

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> .....	2
10:00 Welcome .....	2
10:05 SC1: A Fairer Start for Children in Poverty.....	2
10:40 SC2: Moving to a 4-Day Working Week .....	4
11:10 SC3: Growing Scottish Agriculture .....	5
11:50 EM1: Reversing the Decline of Scotland’s Bus Network.....	8
12:30 Lunch & Fringes.....	8
14:20 SC4: Remote Monitoring of Home Working Employees.....	9
14:50 Speeches by Councillors.....	10
15:20 SC5: Safe Exits to Sex Work in Scotland.....	10
16:00 SC6: Liberal Democrats Strengthening Local Government.....	12
16:30 In Conversation with Christine Jardine MP.....	14
17:00 Fringes etc.....	14
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> .....	14
Private Business .....	14
10:00 CA1: Constitutional Amendment.....	14
10:30 SC7: Freedom of Information and the Threat to Standards of Democracy.....	15
11:20 Speech Wendy Chamberlain.....	17
11:50 EM2: Dentistry .....	17
12:30 Lunch & Fringe .....	18
14:20 SC8: Creating a New Approach to Solving the Housing Crisis.....	18
15:00 Speech Alex Cole-Hamilton.....	20
15:30 Cost of Living Q&A .....	20
16:20 SC9: Supporting Scotland’s Businesses in a Challenging Economy.....	20
17:00 Fringe .....	22
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> .....	22
10:00 SC10: Kickstarting an Erasmus Replacement.....	22
10:40 SC11: Revolutionising Scotland’s Response to Long Covid.....	23
11:20 Speech: Jamie Stone .....	25
11:35 SC12: Energy Diversification and Resilience .....	25
12:20 Thanks & Awards .....	27
12:30 Federal Presidential Hustings .....	27
14:00 Escape .....	27

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Welcome

10:05 SC1: A Fairer Start for Children in Poverty

Submitted by: The Policy Committee

Proposer: Carole Ford

Summator: Councillor Susan Murray

Conference notes:

1. Child poverty rates in Scotland are high and set to increase. Current estimates are that 24% of Scottish children are living in poverty and the effect of the pandemic will be to increase this figure.
2. The impact of childhood poverty is well known, including reduced academic attainment, poorer physical and mental health outcomes, shortened life expectancy, increased likelihood of drug and alcohol problems, increased likelihood of homelessness and criminal activity, often resulting in imprisonment. These are all areas in which Scottish statistics reveal a depressing picture both in absolute and relative terms.
3. The early years of a child's life, from preconception to age 3, have a disproportionate impact on future physical, emotional and cognitive development.
4. The evidence that the impact of poverty is worse in Scotland than elsewhere in the UK, and that this is reflected in measures including health statistics, rates of entry to university and life expectancy.

Conference believes:

1. Addressing the impact of poverty on children and their future lives should be a priority for the Scottish Government. Lifting children out of poverty altogether is critically important, but the effects of both absolute and relative poverty must be mitigated.
2. Opportunities and activities which are known to impact beneficially on education, physical health, mental health, confidence and inclusion in society should be open to all children and participation rates improved.
3. Lack of money should not preclude young people from sporting, physical, cultural or social activities. Residential experiences can be transforming and should be available to all.
4. Feelings of exclusion can be more damaging to young people than absolute levels of poverty.
5. To improve the individual life chances of the young people of Scotland, it is as imperative to address the impact of poverty as it is to address the financial circumstances which cause it. The provision of opportunities to participate in a wide social, cultural and physical environment should be available to all.

Conference calls for:

1. A series of practical strategies to create physical, sporting, cultural and social activities which will be open to all young people, regardless of financial circumstances.

## Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

2. Access to IT, library facilities and secure, comfortable spaces for the completion of homework to be a statutory responsibility for local authorities.
3. All schools to provide extracurricular activities covering a range of activities, backed by Scottish Government resources and staffed by paid teachers or other suitably qualified personnel. This programme to form part of the inspection process for schools and local authorities to be responsible for ensuring all schools are involved.
4. Arrangements to transport young people between schools if necessary, to increase the range of activities on offer.
5. Each individual young person's involvement level to be monitored and participation to be encouraged.
6. From secondary school age, the addition of a voucher scheme to the Young Scot card, or similar, to allow all young people to access activities beyond the school. All young people eligible for free school meals should have automatic access.
7. Organisations and venues to be encouraged to sign up to the scheme, allowing young people to use their vouchers as payment, covering for example subscription fees to organisations like the Scouts, football or athletic clubs, dance classes, gym sessions, art or music classes, yoga, karate or Pilates. All youth organisations to be encouraged to promote access and inclusivity.
8. The development of a network of residential centres, including outdoor centres and youth hostels, to provide all young people with the opportunity of a residential experience. These centres to provide a range of activities, not limited to the physical or outdoors. Art, music, science, maths, literature, dance, cookery – the range of possible residential courses should be as varied as the young people themselves.
9. All young people eligible for free school meals to have the entitlement to one free residential experience during the school age years.
10. Infant and child development to be included as a compulsory part of the secondary school PSE programme.
11. The distribution of baby boxes to be linked to infant and child development classes.
12. An expert working group to be set up to develop a national programme of support and education, to enable parents to understand and enhance their children's development.

### Cards:

Proposer: Carole Ford, Policy Committee, called

Summator: Councillor Susan Murray, Policy Committee, called

Jacqui Bell, East Lothian, called

Christine Murdoch, Dunbartonshire, called

Caron Lindsay, West Lothian, called

Fiona Dryburgh, Central Scotland, called

Luca Allen, no idea, called

Malcolm Wood, Edinburgh West, called

Lorna Cammock, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called

Hamish Taylor, not specified

James Ross, Rutherglen & Hamilton West

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

Votes:

Motion: Carried

## 10:40 SC2: Moving to a 4-Day Working Week

Submitted by: Scottish Young Liberals

Proposer: Andrew Reynolds

Summator: TBC

Conference notes a growing desire for a better work-life balance in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside the success of recent four-day working week trials.

Conference further notes:

- a) A four-day working week is defined as staff working for the same pay for eight fewer hours of work.
- b) Several countries are currently trialing this workweek or have done so: Iceland's trial from 2015-2019 was regarded as a success as workers were found to be less stressed and had a better work-life balance, Spain and New Zealand are currently in the process of running pilot schemes for a 32-hour workweek, the Scottish Government itself has pledged a fund of £10 million for office-based businesses to try out a shorter working schedule without cutting pay.
- c) 2/5ths of Scottish workers have experienced poor mental health because of workload. Indeed, one in four sick days has been lost due to work-related stress (Business in the Community/HSE 2020). A four-day working week could remedy work pressures.
- d) A shorter working week could have benefits for boosting employment and the overall economy. A reduction in the hours of workers will create more working hours for unemployed persons to fill, with maintained wages and increased leisure time leading to growth in the leisure and arts sectors.
- e) Furthermore, research by Autonomy suggests that transitioning into a 4-day work week could lead Scotland on the path to meeting the net-zero 2050 pledge. This is particularly important in the aftermath of COP26, with research suggesting a strong relationship between working hours and carbon emissions from corporate level energy consumptions to individual energy-intensive consumption patterns, building a working and living environment that is unsustainable and damaging (Autonomy).
- f) Despite working fewer hours, overall productivity increases. This can be seen in a 2019 trial in Microsoft Japan which led to a 40% increase in productivity and a 23% drop in electricity consumption. Other businesses have adopted this permanently, such as the estate planning firm Perpetual Guardian in New Zealand and several smaller UK businesses such as Aizle restaurant in Edinburgh.
- g) Irregular shift workers and individuals on zero hours contracts should be offered additional support to ensure they have greater flexibility as to when they work and do not work excessive hours.
- h) According to a July 2022 poll by Autonomy, 9 in 10 government employees supported a move to a four-day working week.

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

Conference therefore calls for:

1. The Scottish Government to offer a four-day working week to their full-time staff. This working week will consist of reduced working hours for all non-managerial employees, with the same level of pay they currently have.
2. Non-departmental public bodies such as Historic Environment Scotland to begin trials of a four-day working week, offering it to full-time staff where possible.
3. The Scottish Government to offer staff who are on flexitime or other contracts the option of switching to a 4 day working week or maintaining their current hours with equivalent pay.
4. Advice and financial incentives (e.g., grants) to be offered to encourage businesses to adopt the 4-day working week model.

Cards:

Proposer: Andrew Reynolds, SYL, called

Summator: tbc

Jill Reilly, NEELD, called

Iain McDonald, Galloway

Bruce Wilson, South Edinburgh, request for Reference Back, called

Flora Sharp, Ed W, called

John Burleigh, Greenock

Conrad Wood, Abd, called

Hamish Taylor, not specified, called

James Ross, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, not called, submitted too late

Votes:

Do we discuss the Reference Back: passed

Reference back: carried

## 11:10 SC3: Growing Scottish Agriculture

Supporters: 12 Members

Mover: Councillor Claire McLaren

Summator: TBC

Conference notes:

A. Alignment to the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) schemes will end beyond 2024, requiring a new agricultural support framework.

B. Post-Brexit trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand have been described by NFU Scotland as “one sided, with little to no advantage for Scottish farmers” and as posing “a long term threat to key Scottish agricultural sectors, such as beef, lamb and dairy”.

C. The rest of the UK accounts for 60% of Scotland’s combined agriculture, forestry and fishing exports, demonstrating the importance of the UK single market to growers and producers.

## Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

D. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has driven up the cost of products which are essential to food production and the supply chain including fuel, fertiliser, feed and energy, jeopardising global and domestic food security.

E. NFU Scotland's warning that wholesale land use change to support climate change mitigation which takes agricultural land out of sustainable food production would lead to "rapid socio-economic decline across Scotland".

F. The warning in the UK Climate Change Committee's Is Scotland Climate Ready? report that "there is currently no strategy in place to ensure the agricultural sector in Scotland remains productive as the climate changes", despite forecasts for more floods and periods of water scarcity.

G. The suspension of some water abstraction licenses during Summer 2022.

H. Major supermarkets have consistently reported large profits, while most farms rely on grants and subsidies to make any profit.

I. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and Scottish Outdoor Access Code of 2004, passed by the Scottish Liberal Democrat-Labour Executive, granted world-leading outdoor access rights with an expectation of responsible use.

J. The failure of the Scottish Government's R100 broadband programme which is neglecting tens of thousands of rural homes and businesses, leaving them with a DIY voucher scheme.

Conference believes:

i. Both the Scottish and UK Governments have been slow to respond to the multiple threats currently facing agriculture, the lack of certainty around the future of the CAP schemes is deterring investment, and this will be detrimental to the future of the industry.

ii. Future financial support in agriculture should be built around the principles that it will encourage active farming, promote environmental sustainability and restore biodiversity, support profit and employment, enhance critical mass in the supply chain and associated industries to increase the processing of food within Scotland and reduce food miles, and fully support the vibrancy of rural and remote communities.

iii. The UK Government's approach to trade deals risks undermining Scottish and UK agriculture, undercutting goods we produce to high environmental and animal welfare standards.

iv. Breaking up the UK would mean unprecedented and punishing new barriers and burdens across Scottish agriculture.

v. The strength of the big supermarkets has been used to drive down prices at the farm gate.

vi. Agriculture must be supported to reduce its emissions through a Just Transition which protects jobs, guarantees food security, and properly prepares the sector for the worsening impacts of the climate emergency.

vii. Scotland should be a leader in the exploration and rollout of new technology in agriculture.

viii. Broadband is essential for everything from innovation and diversification to the completion of basic forms required for core operations, and that the failure to provide basic services will deter people from moving to an area to take up work or start a business.

Conference calls for:

## Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

- 1) The UK Government to provide immediate relief in the face of rising costs.
- 2) The Scottish Liberal Democrats to reaffirm that all trade deals should meet UK standards in environmental protection and animal welfare, with the UK Parliament signing off negotiating mandates and completed trade deals.
- 3) The Scottish Government to build upon the initial agriculture transition funding won by Scottish Liberal Democrats, rewarding environmental stewardship and helping agricultural businesses make investments that will rapidly reduce emissions.
- 4) The Scottish Government to launch a fresh campaign to improve consumer awareness of the benefits of cutting food miles and using local produce, alongside reforming procurement processes to better value seasonal Scottish produce and help producers and processors to navigate tendering.
- 5) The UK Government to commission an independent review of the role of the Groceries Code Adjudicator Act 2013 to establish how it could be further strengthened.
- 6) The Scottish Government to promote robust food security assessments of whether land is productive agricultural land which is well suited to support food production and sustainability, prior to its being used for non-agricultural purposes such as forestry, protecting against misplaced carbon offsetting projects.
- 7) The Scottish Government to introduce a new system of croft-proofing within future agricultural support and other relevant regulations.
- 8) The Scottish Government to publish a statement of how its proposed Land Reform Bill in 2023 will make it easier for new and diverse talent to establish livelihoods in agriculture and to retain existing knowledge and talent.
- 9) The Scottish Government and SEPA to work with the agricultural sector to agree a framework for water abstraction in the event of water scarcity, designed to provide the flexibility farmers need, protect against the mass failure of crops and prevent blanket irrigation bans, to be incorporated into a holistic framework for sector-wide adaptation and mitigation.
- 10) The Scottish Government to commission an independent review of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code to determine how it can better safeguard the natural environment and the rural businesses people come into contact with, while also protecting the fundamental right to outdoor access.
- 11) The Scottish Government to write to every waiting household to make them aware of how precisely they can benefit from its broadband schemes, and live up to the promises it made on universal access to rural and remote communities.

### Cards:

Proposer: Cllr Claire McLaren, P&K, called

Summator: Willie Wilson, P&K, called

Hugh Waterfield, Glasgow City, called

Wendy Chamberlain, NEFife, called

Liz Webster, North Wilts, called

Cllr Jeff Goodhall, Abd W, called

Conrad Wood, Abd, called

### Votes:

Motion: carried

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

## 11:50 EM1: Reversing the Decline of Scotland's Bus Network

### Conference Notes:

1. The Scottish Government ended Covid recovery funding to the Scottish Bus sector in October 2022 while, in England, the Department of Transport has extended the support for commercial bus operators to protect bus services and routes until March 2023.
2. The Confederation of Passenger Transport Scotland survey published Oct 2022 warning that the end of the Network Support Grant Plus will see rises of over 10%, service cuts of around 14%, the delay and cancellation of zero-emission vehicle investment and the loss of 200 jobs.

### Conference believes:

1. It is essential to prevent the withdrawal of essential public transport services, accelerate the shift to ultra-low emission transport and reduce car usage if Scotland is to meet future targets on climate emissions and clean air.
2. Buses will be critical to supporting people through the cost of living crises.

### Conference calls for:

1. The Scottish Government to reverse its decision to end the financial support which has helped maintain the bus network respond to the continued lasting impacts of the covid pandemic;
2. The Scottish Government to adopt the Transport for London model of franchising, putting committees in charge of when and where buses go, which was among the measures endorsed by Conference through SC9: Integrated Transport in October 2020.

### Cards:

Proposer: Susan Murray, East Dunbartonshire, called  
Summator: Ross Stalker, Paisley & Renfrewshire, called  
Fraser Graham, Edinburgh South, called  
Jacqui Bell, East Lothian, called  
Trevor Mason, Aberdeen East, called  
Stephen Harte, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called  
Elizabeth Wilson, East Lothian, called  
Cllr Jeff Wilson, Aberdeen West  
James Ross, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called  
Chris Buck, Glasgow City, called  
Christine Murdoch, Dumbartonshire, called  
Lewis Younie, Edinburgh West, called

### Votes:

Motion: Carried

## 12:30 Lunch & Fringes



# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

## 14:20 SC4: Remote Monitoring of Home Working Employees

Submitted by: North Edinburgh and Leith Liberal Democrats

Proposer: AC May, Edinburgh West

Summator: Malcolm Wood

Conference notes that:

1. The social distancing requirements brought on by the COVID pandemic accelerated the trend towards working from home.
2. Employee monitoring technology is currently permissible under UK law, and it can take many forms, including keystroke logging, screenshot monitoring, remote desktop viewing, activity monitoring, and observation by webcams and microphones.
3. While independent surveys have been carried out, there is a distinct lack of government policy on the appropriate extent of these practices or consideration of the impact they may have.

Conference believes that:

1. Working from home can bring many benefits for the environment, the economy and for individuals; however, it is of concern to Conference that the home has now become a de facto extension of the workplace, with the power and authority of the employer being extended over it.
2. There is no standard corporate culture, and some employers will be better at respecting the privacy of employees than others; in the absence of regulation there is a real risk of highly intrusive remote monitoring becoming the accepted norm.
3. While certain job roles do necessitate a certain level of remote monitoring – for example, to ensure data security for GDPR purposes – there must be clear standards set as to which measures are appropriate.
4. Observation of the employee in their home environment can lead to judgement and stereotyping that the employee would not ordinarily face in a work environment, and this may particularly impact members of minority and disadvantaged communities.
5. Measurement of employee performance should be on a basis of productivity, relative to defined line-of-business goals and targets, not keystrokes, number of emails, or presenteeism at a keyboard.
6. Employees and prospective employees should be fully informed of any in-home observation or activity measurement techniques in use by an employer and have the right to opt out unless such observation is strictly necessary for GDPR purposes.
7. Employees and prospective employees should be protected from any adverse consequences should they choose to opt out from an employer's in-home observation and activity measurement techniques.

Conference calls for:

1. The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to undertake research on the extent of observational and measurement practices of employees working from home across a broad range of industries. This should include capabilities, consent, current practice, future directions, and public perceptions.

## Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

2. The UK Government to introduce new employment legislation that clearly defines and limits the power that employers can exercise over employees in their own home using observation and activity measurement techniques, including protection for employees who choose to opt out.

3. The Scottish Government, together with their Fair Work stakeholders such as trade unions, to draw up a voluntary code of practice relating to employee remote monitoring, and to update their Fair Work action plan with a view to promoting best practice.

### Cards:

Proposer: Adrian C May, EN&L, called

Summator: Malcolm Wood, EN&L, called

Helen Smith, Aberdeenshire West, called

Adam Harley, Edinburgh North & Leith, called

Grant Toghill, Paisley & Renfrewshire, called

Ruby Kirkwood, Ayrshire & Arran, called

Moira Forrest, Edinburgh North & Leith, called

Jamie Dobson, Western Isles, called

Jan McEwen, Wick Caithness, called

### Votes:

Motion carried Nem Con

### 14:50 Speeches by Councillors

#### 15:20 SC5: Safe Exits ~~to~~ from Sex Work in Scotland

Submitted by: Central Scotland Liberal Democrats

Proposer: Paul McGarry

Summator: Councillor Aude Boubaker-Calder

### Conference notes:

1. The diverse in activity referred to by “sex industry”, covering online and full service sex work, street work, brothels, and strip clubs, and acknowledges the differing impact and vulnerability of those engaged in the sex industry.
2. The wide range of barriers that may be faced by those wanting to exit from the sex work industry, including but not limited to: criminal convictions, stigma, addiction, and access to employment, education and qualifications, and safe housing.
3. That 72% of sex workers surveyed by Encompass Network in 2020 reported difficulties or felt it was not possible to exit the industry.
4. The importance of person centred and trauma informed approaches and collaboration across support services in meeting an individual’s needs, and the success of ‘one stop shops’ in providing access to support.
5. That the Scottish Government holds responsibility over areas that could make a significant difference to the lives of those engaged and seeking to exit the sex industry.
6. Conference further notes and re-affirms our existing policy “Standing up for the Rights and Safety of Sex Workers” passed in Autumn 2014.

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

Conference believes:

1. There should be safe exit routes available for those wishing to leave sex work, in which they are empowered and supported to get on in life.
2. That Government has a responsibility to provide safe exits from sex work.
3. Reducing harm and providing support to those engaging in sex work irrespective of a stated intention to exit, is in the best interest of all and provides opportunity for exits to be considered by individuals.
4. Support should not be withheld from individuals who do not present with a desire to leave the sex industry or sharing information with enforcement/immigration authorities.
5. Everyone should have the opportunity, not just one chance but as many as they need, to get on in life.

Conference calls for:

1. The Scottish Government to develop a strategy and legal framework that tackles stigma and discrimination towards sex workers, including:
  2. Quashing past convictions for anything that would be decriminalised or legalised under new models.
  3. Taking action to prevent the ability of service providers to discriminate against sex workers regardless of their position in relation to the law, such as issuing formal guidelines for governmental organisations including the ~~policy~~ police and court systems, as to what constitutes acceptable conduct.
  4. The Scottish Government to earmark funds for NHS Trusts and/or local authorities to establish arm's length 'one stop shops' to provide a supportive environment for sex workers to access support. These should:
    5. Unite access to healthcare, housing information, benefit claims and other services.
    6. Provide a trusted, continuing point of contact for sex workers.
    7. Be free from requirements to report activity to enforcement authorities.
    8. Be present where a need is identified, exploring innovative models of delivery for rural and remote services.
    9. Include provisions to include representatives from bodies including Local Housing Authorities, Local Education Authorities, local police, and local mental health teams.
    10. Act as gateways to education, training, and employment.
    11. Provided with block grant funding to enable their clients to access supportive courses and educational qualifications anonymously, thus preventing stigma developing and helping them to exit sex work if and when they choose.
  12. Scottish Liberal Democrat MSPs to campaign for future legislation or a Scottish model to include a package of support for those trafficked, exploited or exiting sex work.

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

Drafting Amendments, accepted by the movers of the motion:

- a. Title: change “in” to “from”
- b. In “Conference calls for” section 3, change “policy” to “police”

Cards:

Proposer: Aisha Mir, Edinburgh North & Leith, called

Summator: Cllr Aude Boubaker-Calder, Central Scotland, called

Carole Ford, Glasgow City, called

Maddy Planche, Edinburgh, called

Lewis Younie, Edinburgh West, called

Paul McGarry, Central Scotland, called

Chloe Hutchinson, Swansea & Gower, called

Eileen McCartin, Paisley & Renfrewshire, called, lines 74-76 “Conference calls for” section 12

Liz Webster, North Wiltshire, called

Lin Macmillan, East Lothian, called, lines 74-76 “Conference calls for” section 12

Votes:

Motion: carried

## 16:00 SC6: Liberal Democrats Strengthening Local Government

Submitted by: ASLDC

Proposer: Councillor Peter Barrett

Summator: Councillor Robert Brown

This Conference welcomes:

1. the success of Scottish Liberal Democrats in the May 2022 Council elections in increasing the Party’s number of Councillors by almost a third, with significant gains in South Lanarkshire, Fife, Highland and Edinburgh in particular;
2. the increased presence of Liberal Democrats in council Administrations including Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Dumfries & Galloway, South Lanarkshire and Argyll and Bute;
3. the potential to open up more councils to Liberal Democrat values and deliver more Liberal Democrat policies at local level across Scotland.

Conference deplores the threat to local democracy in Scotland posed by:

- A. the proposed removal from council control of community care and potentially also social work through the SNP Government’s ill-considered, bureaucratic and expensive National Care Service proposals;
- B. the continued failure of the Scottish Government to fund local authorities fairly and equitably in such a way as to enable them to deliver key council services effectively;
- C. the continued efforts by the SNP Government to micromanage local councils.

Conference notes that the European Charter for Local

Self-Government provides that:

## Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

- a. local authorities should have the right and ability to regulate and manage “a substantial share of public affairs under their own responsibility and in the interests of the local population”;
- b. local authorities “shall be entitled, within national economic policy, to adequate financial resources of their own”;
- c. “the financial systems on which resources available to local authorities are based shall be of a sufficiently diversified and buoyant nature to enable them to keep pace ... with the ... cost of carrying out their tasks”;
- d. that the Scottish Parliament unanimously expressed its view that the Charter should be incorporated into Scots Law.

Conference calls on the Scottish Government:

1. to abide by the principles of the European Charter for Local Self Government and, forthwith, to halt the removal from council control of community care and social work services;
2. to commit to the principles of the Independent Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy and, in particular, to recognise the constitutional democratic mandate of local councils;
3. to support parity of esteem between local and central government underpinned by a fiscal framework that recognises the important work councils do;
4. to give councils a full power of general competence, recognising their right to set their own level of local domestic and business taxes and moving towards enabling councils to raise at least 50% of their funding locally;
5. to work through COSLA to develop a suite of new powers enabling them to make a real difference to local people’s lives, particularly in economic strategy, energy, transport, town planning and funding for affordable housing;
6. to adopt fair work principles so that councils, as leading local employers, can demonstrate good governance and leadership, attract and retain the talent needed to provide quality service, and guarantee value for money;

Conference calls on Liberal Democrat council groups across Scotland to demonstrate Liberal Democracy in action, by working with local communities to strengthen local democracy and collectively improving the lives of all our communities.

Cards:

Proposer: Cllr Peter Barrett, Perth & Kinross, called

Summator: Cllr Robert Brown, Rutherglen, called

Norman Rae, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called

Jacqui Bell, East Lothian, called

Eileen McCartin, Paisley & Renfrewshire’s Vote Rqst “conference calls on” sects 1,2,3,4

Cllr Trish Robertson, Highland, called

Cllr Kevin Lang, Edinburgh West, called

James Ross, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called

Votes:

Motion: Carried

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

16:30 In Conversation with Christine Jardine MP

17:00 Fringes etc

## Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>

### Private Business

Report by Leader, Alex Cole-Hamilton

Report by Steve Arrundale, Treasurer

Report by Convenor, Jenni Lang

### Appeal Panel Membership

New proposed panel members:

- Moyra Forrest
- Thomas Prag
- Gail Bones
- Fred Mackintosh

Continuing members

- Gillian Gloyer
- John Lawrie

Cards:

Moved by Willie Wilson

Votes:

Motion carried

### 10:00 CA1: Constitutional Amendment

Submitted by: Central Scotland Liberal Democrats

Proposer - Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Summator - Paul McGarry

Delete Clause F2 and insert :

“The Leader shall be a member of the Scottish Parliament or a Member of the House of Commons representing a Scottish Constituency. The Deputy Leader shall be a member of the Scottish Parliament, **a Member of the House of Commons, representing a Scottish Constituency**, or a Councillor representing a Ward in a Scottish Local Authority.

Delete Clause F7 and insert:

F7. Nominations for the Leader must be supported by 5 members who are either a Member of the Scottish Parliament, a Member of the House of Commons representing a Scottish Constituency or a Councillor representing a Ward in a Scottish Local Authority.

Nominations for the Deputy Leader must be supported by 5 members who are either a Member of the Scottish Parliament, a Member of the House of Commons representing a Scottish Constituency or a Councillor representing a Ward in a Scottish Local Authority.

## Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

F8. The Leader shall be responsible for the political direction of the Party and for promoting its cause in Scotland.

Delete Clause F9 and insert:

F9. The Deputy Leader shall deputise for the Leader within the Party and shall be responsible for coordinating the work of the Party and the Members of the Parliamentary Parties in the Scottish Parliament, United Kingdom Parliament and the Council Groups representing Scottish Local Authorities.

*Key changes:*

- *Bringing Councillors and council groups to a more equal footing with MPs and MSPs in relation to leadership rules.*
- *Extending Leadership candidates to Westminster*
- *Extending Deputy Leadership to Holyrood and Councillors*
- *Increasing nominations required by elected representatives to 5, but extending that to councillors also.*

Cards:

Proposer: Alex Cole-Hamilton, Central Scotland, called

Summator: Paul McGarry, Central Scotland

Jack Clark, Paisley & Renfrewshire, Request for Sep Vote “a Member of the House of Commons, representing a Scottish Constituency,” called

Bruce Wilson, Edinburgh South, called

Votes:

F2 Sentence 1: carried, sentence 1 is replaced by the amendment

F2 Sentence 2: carried, sentence 2 is replaced by the amendment

F7: carried, clause F7 is replaced by the amendment

F9: carried, clause F9 is replaced by the amendment

### 10:30 SC7: Freedom of Information and the Threat to Standards of Democracy

Submitted by Rutherglen & Hamilton West Liberal Democrats

Proposer: Councillor Robert Brown

Summator: Councillor Mark McGeever

Conference is concerned at the creeping erosion of the standards of democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom in recent years, including:

1. The repeated blocking and delaying of Freedom of Information requests by the Scottish government, which has prompted sustained, formal intervention by the Scottish Information Commissioner since 2017, and whose latest report on the Scottish Government’s delivery of the Remedial Action Plan identified a number of areas where Scottish Government performance and practice fell short, including evidence of widespread failures to comply with records management requirements when handling FOI requests;

## Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

2. Undermining of local democracy by Scottish Government centralisation of the police and emergency services and the proposals for community care;
3. The supine weakness of Ministerial Codes of conduct;
4. The loose attachment of the UK Conservative Government since 2019 to the rule of law and to international treaties;
5. The threat to the ECHR and human rights from the Conservative Government.

Conference notes:

- a) the 20th Anniversary in 2022 of the passing of the landmark Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FoISA) and the key part played by Jim Wallace and Scottish Liberal Democrats in government in Scotland in delivering the Act;
- b) The 2002 legislation has not kept up to date with the changing landscape of public bodies in Scotland;
- c) The Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee inquiry report on the FoISA, published in May 2020, stated that "there is a clear need to improve the legislation, particularly in respect of the bodies that it covers and in relation to proactive publication";
- d) The Scottish Government's consistent avoidance and delay in acting on the detailed recommendations from this all party Committee;
- e) Whilst the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill adds Care Boards to the bodies covered by FoI, this does not extend to the actual private or 3rd sector care providers;
- f) Robust Freedom of Information law is a crucial tool for human rights protection, making sure that people in power cannot just make decisions behind closed doors.

Conference reiterates the longstanding Liberal Democrat commitment that national governments and other public authorities in Europe should be subject to the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights and condemns the proposed moves by the Conservative Government (reaffirmed by both leading leadership contenders) to replace the Human Rights Act 1997.

Conference believes that Parliamentarians and Governments throughout the United Kingdom should be held to the highest standards of public behaviour and calls for urgent reform of the relevant Ministerial Codes to help achieve this, as an early staging post towards a written constitution for a federal United Kingdom.

Conference welcomes the publication of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) (No. 2) Bill, drafted by the Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland and calls for:

implementation of the principles of that Campaign's "Call for Action" to protect and strengthen the public's enforceable right to access information, including –

1. Using the current powers under Section 5 of the FoISA to extend enforceable access to information rights to health and social care service providers delivered by the private sector, particularly care homes.
2. Reform of FoISA to ensure the law delivers openness, transparency, accountability and empowerment.



# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

3. Acknowledging that the right to access information in the public interest is a human right. Consequently the detail of FoISA reform should be informed by human rights law.

4. Working with the UK Government to sign, ratify and implement the Council of Europe's Tromso Convention which provides a general right of access to official documents held by public authorities.

Conference further calls for:

1) the introduction of a new "duty to record" so that the public can access information about important ministerial meetings and decision making processes.

2) A ban on the Scottish Government using non-disclosure agreements to silence civil servants who have received compensation from them.

3) An end to the Scottish Government placing adverse publicity clauses in public sector contracts, which prevent contractors saying anything a minister deems detrimental to public perception of the Scottish Government.

Cards:

Proposer: Cllr Robert Brown, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called

Summator: Cllr Mark McGeever, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called

Maddy Planche, Edinburgh, called

James Ross, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called

Scott Simpson, Glasgow City, called

Votes:

Motion: Carried

11:20 Speech Wendy Chamberlain

11:50 EM2: The Crisis in Scotland's Dentistry

Conference notes:

- A. The British Dental Association's Scottish Dental Practice Committee warned on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 that some basic NHS treatments could be halted, due to the Scottish Government cutting pandemic recovery funding.
- B. 25% of people have tried and failed to get an appointment in the last year, while 1 in 5 of those who were unable to get an appointment have turned to DIY dentistry.
- C. 4 out of every 5 dentists in Scotland are refusing to take on new adult patients for NHS treatment.
- D. More than 1 in 10 dentists who were doing NHS work before the pandemic are no longer doing so and NHS dental claims are almost 40% lower than they were pre-pandemic.
- E. The Dental Advisory Group announced by Public Health Minister Maree Todd in March has yet to even be established.

Conference believes:

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

- I. Everyone in Scotland should be able to access a dentist, regardless of income or location, but that a two-tiered system is emerging between those who can afford dental work and those who cannot, due to Ministerial inaction.
- II. Dentistry in Scotland has always been a mix of NHS and private work but because of current funding structures and the impact of Covid-19, there is pressure on dentists that is becoming harder to sustain.
- III. Dental Appointments can help identify wider mouth health issues.

Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:

1. Urgently reform the funding structure currently in place to be so that dentists are incentivised to take on NHS patients.
2. Set up its Dental Advisory Group with immediate effect, with a remit to look at a number of aspects including the role of dental therapists, whether an emergency scheme ensuring those in vulnerable groups can get appointments is needed, workforce planning and training forecasts.
3. Rewrite its NHS Recovery plan 2021-2026, so that it includes dentistry fully and properly recognises the importance of dentists in the course of the NHS recovery

Cards:

Proposer: Kirsten Herbst-Gray, Dumfries & Galloway, called

Summator: Liam McArthur MSP, Orkney, called

Sheila Thomson, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called

Fraser Graham, Edinburgh South, called

Jacqui Bell, East Lothian, called

John Cole, Central Scotland, called

Willie Wilson, Perth & Kinross, called

Susan Murray, East Dunbartonshire, called

Thomas Prag, Highland, called

James Ross, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called

Votes:

Motion: carried

12:30 Lunch & Fringe

14:20 SC8: [Creating a New Approach to Solving the Housing Crisis](#)

Submitted by: Central Scotland Liberal Democrats

Proposer: Paul McGarry

Summator: Neil Alexander

Introduction

This motion seeks to create a new model that looks to bridge the gap for home ownership. This model looks closely at the already established social rent and housing association model and applies this to a new concept called

'Social Buy'.

This new model creates a more sustainable and fair approach to this that ensures that future generations will be able to access affordable homes in their own community without being limited

## Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

to renting. This is not the same as Right to Buy as this model sees restrictions and a continued link with the sponsoring organisation. It does however recognise the benefits that Right to Buy provided in social mobility.

Conference believes that:

1. Under the SNP government we are now in a housing emergency.
2. Continued pressure on the housing market in Scotland has made the problem more acute with pressures from commercial interests including buy to let and short term let markets.
3. This is creating an economic clearance of many areas of Scotland and that if immediate action is not taken may lead to irreversible damage to communities.
4. If urgent action is not taken Scotland will have a generation who will not be able to own their own home.

Conference notes that:

- a) In the last 10 years house prices have increased significantly and that this is most significant in areas popular with tourism.
- b) In Edinburgh in 2011 the average price for a flat was £164, 252 and today it is £236, 608.
- c) The Scottish Housing Market Review published on 30 September 2021 showed that house price inflation in Scotland increased in Q2 2021 by 10% relative to Q2 2020 – the biggest increase since prior to the 2008 financial crisis.
- d) A continued commitment from the Scottish Government to build affordable homes has not solved the issue and fails to recognise the importance of owning your own home for many.
- e) The average cost of a deposit on a house currently stands at over £30, 000.

Conference further believes that:

- i) A new solution is required and we must be innovative in our approaches and this requires changing existing models and creating new devices to address these issues.
- ii) A new type of Scottish Government sponsored housing mechanism should be created, specifically targeted towards establishing a new model for building homes and communities.
- iii) This new type of organisation would work alongside local authorities to provide homes that were available for social buy.
- iv) The exact mechanisms for purchase of these properties would be defined by either the local authority or housing association, though typical hallmarks would include low or supported deposits, shared equity and house prices that are set below market and increased with inflation.
- v) Local authorities and existing housing associations could apply to participate in the new mechanism and would in many cases be well placed to identify local needs and requirements.
- vi) Properties would have restrictions based on reselling and this would be managed through the sponsoring organisation. The criteria for those eligible to participate in this scheme would be set up by the housing association or local authority. The price of the property when being sold or resold would be set at an agreed level that reflected the original value and interest. It would not be held at market value, in a similar way that social rent is less than current private rents.

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

vii) This approach would be similar to the current system of social rent through local authorities or housing associations that currently exists in Scotland. It is however extending this principle to home ownership and providing individuals the opportunity to own their home

viii) The benefit is to make home ownership affordable to access and allow home owners to build up collateral that would support them entering the housing market.

Conference therefore calls for:

1. Scottish Liberal Democrats to campaign for a new approach to social buying.
2. Scottish Liberal Democrats to support calls for a new social house building mechanism that reflects and builds on the benefits of a social landlord and applies these to home ownership.
3. The Scottish Policy Committee to work further on the details of this implementation and bring a paper back to conference.
4. The Scottish Liberal Democrats to continue to campaign for affordable home ownership and that access to affordable homes should trump commercial interest.

## Cards:

Proposer: Paul McGarry, Central Scotland, called

Summator: Neil Alexander, Central Scotland

Chris Lewcock, Highland, called

Stephen Harte, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called

Sheila Thomson, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called, Reference Back

Fraser Graham, Edinburgh South

Jill Reilly, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called

Molly Nolan, Highland, called

James Ross, Rutherglen & Hamilton West

John Mackenzie, West Lothian, called

Elaine Ford, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called

Kevin Lang, Edinburgh West, called

Claire McLean, Perth & Kinross, called

Carole Ford, Glasgow City

Pauline Flannery, Edinburgh South

Jack Caldwell, Edinburgh North & Leith, called

## Votes:

Request reference back be heard: carried

Reference Back: Carried, motion is referred back to the Policy Committee

15:00 [Speech Alex Cole-Hamilton](#)

15:30 [Cost of Living Q&A](#)

16:20 [SC9: Supporting Scotland's Businesses in a Challenging Economy](#)

Submitted by: West Lothian Liberal Democrats

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

Proposer: John Mackenzie

Summator: Councillor Sally Pattle

Conference notes with concern:

A. The long term decline of the UK's status as a global trading nation, as a result of the catastrophic mismanagement of the economy by the Conservative Party, the failure to deal with the consequences of Brexit, and the collapse of truth and integrity under this government.

B. The failure to grasp the challenge of climate change and harness the power of innovative and successful businesses to drive the green economy.

C. The perilous state of Scotland's small and medium sized businesses, on the high street and elsewhere, particularly in the tourism and hospitality sector, as a result of surging inflation, skyrocketing energy costs, the realignment of working practices following the pandemic and the inability to employ suitable staff.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

i) a high standard of public debate in which: citizens are supported, educated and empowered to distinguish between facts and lies and honesty, stability, pragmatism and integrity are attributes that sit at the core of government.

ii) making Scotland, with a strong and cohesive United Kingdom, a world leader in responsible innovation by building on our strengths and we will build a growing economy in which people will have well-paid and fulfilling jobs.

iii) working to rebuild relationships with our trading partners, with a view to entering into mutually beneficial trade agreements.

iv) small and medium sized businesses, recognising that dynamic, entrepreneurial businesses are a force for good: entrepreneurs, the self-employed and small businesses form the backbone of local economies and government should support them.

Conference calls for:

1. The creation of a business climate to drive investment by restoring the basic principles of honesty, stability, pragmatism and integrity that allows us to build a trusting partnership with business.

2. A skills revolution by scrapping the Scottish Government's Individual Training Accounts and introducing a reskilling grant for every adult of £10, 000 and boost apprenticeships to make them available to 40% of young people entering the workplace.

3. The empowerment of businesses in local communities. Our local authorities should place businesses at the centre of reinvented, vibrant high streets and local communities, and establish community enterprise hubs. They should invest in SMEs, and use the new subsidy legislation to provide support through the energy crisis to enable them to survive and grow.

4. Fair taxation and simpler regulation. In particular, business rates should be replaced with a fairer commercial landowner levy.

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

## Cards:

Proposer: John Mackenzie, West Lothian, called  
Summator: Cllr Sally Pattle, West Lothian, called  
Barry Bassnett, Ayrshire & Arran, called  
Hamish Taylor, Stirling & Clackmannanshire, called  
Jacqui Bell, East Lothian, called  
Charles Dundas, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called  
Thomas Prag, Highlands, called  
Iain McDonald, Galloway, called  
Aisha Mir, Edinburgh North East & Leith

## Votes:

Motion: carried

17:00 Fringe

## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>

10:00 SC10: Kickstarting an Erasmus Replacement

Submitted by: The Policy Committee

Proposer: Willie Rennie MSP

Summator: Wendy Chamberlain MP

## Conference notes:

A. The Scottish Liberal Democrat 2021 election manifesto expressed sorrow for the loss of the Erasmus+ student exchange programme, used by over 2,000 Scottish students, staff and learners annually, and pledged to “establish an international scheme to allow thousands of Scottish students to study abroad and thousands of international students to study here”.

B. The Welsh Government announced its equivalent scheme, Taith, in March 2021 and committed £65 million towards enabling students, staff and learners across a range of education settings to undertake learning or work experience overseas starting from September 2022, as well as supporting the reciprocal exchange of overseas learners to live, study and train in Wales.

C. The Scottish National Party’s 2021 election manifesto similarly committed to “create a Scottish programme of exchange to provide mobility and cooperation opportunities” in education and training. However, in April 2022, Minister for Higher and Further Education Jamie Hepburn confirmed that the Scottish Government has no confirmed timetable for either consulting upon or launching its proposed replacement scheme, the Scottish education exchange programme.

D. The Liberal Democrat Autumn 2021 federal conference motion, Rebuilding our Cultural, Artistic and Educational Ties with Europe: condemned the decision of the UK Government to leave the Erasmus+ scheme; called for the UK to re-join Erasmus+ and, prior to re-joining Erasmus+, for the UK Government to follow steps taken in Wales to improve the UK-wide one-way Turing Scheme, which is less well-funded, less accessible, and offers fewer benefits than Erasmus+.

## Conference believes:

i. Scottish Liberal Democrats are the strongest supporters of Erasmus and the strengthening of relationships and cooperation between learning institutions in Scotland and across Europe.

## Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

ii. The loss of Erasmus was a needless casualty of Brexit which has adversely impacted individual opportunity to grow marketable and professional skills, language skills and life experience, and harmed the collective opportunity for cultural exchange, economic development and intellectual enrichment.

iii. A Scottish exchange programme would restore these critical opportunities for people to benefit from international education and training exchanges, developing valuable skills, providing immersive experiences and strengthening Scotland's overseas partnerships.

iv. The lack of progress in developing a replacement to Erasmus exposes the SNP's disinterest in expanding learning opportunities for people in Scotland, and the Scottish Government's inaction means thousands of people will be denied a once in a lifetime chance to participate in an exchange.

Conference calls for:

1. The Scottish Government to immediately launch a consultation on a replacement scheme with the aim of making it ready to receive applications by Spring 2023 and commence fully in September 2023.

2. More resources to be directed to prioritising the establishment of a two-way Scottish exchange programme which restores opportunities and standards, backed by a system of grant guarantees to ensure it is accessible and open to all. The Scottish Government should reach out to EU institutions, expand the civil service team working on this project and redeploy staff working on Scottish independence papers.

Cards:

Proposer: Willie Rennie, Dunfermline, called

Summator: Wendy Chamberlain MP, NE Fife, called

Eugene Clarke, NE Fife, called

Jacqui Bell, East Lothian

David Hutchings, East Dunbartonshire, called

Jack Norquoy, Edinburgh North East&Leith, called

Neil Casey, Central Scotland, called

Aude Boubaker-Calder, Dunfermline & West Fife, called

Lucy Netsingha, Cambridge, called

Michael Turvey, Aberdeenshire West, called

John Ferry, Midlothian South Tweeddale Lauderdale, called

James Ross, Rutherglen & Hamilton West

Jack Clark, Paisley and Rutherglen

Votes:

Motion: Carried

[10:40 SC11: Revolutionising Scotland's Response to Long Covid](#)

Submitted by: The Scottish Policy Committee

Proposer: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Summator: Caron Lindsay

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

## Conference notes:

1. Symptoms of long Covid can include cognitive impairment (brain fog), gastrointestinal problems, chronic fatigue, dizziness, muscle wastage and air hunger (severe shortness of breath).
2. Official statistics published by the Office for National Statistics, updated each month, show tens of thousands of people in Scotland report suffering long Covid.
3. The impact that the condition can have upon every aspect of people's lives.
4. The Scottish Government only published a long Covid plan on 30 September 2021, over a year after the emergence of the condition and backed by only a £10 million support fund, which still risks leaving Scotland behind best practice and the care available elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

## Conference believes:

1. The plight of people with long Covid and the implications that it can have for their lives have been overlooked by the Scottish Government.
2. The collective response to the emergence of long Covid should be revolutionised, putting it on a scale that reflects the potential for this condition to have a profound and lasting impact on public health and the levels of activity, wellbeing and work for thousands of people.

## Conference calls for:

1. Specialist long Covid clinics to be established in every health board, utilising the evidence emerging from the establishment of clinics in other parts of the UK, bringing a range of clinical and non-clinical services to the same location for the benefit of patients.
2. The Scottish Government to initiate and coordinate the rollout of health professionals able to offer in home support for those who require it, to include long Covid community nurses.
3. Scotland-wide access to long Covid physiotherapy and multi-disciplinary rehabilitation.
4. The Scottish Government and its health partners to maximise the potential for social prescribing in their response to long Covid, connecting patients with community and non-clinical services at no cost, noting the emerging evidence that a wide range of activities from gentle exercise to singing lessons to help with breathing are proving beneficial.
5. The Scottish Government to work to coordinate and mobilise a volunteer network able to assist people suffering from long Covid, recognising that the illness can be relapsing and remitting in nature.
6. The Scottish and UK Governments to work together on producing and rolling out new guidance for employers on best practice in relation to assisting employees suffering from long Covid, recognising the wide-range of symptoms, the variability of the condition's impact on individuals, the implications that this can have on ability to work, and the need for employees to have financial certainty and the reassurance and backing which formal guidance can provide.
7. Social Security Scotland, in consultation with the Department for Work and Pensions, to publish new guidance on long Covid, setting out the financial support and relevant assistance available and how the condition will be accounted for within the social security system.



## Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

8. Public services from local authority education departments to mental health services to be prepared for the lasting physical impact and psychological trauma that can be brought about by long Covid.

9. A Scottish Government-backed independent expert committee to be established, without an expiry date, to advise upon and coordinate Scotland's response to long Covid, with a remit and resources designed to give the committee a platform upon which it can make Scotland a world-leader in how it responds to long Covid and the distribution of knowledge on the condition.

10. The Scottish Government to appoint a long Covid champion with the power to influence and inform its response, cutting across the range of relevant ministerial portfolios.

### Cards:

Proposer: Alex Cole-Hamilton, Edinburgh West, called  
Summator: Caron Lindsay, Policy Committee, called  
Beatrice Wishart MSP, Shetland, called  
John Ferry, Midlothian South Tweeddale Lauderdale, called  
Cllr Trish Robertson, Highland, called  
Susan Murray, East Dunbartonshire, called  
Aisha Mir, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called  
Yi-Pei Chou, Aberdeenshire West, called  
Hamish Taylor, Stirling & Clackmannanshire, called  
Ross Stalker, Paisley & Renfrewshire, called  
Sheila Thomson, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called  
Jacqui Bell, East Lothian

### Votes:

Motion: Carried nem con

11:20 Speech: [Jamie Stone](#)

11:35 SC12: [Energy Diversification and Resilience](#)

Submitted by: Highland Liberal Democrats

Proposer: Councillor Molly Nolan

Summator: Thomas Prag

### Conference notes

1. That most people now accept that climate change is more than just a possibility – there is a real climate emergency that threatens our lives and our global society.
2. That the production of fossil fuel energies produce emissions that are known to be strongly implicated in causing and exacerbating climate change.
3. That while energy demand can perhaps be managed down, energy consumption will remain at the core of modern human society for the foreseeable future.
4. That while renewable energy sources are a vital part of the move to carbon free energy, most suffer from being unpredictable in output levels and will struggle to meet energy demand on their own until suitable energy storage technologies are developed.

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

5. That Scotland has a strong record of innovation and engineering excellence including renewable energy development.

6. That the Scottish Government has turned its back on the potential of 'nuclear' energy as part of the green energy mix, based on outdated perceptions of the risks and the technologies available.

7. Recent experience of the volatility of international energy markets underlines how vulnerable ordinary people are to swings in energy prices.

Conference believes

1. That the Scottish Government should develop its energy strategy to include all potential technologies which can deliver clean and green energy reliably and safely.

2. That new technology and management methods mean that green fission and fusion technologies are safer and cleaner than ever before and have a key role to play in ending our reliance on fossil fuels.

3. In addition, that the Scottish and UK Governments should invest in a wide range of developing technologies to future proof and diversify energy production.

4. That energy production at a more localised level will increase resilience.

5. That any risk assessment of energy production should include assessing a) the risks to the climate of not reducing our emissions quickly enough and b) the risks to human society if energy supply is unreliable.

6. That the people of Scotland are ready to accept a more reasoned approach to nuclear power that balances the risk of fusion and fission energy generation against the risk to our planet from accelerating climate change.

Conference calls:

1. On the Scottish Government to review its outdated policy which rejects all forms of energy produced from nuclear technology.

2. On the UK and Scottish governments to urgently investigate the potential of the multiple fission and fusion options already available.

3. On Liberal Democrat parliamentarians at UK and Scottish level to work with colleagues across the political spectrum to recognise that nuclear sources of energy can be green, clean, local and reliable, and should be assessed objectively.

Cards:

Proposer: Cllr Molly Nolan, Highland, called

Summator: Thomas Prag, Highland

David Hutchings, East Dunbartonshire, called

Sean McCay, no party recorded, called

Ed Thornley, Edinburgh West, called

Jack Clark, Paisley and Rutherglen, called

Elizabeth Wilson, East Lothian, called

Alistair Carmichael MP, Orkney & Shetland, called

Liam McArthur MSP, Orkney, called

Jenni Lang, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called

# Scottish Conference, Oct 2022, Hamilton

Hamish Taylor, Stirling & Clackmannanshire, called  
Alan Beel, Edinburgh West, called  
Adrian May, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called  
Christine Jardine MP, Edinburgh West, called  
Lewis Younie, Edinburgh West  
Neil Casey, Central Scotland  
Cllr Jeff Goodhall, Aberdeenshire West, called  
Fraser Graham, Edinburgh South, card withdrawn  
Ross Stalker, Paisley & Renfrewshire, request for Reference Back

Votes:

To hear Reference Back: Mini debate will be heard  
Reference Back: Motion is referred back to the policy committee

12:20 Thanks

Awards – waiting until spring

12:30 Federal Presidential Hustings

14:00 Escape