	08.45-11.00

At busy times you may experience queues at on-site registration and we strongly advise all those wishing to attend conference to pre-register via:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference

Security and safety

Access to York Barbican is possible only with a valid, conference pass worn with the official lanyard. Conference photo passes must be worn visibly at all times within the secure zone. Anyone found in the secure area without a valid pass will be escorted from the venue.

Attendees will be subject to compulsory bag searches and handheld metal detectors at the entrance. To ensure you can access the venue as quickly as possible please only bring essential items with you into the conference venue. Please allow time for queuing during key times - particularly after lunch and ahead of popular events.

Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the secure zone. Any bag left unattended will be brought to the attention of the police and may be removed and/or destroyed.

Transport and travel

York Barbican is approximately 20 minutes walk (1 mile) from York train station, 4 minutes (0.2 miles) from the Novotel and 8 minutes (0.4 miles) from the Hilton.

Train travel to conference:

Discounted travel to conference via LNER is available. For more information please visit: **www.libdems.org.uk/lnerld**

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Local taxi:

If you need to book a local taxi in York, please contact:

Streamline Taxis, tel: 01904 656565 or www.streamlinetaxisyork.co.uk/

or

Fleetways, tel: 01904 365365 or www.fleetways.co.uk/

Parking

The nearest car park is Q park on Kent Street (YO10 4AH), just behind York Barbican. Q Park has 5 dedicated disabled parking spaces.

If you are parking for less than 8 hours, please validate your ticket at the Barbican to obtain a discount. If you are parking for more than 8 hours, please pay in the car park for the best rates.

The exhibition

The Exhibition Booths will be live at the following times:

Friday	17 March	16.30-18.15
Saturday	18 March	09.00-18.00
Sunday	19 March	09.00-13.00

Exhibitors listed by stand number

- 1 Liberal Democrat Disability Association
- 2 People's Postcode Lottery
- 3 Young Liberals
- 4 Prater Raines Ltd
- 5 Rights-Liberties-Justice (Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association)
- 6 Liberal Democrat History Group
- 7 National Education Union
- 8 Green Lib Dems
- 9 Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine
- 10 Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform
- 11 Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats
- 12 Blue Door - Photo Opps
- 13 Liberal Democrat Women
- 14 ALTER
- 15 LGBT+ Liberal Democrats
- 16 Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary (LD4SOS)
- 17 Election Workshop
- 18 Liberal Democrat Friends of Kashmir
- 19 Liberal Democrat Christian Forum
- 20 National Liberal Club
- 21 Liberal Democrat Campaign for Race Equality (LDCRE)
- 22 Liberator Magazine
- 23 ALDC & LGA
- 24 ALDC & LGA
- 25 Liberal Democrats in England
- 26 Liberal Democrat European Group & Liberal International British Group
- 27 RISO/SHARP
- 28 Liberal Democrats Abroad
- 29 Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists (ALDES)
- 30 Liberal Democrat Education Association
- 31 Liberal Democrat Legacy Fund
- 32 Liberty and Business Network

- 33 Social Democrat Group
- 34 Social Liberal Forum
- LD IMAGE Liberal Democrat Image
- VY Visit York/Make it York

Directory of exhibitors

ALDC – Liberal Democrat Campaigners and Councillors and LGA Liberal Democrats

ALDC and LGA Liberal Democrats provide advice, training and resources for local campaigners and councillors. Visit the stand to get updates on local government, campaigning and much more.

www.aldc.org;

www.local.gov.uk/lga-lib-dem-group

Stand 23 & 24

ALTER

ALTER seeks to build support for Land Value Taxation amongst Liberal Democrats; and to promote and campaign for this policy as a more sustainable and just resource-based economic system.

www.libdemsalter.org.uk

Stand 14

Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists (ALDES)

The Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists (ALDES) provides a resource of engineering and scientific know-how to support the Party. Meet our members and learn how to get involved.

www.aldes.org.uk

Stand 29

Election Workshop

Established by Liberal Democrats for Liberal Democrats to help YOU win elections. Specialists in election print and direct mail. Design free online with ALDC Artworker. DEMONSTRATIONS AT OUR EXHIBITION STALL.

www.electionworkshop.co.uk

Stand 17

Green Liberal Democrats

Promoting sustainability in politics, GLD is the environmental conscience of the Party. Visit stand H12 for advice on how to make a difference. Change the world. Save the planet.

Twitter: @GreenLibDems

Stand 8

Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats

For Liberal Democrats who believe the state should treat everyone equally whatever their religion or beliefs. Recent campaigns cover humanist weddings, discrimination by schools, assisted dying and CofE disestablishment.

www.hsld.org.uk

Stand 11

LGBT+ Liberal Democrats

We exist to represent the party to the LGBT+ community, to ensure that the party's policies address their needs, and to support LGBT+ candidates and party members.

www.lgbt.libdems.org.uk/en/

Stand 15

Liberal Democrat Campaign for Race Equality (LDCRE)

LDCRE aims to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society and to fight against prejudice and discrimination based on race, colour or religion within the party and society.

www.ldcre.org.uk

Stand 21

Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

We are a Christian voice in the Party and a voice of liberal democracy among Christians. We support Christians of all backgrounds to engage positively and constructively in politics.

www.ldcf.org

Stand 19

Liberal Democrat Disability Association

The LDDA, working to raise awareness and understanding of disability both through the Liberal Democrats, and the rest of society.

www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk/en/

Stand 1

Liberal Democrat European Group

The Liberal Democrat European Group (LDEG) seeks to strengthen UK's relationship with EU & foster greater understanding of European politics, through social media @LibDemEurope & study trips, debates and webinars with European sister parties. Visit us and/or join LDEG.

www.LDEG.org/en/page/join-ldeg

www.ldeg.org/en/

Stand 26

Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine

LDFP fights for the rights of the Palestinian People, for immediate recognition of Palestine as a State, and for the human rights of Palestinians as defined in international law.

www.ldfp.org.uk

Stand 9

Liberal Democrat History Group

The past illuminates the present. Subscribe to the Journal of Liberal History. Buy Liberal history publications, including booklets on Liberal thinkers, Liberal thought and a short history of Liberal politics in Britain.

www.liberalhistory.org.uk

Stand 6

Liberal Democrat Image

Liberal Democrat Image is the party's official supplier of Liberal Democrat campaign materials, merchandise and a range of Liberal Democrat gifts for family and friends. Find us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/LibDemImage

www.libdemimage.co.uk

Stand LD Image**Liberal Democrat Women**

Lib Dem Women works to support and amplify women's voices in politics, and to push for policies that will help all women across Britain.

www.libdemwomen.org.uk

Stand 13**Liberal Democrats Abroad**

3.5 million Brits abroad will have the right to vote in the next General Election. Come and talk to us about campaigning together to win their votes in your area!

www.libdemsabroad.org/about

Stand 28**Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform**

LDER is engaging with the wider party to get both the policy and strategy right, and is working with reformers outside the party to get PR implemented at all levels.

www.lder.org

Stand 10**Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary (LD4SOS)**

LD4SOS believe in standing up for those who seek sanctuary in our country and treating them with compassion, humanity and respect. We work to influence Party policy.

www.ld4sos.org.uk

Stand 16

Liberal Democrats in England

The Liberal Democrats in England: a federation of the eleven Regional Parties, plus the English Young Liberals. We support Regions so they can support their local parties even more effectively.

www.englishlibdems.org

Stand 25

Liberal Democrats Legacy Fund

Consider leaving a gift in your will to the Liberal Democrats and help us build our movement for generations to come. We rely on your financial support to ensure the values we cherish remain central, at every level of government.

www.libdems.org.uk/legacyfund

Stand 31

Liberal International British Group

LIBG is part of Liberal International. We hold regular seminars, with in- depth analysis of countries and current events, and publish our newsletter, Interlib, essential reading to understand the world today.

www.libg.co.uk/en

Stand 26

Liberator Magazine

Liberator is now free to read online. Come to our stand to leave your email so each issue is emailed to you. As ever Liberator is packed with news in RB you won't read elsewhere. Loads of features on current issues and the one and only Lord Bonkers on the back page.

www.liberatormagazine.org.uk

Stand 22

Liberty & Business Network

The Liberty Network & Lib Dem Business Network are groups of like-minded Liberal Democrat supporters who are passionate about liberal values, business and issues.

www.libdems.org.uk/liberty-network

www.libdems.biz/

Stand 32

National Education Union

The National Education Union brings together more than 450,000 teachers, support staff and leaders, to form the largest education union in Europe. Find out why if we are to deliver the very best education for all children and young people it is time to Value Education and Value Educators.

www.neu.org.uk

Stand 7

National Liberal Club

The NLC is the London heart of liberalism, with close ties to the Party. A wonderful Clubhouse and over 360 reciprocal clubs worldwide.

www.nlc.org.uk

Stand 20

People's Postcode Lottery

Players of People's Postcode Lottery have raised over £1 billion for good causes across the country. Visit our stand to find out what players fund in your constituency!

www.postcodelottery.info

Stand 2

Prater Raines Ltd

The Liberal Democrats' development partner for Lighthouse and Fleet, making the Party's online campaigning shipshape for the future. Meet the team and get Fleet support, demos and advice.

www.praterraines.co.uk

Stand 4

Rights-Liberties-Justice (Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association)

The home for Liberal Democrats interested in rights, liberties and justice issues; don't need to be a lawyer to join but share our passion for justice and rule of law.

www.rights-liberties-justice.uk

Stand 5

RISO / SHARP

Sharp is proud to be the largest reseller of RISO equipment nationally. RISO printers are a favourite with political parties due to their high volume output with various finishing options. For more info contact Daniel.Bridgeman@sharp.eu

www.riso.co.uk

Stand 27

Social Democrat Group

To ensure that social democracy has a voice in policy making and the party political programme, particularly to promote social justice and reduction of poverty.

www.facebook.com/SocialDemocratGroup

Stand 33

Social Liberal Forum

The Social Liberal Forum campaigns for a Citizens' Britain, one characterised by a massive transfer of power from remote and unaccountable corporations and state institutions to people and their communities.

www.socialliberal.net

Stand 34

The Battle for Liberal Britain: By Sir Ed Davey**Book signing**

Purchase a signed copy of 'The Battle for Liberal Britain' edited by Ed Davey, comprised of chapters from some of the most exciting thinkers in the party on topical political themes. Available between 15.00-17.00 in the exhibition hall, Ed will make a short appearance during this time.

Visit York/ Make It York

York - a vibrant festival city with Roman roots and a Viking past, offering an adventure for everyone with the help of our Visit York Visitor Information Centre!

www.visityork.org

Stand VY**Young Liberals**

We provide a platform for young people and students to have their voices heard and act as a radical pressure group within the Liberal Democrats.

www.youngliberals.uk

Stand 3

Fringe and Training Guide

Official fringe and training venues

Novotel York Centre

Fishergate, York YO10 4FD

Hilton York

1 Tower Street, York YO1 9WD

Locations are shown on the map of York City Centre on the inside back cover of the published Agenda and Directory.

Fringe meeting access

All fringe events listed in the Novotel or Hilton hotel (our official venues) are wheelchair-accessible.

If you experience any access difficulties, please let the Information Desk know, or make a comment on your online feedback.

If you have any concerns or compliments about a fringe event at conference, please contact the event organiser during or at the end of the session.

REF - Refreshments provided

Spokesperson Q&A Sessions

There will be three Q&A sessions at conference where you can ask questions of our spokespeople. All sessions will take place in the Lendal Room, York Barbican.

Health Q&A

Saturday 18 March 13.00-14.00

Daisy Cooper and Richard Allan

Chair: Jennie Rigg

Defence Q&A

Saturday 18 March 14.30-15.30

Richard Foord and Julie Smith (Baroness Newnham)

Chair: Hannah Kitching

Economy Q&A

Sunday 19 March 10.15-11.15

Sarah Olney and Chris Fox (BEIS) on the Economy

Chair: Eleanor Kelly

Friday 17 March

Fringe Friday mid afternoon 15.00-17.00

International Security Consultation Session

This is an opportunity for members to engage with the policy working group on International Security and Defence. Chaired by Jonny Singh.

www.libdems.org.uk/members/make-policy/international-security

Novotel, Fishergate Suite

Fringe Friday early evening 18.30-19.30

Conference Rally

Join us for a lively rally as we celebrate the success of the local parties, members and our newest MPs! For the first time as Leader, Ed Davey will take to the stage, alongside councillors and local government representatives to inspire and motivate ready for the upcoming local elections.

This is an amazing opportunity to be a part of the energy and excitement as we kick off the conference weekend. Don't miss out on this unforgettable experience, be a part of the movement and join us at the rally!

York Barbican, Auditorium

Fringe Friday mid evening 20.15-21.30

Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust

Artificial Intelligence: the Democratic Challenges

Discover and discuss the challenges artificial intelligence (AI) presents to our democracy with experts Silkie Carlo from Big Brother Watch, Martha Dark from Foxglove Legal, and Jeni Tennison from Connected by Data, chaired by Cllr Lisa Smart, from JRRT.

Twitter: @JRRT1904

www.jrрт.org.uk

Novotel, Meeting Room 1 & 2

Fringe Friday mid evening 20.15-21.30 cont.

Liberal Democrat History Group

Shirley Williams: Liberal Lion and Trailblazer

Shirley Williams co-founded the SDP, championed progressive causes and for decades was an inspiration to millions of liberals. Discuss her life, beliefs and legacy with Mark Peel (author, 'Shirley Williams: The Biography'), Lord Tom McNally and Baroness Julie Smith.

Novotel, Meeting Room 3 & 4

Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists (ALDES)

STEMM social and networking reception

Join ALDES and the Lib Dem STEMM family to kick off Conference with Friday evening chat and networking around everything science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine.

Twitter: [@ALDESLibDems](https://twitter.com/ALDESLibDems) www.facebook.com/LibDemEngineersAndScientists

Novotel, Meeting Room 5

REF

Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform with the Electoral Reform Society

Closing the local elections democratic deficit

Join LDER President Wendy Chamberlain MP, Cllr Susan Murray, ALDC Cymru's Glyn Preston with Electoral Reform Society analysis from Research Officer Ian Simpson, learning from the Scottish experience on why England and Wales need local PR.

Twitter: [@LibDem4ER](https://twitter.com/LibDem4ER) www.lder.org

Novotel, Meeting Room 6

ALDC and the LGA Lib Dem Group

Local Government Drinks Reception

All councillors, candidates and friends of Local Government welcome! With guest speakers including Cllr Joe Harris LGA Lib Dem Group Leader.

www.aldc.org

www.local.gov.uk/lga-lib-dem-group

Twitter: [@aldc](https://twitter.com/aldc)

Twitter: [@libdemlocalgov](https://twitter.com/libdemlocalgov)

Novotel, Riverside Room

REF

Fringe Friday late evening 22.15-23.30

Liberal Democrats

Conference Quiz

Come along and watch as Alastair Carmichael MP delivers an entertaining night of questions and laughter. Tickets can be purchased (by members only) when registering to attend conference. Additional tickets sold on the door are subject to availability.

Novotel, Fishergate Suite

Saturday 18 March

Fringe Saturday morning 08.00-09.00

Quiet Reflection

Bringing about positive change

Through becoming comfortable with silence we develop insight and this can help us cope positively with difficult situations. In this session you will be led in a silent meditation and then contemplate/discuss an inspiring text about positive change.

Novotel, Meeting Room 5

Fringe Saturday lunchtime 13.00-14.00

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)

The Rural Reception

Join Ministers, MPs and The British Association for Shooting and Conservation for the Rural Reception. Enjoy a finger buffet lunch and discuss the issues affecting rural areas, shooting and conservation.

www.facebook.com/BASCuk/

Novotel, Meeting Room 1&2

REF

Liberal Democrat European Group

UK/EU future relationship – Local government

What is the future for relations between the UK and the EU at a local government level? Learn about the scheme designed to help LibDem Councils access grants and develop relations between our communities.

www.LDEG.org.uk

Novotel, Meeting Room 3

Liberal Democrat Disability Association (LDDA)

Post Covid Disability and Mental Health

The impact that has been felt across the community of those with additional needs, following the changes to society post pandemic.

www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk/en/

Twitter: @disabilitylib

Novotel, Meeting Room 4

Fringe Saturday lunchtime 13.00-14.00 cont.

Education Policy Institute and Association of School and College Leaders ***Addressing skills gaps: how to ensure young people are prepared for work?***

This panel discusses the importance of skills in providing opportunities for young people and driving economic growth. It will cover embedding skills into the curriculum, the role of pre-16 education and possible next steps in policy. With Munira Wilson MP.

Novotel, Meeting Room 5

REF

Lib Dem HQ and Liberal Software ***Winning with Technology***

Introduced by Mark Pack. Hear the inside story of how paid staff and volunteers are working together, alongside fellow liberals across Europe, to gain a winning edge with technology. Speakers are Katy Perryment and Fred Fisher. There will be food.

Novotel, Riverside Room

REF

Opportunity, Skills and Training Consultation Session

This is an opportunity for members to engage with the policy working group on Opportunity, Skills and Training. Chaired by Rosie Shimell.

www.libdems.org.uk/members/make-policy/opportunity-skills-training

Hilton, Bootham Room

Food and Farming Consultation Session

This is an opportunity for members to engage with the policy working group on Food, Farming and Fishing. Chaired by Stuart Roberts.

www.libdems.org.uk/members/make-policy/food-farming

Hilton, Micklegate Room

The Lib Dems in England

Westminster By-elections: the Inside Story, with Richard Foord, MP, and Lee Dargue

What's it like to fight a by-election? Who chooses the candidate? What happens on the campaign trail? What support is there? Hear first-hand from two of our recent candidates.

www.englishlibdems.org

Hilton, Minster Suite

Fringe Saturday lunchtime 13.00-14.00 cont.

ALDC, LGA Lib Dem Group and Green Liberal Democrats

Lib Dems fighting for our environment

Come and hear some great examples of how Lib Dem Councillors, Councils and campaigners are tackling climate change and helping the environment.

www.aldc.org

www.local.gov.uk/lga-lib-dem-group

Twitter: @aldc

Twitter: @libdemlocalgov

Hilton, Walmgate Room

REF

Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15-19.15

Liberal Democrat European Group & Liberal International British Group

Leadership on Europe

The LibDems have established a consistent policy towards the EU but are we doing enough to tell the public of our position? Is this time to take advantage of the post Brexit chaos - show real leadership on the Europe question? Come join Saturday night's lively debate to find out.

www.LDEG.org.uk

Novotel, Meeting Room 1 & 2

Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform, Unlock Democracy and Make Votes Matter

How can we restore trust in our politics?

The weakness of our outdated political system were ruthlessly exposed by Johnson and Truss. Trust in politics is at an all time low. Join Layla Moran MP, Klina Jordan (Chief Executive of Make Votes Matter), Tom Brake (Director of Unlock Democracy) and Zack Polanski (Green Party Deputy Leader) for a discussion on how we can change things for the better.

Twitter: @LibDem4ER

www.lider.org

Novotel, Meeting Room 3

Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15-19.15 cont.

Countryside Alliance

Sustaining rural communities in the carbon trading age

The countryside is not just landscape and wildlife, it is also people. How sustainable are rural communities and their culture, faced with momentous changes in land use from carbon sequestration and government intervention to take land out of agricultural production?

www.facebook.com/CountrysideAllianceUpdates

Novotel, Meeting Room 4

REF

Education Policy Institute and The National Education Union

The future of assessment: envisioning an exam system for the 21st century

This panel will examine our assessment system and consider possible alternatives that may better suit today's educational landscape. It will cover the skills young people need and how these could be assessed to better prepare students. Munira Wilson MP invited.

Novotel, Meeting Room 5

REF

Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats

The 2021 census results on religious and non-religious belief

Nearly 40% of respondents said they had no religion and the number of Christians dropped below 50%. A panel discussion, including Karen Wright from Humanist UK on the implications of the rise of non-religious belief and the decline of Christianity.

www.HSLD.org.uk

Novotel, Room 6

People's Postcode Lottery

Scottish Liberal Democrat Reception

People's Postcode Lottery is delighted to host the Scottish Liberal Democrat reception. Join People's Postcode Lottery and Liberal Democrat politicians to hear about how players of People's Postcode Lottery support charities in communities across the country.

Novotel, Riverside Room

REF

Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15-19.15 cont.

Green Liberal Democrats

Updating our Climate Change Policy with Wera Hobhouse & Kevin Langford

Lib Dem Policy on Climate Change, voted for in September 2019 is reviewed. Impacts of Climate Change have developed significantly since then. Green Lib Dems report on our project to update key aspects of our Climate Change Policy.

www.greenlibdems.org.uk

Twitter: @GreenLibDems

Hilton, Bootham Room

Age UK

Caring for our older and ageing population in the future

With 26% of the population projected to be over 65 by 2036, join Age UK, Daisy Cooper MP and more to explore how social care can ensure older people live happily, safe and well for as long as possible.

Hilton, Micklegate Room

REF

Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists (ALDES)

ALDES General Meeting

Join us to discuss everything ALDES does and can do. We'll talk strategic planning and campaign development. We'll cover evidence-informed policy at the heart of the Lib Dems, the current political climate, and how you can get involved.

Twitter: @ALDESLibDems www.facebook.com/LibDemEngineersAndScientists

Hilton, Minster Suite

Transport for the North

Better connected communities: Unlocking economic growth and levelling up the North

Join Transport for The North alongside politicians, business leaders and colleagues to discuss how tackling Transport Related Social Exclusion can unlock inclusive economic growth, build better transport connections with meaningful and gainful employment across the North of England.

Hilton, Walmgate Room

REF

Fringe Saturday mid evening 19.45-21.00

Tamil Friends of Liberal Democrats

Tamil Friends of Lib Dems Fringe Event

Tamil Friends of Lib Dem formed in 2008 for the purpose of liberal values within the Tamil Community of whom an estimated 400,000 living in London and its surrounding areas. Our aim is to support the party and bring awareness to the people of the United Kingdom, in the island of Sri-Lanka and around the world. Speakers details to follow.

Twitter: @tfolibdem1

www.facebook.com/people/Tamil-Friends-of-Liberal-Democrats

Novotel, Meeting Room 3

REF

Born Free & League Against Cruel Sports

Why the wildlife protection & animal welfare vote matters at next election

Leading animal protection campaigner, writer & broadcaster Dominic Dyer will chair a panel focusing on the importance of animal welfare & wildlife protection to voters. Using exclusive polling carried out by Born Free a panel of leading campaigners, vets and politicians will discuss what voters expect from the next Government when it comes to protecting animals at home & abroad.

www.bornfree.org.uk Twitter: @domdyer70

Novotel, Meeting Room 4

Liberal Democrat Disability Association, with LGBT+ Lib Dems and Young Liberals

Minority Voices

A fringe put together by various diversity AOs to discuss minority voices in politics and how we can support each other, acknowledge intersectionality, and ensure we keep fighting to make our party and policies diverse and representative.

www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk/en/

Twitter: @disabilitylib

Novotel, Meeting Room 5

Fringe Saturday mid evening 19.45-21.00 cont.

John Stuart Mill Institute

Are You A Liberal?

If so, could you explain the principles of liberalism ? What about conflicting liberal principles? Come and join this discussion. Help grow a better understanding of liberalism and support the work of the John Stuart Mill Institute. Convenor: Dr Alan Butt Philip

www.jsmi.org.uk

Novotel, Meeting Room 6

SLF and Liberator

Stretched to breaking point: time for a better deal for the public services

Strikes by workers in public services demonstrate that things can't continue as they are. The SLF has invited trade unions including the RCN and the RMT to speak at this fringe: check the Conference Daily for confirmations of speakers.

Hilton, Bootham Room

Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary (LD4SOS)

Liberal Democrat Policy on Asylum and Immigration

Alistair Carmichael MP Spokesperson for Home Affairs in conversation with LD4SOS Council member Dr. Ruvy Ziegler (Associate Professor in International Refugee Law, University of Reading) discusses the future of Liberal Democrat policy about asylum seekers and immigration policy in general.

Hilton, Micklegate Room

ALTER

Land Value Tax and Council Tax Reform

The cost of living crisis has brought into sharp focus the regressive nature of council tax. We present an analysis of proposals for reform of council tax including proportional tax; land value tax; a homeowners allowance and housing services tax.

Hilton, Minster Suite

Fringe Saturday mid evening 19.45-21.00 cont.

Liberal democratic and Unity movement of Cyprus

The Unity of Cyprus & Liberalism of the Profession in UK

We will discuss the unity of Cyprus and how to approach each community of Cyprus.

Also we will speak about the liberalism of professions and how regulators can negatively affect many UK professions.

www.facebook.com/people/KAlexandrou-Theodotou

Hilton, Walmgate Room

Fringe Saturday late evening 21.30-23.00

Liberal Democrat Education Association

Young people's and pupils' mental health in schools, FE, and HE

Discussion with members of LDEA & LDHCA (Lib Dem Health & Care Association) on the importance of mental health in education. Invited: Munira Wilson MP (Lib Dem Education Spokesperson).

www.idea.org.uk

Novotel, Meeting Room 5

Winning Here, Winning There: A Guidebook for Local Liberal Democrats

Guidebook launch and book signing

Drop-in launch of Winning Here, Winning There, your A-Z Lib Dem guidebook to help you and your Local Party go from zero to Lib Dem hero. Book purchasing and signing by author. Limited copies available.

Twitter: @Chrisguyhudson www.facebook.com/christopher.hudson.5688

Novotel, Meeting Room 6

Glee Club (starting at 22.00 until 01.00)

Join us for the ultimate end-of conference celebration! Pick up your copy of the Liberator Songbook and come 'raise the roof'!

Novotel, Fishergate Suite

Fringe Saturday late evening 21.30-23.00 cont.

Liberal Democrat Friends of Whisky

Whisky Tasting with Alistair Carmichael MP

A unique opportunity to taste, discuss and learn a bit about malt whisky in a friendly and relaxed environment. Tickets £40 (numbers limited). Book tickets by contacting libdemfow@gmail.com

Hilton, Bootham and Micklegate Rooms

Herefordshire Liberal Democrats

Campaign for Fairer Rural Funding. Showcasing Herefordshire Food & Drink

An Invitation to join us, showcasing Herefordshire and campaigning for fairer funding for all rural areas. Existing Friends of Herefordshire Liberal Democrats are welcome, new members can sign up on the night. Products of Herefordshire will be available for tasting.

Twitter: [@herefordlibdems](https://twitter.com/herefordlibdems)

www.facebook.com/herefordlibdems

Hilton, Walmgate Room

REF

Training and skills programme

Saturday 18 March

Welcome to our Spring Conference 2023 training programme!

Whether you're just starting out as a Liberal Democrat member, or whether you've been a member for decades, there's a training session for everyone. You can learn new skills, brush up on existing skills or even learn how to take on new roles in the party.

All the training is broken down into different streams, to help you navigate training and get the most out of conference! Or, you can just turn up to any session you like.

An outline of training events is on pages 35-38. Full details are on pages 39-46.

Enjoy your conference!

Building Your Team

A key part of winning elections is recruiting new volunteers and helping them get out and start campaigning. Join these sessions to learn how to mobilise your members as well as how to use some of the tools the party has to make it easier for you.

Introduction to Fleet

09.30-10.45, Novotel Meeting Room 3

Introduction to Targeted Email

11.00-12.15, Novotel Meeting Room 3

Growing Your Core Team

11.00-12.15, Hilton Hotel - Walmgate Room

Building your Fundraising Team and Plan

11.00-12.15, Hilton Hotel - Minster Suite

Communicating Well with Members and Supporters

16.00-17.15, Hilton Hotel - Minster Suite

Party Roles

Across the party there are many roles you could take on. Learn the skills needed to take on different party roles and find out about how you can develop your skills further.

Introduction to Fleet

09.30-10.45, Novotel Meeting Room 3

Introduction to Targeted Email

11.00-12.15, Novotel Meeting Room 3

People Behind the Scenes,

11.00-12.15, Novotel Meeting Room 4

Introduction to Connect

14.30-15.45, Novotel Meeting Room 3

How to be an effective Treasurer

14.30-15.45, Novotel Meeting Room 6

Local Government

Winning a local election campaign can be a bit different, join our experts to learn how to set up a winning a campaign for local elections

Be a Councillor - Building a Diverse Pool of Candidates

09.30-10.45, Hilton Hotel - Micklegate Room

Pick a ward and win it - Recruiting and working with volunteers

09.30-10.45, Hilton Hotel - Bootham Room

Be a Councillor - Taking the climate agenda forward on your council

11.00-12.15, Hilton Hotel - Micklegate Room

Pick a ward and win it - A great Focus article

11.00-12.15, Hilton Hotel - Bootham Room

Could you stand for Council or Parliament? (Women Only)

14.30-15.45, Novotel Meeting Room 1+2

Pick a ward and win it - What's my message for the local election campaign

14.30-15.45, Hilton Hotel - Bootham Room

Candidates

Are you looking to stand for a parliamentary election or help the selection process? Get the skills and knowledge you need to be a great candidate or help select them.

Women politicians staying safe on Social Media

9.30-10.45, Novotel Meeting Room 1+2

Becoming an Approved Candidate

09.30-10.45, Novotel Meeting Room 4

Making a speech at Conference or Hustings (Women Only)

11.00-12.15, Novotel Meeting Room 1+2

People Behind the Scenes

11.00-12.15, Novotel Meeting Room 4

Could you stand for Council or Parliament?

14.30-15.45, Novotel Meeting Room 1+2

Startup Campaigner

Are you just getting started with campaigning? Or looking to brush up? Join these sessions to build up the core skills to get started with campaigning.

Pick a ward and win it - A great Focus article

11.00-12.15, Hilton Hotel - Bootham Room

Introduction to Connect

14.30-15.45, Novotel Meeting Room 3

The Next Generation: Nourishing Young Talent in Your Local Party

14.30-15.45, Novotel Meeting Room 4

Inclusifying Inclusion

16.00-17.15, Novotel Meeting Room 1+2

Winning with Young Voters

16.00-17.15, Novotel Meeting Room 4

Winning the postal vote

16.00-17.15, Hilton Hotel - Micklegate Room

Advanced Campaigner

Have you done a bit of campaigning and looking to expand your skills? Or a seasoned campaigner hoping to learn something new? Follow this stream to build on your campaigning basics.

How You Can Tell a Compelling Fundraising Story

09.30 - 10.45, Novotel Meeting Room 6

Building Your Doorknocking Plan

09.30 - 10.45, Hilton Hotel - Walmgate Room

Dealing with Westminster Boundary Changes

09.30 - 10.45, Hilton Hotel - Minster Suite

Are you General Election Ready?

11.00-12.15, Novotel Meeting Room 6

Growing Your Core Team

11.00-12.15, Hilton Hotel - Walmgate Room

Building your Fundraising Team and Plan

11.00-12.15, Hilton Hotel - Minster Suite

Winning in the last 5 weeks

14.30-15.45, Hilton Hotel - Micklegate Room

Running a Good Standing Order Campaign

14.30-15.45, Hilton Hotel - Walmgate Room

Making Good Email Asks

14.30-15.45, Hilton Hotel - Minster Suite

How to Ask for Large Donations

16.00-17.15, Novotel Meeting Room 5

Understanding the new Voter ID laws

16.00-17.15, Novotel Meeting Room 6

How to write great direct mail

16.00-17.15, Hilton Hotel - Bootham Room

Using MyCampaign

16.00-17.15, Hilton Hotel - Walmgate Room

Saturday 18 March

Training and skills Saturday morning 09.30-10.45

Women politicians staying safe on Social Media

How you can navigate social media as a woman politician.
The Campaign for Gender Balance

Novotel Meeting Room 1+2

CANDIDATES

Introduction to Fleet

We've got a brand new web platform that'll make it a doddle to run great online campaigns, raise money and win elections. Join us at this session to find out how it works.

The Technology Team

Novotel Meeting Room 3

PARTY ROLES

Becoming an Approved Candidate

Are you interested in standing for parliament? Find out what you need to do to become an approved candidate.

The English Candidates' Committee

Novotel Meeting Room 4

CANDIDATES

How to Survive Federal Conference

Get all the inside knowledge on how to survive conference. Designed for first-timers, but old hands might find some new knowledge too; all welcome.

The Federal Conference Committee

Novotel Meeting Room 5

Training and skills Saturday morning 09.30-10.45 cont.

How You Can Tell a Compelling Fundraising Story

Successful fundraising starts with understanding your audience and knowing how to get your message across with the biggest impact.

The Fundraising Team

Novotel Meeting Room 6

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Be a Councillor - Building a Diverse Pool of Candidates

A diverse group of candidates is important. Find out why and how to go about building that team.

ALDC

Hilton Hotel - Micklegate Room

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Pick a ward and win it - Recruiting and working with volunteers

How to build your team and keep them on board.

ALDC

Hilton Hotel - Bootham Room

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Your Doorknocking Plan

We won't win elections without knocking on doors. Make sure you have a plan to speak to your voters and canvass to win.

The Campaigns and Elections Team

Hilton Hotel - Walmgate Room

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Dealing with Westminster Boundary Changes

The Westminster Boundary changes may have dramatically changed your seat, or just made a few tweaks. Either way, join our team of experts to learn what it means for you and what you need to do now.

The Campaigns and Elections Team

Hilton Hotel - Minster Suite

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Training and skills Saturday late morning 11.00-12.15

Making a speech at Conference or Hustings (Women Only)

Making a speech at your selection hustings or at conference can seem daunting but here is the help and advice you need. We will explain how to craft your message and deliver it in style to make a big impact on your audience

The Campaign for Gender Balance

Novotel Meeting Room 1+2

CANDIDATES

Introduction to Targeted Email

We've got a brand new web platform that'll make it a doddle to run great online campaigns, raise money and win elections. Join us at this session to find out how it works.

The Technology Team

Novotel Meeting Room 3

PARTY ROLES | BUILDING YOUR TEAM

People Behind the Scenes

Not everyone wants to be an MP, but every MP needs help to get elected. Agents, Returning Officers and Assessors are essential. Here's what you can do to help.

The English Candidates' Committee

Novotel Meeting Room 4

PARTY ROLES

How to Write a Conference Motion

Writing a conference motion is a skill. Learn from seasoned experts on the best way to write conference motion.

The Federal Conference Committee

Novotel Meeting Room 5

Training and skills Saturday late morning 11.00-12.15 cont.

Are you General Election Ready?

Are you ready for a general election? Come along for a compliance and Elections Act 2022 update.

The Compliance Team

Novotel Meeting Room 6

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Be a Councillor - Taking the climate agenda forward on your council

We can make a difference in our areas and local councils on one of the World's most pressing issues. Come and share your ideas and find out more others at this workshop

ALDC

Hilton Hotel - Micklegate Room

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Pick a ward and win it - A great Focus article

We look at what it is that makes a focus article engaging, interesting and vote-winning

ALDC

Hilton Hotel - Bootham Room

LOCAL GOVERNMENT | START UP CAMPAIGNER

Growing Your Core Team

Every campaign needs a core team of volunteers. Learn how you can grow yours and make it as effective as possible.

The Campaigns and Elections Team

Hilton Hotel - Walmgate Room

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Building your Fundraising Team and Plan

Fundraising is a cornerstone of campaign success. Learn how to develop your team and create a plan to raise the money you need to win.

The Campaigns and Elections Team

Hilton Hotel - Minster Suite

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Training and skills Saturday afternoon 14.30-15.45

Could you stand for Council or Parliament? (Women Only)

How CGB can help women get elected to public office.

The Campaign for Gender Balance

Novotel Meeting Room 1+2

CANDIDATES | LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Introduction to Connect

A beginners guide to Connect. How to create lists, talk to voters and enter data.

The Technology Team

Novotel Meeting Room 3

PARTY ROLES

The Next Generation: Nourishing Young Talent in Your Local Party

The MPs, Councillors, and campaign masterminds of the future are probably in your local party right now. This Young Liberals session will give you the best tips on helping your young members excel both within the party and their potential future political career.

The Young Liberals

Novotel Meeting Room 4

START UP CAMPAIGNER

How to be an effective Treasurer

Are you a local party treasurer? Do you want to make your life easier but still get great results. Come along and find out more.

The Compliance Team

Novotel Meeting Room 6

PARTY ROLES

Training and skills Saturday afternoon 14.30-15.45 cont.

Winning in the last 5 weeks

Make sure you are ready for the final five weeks of the campaign.
The Campaigns and Elections Team

Hilton Hotel - Micklegate Room

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Pick a ward and win it - What is my message for the local election campaign

What will set you apart from the competition on Polling Day. This module is to help candidates make sure their message for leaflets, direct mail and social media is sharp and effective.

ALDC

Hilton Hotel - Bootham Room

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Running a Good Standing Order Campaign

Standing Orders are a great way to get consistent money coming into your local party. Join the experts to learn how you run a good campaign.
The Campaigns and Elections Team

Hilton Hotel - Walmgate Room

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Making Good Email Asks

Email is a vital way of communicating with volunteers and voters. Make sure you are using it to your advantage.
The Campaigns and Elections Team

Hilton Hotel - Minster Suite

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Training and skills Saturday late afternoon 16.00-17.15

Inclusifying Inclusion

The Diversity Team

Novotel Meeting Room 1+2

START UP CAMPAIGNER

Winning with Young Voters

Turnout amongst young people is one of the lowest amongst almost all demographics, and yet young people are much more likely to have values that align with the Liberal Democrats. Hear from the Young Liberals on how to engage with and win amongst this key segment.

The Young Liberals

Novotel Meeting Room 4

START UP CAMPAIGNER

How to Ask for Large Donations

Successful campaigns need generous donors. This session will give you the tools to ask for the money you need to win.

The Fundraising Team

Novotel Meeting Room 5

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Understanding the new Voter ID laws

Voter ID will be required at all elections in England, General Elections and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections in Wales and General Elections in Scotland.

Come along and find out what will happen.

The Compliance Team

Novotel Meeting Room 6

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Training and skills Saturday late afternoon 16.00-17.15 cont.

Winning the postal vote

Voting by post is the easiest and safest way for people to have their say.
The Campaigns and Elections Team

Hilton Hotel - Micklegate Room

START UP CAMPAIGNER

How to write great direct mail

Industry still spends billions on direct mail because it works as part of communication and fundraising. We will discuss who you should write to and what a good piece of direct mail looks like.

ALDC

Hilton Hotel - Bootham Room

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Using MyCampaign

With our new online tools, how we use MyCampaign is changing. Join us and find out how, and how you can use it to campaign.

The Campaigns and Elections Team

Hilton Hotel - Walmgate Room

ADVANCED CAMPAIGNER

Communicating Well with Members and Supporters

Members and supporters are the core of our party. Learn how to communicate with them and get them helping us win elections.

The Campaigns and Elections Team

Hilton Hotel - Minster Suite

BUILDING YOUR TEAM

Agenda index and timetable

Friday 17 March 2023

15.00–17.00	Consultative session: International Security #	55
18.30–19.30	Conference Rally	

Saturday 18 March 2023

09.00–09.10	F1	Opening of Conference	55
09.10–09.30	F2A	Report: Federal Conference Committee	55
	F2B	Report: Federal Policy Committee	55
	F2C	Report: Federal International Relations Committee	55
09.30–09.40	F3	Business motion: FIRC	56
09.40–09.50	F4	Constitutional Housekeeping and International Work	57
09.50–10.25	F5	Policy motion: Access to Dental Services	60
10.25–10.55	F6	Business motion: Code of Conduct	62
10.55–11.25	F7	Standing order amendment: Selection of Policy	
		Motions for Debate	66
11.25–12.35	F8	Policy motion: The UK's Nuclear Deterrent	68
12.35–12.50	F9	Speech: Sarah Olney MP	71
12.50–14.10		Lunch break and fringe	
13.00–14.00		Consultative sessions:	
		Food and Farming #	71
		Opportunity & Skills #	71
14.10–14.50	F10	Policy motion: Solving the Energy Crisis for the Long-Term	72
14.50–15.30	F11	Question and answer session with Sir Ed Davey MP	75

All conference sessions take place in the auditorium in the York Barbican, except the consultative sessions, marked in the index # - see the relevant page of the Agenda.

Saturday 18 March 2023 cont

15.30–16.50	F12	Policy motion: Towards a Fairer Society	76
16.50–17.05	F13	Speech: Cllr Mike Ross	79
17.05–17.30	F14	Report: Parliamentary Parties	79
17.30–18.00	F15	Constitutional amendment: Diversity on Party Committees	80
18.00		Close of session	

Sunday 19 March 2023

09.00–09.45	F16	Emergency motions / topical issues	81
09.45–10.25	F17A	Report: Federal Board	81
	F17B	Report: Federal Campaigns and Election Committee	81
	F17C	Report: Federal Council	81
	F17D	Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	81
10.25–11.30	F18	Policy motion: A More Caring Society	82
11.30–11.45	F19	Party Awards	84
11.45–13.00	F20	Speech: Sir Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats	85
13.00		Close of Conference	

Agenda Information

Debates and votes at conference

Debates on policy and business motions are at the heart of federal conference. It is through them that the party sets its policy and future direction. Unlike in other parties, Liberal Democrat members are sovereign, and what they decide really matters.

The structure of debate on policy and business motions:

Proposer of the motion speaks

V

Proposers of any amendments speak in turn

V

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

V

Summators of amendments speak in turn

V

The summator of the motion speaks

V

The chair takes votes for and against the amendments
and separate votes (if any) in turn

V

A vote will be taken on the motion as a whole

Interventions: concise (one minute) speeches made from the intervention microphone(s) on the floor of the auditorium, during debates where it is indicated in the **Agenda**.

Amendments: all motions except emergency motions are open to amendment; amendments accepted will be published in **Conference Daily**.

Voting: decisions on most motions and all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting (2/3 majority for constitutional amendments). To vote, voting members must show their voting badge whilst seated on the ground floor of the auditorium.

Separate votes: a vote to delete or retain the specified words or section. A request for a separate vote may be submitted by any party member by the start of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled, or by the deadline for emergency motions for debates scheduled for the first day of conference.

A request for a separate vote should be submitted using the online form at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

or in writing to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium.

Counted vote: the chair of the session may decide that a vote needs to be counted. Any voting member may request a count from the floor; if fifty voting members stand and show their voting cards, a count will be taken.

Communications with the chair and aide: the chair and aide team can be contacted at conference – solely for formal communication on procedural motions and points of order, via the Speakers Desk or via the link:

www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions

Speaking and voting at conference

Eligibility to speak and vote

All party members attending in person are entitled to speak and vote in conference debates, providing they are attending conference as a party member (and not for example an exhibitor or observer). People registered for the online-only option are entitled to vote at conference. Party members fulfilling these criteria are known as 'voting members'.

Length of speeches

The length of speeches is shown against each motion in the **Agenda**.

There are three lights on the speaker's rostrum and visible either side of the stage. The green light comes on at the beginning of the speech. The amber light comes on 60 seconds before the end of the allowed time (20 seconds before the end of an intervention). The red light comes on when all the time is used up, and the speaker must stop immediately.

Applying to speak

To make a speech in a debate you must:

- complete a speaker's card, collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table at the front of the auditorium, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk;
or
- submit an electronic speaker's card, from 13 March up to one hour before the start of the debate, online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card

Completing a speaker's card

When completing a speaker's card, remember:

1 Submit your card well in advance.

The chair and aide team for the debate will meet well in advance to plan the debate – sometimes the previous day.

2 Fill in your card completely.

Complete the back of the card as well as the front. These sections are needed for the chair and aide to balance the debate, so they can call people with relevant experience and avoid a string of people making the same point.

3 Make sure it's readable!

Don't fill every square centimetre of the card and write legibly – the easier you make it for the chair and aide to read the card the more likely you will be called.

Interventions

To speak during interventions, voting members should complete an intervention form, collected from and returned to a steward in the auditorium. Speakers will be chosen by the chair of the session by random.

Other conference sessions

Emergency motions

Emergency motions are debated and voted on and make formal party policy like other motions, but refer to a substantial development since the deadline for submission of motions.

There is a slot for emergency motions at F16 on Sunday 19 March.

Motions selected for debate, and/or for selection by ballot along with the ballot procedure, will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. The emergency ballot will be held in the auditorium between 09.00 and 13.00 on Saturday 18 March.

Topical issue discussions

The FCC may decide to use part of this slot for topical issue discussions. This will allow members and spokespeople to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference; they do not make party policy.

Party members may submit suggested topics for a discussion, which will be considered by officers of the FCC and FPC. If a topical issue discussion is selected, it will be published in the relevant Conference Daily.

Question & answer sessions

Any voting member may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) on any subject for the Leader's Q&A (F11). Questions will be selected by the chair and the questioner will be able to ask their question via the interventions microphone.

Questions may be submitted by 17.00 on the day before the session using the online form at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Questions may also be submitted on a form collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium by 12.50 Sunday 18 September.

Reports

The reports of Federal Committees and Parliamentary Parties are printed in the separate reports document. Any voting member may submit concise questions on these reports. Questions may be submitted by 13.00 on 6 March using the online form at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Questions received by the deadline above will be published in Conference Extra and are guaranteed a reply, in the session or in writing thereafter. Questions may also be submitted using the same online form until one hour before the start of the relevant session, but will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the chair of the session.

Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals

Amendments and emergency motions

Amendments and emergency motions must be:

- signed by 10 party members; **OR**
- submitted by one or more of: a local party, state party, regional party in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisation or Federal Party Committee.

And must be submitted by 13.00 on 6 March online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Submitters should include:

- For amendments – a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment.
- For emergency motions – a short explanation of its emergency nature.

Topical issues

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any party member by 13.00 on 6 March online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should not include an expression of opinion; please include full contact details of the submitter and up to 100 words explanatory background.

Drafting advice

Submitters are encouraged to use our drafting advice service: draft amendments and emergency motions should be submitted by 13.00 on 20 February online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Appeals

If you wish to appeal the FCC's decision not to select your emergency motion or amendment, follow these instructions.

The appeal should come from the email address of the original contact for the motion and should be no longer than one side of A4.

It should explain why you are appealing and any new information the FCC was unaware of when it made its decision.

The email should also contain a contact name and telephone number.

Appeals should be emailed by 13.00 on 16 March to:

appeals@libdems.org.uk

Friday 17 March

15.00–17.00 Consultative session

International Security

Fishergate Suite, Novotel York.

Chair: Dr Christine Cheng.

Saturday 18 March

09.00 Party business

Chair: Mark Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats). Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F1 Opening of Conference by Cllr Keith Aspden, Leader of City of York Council

09.10 Party business

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Alex Wagner.

F2 Reports to Conference: questions and accountability

The report sessions are the chance for party members to hear how the party is being run and to put questions direct to the movers of reports.

F2A Federal Conference Committee Report

Mover: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

F2B Federal Policy Committee Report

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

F2C Federal International Relations Committee Report

Mover: David Chalmers (Chair, Federal International Relations Committee).

The deadline for questions for F2A to F2C is 13.00 Monday 6 March. Questions selected will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter. Questions may also be submitted up until 08.50 Saturday 18 March; such questions are only taken at the discretion of the chair. See page 53 for

further information.

Saturday 18 March cont

09.30 Party business

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Alex Wagner.

F3 Federal International Relations Committee Representation

14 members

Mover: David Chalmers.

Summation: Hannah Bettsworth.

- 1 Conference agrees that in future the Liberal Democrats are
- 2 committed to our continued membership of Liberal International and
- 3 ALDE and any successor organisations.
- 4 Conference further agrees that:
 - 5 1. Our delegation to the ALDE Council shall comprise:
 - 6 a) The chair of the Federal International Relations Committee
 - 7 (FIRC), or a deputy drawn from the directly elected members
 - 8 of FIRC and agreed by the voting members of FIRC.
 - 9 b) Any Liberal Democrat members of the ALDE Bureau, unless
 - 10 they already have their own place as Council members.
 - 11 c) Additional delegates as required, elected by all party members
 - 12 under the election regulations made under Article 9.6 (c), with
 - 13 the diversity requirements for those elections of a minimum of
 - 14 one person from each state party and one person under the age
 - 15 of 26 at the time of the election. Runners up in the election to be
 - 16 ordered as reserve delegates.
 - 17 Our delegation to the Liberal International Executive Committee shall
 - 18 comprise:
 - 19 a) The chair of FIRC or a deputy drawn from the directly elected
 - 20 members of FIRC and agreed by the voting members of FIRC.
 - 21 b) Any Liberal Democrat members of the Liberal International
 - 22 Bureau, unless they already have their own place as Executive
 - 23 Committee members.
 - 24 c) Additional delegates as required elected by the voting
 - 25 members of FIRC.

Applicability: Federal.

Saturday 18 March cont

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 50.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see page 53, and for separate votes, see page 50, is 13.00 Monday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

F4 Constitutional Housekeeping and International Work

Federal Board

Mover: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Board).

Summation: Mark Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats).

1 Conference notes that:

2 a) The constitution currently requires the chair of the Federal Appeals
3 Panel to select the members of the panel for every hearing, although
4 in practice this role can often best be done by delegation to a
5 relevant member of staff.

6 b) The Autumn 2021 conference passed changes to the rules for party
7 bodies which give conference and the Federal People Development
8 Committee a role in deciding such designations, rather than simply
9 leaving all such decisions to the Federal Board.

10 c) The reforms previously reported to conference for the operation of
11 Liberal Democrats Ltd have moved responsibility for oversight of the
12 major donors protocol and any legacy fund from the directors to the
13 Federal Audit and Scrutiny Committee (FASC).

14 d) The Federal Communications and Elections Committee (FCEC) has
15 left vacant its observer post at the Federal Audit and Scrutiny
16 Committee (FASC) for several years, without either committee's work
17 suffering as a result.

18 e) The composition of the Federal International Relations Committee
19 (FIRC) needs to be reformed to reflect Britain's departure from the
20 European Union.

21 Conference therefore agrees to amend the Federal Party Constitution as
22 follows:

23 1. In Article 22.4, delete 'The members of the Panel to hear a particular
24 case shall be selected by the Chair' and insert 'The members of the
25 Panel to hear a particular case shall be selected by the Chair, or by a
26 person authorised by the Chair to carry out this task,'.

Saturday 18 March cont

- 27 2. In Article 21.1, delete 'Federal Board' and insert 'Federal Party' in both
28 instances.
- 29 3. In Article 9.7, delete 'Any such company' and insert 'It'.
- 30 4. Move the amended sentence 'It shall oversee the Party's Major
31 Donations Protocol and the operation of the Party's Legacy Fund,
32 ensuring that the wishes of testators are fully respected and in line
33 with direction by the Federal Board' from Article 9.7 to the end of
34 Article 16.2.
- 35 5. Delete Article 16.3 (v).
- 36 6. Delete Article 15.2 I E. and 15.2 II C.
- 37 7. In Article 15.2 I G., delete 'six' and insert 'eight'.
- 38 Conference further agrees that the new members of the Federal
39 International Relations Committee shall take office immediately and be
40 chosen by a recount of the last round of elections, or by co-option if
41 there are any posts left vacant after the recount.

The existing text of the relevant parts of the Federal Party Constitution is reproduced below. The current constitution can be found at www.libdems.org.uk/constitution

ARTICLE 9: The Federal Board

9.7 The Federal Board shall have power to establish a company limited by guarantee to acquire, hold and dispose of such assets of the Federal Party as the Federal Board may from time to time direct and to undertake such work as the Federal Board may from time to time decide. The Directors of any such Company shall be the President, the Vice President responsible for working with ethnic minority communities, and the Chair of the FFRC. The directors shall present an Annual Report to Conference. Any such company shall oversee the Party's Major Donations Protocol and the operation of the Party's Legacy Fund, ensuring that the wishes of testators are fully respected and in line with direction by the Federal Board.

ARTICLE 15: The Federal International Relations Committee

15.2 I E. one person elected by Members of the European Parliament as set out in clause 17.4.

15.2 II C. one representative of the Committee of the Regions;

15.2 I G. six members who shall be elected by all members of the Party. Casual

Saturday 18 March cont

vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election regulations.

ARTICLE 16: The Federal Audit and Scrutiny Committee

16.2 The FASC shall be responsible for commissioning the Party's auditors and for representing the Party in any matters arising from the annual external audit. It shall report through the Federal Board to Conference including comment on the annual audited financial statements. It may also commission and oversee internal audit work related to the work of the Federal Party either on its own initiative or as requested by the Federal Board. It shall oversee the Party's risk management operations and its Risk Register.

16.3 It shall comprise:

A. Six members, who shall be appointed by the Federal Board. Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in the same way. Members appointed under this clause may not have held office or been a member of any Federal Committee or a member of Federal Party staff during the two years preceding their nomination to the Committee.

B. The following shall also be invited to attend meetings of the committee, but shall not have the right to vote:

- i. the President;
- ii. the Leader, who may nominate a substitute to act on their behalf;
- iii. the Treasurer;
- iv. the Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee; and
- v. one person nominated by the Federal Communications & Elections Committee from amongst their members.

The Chair of the FASC shall be elected from amongst the members appointed under Article 16.3 (a) above.

ARTICLE 21: Affiliated Organisations

21.1 Any organisation of persons having a common interest which satisfies the following criteria:

- A. It has a membership policy which conforms to the principles in Article 3.1 of the Federal Constitution;
- B. Its objects are consistent with the fundamental values and objectives of the Party;

Saturday 18 March cont

- C. Its internal procedures conform with the democratic principles in Article 4.6 (c), (d) and (e); and
- D. Its internal procedures conform to any rules created under Article 9.9 (b). may apply to the Federal Board or a State Party by the internal procedures of that State Party to become an Affiliated Organisation. The Federal Board, or relevant State Party, may confer such status by their procedures. A list of Affiliated Organisations currently recognised by the Federal Party will be maintained by the Federal People and Development Committee and published on the party's website. State Parties may make similar arrangements.

ARTICLE 22: Resolution of Conflicts

22.4 The members of the Panel to hear a particular case shall be selected by the Chair, who shall if appropriate consult with the applicant, subject to the following provisos:

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 50.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see page 53, and for separate votes, see page 50, is 13.00 Monday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority to pass.

09.50 Policy motion

Chair: Jennie Rigg. Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Simon McGrath.

F5 Access to Dental Services

10 members

Mover: Daisy Cooper MP (Spokesperson on Health and Care).

Summation: Lord Allan (Lords Spokesperson on Health and Care).

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
 - 2 i) People are resorting to DIY dentistry because they cannot get a
 - 3 dental appointment on the NHS and cannot afford to pay hundreds,
 - 4 if not thousands, for private dental care.

Saturday 18 March cont

- 5 ii) Healthwatch England found that 41% of people are struggling to get
6 an NHS dental appointment, with one in five unable to access all the
7 treatments they needed.
- 5 iii) The British Dental Association (BDA) estimates that 3,000 dentists in
6 England have moved away from NHS work entirely since March 2020
7 with many more significantly reducing their NHS commitment, and
8 have warned of an “unprecedented” collapse, barring significant
9 government intervention.
- 10 iv) 1-in-6 dentists are approaching retirement, the vast majority of local
11 practices have already started shutting their doors to new NHS
12 patients and some are preparing to stop taking NHS patients
13 altogether.
- 14 v) Emerging ‘dental deserts’ with the fewest dentists per person and
15 often in rural or deprived areas, has left people waiting for basic,
16 often urgent care and is leading to millions missing appointments, as
17 well as growing health inequalities.
- 18 vi) Tooth decay is consistently the number one reason for hospital
19 admissions among young children and children from the most
20 deprived areas are already three times more likely to have hospital
21 extractions than their peers.
- 22 Conference believes that:
- 23 a) Everyone should be able to access an NHS dentist if they need one
24 and no one should be forced to pay hundreds of pounds for private
25 care.
- 26 b) The Government’s failure to address the shortage of NHS dental
27 appointments and refusal to fund the system properly is leading to a
28 two-tier system, with those that can afford dental care and those that
29 cannot.
- 30 c) The NHS dental contract is putting government targets ahead of
31 needs of patients and sets perverse targets that are leading to poor
32 outcomes.
- 33 d) The number of NHS dentists is critical to tackling long waiting times
34 and poor access to NHS dental appointments.
- 35 e) The Conservative Government's efforts to increase the number of
36 NHS dental appointments has made no significant impact.

Saturday 18 March cont

37 Conference calls for:

- 38 1. Reform of and increased funding for the NHS dental services
39 contract, to ensure it:
- 40 a) Encourages and incentivises dentists to take on NHS patients.
41 b) Meets patient need and demand rather than arbitrary targets.
42 c) Puts an end to 'dental deserts'.
- 43 2. An increase to the number of dentist training places in the UK and
44 continued recognition of EU trained dentists' qualifications.
- 45 3. Proper workforce planning for health and social care to be written
46 into law, including projections for dentists and dental staff.
- 47 4. The launch of an emergency scheme to ensure children, pregnant
48 women and young mothers have access to their free check ups on
49 time.
- 50 5. Supervised tooth brushing training for children in early years
51 settings, such as nurseries.
- 52 6. The removal of VAT on children's toothbrushes and children's
53 toothpaste.

Applicability: England only; except 2. (lines 46–47) and 6. (lines 55–56), which are Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 50.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see page 53, and for separate votes, see page 50, is 13.00 Monday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

10.25 Party business

Chair: Dr Chris Adams. Aide: Jennie Rigg. Hall Aide: Cllr Alison Jenner.

F6 Code of Conduct

Federal Board

Mover: Mark Pack.

Summation: Mary Regnier-Wilson.

- 1 Conference agrees to ratify the following code of conduct, which
2 supersedes the previously used Member Code, Registered Supporters
3 Code and Online Code:

Saturday 18 March cont

4 **Code of Conduct for Members and Registered Supporters**

5 **Our Values**

6 The Preamble to Our Constitution contains these words:

7 'The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open
8 society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty,
9 equality and community, and in which no-one shall be enslaved by
10 poverty, ignorance or conformity.' ...

11 'Upholding these values of individual and social justice, we reject all
12 prejudice and discrimination based upon race, ethnicity, caste, heritage,
13 class, religion or belief, age, disability, sex, gender identity or sexual
14 orientation' and oppose all forms of entrenched privilege and inequality.'

15 This applies as much to the internal working of our party as to the type
16 of society we wish to build and should always influence how we conduct
17 ourselves in private, public and online.

18 We expect our members and registered supporters at all times to
19 behave lawfully, honestly and with integrity. They should always act with
20 respect towards each other and particularly towards staff, volunteers
21 and people who interact with the Party in their professional capacity.

22 As a member or registered supporter, you have the right to be treated
23 fairly, equally, and within the bounds of party rules. You also have a
24 responsibility to help ensure that these rules are upheld, and that the
25 party can abide by its external legal and regulatory obligations. We
26 provide a range of pastoral support services to help when things are not
27 going right (www.libdems.org.uk/getting-support-when-you-need-it).

28 The Party reserves the right to refer any breach of this code of conduct
29 which breaks the law to the police rather than/as well as dealing with it
30 under this code of conduct.

31 **Valuing Debate and Democracy**

32 Liberal Democrats believe passionately in freedom of speech, diversity of
33 thought and freedom of conscience and will always defend these
34 principles in law. However every political party must have some shared
35 values, and on joining the party our members and registered supporters
36 must acknowledge that they agree with the party's fundamental values
37 and objectives as expressed in the preamble to our constitution, though
38 this does not mean they must agree with every single party policy.

39 Within the bounds of these shared fundamental values and the desire
40 for our party to be successful, we encourage robust and passionate

Saturday 18 March cont

41 debate on policy, strategy and the way in which the party functions. We
42 also encourage our members and registered supporters to play the ball,
43 not the person, and be measured in their criticism.

44 Whilst we should all treat each other with respect, nobody has the right
45 not to be offended.

46 One of our fundamental values is to reject all prejudice and
47 discrimination based upon race, ethnicity, caste, heritage, class, religion
48 or belief, age, disability, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. The
49 party has adopted definitions of Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and
50 transphobia in order to help people understand how our values apply to
51 our behaviour.

52 **Holding Party Office or Public Office**

53 Anyone running for or holding public office must be aware of how their
54 actions may be associated with the party and the greater responsibility
55 that comes with higher or more prominent office. Behaviour which may
56 be acceptable from a private individual may not be appropriate when
57 carried out by someone who, by virtue of the post they hold, is seen by
58 members of the public or those they interact with as representing the
59 party.

60 This also applies to those elected or appointed to party office, who
61 should strive within their leadership roles to proactively empower and
62 support others to contribute fully to our community. Those whose roles
63 within the party give them more power and influence should take
64 particular care to exercise this properly and not use it to intimidate,
65 exclude, coerce or otherwise bully other members.

66 If you need help in carrying out your role, you have a right to appropriate
67 training, support and guidance. In turn, if a change in circumstances
68 means you are not able to carry out your duties properly, you have a
69 responsibility to notify colleagues so that suitable arrangements can be
70 made. We encourage all parts of the party to support volunteers through
71 the different chapters in their life, including making provision for
72 informal or formal temporary leave from party posts in cases of illness or
73 when an office holder faces parental or caring responsibilities.

74 Those who are elected as Liberal Democrats are expected to conform to
75 both the Liberal Democrat Code of Conduct and their own electing
76 body's Code of Conduct when acting as elected officials.

Saturday 18 March cont

77 **Online Conduct**

78 The standards in this code also apply to electronic communications,
79 online social media and written media, where members should strive to
80 ensure their comments cannot easily be misconstrued or their actions
81 misinterpreted. Where honest mistakes do happen, prompt apology and
82 clarification is important.

83 Online interactions are often carried out in public, and all members
84 should be aware of the extra risk of bringing the party into disrepute
85 during public online exchanges. Those who have large or influential
86 social media profiles should be especially wary of using these to
87 encourage or enable others to harass, bully or intimidate individuals.

88 Members will be expected to fully comply with the Member's Code of
89 Conduct in private online groups endorsed by the Liberal Democrats.
90 Some groups will also have their own rules regarding suitable subject
91 matter and repeated postings and members are also expected to comply
92 with these.

93 Where the party runs online events, forums or similar, the party may
94 actively moderate the online community so that people can come
95 together, debate big ideas, learn and engage with each other in a safe,
96 healthy and supportive way. Specific additional rules that comply with
97 this Code of Conduct and the Party's constitution may also be set by the
98 organiser, such as for hustings, and you will be expected to comply with
99 them as well.

100 If moderators believe you are not complying with either this code or such
101 additional rules, your contributions can be removed, you may be blocked
102 from further participation in this event, or other events in future. Your
103 actions may also be reported to our disciplinary process and/or the
104 police.

105 All moderation decisions are final, except in cases where there is a
106 published appeals process. In such cases, you must follow that process
107 rather than post further messages disputing a moderation decision.
108 Moderators for official party events and groups run by the party are
109 under a duty to behave fairly, objectively and impartially and must never
110 use their powers to favour one side of a debate or to silence views with
111 which they personally disagree.

112 **Annex: Registered Supporters**

113 For party members, details of our disciplinary process are set out on the
114 party website and in our constitution.

Saturday 18 March cont

115 For registered supporters the Liberal Democrats reserve the right to
 116 revoke your registration as a registered supporter at any time, without
 117 notice, if we believe you have broken this code of conduct, or have acted
 118 in any way that is in conflict with our values. There is no right of appeal
 119 and you cannot reapply to become a registered supporter for four years.

120 You have the right to resign from your registration as a supporter with
 121 immediate effect at any time.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 50.

Conference has the power to ratify rules proposed by the Federal Board under Articles 9.7A and 9.7E of the Federal Constitution. This motion is therefore not open to amendment or separate votes.

10.55 Standing order amendment

Chair: Chris Maines. Aide: Cllr Alison Jenner. Hall Aide: Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed.

F7 Selection of Policy Motions for Debate

Basingstoke & Deane

Mover: Michael Berwick-Gooding.

Summation: Katharine Pindar.

1 Conference notes that:

2 1. The Conference standing orders do not set out the reasons why the
 3 Federal Conference Committee may refuse to select motions, while
 4 they do set out the reasons why the FCC may refuse Amendments of
 5 the Constitution and the standing orders (SO 4.3) and emergency
 6 motions (SO 4.4).

7 2. Standing Order 6.1 states that proposers need to provide reasons
 8 why the expressed reasons for rejection are not valid but as there is
 9 no list of valid reasons this can be difficult.

10 3. At each Conference many motions are not selected to be debated by
 11 the Federal Conference Committee.

12 4. Voting members can vote to decide which emergency motions are
 13 discussed at Conference but do not have a vote on determining if
 14 any non-emergency motions are selected.

Saturday 18 March cont

15 Conference resolves to amend the standing orders as follows:

16 After SO 4.1, insert new standing orders 4.2 and 4.3:

17 **4.2 Policy motions**

18 The Committee may refuse to select a policy motion if, in their opinion:

19 a) It is similar in effect to another motion or motions which have
20 been selected for debate or ballot at the same meeting of
21 conference, in which case the Committee must consider whether
22 it is appropriate for it to be composited with that or those
23 motions.

24 b) It encompasses a policy area covered by a policy motion and
25 accompanying policy paper that has been passed by conference
26 in the last two years.

27 c) It encompasses a major change to a policy in an area being
28 considered by a policy working group established by the Federal
29 Policy Committee which is scheduled to be discussed at either of
30 the next two Conferences.

31 d) It is similar in effect to a motion that has been discussed at either
32 of the last two meetings of Conference.

33 e) It overturns a policy that has been passed by Conference in the
34 last two years.

35 f) It does not include any new policy.

36 g) It is unclear as to its meaning or intent or is, in the opinion of the
37 Committee, too poorly drafted to provide a sensible basis for
38 debate.

39 h) It is ambiguous.

40 For two years following a General Election the Committee has the
41 discretion to disregard 4.2 (b) and (e).

42 **4.3 Ballots for policy motions**

43 All policy motions, except those rejected under standing order 4.2, must
44 be placed either on the Agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection by
45 members of the Party registered for conference (at a date to be
46 determined by FCC). The Committee may hold separate ballots to select
47 which of a range of policy motions to debate. If one or more ballots are
48 held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions in the
49 Agenda and shall specify closing times for the ballots. Following the

Saturday 18 March cont

50 counting of any ballots the Committee shall decide how many motions
 51 shall be debated in the time available. Amendments can be proposed
 52 and taken to any motion in the ballot(s) under this standing order in the
 53 same way as any other motion on the Agenda.

54 In standing order 3.2 delete '4.3' and insert '4.5', and in standing order 4.5
 55 delete '4.4' and insert '4.6'.

The existing text of Conference standing orders is printed in this Agenda at pages 86-104.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 50.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see page 53, and for separate votes, see page 50, is 13.00 Monday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

Standing order amendments require a two-thirds majority to pass.

11.25 Policy motion

Chair: Duncan Brack. Aide: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Hannah Kitching.

F8 The UK's Nuclear Deterrent

10 members

Mover: Richard Foord MP (Spokesperson for Defence).

Summation: Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs).

1 Conference reaffirms:

2 I. The universal liberal values of internationalism, human rights,
 3 the pursuit of peace, and the rule of law.

4 II. The duty of the United Kingdom to keep its people safe.

5 III. Our long-held desire to negotiate towards a world where nuclear
 6 weapons are put beyond use.

7 IV. Our belief that the United Kingdom is safer and more prosperous
 8 when working with multilateral institutions, including NATO.

9 V. The United Kingdom's long-standing legal and moral obligations
 10 to pursue global disarmament.

Saturday 18 March cont

11 Conference notes:

12 a) Our 2017 policy on nuclear weapons, policy paper 127, Towards a
13 World Free of Nuclear Weapons, which recommended a change in
14 the UK's nuclear posture from Continuous At-Sea Deterrent
15 (CASD) to a medium-responsiveness posture with no continuous
16 deployment.

17 b) That the global security environment is characterised by new
18 levels of instability, including rising tensions over Iran and the
19 fragmentation of nuclear arms control agreements, and has
20 deteriorated following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in
21 February 2022.

22 c) Russia's veiled threats as to its readiness to use nuclear weapons,
23 on the battlefield or elsewhere.

24 d) That the UK's nuclear weapons are declared for the defence of
25 NATO and so play a key protective role for our allies.

26 Conference believes that:

27 i) Vladimir Putin's Russia poses a clear threat to our national
28 security and that of our NATO allies.

29 ii) We have no wish to see the current conflict in Ukraine escalate,
30 yet in these circumstances NATO must retain all the necessary
31 elements of a credible nuclear deterrent.

32 iii) Abandoning the current posture of continuous at-sea deterrence
33 (CASD) would send the wrong signal to Vladimir Putin – and to
34 our European allies about our willingness to come to their
35 defence, weakening the credibility of the UK's nuclear deterrent
36 at a delicate time.

37 iv) Taking a step down the nuclear capability ladder at a moment
38 when it is so unlikely to be reciprocated will sadly do little to
39 further our ambition of global disarmament.

40 v) The challenging security environment and rising nuclear risks
41 should embolden the UK to make a renewed push for global
42 disarmament, and while the strategic context is challenging,
43 opportunities which arise in the future must not be squandered.

44 vi) The UK Government's approach to global disarmament has been
45 at best counter-productive and at worst in breach of legal and
46 moral obligations.

Saturday 18 March cont

47 Conference therefore calls on the UK Government to:

- 48 A. Maintain a minimum, credible nuclear deterrent.
- 49 B. Maintain the current posture of continuous at-sea deterrence.
- 50 C. Examine the option of a future move down from continuous at-
51 sea deterrence to a medium-responsiveness posture as a
52 credible step to demonstrate leadership on nuclear
53 disarmament, if and when the strategic environment is more
54 conducive to progress.
- 55 D. Reduce nuclear risk by establishing a declaratory policy of 'No
56 First Use' for the UK's nuclear deterrent.

57 Conference urges the UK Government to pursue global disarmament,
58 including by:

- 59 1. Reversing plans to increase the cap on the stockpile of nuclear
60 weapons; and associated reductions in transparency commitments.
- 61 2. Publicly recommitting to the UK's obligations under the Non-
62 Proliferation Treaty.
- 63 3. Making global disarmament a diplomatic priority for the Foreign,
64 Commonwealth and Development Office.
- 65 4. Looking to engage further with non-Nuclear Weapon States on
66 disarmament initiatives, including the Stockholm Initiative and the
67 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (while acknowledging
68 that the UK cannot sign that Treaty).
- 69 5. Given the unlikelihood of disarmament developments with Russia
70 under the present Russian Government, Conference believes that the
71 UK Government should also explore opportunities to pursue
72 disarmament initiatives with other Nuclear Weapon States, including:
 - 73 a) Engaging with other Nuclear Weapon States regarding bilateral
74 adoption of transparency measures.
 - 75 b) Continuing engagement with Nuclear Weapon States which are
76 yet to engage with the proposed Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty.
 - 77 c) Encouraging remaining countries which have not ratified the
78 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty, which Russia has
79 already ratified, to do so.

Applicability: Federal.

Saturday 18 March cont

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 50.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see page 53, and for separate votes, see page 50, is 13.00 Monday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See pages 60 and 63 for further information.

12.35 Speech

Chair: Paul McGarry. Aide: Cllr Alex Wagner.

F9 Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson for Treasury, Business and Industrial Strategy)

12.50 Auditorium break

Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.

13.00–14.00 Consultative sessions

Food and Farming Policy Working Group

Micklegate Room, Hilton York.

Chair: Stuart Roberts.

Opportunity, Skills and Training Policy Working Group

Bootham Room, Hilton York.

Chair: Rosie Shimell.

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. The session will be organised by the relevant Working Group. The conclusions of the session will be taken into account by the group when drawing up their final recommendations.

Saturday 18 March cont

14.10 Policy motion

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, FPC). Aide: Paul McGarry. Hall Aide: Cllr Alex Wagner.

F10 Solving the Energy Crisis for the Long-Term

10 members

Mover: Wera Hobhouse MP (Spokesperson for Energy, Climate Change and Transport).

Summation: Duncan Brack.

- 1 Conference believes that the UK needs a comprehensive energy strategy,
- 2 designed to reduce costs to households and businesses, end fuel
- 3 poverty, significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions and deliver energy
- 4 security.
- 5 Conference notes with concern that:
 - 6 I. Domestic energy bills have risen to record levels, with the price cap
 - 7 increasing by nearly £800 for the average household in April, rising
 - 8 by £1,500 in October to nearly £3,500 and in January to almost
 - 9 £4,300 for the average household.
 - 10 II. While the government has introduced the Energy Price Guarantee,
 - 11 capping bills from October to March at £2,500 for the average
 - 12 household, rising to £3,000 in April, domestic energy bills are still
 - 13 over double their 2021 level.
 - 14 III. Citizens Advice predicted that 450,000 people would be switched to
 - 15 more expensive prepayment meters over the Winter.
 - 16 IV. Businesses have faced unprecedented bill increases, and still face
 - 17 uncertainty with the government looking set to reduce support they
 - 18 receive from the Energy Bill Relief Scheme after March 2023.
 - 19 V. Government investment in renewable energy has plummeted, with
 - 20 growth in renewable capacity in 2020 and 2021 the worst since 2010.
 - 21 VI. Despite the removal of restrictions on on-shore wind the government
 - 22 has introduced restrictions on new solar farms in England.
 - 23 VII. Successive schemes to improve the energy efficiency of households and
 - 24 businesses have failed to tackle the problem, the government's
 - 25 new money for home insulation does not start until 2025 and people
 - 26 in higher council tax bands cannot benefit from the government's
 - 27 ECO+ scheme.

Saturday 18 March cont

- 28 VIII. While the government in their Autumn Statement increased the
29 Energy Profits Levy for oil and gas profits there are still significant
30 exemptions for oil and gas companies.
- 31 IX. The introduction of the Electricity Generator Levy on renewable
32 generation failed to include exemptions if profits were reinvested in
33 new renewable projects.
- 34 X. New homes are still being built to relatively poor energy efficiency
35 standards, since 2016, when the Conservatives cancelled zero-carbon
36 homes at least 1 million built to lower standards.
- 37 XI. Local authorities have limited powers to support new renewable
38 energy projects and to help people bring down their energy bills.
- 39 Conference calls on the government to:
- 40 A. Remove restrictions on new solar and wind to accelerate the
41 deployment of renewable power, providing more funding, and
42 building more interconnectors to guarantee security of supply.
- 43 B. Convert the Energy Profits Levy into a proper windfall tax on the
44 record profits of gas and oil producers to ensure they pay their fair
45 share.
- 46 C. Ensure that the Electricity Generator Levy has allowances that permit
47 renewable generators to reinvest their excess profits in new projects
- 48 D. Continue the Energy Price Guarantee at the current £2,500 for the
49 average household until April 2024 or average prices drop below that
50 level, whichever is soonest.
- 51 E. Empower local authorities to support the expansion community and
52 decentralised energy, including by supporting the Local Electricity Bill
53 in Parliament, reducing access costs for grid connections and
54 reforming the energy network to permit local energy grids.
- 55 F. Undertake an emergency programme to insulate all Britain's homes
56 by 2030, cutting emissions and fuel bills and ending fuel poverty,
57 with non-domestic buildings following.
- 58 G. Support households to cut their bills by:
- 59 i) Providing free retrofits for low-income homes.
- 60 ii) Piloting a new subsidised Energy-Saving Homes scheme.
- 61 iii) Graduating Stamp Duty Land Tax by the energy rating of the
62 property.

Saturday 18 March cont

- 63 iv) Giving councils the powers to develop community energy-saving
64 projects, including delivering housing energy efficiency
65 improvements street by street, which cuts costs.
- 66 v) Allow homeowners to offset spending on insulation, low-carbon
67 heat sources, EV charging points and climate adaptation
68 measures against their income tax bills.
- 69 H. Require all new homes and non-domestic buildings to be built to a
70 zero-carbon standard immediately, and progressively increasing
71 standards as technology improves.
- 72 I. Increase minimum energy efficiency standards for privately rented
73 properties and remove the cost cap on improvements – aiming for
74 rented properties to be minimum EPC Band C by 2025 and minimum
75 EPC Band B by 2030 where feasible.
- 76 J. Appoint Warm Homes and Community Energy tsars in central
77 government to champion these causes.
- 78 K. Accelerate the current Review of Electricity Market Arrangements
79 process to reform energy markets to ensure that households and
80 businesses benefit from the expansion in low-cost renewables,
81 including by:
- 82 i) Decoupling electricity prices from the wholesale gas price.
- 83 ii) Changing how the standing charge works.
- 84 iii) Ending the higher costs for prepayment meter customers and
85 giving Ministers the power to suspend the installation of
86 prepayment meters.
- 87 iv) Considering a social tariff for the most vulnerable.
- 88 Conference further notes that, by taking the UK out of the EU internal
89 energy market, the Conservative Government's botched deal with the EU
90 has cost the UK's energy sector at least £250 million a year, weakened UK
91 energy security and resilience, and made it harder to reach net-zero.
- 92 Accordingly, Conference also calls for much closer cooperation on energy
93 policy between the UK and EU, helping to improve energy security and
94 reduce carbon emissions, including:
- 95 1. Accelerating the development of an offshore wind energy grid in the
96 North Sea.

Saturday 18 March cont

- 97 2. Working together with EU member states to build a sustainable
98 supply chain for renewable energy technology.
- 99 3. Installing more electricity interconnectors between the UK and
100 neighbouring countries.
- 101 4. Linking the UK Emissions Trading System (ETS) to the EU ETS, creating
102 a larger market for trading emission allowances and thereby
103 improving its effectiveness and also avoiding significant
104 administrative costs which will otherwise soon be hitting UK
105 businesses.
- 106 5. Protecting UK businesses from unfair competition by following the
107 EU in introducing a carbon border adjustment mechanism for high-
108 emission products such as metals or chemicals.

Applicability: Federal; except III. to VII. (lines 14–27), G. i) to iii) (lines 59–62), and H. I. and J. (lines 69–77), which are England only.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 50.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see page 53, and for separate votes, see page 50, is 13.00 Monday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

14.50 Question and answer session

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Jennie Rigg. Hall Aide: Dr Sam Barratt.

F11 Sir Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Members may put questions on any topic to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the Party website until 17.00 Friday 17 March. Questions may also be submitted on a form collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium by 12.50 on Sunday 18 March. See page 63.

15.30 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Eleanor Kelly. Hall Aide: Cllr Darryl Smalley.

Saturday 18 March cont

F12 A Fairer Society Policy Paper

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Spokesperson for Work and Pensions).

Summation: Julia Goldsworthy (Chair of the Policy Working Group).

- 1 Conference believes that every individual should have a fair chance and
- 2 level playing field to make their aspirations a reality.
- 3 Conference embraces a Liberal Democrat conception of fairness
- 4 including:
 - 5 A. Access to opportunities for every individual across society regardless
 - 6 of their background, inherent characteristics, or where they live.
 - 7 B. Access to the social and economic support each individual and
 - 8 community needs to maximise their own ability to make decisions
 - 9 and make use of opportunity.
 - 10 C. Consistent and fair processes that enhance trust in employers, the
 - 11 government, and other actors across the economy, and that
 - 12 encourage such actors to place trust in people.
 - 13 D. A fair playing field throughout the economy where large and
 - 14 established players can't shut out innovators and challengers.
 - 15 E. Encouragement of vitality and non-conformity that honours people's
 - 16 own ambitions whatever they are, rather than a narrowly economic
 - 17 test of 'success'.
- 18 Conference regrets the many ways in which British society is unfair and
- 19 holds back many people from achieving their full potential, in particular:
 - 20 I. Low and unstable incomes, along with poor working conditions,
 - 21 which have put many people under immense financial and
 - 22 emotional stress while those in power party behind closed doors.
 - 23 II. The current cost of living crisis, which is showing once again the lack
 - 24 of effective support for those who need it most across Britain.
 - 25 III. A regionally unbalanced economy, with poor skills and infrastructure
 - 26 investment, that freezes innovation and means that people's
 - 27 opportunities are often driven by where they grow up, not what they
 - 28 are capable of.
 - 29 IV. The failure of successive Governments to treat people with dignity
 - 30 and respect – with benefits claimants demonised and working rights
 - 31 not enforced.

Saturday 18 March cont

- 32 V. The loss of trust in our national institutions by the self-serving and
33 unprincipled actions of the Conservative Government.
- 34 VI. The unfairness in the ways that public services and contracts are
35 allocated, leading to cronyism and queue-jumping.
- 36 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 150, Towards A Fairer Society,
37 as a range of policies to engage with the big economic challenges facing
38 our country and move towards our ultimate aim of a fairer society. In
39 particular, conference welcomes its proposals to:
- 40 1. End deep poverty, including a radical overhaul of the welfare system
41 so no family ever has to use a food bank in Britain, by:
- 42 a) Taking immediate steps to repair the safety net, including
43 restoring the £20 uplift to Universal Credit, introducing
44 emergency grants (not loans) and stopping deducting debt
45 repayments at unaffordable rates.
- 46 b) Following this up in the longer term with fundamental reforms to
47 the welfare system by
- 48 Either option1:
- 49 replacing tax and national insurance allowances with a Universal
50 Basic Income for working age adults, set at a level which would
51 compensate for the loss of allowances (while retaining most of
52 the existing benefits structure including universal credit).
- 53 OR option 2:
- 54 introducing a Guaranteed Basic Income by increasing Universal
55 Credit to the level required to end deep poverty within a decade
56 and removing sanctions.
- 57 OR option 3:
- 58 conducting large scale trials of UBI and GBI, keeping our strategic
59 options open until the outcome of such trials is known.
- 60 2. Create real community control, giving money and power to local
61 communities in England to lead their own way to growth in ways that
62 best address their distinctive needs and opportunities – measures to
63 achieve this include:
- 64 a) Shifting 50% of all public spending to regional and local
65 government.

Saturday 18 March cont

- 66 b) Abolishing all departmentally-led regional funding pots as part of
67 creating a £50 billion capital investment fund; this will be
68 distributed as 'single pot' funds, on a needs-led basis to address
69 historic underinvestment in left behind communities and
70 regions.
- 71 c) Ensuring there is strengthened regional representation on key
72 national infrastructure bodies such as the National Infrastructure
73 Commission and the Major Projects Authority.
- 74 d) Allocating at least half of the absolute uplift in Research &
75 Development funding allocation to be spent through regions.
- 76 e) Supporting rural areas through these measures and beyond, to
77 ensure that often overlooked challenges for our rural
78 communities, such as high housing and transport costs, poor
79 quality jobs and lack of access to services can be tackled head
80 on.
- 81 3. Improve access to skills, training and advice including by:
- 82 a) Introducing a 'Universal Work Service' to replace the flawed
83 support service currently offered through JobCentres.
- 84 b) Giving New Skills Wallets for every adult, giving them £10,000 to
85 spend on education and training throughout their lives; these
86 Skills Wallets will empower people to develop new skills so that
87 they can thrive in the technologies and industries that are key to
88 the UK's economic future.
- 89 c) Expanding the apprenticeship levy into a wider 'Skills and
90 Training Levy' to help prepare the workforce for the economic
91 challenges ahead.
- 92 d) Introducing a Training Tax Credit to incentivise training in the
93 private sector.
- 94 4. Propose a new Workers Charter, with modern protections for a
95 modern workforce including fairer flexible working rights, including:
- 96 a) Establishing a new streamlined Worker Protection Enforcement
97 Authority which would both enforce rights more effectively and
98 give employers a simplified institutional contact.
- 99 b) Changing the law so that flexible working is open to all from day
100 one in the job, with employers required to advertise jobs
101 accordingly, unless there are significant business reasons why
102 that is not possible.

Saturday 18 March cont

- 103 c) Ensuring that shared parental leave is offered on the same terms
104 as enhanced maternity leave, where this is in place.
- 105 d) Promoting alternative models of ownership like co-operatives,
106 mutuals and social enterprises.
- 107 e) Strengthening the ability of unions to represent workers
108 effectively by broadening the right to collective bargaining in pay
109 and conditions, including pay and pensions, working time and
110 holidays, equality issues, health and safety, training and
111 development, work organisation and the nature and level of
112 staffing.

Applicability: Federal; except 2. (lines 60–80), 3 b) and c). (lines 84–91), which are England only; and 3 a) (lines 82–83) which is England and Wales.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 50.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see page 53, and for separate votes, see page 50, is 13.00 Monday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See pages 60 and 63 further information.

16.50 Speech

Chair: Alison Rouse. Aide: Professor Belinda Brooks-Gordon.

F13 Cllr Mike Ross (Leader of Hull City Council)

17.05 Party business

Chair: Cllr Simon McGrath. Aide: Chris Maines. Hall Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

F14 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties

Movers: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Chief Whip of the Commons Parliamentary Party) and Lord Newby (Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 6 March. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after

Saturday 18 March cont

the deadline may be submitted up until 16.00 on Saturday 18 March. See page 53 for further information.

17.30 Party business

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aide: Cllr Hannah Kitching. Hall Aide: Duncan Brack.

F15 Diversity on Party Committees

16 members

Mover: Andrew MacGregor.

Summation: Zoe Hollowood.

- 1 Delete Article 2.5 and insert:
- 2 2.5 Whenever this Constitution provides for the election by party
- 3 members to a Federal Committee, not less than 40% or, if 40% is not a
- 4 whole number, the whole number nearest to but not exceeding 40% of
- 5 those elected shall be men, and shall be women, respectively.

The existing text of the relevant parts of the Federal Party Constitution is reproduced below. The current constitution can be found at www.libdems.org.uk/constitution

ARTICLE 2: Provisions Relating to the Constitution

2.5 Whenever this Constitution provides for the election by party members to a Federal Committee, not less than 40% or, if 40% is not a whole number, the whole number nearest to but not exceeding 40% of those elected shall self-identify as men or non-binary people, and self-identify as women or non-binary people respectively.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 50.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see page 53, and for separate votes, see page 50, is 13.00 Monday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority to pass.

18.00 Close of session

Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.

Sunday 19 March

09.00 Emergency motions or topical issue discussions

F16 Emergency motions or topical issue discussions

Chair: Professor Belinda Brooks-Gordon. Aide: Cllr Darryl Smalley. Hall Aide: Paul McGarry.

This slot has been reserved for the debate of emergency motions and / or discussions of topical issues. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00 Monday 6 March. The motions or topics selected for debate or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. See page 53.

09.45 Party business

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aide: Duncan Brack. Hall Aide: Chris Maines.

F17 Reports: questions and accountability

The report sessions are the chance for party members to hear how the party is being run and to put questions direct to the Party President and other movers of reports.

F17A Federal Board Report

Mover: Mark Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats).

The Board report is in the Reports to Conference booklet and includes a report to conference on the complaints process rules made under Article 23.3 of the Federal Constitution. Conference will also be asked to vote on the membership of the Federal Appeals Panel.

F17B Federal Campaigns and Election Committee Report

Mover: Baroness Pinnock (Chair, Federal Communication and Election Committee).

F17C Federal Council Report

Mover: Cllr Antony Hook (Chair Federal Council).

F17D Campaign for Gender Balance Report

Mover: Cllr Julia Cambridge (Vice Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance).

Sunday 19 March cont

The deadline for questions for F17A to F17D is 13.00 Monday 6 March. Questions selected will be published in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter. Questions may also be submitted up until 08.50 Sunday 19 March; such questions are only taken at the discretion of the chair. See page 53 for further information.

10.25 Policy motion

Chair: Cara Jenkinson. Aide: Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed. Hall Aide: Jennie Rigg.

F18 A More Caring Society

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Daisy Cooper MP (Spokesperson for Health and Social Care).

Summation: Baroness Jolly (Chair of the Policy Working Group).

1 Conference believes that:

2 A. Social care is an essential service, comparable to healthcare or
3 education.

4 B. Everyone has a right to access high quality care, regardless of their
5 ability to pay.

6 C. Carers, paid and unpaid, deserve a fair deal.

7 Conference condemns a string of broken Conservative promises on
8 social care, including:

9 I. The Conservatives' 2019 promise that no one should have to sell
10 their home to pay for their care, when many people will have to do
11 just that.

12 II. Watering down their commitment to the cap on lifetime care costs
13 making it harder for poorer people to afford the cost of care.

14 III. Failing to implement the provisions of the Care Act since 2015.

15 IV. In 2019 committing to a cross-party consensus on social care, and
16 refusing any meaningful engagement with other parties.

17 V. The 2019 pledge to fix social care 'once and for all' with all serious
18 reform reversed or delayed until 2025.

19 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 151, A More Caring Society, in
20 particular its proposals to:

Sunday 19 March cont

- 21 1. Ensure everyone has access to social care, regardless of their ability
22 to pay by introducing Free Personal Care, based on the system
23 introduced in Scotland by the Liberal Democrat-Labour government.
- 24 2. Build on the Liberal Democrat-led Care Act to move towards full
25 personalisation of social care services so people have choice and
26 control over the way their care is planned and delivered.
- 27 3. Move towards a preventative approach to social care, so people can
28 stay in their own homes for longer.
- 29 4. Introduce a National Care Agency, which will set national standards
30 and give the social care sector long term leadership.
- 31 5. Deliver effective integration of health and social care services by:
32 a) Putting people first over institutional restructuring.
33 b) Empowering local government to integrate services from the
34 bottom up, rather than from the top down.
- 35 6. Introduce a long term plan for the social care workforce, including:
36 a) Introducing a real living wage for care workers.
37 b) Investing in skills, professionalisation and accreditation of the
38 workforce.
39 c) Replicating NHS pay bands with clear career progression for
40 social care workers.
41 d) Introducing a national register of care workers and the creation
42 of a college for social care comparable to the Royal Colleges for
43 nursing and midwives.
- 44 7. Deliver a fair deal for unpaid carers by:
45 a) Adding being an unpaid carer to the list of protected
46 characteristics under the Equality Act.
47 b) Providing unpaid carers with greater rights in the workplace and
48 more broadly, for example, the right for employees to take at
49 least one week's unpaid carer's leave each year.
50 c) Introducing a range of financial benefits to those providing care.
51 d) Improve how government departments and public service
52 providers communicate and work together to support unpaid
53 carers.

Sunday 19 March cont

54 e) Increasing the training and accreditation of skills available to
55 unpaid carers.

56 f) Giving all young carers a legally enforceable 'Education
57 Guarantee' and a right to a normal childhood.

58 Conference also reaffirms pledges in motion Standing Up for Unpaid
59 Carers (March 2021) to support unpaid carers.

Applicability: England; except 7 a) to e) (lines 44–55), which are Federal.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 50.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 Monday 6 March; see page 53. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Sunday 19 March; see page 50.

In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See pages 60 and 63 for further information.

11.30 Party business

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F19 Party Awards

The Leader's Award

Awarded to those who have shown exemplary leadership skills while working or volunteering for the Party.

The Bertha Bowness Fischer Award

Awarded to a new member of the Party (less than two years) who has shown outstanding energy and/or ingenuity in supporting their new-found political home.

The Albert Ingham Award

Awarded to those agents or campaigners whose most recent campaign, through its excellence, fastidiousness, tenacity or novelty has been a model for others to follow.

The Laura Grimond Award

The winner of this award will have shown exceptional commitment to their duties within the Party, going above and beyond to advance the cause. This award

Sunday 19 March cont

particularly aims to recognise the unsung work which enables our front-line campaigns to steal the show.

11.45 Speech

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

**F20 Sir Ed Davey MP,
Leader of the Liberal Democrats**

13.00 Close of conference

Standing Orders

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.

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.

Standing orders

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.

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.

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 7.4 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.

Standing orders

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 Board, Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 2% of party members, in not fewer than 10% of local parties under the provisions of Article 6.3 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 member attending conference who has satisfied the requirements for attendance and has paid the registration fee presently in force for party members as agreed by FCC, and who is not a day visitor [or observer].

Standing Orders for a conference held remotely

- A. In the event that the Federal Board determines it is impossible to hold a conference under the normal rules, and instead summons a special meeting of the conference to be held remotely, or the Committee otherwise directs that a conference shall be conducted remotely, these Standing Orders shall apply.
- B. A remote conference shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders

Standing orders

that apply to a conference not conducted remotely ('the original Standing Orders'), save that:

- i) All references in the original Standing Orders to votes, whether by ballot, show of hands or show of voting cards, shall instead be conducted via an online poll or alternative secure method of online voting, designated by the Committee; similarly all references to speakers cards shall be taken to mean electronic speakers' cards.
- ii) Any communications with the chair must be made via an online channel designated by the Committee for that purpose and advertised to voting members prior to the commencement of a debate.
- iii) In original Standing Order 6.2, the reference to the Chief Steward shall also include lead moderators designated by the Chief Steward.
- iv) Original Standing Order 8.7 shall apply save that the Committee may set a deadline in respect of any given full session for the receipt of electronic speakers' cards; the chair shall have discretion to accept electronic speakers' cards after the deadline.
- v) Original Standing Orders 9.1, 9.2, 11.5 and Procedural motion 3 (Request for a Count) in the Glossary of Terms, shall not apply; instead, voting members shall, when appropriate, be directed by the chair to vote using the online voting tool made available to them. Standing Order 2.3 shall not apply.
- vi) In original Standing Order 10.1, any voting member may signal to the chair via the designated online channel that they are moving a point of order, in lieu of rising in their place.
- vii) As, by necessity, all votes shall be counted votes, Standing Order 11.5 shall not apply; instead the chair shall ensure the result of the counted vote is publicised to members, via the appropriate online channel.

Standing Orders for the Federal Conference

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:

Standing orders

- 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 Parties as listed in Article 6.5 of the Federal Party's Constitution, the Federal Board, the Federal Policy Committee, Federal Communications and Elections Committee, Federal International Relations Committee, Federal Council, and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, reports from any other body the Committee considers appropriate, accounts, the annual report, a motion accompanying the proposed strategy of the party, 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 Board, Federal Policy Committee, Federal Council, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Affiliated Organisations and 10 party members. 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.

Standing orders

- 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, Affiliated Organisations and 10 party members.
- e) The Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons may submit a motion relating to supporting a government containing members of the other parties, in accordance with Article 24 of the constitution.
- f) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any party member.

1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

All motions and amendments must be submitted to the Committee. They must identify a person authorised to agree to their being composited or redrafted. The detail of methods of submission will be notified for each conference via the party website.

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 the same as the deadline for emergency motions. Questions submitted by this deadline are guaranteed to be asked.
- e) Notwithstanding 1.5 (d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the Agenda, by the end of the preceding morning (for report sessions taking place in the afternoon) or afternoon (for report sessions taking place in

Standing orders

the morning). Any questions submitted by this deadline will only be taken at the discretion of the chair.

- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.

1.6 Notification of deadlines

All dates specified under Standing Order 1.5 shall be publicised to party members and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper/magazine and website 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 Board, 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.

Standing orders

3. The Agenda

3.1 The shortlisting of motions

The Committee shall draw up the Agenda and shall decide which of the motions 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 party member 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 selected for debate.

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

Standing orders

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 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.

Standing orders

If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the voting members as soon as practicable and 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.

Standing orders

6. Appeals

6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

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

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.

Standing orders

8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

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

All voting members may speak at a full session of conference. Additionally, the Committee may invite any person to address the conference as a guest. Neither such provision shall prejudice the right of the chair of a session to select speakers.

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 Board shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution,

Standing orders

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 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.

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.

Standing orders

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 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.

Standing orders

11.2 Reference back (moved by a voting member)

- 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 Board, the Federal Policy Committee or the Federal Conference Committee that body shall, in its report to 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

Standing orders

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.

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

Standing orders

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 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 orders

Standing Order 1.5 (d) which are in order, compositing similar questions where appropriate. Questions to the Federal Board report may include questions about the work of the Federal Audit and Scrutiny Committee and the work of the Federal People Development Committee

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 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

Standing orders

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 party members, and at least one Vice Chair, who must be members of the Committee either directly elected by party members or elected by one of the State Parties.

The Federal Party

The Federal Party is responsible for the Party's overall strategy, overall preparations for Parliamentary Elections; the overall presentation, image and media relations of the Party; and our international relationships.

It has the following committee structure:

Federal Conference

Federal Policy Committee (FPC)

Federal Board

Federal Conference Committee (FCC)

Finance & Resources Committee (FFRC)

Communications & Elections Committee (FCEC)

People & Development Committee (FPDC)

International Relations Committee (FIRC)

Audit & Scrutiny Committee (FASC)

The roles of each Committee are outlined in Articles 9 through 16 of the Federal Constitution. The Committees have the following Chairs:

- | Federal Board: Dr Mark Pack, Party President
- | Federal Conference Committee: Cllr Nick da Costa
- | Federal Policy Committee: Sir Ed Davey MP
- | Federal Finance and Resources Committee: Mike Cox, Registered Treasurer
- | Federal Communications and Elections Committee: Cllr Lisa Smart
- | Federal People and Development Committee: Mary Regnier-Wilson
- | Federal International Relations Committee: Phil Bennion
- | Federal Audit and Scrutiny Committee: Helena Cole

Details of all the Committees, their functions and members can be found on the Party website at:

www.libdems.org.uk/committees_organisations

The Conference training session 'How the Party works' will provide further detail.