

AGENDA & DIRECTORY LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SPRING CONFERENCE YORK 15-17 MARCH 2019

Clear Print

This clear print / large text version of the Conference Agenda & Directory matches as closely as possible the text of the published Agenda & Directory. Motion line numbers match those in the printed Agenda & Directory. Page number cross references are correct within this clear print document. Some information may appear in a different place from its location in the published Agenda & Directory. Complex layouts and graphics have been omitted.

The Agenda & Directory and other conference publications, in PDF, plain text and clear print formats, are available online at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

Welcome to the Agenda & Directory for the Liberal Democrat Spring 2019 federal conference.

Conference venue

York Barbican
Paragon Street
York YO10 4AH

The conference venue will open at 16.30 on Friday 15 March.

Conference hotel

Novotel York Centre
Fishergate
York YO10 4FD

Official fringe venue

Hilton York
1 Tower St
York YO1 9WD

Further information, registration and conference publications (including plain text and clear print versions) are available at:

www.libdems.org.uk/springconference

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There is a plan of the conference venue and a map of York City Centre in the printed Agenda & Directory – available as separate documents at:
www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

Welcome to York from Vince Cable MP

We look forward to welcoming you to the Liberal Democrat Spring Conference in York.

As this guide goes to press, British politics is in flux and the whole of the European Union awaits with increasing dismay as the Prime Minister doggedly defends a Brexit deal which has been trounced by Parliament.

Our consistent position on Europe is bearing fruit, with hundreds of thousands supporting our Exit from Brexit campaign, and real evidence of the sands shifting in our direction. By the time we meet on 15–17 March, much may have happened.

As things stand today, the Prime Minister's deal seems most unlikely to be resuscitated unless she concedes a People's Vote, with an option to remain in the European Union.

Brexit has been overseen and prosecuted by a hopelessly divided government. A divided team of one, attempting to make headway with a united team of 27 countries in the EU. It has been testament to the strength of the European Union, that Ireland's interests have been so faithfully defended, to the fury of Brexiteers.

Yet the present mess is not the fault of the Conservative Party alone. The abject failure of Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party to provide any credible opposition has permitted the Government just to let the clock tick down while they attempt to repair internal divisions. The national interest has been shamefully suborned to the respective interests of both big parties.

FEATURE

At this conference, we offer the British people real hope of a way through. With a People's Vote and an Exit from Brexit, our country could reap the economic reward of remaining, and move on to refocus on what matters to the public. A world class education system with lifelong learning, a well-funded, sustainable NHS, an ambitious programme of social housing. As a leading member of the European Union, we can punch above our weight on the world stage to fight global climate change.

Stopping Brexit is not just an end itself. Our belief in the European Union as the continent's most successful peace project, and the world's biggest market of consumers, is not just a romantic attachment. We believe in our role in Europe because of what our membership means for what we can deliver in Britain, and for what that union of nations can achieve in the world.

Beyond Brexit, the existing party system could well break wide open. We must become the gathering point for liberal voters and liberal voices presently dotted around the political spectrum.

At this conference, we debate crucial reforms to open the party up, inviting in a range of supporters who have not yet committed to membership.

I want to see our party welcome hundreds of thousands of new people with open arms, and a willingness to give those who support our values a real say in the future.

Thank you for playing your part in our conference, and for all you do for the party this and every year. See you in York.

Vince Cable MP
Leader 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.

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:

01904 550080

You are welcome to stay in York with a local Party member, for a low-cost donation to local party funds (cost dependent on type of accommodation) that will help win target seats in local elections in May 2019.

For more info email Aileen at:

info@yorklibdems.org.uk

Banking facilities

Please note there is no ATM available at this venue or in the immediate vicinity.

Cloakroom

York Barbican does not have a cloakroom; however rails will be available for attendees to leave coats at their own risk. 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.

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 Midshire stand in the exhibition.

Be green – Go paperless!

Disabled access

If you need 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

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Auditorium facilities

- A wheelchair lift at the right of the stage; the chair of the session will ensure wheelchair users are called in plenty of time to access the stage.
- An induction loop system, which can be linked to hearing aids.
- 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. To request the use of an electric scooter, tick the appropriate box when registering, or prior to conference contact:
conferences@libdems.org.uk

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 Conference Committee helpdesk

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

Friday	15 March	17.00–18.00
Saturday	16 March	09.00–10.30
Saturday	16 March	14.00–16.00

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Federal Board helpdesk

The FB 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	16 March	10.30–12.30
Saturday	16 March	14.00–16.00
Sunday	17 March	10.30–12.30

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	15 March	16.30–18.30
Saturday	16 March	08.30–18.30
Sunday	17 March	08.30–13.30

You can contact the Information Desk by email:
conferenceinformation@libdems.org.uk

Internet access

Free wifi is available within York Barbican – no password is required.

Network name: Barbican Free

Left luggage

On Sunday 17 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.

Prayer and meditation room

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

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 Conference Extra and Daily for details.

Registration on-site

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

Friday	15 March	16.30–18.30
Saturday	16 March	09.00–17.30

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

INFORMATION

times within the secure zone. Anyone found in the secure area without a valid pass will be escorted from the venue.

Attendees may be subject to random bag searches 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 from York train station, 4 minutes from the Novotel and 8 minutes from the Hilton.

Discounted travel to conference via LNER and National Express is available via: www.libdems.org.uk/spring_conference_travel

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. Please note, these are not blue badge parking – for information on blue badge parking in York visit:

<http://bit.ly/1nMYIZu>

Speaker's cards online

We are now accepting electronic submission of speaker's cards in all debates. Electronic submissions will open on 9 March with a deadline of one hour before the start of the debate. To submit a card online, go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card

Cards can also be submitted in person as usual before and during the debate. See page 9 for further information.

Debates and votes at conference

The structure of debate on policy and business motions:

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.

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

Interventions taken (if listed on the agenda)

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 printed in Conference Daily.

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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; using the online form at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions, by email to separate.votes@libdems.org.uk, 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.

Speaking and voting in conference debates

Eligibility to speak and vote

All party members are entitled to speak and vote in conference debates, providing they are:

- attending conference as a party member (and not an exhibitor or observer); and
- not registered as a day visitor.

Party members fulfilling these criteria are known as 'voting members'.

FCC may also give permission for other persons to speak (but not vote) in conference debates.

Length of speeches

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

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There are three lights on the speaker's rostrum and visible either side of the stage. The green light is switched on at the beginning of the speech. The amber light is switched on 60 seconds before the end of the allowed time (20 seconds before the end of an intervention). The red light is switched 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.

Speaker's cards can also be submitted electronically from the 9th March until one hour before the start of the debate at www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card

Completing a speaker's card

When completing a speaker's card:

- 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. Including the two sections on the back of the card as well as the front, as this enables the chair and aide to balance the debate and 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, write illegibly, in very small letters, or in green ink ... The easier the card is to read, the more likely you will be called.

Interventions

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

Other conference sessions

Emergency motions and topical issue discussions

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.

Motions selected for debate, and/or for selection by ballot along with the ballot procedure, will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

Topical issue discussions allow members and spokespeople to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference; they do not make party policy.

The topical issue to be discussed is chosen by officers of the Federal Conference Committee and Federal Policy Committee and will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

Question & answer sessions

Any party member may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) on any subject for the Leader's Q&A. Questions will be selected by the chair and put by the submitter from the intervention microphones in the auditorium.

Questions may be submitted using the online form:

- at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions.
- by 13.00 Monday 4 March.

Questions may also be submitted on a form collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium by:

- 12.50 Saturday 16 March.

Reports

The reports of Federal Committees and Parliamentary Parties are printed in the separate reports document.

Any party member may submit concise questions on these reports. The

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chair will select which questions will be asked. Questions to reports of the Parliamentary Parties may relate to any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the UK or European Parliaments.

Questions may be submitted using the online form:

- at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions.
- by 13.00 Monday 4 March.

Questions received by the deadlines above will be printed in Conference Daily.

Questions on events occurring after the deadlines above may be submitted on speaker's cards at the Speakers' Table up until one hour before the start of the relevant 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.

Amendments and emergency motions must be submitted by 13.00 Monday 4 March.

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 Monday 4 March.

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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 Monday 18 February.

Amendments, emergency motions and topical issues should be submitted to the Policy Unit:

- using the online form at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions
- or by post to Policy Unit, 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE.

Appeals

Appeals against the non-inclusion of emergency motions or amendments must be signed by the original drafting contact and should be no longer than one side of an A4 sheet; give a contact name and telephone number; include a copy of the motion/amendment to which they relate; and give justification for the appeal and new information Federal Conference Committee was unaware of when it made its decision.

Appeals should be sent to:

- appeals@libdems.org.uk

and submitted by:

- 13.00 Thursday 14 March.

Conference venue plan

York Barbican

The printed Agenda & Directory contains a plan of the York Barbican, which is available as a separate document at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

The exhibition

The exhibition will be open at the following times:

Friday	15 March	16.30–18.15
Saturday	16 March	09.00–18.00
Sunday	17 March	09.00–14.00

Exhibitors listed by stand number

- 1 Green Liberal Democrats
- 2&3 LDCRE
- 4 European Movement UK
- 5 Rights-Liberties-Justice (LDLA)
- 6 Hatch
- 7 Leeds North West Liberal Democrats
- 8 Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats
- 9 National Liberal Club
- 10 Liberator Magazine
- 11 Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary (LD4SOS)
- 12 Liberal Democrat Women
- 13 Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists
- 14 The Liberal Democrat European Group (LDEG)
- 15 LGBT+ Liberal Democrats
- 16 Prospect Magazine
- 17 ALTER
- 18 Liberal Democrat Education Association
- 19 Social Liberal Forum
- 20 Liberal Democrat Christian Forum
- 21 Prater Raines Ltd
- 22 ALDC – Liberal Democrat Campaigners and Councillors
- 23 LGA Liberal Democrats
- 24 Liberal Democrat History Group

EXHIBITION

- 25 RISO UK Ltd / Midshire Business Systems
 - 26 Association of LD Trade Unionists
 - 27 Liberal Reform
 - 28 Young Liberals
 - 29 Liberal Democrat Disability Association
 - 30 Social Democrat Group
 - 31 Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform
- LD Image Liberal Democrat Image

Directory of exhibitors

ALDC – Liberal Democrat Campaigners and Councillors and LGA Liberal Democrats

ALDC and LGA Lib Dems provide advice, training and resources for local campaigners and councillors. Get in touch and join ALDC for just £3.41 a month here.

www.aldc.org

www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk

Stand 22 & 23

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 17

Association of LD Trade Unionists

ALDTU is the Party's organisation of trade unionists. It exists to support Liberal Democrat members in the trade union movement and to input into Party policy.

Stand 26

EXHIBITION

Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists

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 13

European Movement UK

The oldest and largest pro-European organisation in the UK.
www.europeanmovement.co.uk

Stand 4

Green Liberal Democrats

Promoting sustainability in politics, both within and beyond our party. Visit our stand for advice about how you can make a difference. It's not just about changing the world, it's about saving it!

www.greenlibdems.org.uk

@GreenLibDems

Stand 1

Hatch

Formerly called Your Liberal Britain, Hatch is here to help you fix the world around you.

www.hatch-uk.org

Stand 6

Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats

For Liberal Democrats who believe the state should treat everyone equally regardless of their religion or belief. Recent campaigns cover caste discrimination, humanist weddings, discrimination by schools and illegal schools.

www.hsld.org.uk

Stand 8

EXHIBITION

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 2 & 3

Leeds North West Liberal Democrats

Leeds North West is a strong election prospect for the Liberal Democrats in Yorkshire. Come along to meet our new PPC, Kamran Hussain, and learn about our local campaigning activities.

www.kamranhussain.org.uk

Stand 7

Liberal Democrat European Group LDEG

The Liberal Democrat European Group (LDEG) actively progresses and campaigns for an #ExitfromBrexit by supporting activists, social media @ LibDemEurope and annual study trips (Berlin 2019). Visit us and/or join LDEG @<http://LDEG.org/en/page/join-ldeg>

<http://ldeg.org>

Stand 14

LGBT+ Liberal Democrats

LGBT+ Lib Dems are the party body for gender and sexual minorities, including lesbian, gay, bi and trans people.

<https://lgbt.libdems.org.uk>

Stand 15

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 20

EXHIBITION

Liberal Democrat Disability Association

Working to win the votes of people with disabilities. Providing a voice for members with disabilities. Influencing policies to ensure they reflect the views of people with disabilities and carers.

www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk

Stand 29

Liberal Democrat Education Association

The Liberal Democrat Education Association aims to improve education through: publishing articles; running conferences; generating new ideas; promoting Lib Dem education policies and providing advice to Liberal Democrats in power.

www.libdemeducation.org

Stand 18

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 Liberalism in Britain.

www.liberalhistory.org.uk

Stand 24

Liberal Democrat Image

Visit Liberal Democrat Image in the exhibition for all your campaign materials. Follow us on Facebook and on our website:

www.libdemimage.co.uk

Stand LD Image

Liberal Democrat Women

Liberal Democrat Women, Britain's oldest feminist organisation. Visit our conference stand and discover why we're still needed. Join our campaign for gender equality in Town Halls, Westminster and beyond.

www.libdemwomen.org.uk

Stand 12

EXHIBITION

Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform

The home for Lib Dems who support a fairer and more effective voting system, working to ensure the party gets the arguments and the politics right, to make reform happen.

<http://lder.org>

[facebook.com/libdemsforelectoralreform](https://www.facebook.com/libdemsforelectoralreform)

Stand 31

Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary (LD4SOS)

LD4SOS believe in standing up for asylum seekers in the UK and treating them with compassion, humanity and respect.

www.ld4sos.org.uk

Stand 11

Liberal Reform

Liberal Reform exists within the Liberal Democrats to promote personal liberty and a fair society supported by free, open and competitive markets. We seek to make these values central to party policy.

www.liberalreform.org.uk

Stand 27

Liberator Magazine

Read the latest from the Party's leading thinkers. As ever RB, shines light on the dark corners of the Party.

www.liberator.org.uk

Stand 10

National Liberal Club

The London home of Liberalism.

www.nlc.org.uk

Stand 9

EXHIBITION

Prater Raines Ltd

Making Liberal Democrat campaigns succeed online for 15 years. We'll help you use your website, social media and emails to WIN. Real support, fair pricing and huge range of features.

www.praterraines.co.uk

Stand 21

Prospect Magazine

Prospect established itself as the home of intelligent debate. It tackles the big challenges confronting society through rigorous analysis and fine writing, in pieces that prompt you to think again.

www.prospectmagazine.co.uk

Stand 16

Rights-Liberties-Justice (LDLA)

If you believe in Human Rights, Civil Liberties and Access to Justice, visit us for info and join R-L-J (at special introductory rate of £2).

www.Rights-Liberties-Justice.uk

Stand 5

RISO UK Ltd / Midshire Business Systems

Midshire 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.

www.riso.co.uk

www.midshire.co.uk

Stand 25

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.

facebook.com/SocialDemocratGroup

Stand 30

EXHIBITION

Social Liberal Forum

SLF exists to create a society where everyone has access to the wealth, power and opportunity to enable us to lead full and rewarding lives, unfettered by conformity and hardship.

www.socialliberal.net

Stand 19

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 28

Conference Extra and Daily

Conference Extra will be available online in the week running up to conference, at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

Hard copies can be printed at the Midshire stand at conference.

Collect your copy of Conference Daily on Saturday and Sunday morning from the Information Desk in York Barbican or view it online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

Thank you Paddy

by Olly Grender

Somebody will be tragically missing at this party conference. Our whirlwind of a former leader with too many titles to mention, but to all of us at conference he was simply “Paddy”. No need for deference – he never demanded or expected that.

Dashing from fringe meeting to conference rally at breakneck speed, teasing young staffers, filching fags, telling that joke – yes that joke again at the Glee club. Always the “go to” person for media – willing to be up at the crack of dawn taking on the Today Programme. Next – whistling to Jane, who followed in his wake – calm, centred, smiling – the emotional anchor to this energetic battle cruiser.

Like all leaders he had good and bad conferences, he respected conference and prepared for it as you would expect, a military operation. His speeches – especially when he was the leader – were often on the 25th draft by the time he arrived. The speech team meetings into the early hours and the torture of delivering the carefully crafted words that provided “equidistance” between the two main parties, finding the inspiration for issues such as Hong Kong citizenship so close to his heart or speaking out for Bosnia – the human atrocity in Europe’s back yard.

At his first conference he gave three keynote speeches – all hugely challenging – his radical credentials on the environment pre-date many. He could move an audience to action in a single rally speech. One of the first conference rallies under his leadership included Chinese students, sentenced to death, who had stood in front of the tanks in Tiananmen Square – his international credentials were never in question.

Like a proud parent he loved the party but never stopped demanding more from it. On the eve of the 2017 Autumn Conference he published a series of

THANK YOU PADDY CONTINUED

challenges on the changing nature of education, ownership of data, radical changes to political parties and blockchain in public services.

In later years he took great pride in his writing, his last book “Nein”, arguably his best, about brave individuals in Germany who fought against Hitler – a warning for the future when people feel the pain of economic collapse, hunger for strong men and find the appeal of ‘fake news’ too hard to resist.

So how do we honour him? There will be formal events over the next year at conference and in Westminster, but as individuals we should never stop challenging ourselves in policies and action to ensure that centre left radical policies have a voice. We should never engage in mindless activism – it has to be activism with a purpose, with a goal.

At conference I like to think of Paddy somewhere in the melee – laptop open – typing furiously the latest book, a supportive or difficult email to a colleague or perhaps a shared joke with his adored family. Somewhere in spirit that’s where he’ll be – just around the corner.

Book of condolence

There will be a book of condolence at conference to which you can contribute your memories of Paddy. It will be available at the Information Desk.

Fringe guide

Official fringe venues

Novotel York Centre, Fishergate, York, YO10 4FD

Hilton York, 1 Tower St, York, YO1 9WD

Locations of venues are shown on the map of York City Centre on the back cover.

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.

Key to fringe listings

REF Refreshments provided

HEAR Hearing loop provided

Training & Skills

Training courses are taking place throughout conference.

See pages 25–32.

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 Conference Extra and Conference Daily for details.

Friday 15 March

Fringe Friday early evening 18.30–19.30

Conference Rally

Join Vince Cable, Ed Davey and Jo Swinson discussing the local elections and Exit from Brexit.

York Barbican, Auditorium

Fringe Friday mid evening 20.15–21.30

Liberal Democrat History Group

Liberalism in the North

Despite its decline after the First World War, the Liberal Party managed to hang on in Yorkshire and Lancashire, contributing to its eventual revival. Discuss why this was; with William Wallace, Tony Greaves and Michael Meadowcroft. Chair: Baroness Kath Pinnock.

Novotel, Meeting Room 1+2

LGA Liberal Democrat Group

Going for Gold

Want a Lib Dem Council? Hear how South Cambridgeshire won last year and what they are now doing. Speakers: Bridget Smith, Leader, South Cambridgeshire, and Cllrs Ian Sollom and Brian Milnes. Chair: Cllr Ruth Dombey, Deputy Leader, LGA Liberal Democrats.

Novotel, Meeting Room 3+4

HEAR, REF

FRINGE FRIDAY MID EVENING CONTINUED

Liberal Democrat Education Association

Key Issues in Education and LDEA AGM

School governor? Parent? Teacher? Student? Join members of the Liberal Democrat Education Association to debate key current issues in early years, schools, FE and Universities. Followed by short Annual General Meeting with Layla Moran MP (invited).

Novotel, Meeting Room 5

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 on the door subject to availability.

Novotel, Fishergate Suite

Saturday 16 March

Fringe Saturday morning 08.00–09.00

Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

LDCF Prayer Breakfast

All are welcome to join us for breakfast and a chance to hear from Trussell Trust and Christians Against Poverty (CAP) about the real issues around Universal Credit and food poverty.

Novotel, Meeting Room 4

REF

FRINGE SATURDAY MORNING CONTINUED

Mindfulness Session

Quiet Reflection using Mindfulness

Facilitator Jane Reed, Liberal Democrat and Meditation Facilitator, who has had a daily meditation practice since 1997. Introduction to Formless Meditation, 10 minutes of Meditation Reading about Political Motivation, 10 minutes of Silent Reflection, Group discussion, Closing silence.

Novotel, Meeting Room 6

Fringe Saturday lunchtime 13.00–14.00

Social Liberal Forum and Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary

An Effective and Compassionate Approach to Immigration and Asylum

Anticipating the Immigration Bill to be debated this spring, MP Sir Ed Davey and Suzanne Fletcher (Chair of LD4SoS) will propose amendments that celebrate and harness the positive contributions that immigrants and asylum seekers offer our communities and our economy.

Novotel, Meeting Room 1+2

Liberal Democrat Justice Team

Criminal justice reform consultation session

Our Justice spokespeople – Jonathan Marks and Mike German – are developing new policies to rehabilitate offenders and prevent re-offending. Come and hear about their proposals so far and share your thoughts on what needs to change in sentencing, prisons and probation.

Novotel, Meeting Room 3

REF

FRINGE SATURDAY LUNCHTIME CONTINUED

Green Liberal Democrats

Demand Green action in May Elections (and implications of any Brexit changes)

Many towns/cities are declaring climate emergencies whilst Government is distracted by Brexit. How we can campaign effectively on waste/recycling, community energy, housing and transport/pollution. Layla Moran MP, Cllr Pippa Heylings (Cambs), Cllr Jane Brophy (Manchester), James Baker (ALDC), Jason Hunter (#3blokesinaPub).

Novotel, Meeting Room 4

REF

Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats

Is openness on your faith or sexuality a barrier to political office?

Liberals believe in the right to be open about your personal religion or belief and your sexuality – but also the right to keep them private. Does pressure to disclose your beliefs or sexuality deter people from public life? Speakers tba.

Novotel, Meeting Room 5

Liberal Democrat Education Association

Investing in young people: how well-resourced youth work can transform life chances

Leigh Middleton, CEO, National Youth Agency, Mathew Hulbert, co-author of the Party's youth services policy, and Lord Mike Storey (invited) discuss the importance of the youth work profession and how to promote the Party's policy of statutory, universal youth services.

Novotel, Riverside Room

REF

Liberal Democrats HQ

Pathway Project: Every Local Party's Path to Victory

The Pathway Project is the Party's largest-ever development programme for local parties – come find out the latest news, how to get involved and tell us your priorities. See page 29.

Hilton, Bootham Room

FRINGE SATURDAY LUNCHTIME CONTINUED

Social Democrat Group

No rights without obligations?

How do we balance vital individual rights with the obligations individuals have to the wider community? Speakers tba. The Social Democrat Group provides a platform for Liberal Democrats who prioritise social justice which is sustainable in the long-term. facebook.com/SocialDemocratGroup.

Hilton, Micklegate Room

London Liberal Democrats

Tackling Knife Crime

Siobhan Benita, London Mayoral Candidate and member of the Parliamentary Cross Party Commission on Youth Violence. Leading the discussion on tackling knife crime among young people.

Hilton, Minster Suite

Liberal Democrats Voice

Homelessness and Universal Credit

Alison Suttie and Olly Grender are joined by Dan Dumoulin, Saint Vincent De Paul UK's Policy and Public Affairs Manager, to discuss their experiences of homelessness from sleeping out in Somerset House Courtyard and the impact that Universal Credit is having.

Hilton, Walmgate Room

REF

Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15–19.15

Social Liberal Forum

Launch of New SLF Publication: Keynes and Kearns: Am I a Liberal?

Ian Kearns examines Keynes's essay 'Am I a Liberal?' (presented to the 1925 Liberal Summer School) and explores in a companion essay the 21st Century answer to Keynes's question 'What is the real repulsion which keeps me away from Labour?'

Novotel, Meeting Room 1+2

FRINGE SATURDAY EARLY EVENING CONTINUED

LGA Liberal Democrat Group and Green Liberal Democrats

Lib Dem Local Action for our Environment

Hear the latest green good practice from Liberal Democrat Councils and Councillors. With Graham Neale (Chair, Green Liberal Democrats), Cllr Andrew Waller (Deputy Leader, City of York) and Baroness Kate Parminter. Chair: Cllr Howard Sykes, Leader, LGA Liberal Democrat Group.

Novotel, Meeting Room 3+4

HEAR, REF

ALDC – Association of Liberal Democrat Campaigners and Councillors

ALDC Members – Drinks and Catch Up

Why not join ALDC, the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and Campaigners, for a drink and catch up? Meet the team for a chat and learn about our latest initiatives in the run up to the local elections.

Novotel, Meeting Room 5

REF

Social Democrat Group

Call to Action

Do you want a strong social democratic voice in the Liberal Democrats? Do you want us to prioritise helping the most vulnerable in our society in a way that is sustainable? Come and help make it happen.

facebook.com/SocialDemocratGroup.

Novotel, Meeting Room 6

Hatch

How can we best help rough sleepers?

Hatch - formerly Your Liberal Britain - helps you fix the world around you. Come and discuss how each of us can help rough sleepers, and how together Hatch and your community can make a difference for rough sleepers near you.

Novotel, Riverside Room

FRINGE SATURDAY EARLY EVENING CONTINUED

Liberal Democrat European Group

Liberal Democrat European Group AGM and ExitfromBrexit Discussion

LDEG members and new members (who can join for £10 at the door) are welcome to review LDEG's recent activities, and then brainstorm with Tom Brake MP, Catherine Bearder MEP (tbc) and Nick Hopkinson on the latest ExitfromBrexit developments.

Hilton, Bootham Room

Rights-Liberties- Justice (Lib Dem Lawyers Association)

Public Legal Education empowering citizens, enhancing legal capability

From Citizenship teaching in schools, to public information and activities aimed at empowering people with confidence and capability to deal with law-related problems and understand their rights; an expert panel will discuss Public Legal Education. Layla Moran (invited) and others.

Hilton, Micklegate Room

REF

Young Liberals

Young Liberals Restructuring and Age Limit Consultation

Young Liberals are restructuring! As part of this process we're proposing moving the cut-off age for membership from 26 to 30. Come find out why, make your views known, and say what you'd like to see from us going forward.

Hilton, Minster Suite

Action for Land Value Tax and Economic Reform (ALTER)

A Land Value Tax approach to funding adult social care

Norman Lamb MP will be joined by others to discuss the Party's approach to the expected green paper on adult social care and the role that Land Value Taxation can play in providing a realistic long-term and sustainable funding solution.

Hilton, Walmgate Room

Fringe Saturday mid evening 19.45–21.00

Green Liberal Democrats

What keeping Climate Change below 1.5degC means

From habitats and atmospheric particle effects to public commitments on food/rewilding, travel, housing, greening the gas supply and international cooperation. Rt Hon. Sir Ed Davey, Prof. Nick Cowern (Newcastle), Prof Simon Sweeney (International Politics, York), Jason Hunter (#3blokesinaPub).

Novotel, Meeting Room 3+4

REF

The Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Limited

Democracy and Digital – What Next?

Greater voter engagement or more fake news? Levelling the playing field or enabling sinister forces? From dark money to online voting, join the JRRT and invited friends for a discussion of democracy, digital and the opportunities and challenges we face.

Novotel, Meeting Room 5

Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists

Q&A and drinks reception

Join ALDES members and executive for a Q&A and drinks reception.

Novotel, Riverside Room

REF

Young Liberals

Young Liberal Women

Young Liberals host a discussion for women and non-binary individuals, creating a space for talks on overcoming gender discrimination and how to progress in politics, followed by a Q&A Session.

Hilton, Bootham Room

FRINGE SATURDAY MID EVENING CONTINUED

Liberal Reform

Healthy eating and the role of the state

How can liberals find the right balance between state intervention and personal responsibility when it comes to public health? A panel discussion with Baroness Judith Jolly and guests.

Hilton, Micklegate Room

Federal Board

Briefing on the new Liberal Democrat Disciplinary Process

The new Lib Dem Disciplinary Process was adopted by the Party at last year's Brighton conference. It will come into operation on 1st July 2019. Come along and find out more about how this will work and how you could help make it a success.

Hilton, Minster Suite

Fringe Saturday late evening 22.00–01.00

Glee Club

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

Training and Skills Programme

The printed Agenda & Directory contains the Training and Skills Programme.

Agenda index and timetable

Friday 15 March

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	Crime and Policing	
	Health and Social Care	

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14.10–14.55	F7	Q & A session: Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP	47
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All conference sessions, except the consultative sessions (see page 40), take place in the Auditorium in York Barbican.

Conference timetable Autumn 2019

14–17 September 2019, Bournemouth

Drafting advice deadline (motions) - 13.00, Wednesday, 12 June 2019.

Motions deadline - 13.00, Wednesday, 26 June 2019.

Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions) - 13.00, Tuesday, 20 August 2019.

Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports - 13.00, Monday, 2 September 2019.

Friday 15 March

15.00–17.30 Consultative sessions

A Fairer Share for All Policy Working Group

Novotel, Room 3 Chair: Paul Noblet

Crime and Policing Policy Working Group

Novotel, Room 4 Chair: Vicki Cardwell

Health and Social Care Policy Working Group

Novotel, Room1+2 Chair: Tamora Langley

Saturday 16 March

09.00 Party business

Chair: Cllr Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

Aide: Simon McGrath. Hall Aide: Geoff Payne (Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

F1 Opening of Conference by Baroness Brinton, President of the Liberal Democrats

@salbrinton, #LDconf

09.10 Party business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball. Aide: Cara Jenkinson. Hall Aide: Mary Reid.

F2 Federal Conference Committee Report

Mover: Geoff Payne (Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 4 March. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Saturday 16 March. See page 15 for further information.

F3 Federal Policy Committee Report

Mover: Duncan Brack (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 4 March. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Saturday 16 March. See page 15 for further information.

09.30 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Liz Lynne. Hall Aide: James Gurling.

F4 Eradicating Race Inequality (Race Equality Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Baroness Hussein-Ece (Spokesperson for Equalities).

Summation: Merlene Emerson.

- 1 Conference celebrates the racial and cultural diversity of people
- 2 living in the UK.

- 3 Conference is appalled that race discrimination in the UK still affects
- 4 so many people and deplores the negative impact that this has on
- 5 their lives. Conference abhors the slow progress made in redressing
- 6 institutional racism in the criminal justice system and in many other
- 7 institutions. Conference is particularly dismayed by the fact that:
 - 8 i) One in five children in Black households and one in four children
 - 9 in Asian households live in persistent poverty, compared to one
 - 10 in ten children from White British households.
 - 11 ii) Around one in ten adults from a Black, Pakistani, Bangladeshi
 - 12 or Mixed background were unemployed compared with one in
 - 13 twenty-five White British people.
 - 14 iii) Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children are four times more
 - 15 likely than average to face exclusion from school and Black
 - 16 Caribbean pupils are three times more likely.
 - 17 iv) Black African women are seven times more likely to be detained
 - 18 under mental health legislation in England than White British
 - 19 women.
 - 20 v) Ethnic minority people are poorly represented in public life: only
 - 21 8% of MPs and 4% of councillors are from an ethnic minority
 - 22 group.

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F4 CONTINUED

23 vi) Reports of hate crime rose sharply in the aftermath of the 2016
24 Brexit vote.

25 While the situation is bad enough for ethnic minority people,
26 Conference notes that it is made so much worse for people who face
27 multiple discrimination on the basis of their gender, their sexuality,
28 whether they are transgender, their age and/or their disability.

29 Conference believes that if race inequality is to be properly
30 addressed (be it in education, employment, health, housing or in the
31 justice system) it requires a Liberal Democrat approach; we need
32 to hold power and public institutions to account through values of
33 fairness, transparency and accountability whilst giving individuals the
34 skills and information that they need to make the best decisions that
35 they can.

36 Conference calls for Liberal Democrats to combat racism – whether
37 conscious or unconscious – wherever we find it. Conference
38 endorses policy paper 135, *Eradicating Race Inequality*, as a statement
39 of how the Liberal Democrats will do this.

40 Conference particularly calls for:

41 1. The celebration of the UK's diversity, by:

42 a) Investing in projects that will promote ethnic minority role
43 models in all walks of life.

44 b) Using teaching on citizenship as part of the 'curriculum for life'
45 in schools to promote understanding about the experience of
46 ethnic minority people in the UK.

47 c) Introducing a day to celebrate the positive impact of ethnic
48 minority people on the UK over the centuries and placing
49 plaques, statues and memorials to celebrate the historical
50 impact of ethnic minority people around the UK.

51 2. Measures to address clear cases of discrimination, prioritising:

52 a) Ending the hostile environment and providing prompt

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F4 CONTINUED

- 53 reparations in cases of miscarriage of justice.
- 54 b) Exposing and confronting the stereotyping and demagoguing
55 in public life which inflames hatred and supporting the work
56 of organisations that tackle hate crime.
- 57 c) Reducing the number of school exclusions by giving local
58 authorities the remit and resources to act as Strategic
59 Education Authorities for all schools in their area.
- 60 d) Tackling health inequalities by funding public information
61 campaigns to tackle stigmas within specific communities.
- 62 e) Reducing the number of ethnic minority people criminalised
63 with a drug policy that has a public health focus and with
64 a whole-system approach to rehabilitation that prioritises
65 diversion from the criminal justice system.
- 66 f) Exposing and confronting the stereotyping in the media that
67 leads to spikes in hate crime.
- 68 g) Strengthening the equality duty for mainstream housing
69 associations and tenant management organisations, and
70 increasing support for specialist BAME housing associations
71 as well as BAME community centres.
- 72 3. Improvement of ethnic minority representation at all levels
73 through fairer processes in admissions, recruitment or
74 promotions within companies and organisations by:
- 75 a) Introducing name-blind processes for organisations with
76 more than 10 employees who are in receipt of public funds
77 (including universities recruiting students) and requiring them
78 to show they have considered the ethnicity of interviewees
79 when appointing interview panels.
- 80 b) Working with experts to develop a freely available
81 comprehensive unconscious bias training toolkit and make
82 the provision of unconscious bias training to all members of
83 staff a condition of the receipt of public funds.
- 84 4. Government to work with businesses, professional organisations

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F4 CONTINUED

85 and the public sector to agree and introduce 'targets with teeth'
86 and drive a move towards greater transparency around ethnicity
87 statistics, by:

88 a) Promoting an attitude of openness and transparency towards
89 data about diversity: beginning with publication of an
90 ethnicity pay gap along the same lines as for gender pay gap
91 data.

92 b) Prioritising the following areas for implementing this
93 approach: school exclusions of Black Caribbean and GRT
94 children; the judiciary; senior management of organisations,
95 including NHS Trusts; diversity in public life.

96 5. The protection of funding to services that disproportionately
97 benefit ethnic minority people, by:

98 a) Establishing a national fund for projects that work in schools
99 to raise the aspirations of ethnic minority children and young
100 people.

101 b) Investing substantially in youth services so that they are able
102 to deliver a wider range of services, help more young people
103 and provide better training to youth and outreach workers.

104 c) Ensuring the powers and funding of the Equalities and Human
105 Rights Commission are restored to 2010 levels and that there
106 will be a new Cabinet Minister for Race Equality.

Applicability: Federal; except 1. b) (lines 44–46), 2. c) & d) (lines 57–61), 2. g) (lines 68–71) and 5. a) & b) (lines 98–103), which are England only.

Mover and summation of motion: 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 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 16 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 13 – is 13.00, Monday 4 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F4 CONTINUED

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 12 and 14 for further information.

10.45 Speech

Chair: Cllr Victor Chamberlain. Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley.
Hall Aide: Susan Juned.

F5 Christine Jardine MP
@cajardineMP, #LDconf

11.05 Europe

Chair: Cllr Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: James Gurling. Hall Aide: Cllr Joe Otten.

F6 Europe

To ensure a timely and relevant debate on Europe, the Federal Conference Committee have decided to reserve this space on the agenda and to invite members to submit motions on Europe up to the Emergency Motion deadline.

The deadline for submission of motions on Europe is 13.00, Monday 4 March.

The Federal Conference Committee will select one or more policy motions for debate in this slot, but may also use this time on the agenda for either speeches about Brexit or a topical issue discussion.

The selected motion(s) and agenda items will be available online by 17.00, Monday 11 March and in Conference Extra. The deadline for amendments to the motion(s) is 13.00, Thursday 14 March; see page 16. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 16 March; see page 13.

12.50 Lunch

14.10 Question and answer session

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Aide: Jennie Rigg. Hall Aide: Cllr Simon McGrath.

F7 Question and answer session with Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable 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 website until 13.00, Monday 4 March or to the Speakers' Table by 12.50 on Saturday 16 March. See page 15.

14.55 Policy motion

Chair: Liz Lynne. Aide: Chris Maines. Hall Aide: Cara Jenkinson.

F8 Cleaning Up the Air We Breathe: How to Tackle Road Pollution

14 members

Mover: Baroness Randerson (Spokesperson for Transport).

Summation: Wera Hobhouse MP (Spokesperson for Communities and Local Government).

- 1 Conference notes with concern:
- 2 A. The dangerous rise in the emissions of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂),
- 3 particulates, and ozone (O₃).
- 4 B. The impact of these emissions cause 40,000 early deaths each
- 5 year.
- 6 C. That emissions have serious impacts of children's health
- 7 particularly impairing lung development.
- 8 D. That the UK has broken the legal limits, set by the EU, for NO₂

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F8 CONTINUED

9 every year since 2010.

10 E. That road transport is responsible for 80% of roadside NO₂
11 emissions.

12 F. That the EU is currently responsible for ensuring the government
13 complies with air quality legislation, and that this oversight would
14 be lost after Brexit.

15 Conference believes that:

16 i) People have the right to live in an area with unpolluted air.

17 ii) All laws currently governing air quality currently afforded under
18 EU regulations must be upheld in UK law.

19 iii) The government must be fully accountable for missing any air
20 quality targets and government policy must support cleaning up
21 the air we breathe.

22 Conference calls on the Government to:

23 a) Introduce a ban on the sale of new non-hybrid diesel and petrol
24 cars and small vans within the next decade.

25 b) Replace their own current vehicle fleet with electric, hybrid or
26 other ultra-low emission vehicles by 2022.

27 c) Pass a Clean Air Act, based on World Health Organisation
28 guidelines, enforced by a new Air Quality Agency, enshrining the
29 legal right to unpolluted air wherever people live.

30 d) Undertake air pollution testing more widely and frequently, with
31 warning signs displayed in pollution hotspots and in sensitive
32 areas such as near schools.

33 e) Reform Vehicle Excise Duty so that it is graduated to reflect levels
34 of both NO₂ and CO₂ emissions in every year.

35 f) Introduce a ban on idling in vehicles, near schools, hospitals,
36 parks and care homes, with fines for those who ignore the ban.

37 g) Reverse the cuts to electric vehicle subsidies and extend them by
38 exploring VAT reductions for electric vehicles.

39 h) Use its new powers to standardise plug sockets for electric
40 vehicles.

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F8 CONTINUED

- 41 i) Invest in research into alternative technologies, such as
42 hydrogen fuel cells, as well as into battery technology.
- 43 j) Provide the funding to retrofit or replace all diesel buses
44 operating in urban areas within five years.
- 45 k) Introduce new planning legislation ensuring that all new
46 developments and large-scale regeneration schemes include
47 electric car charging facilities.
- 48 l) Invest significantly in schemes to speed up the strategic roll-out
49 of rapid charging points. Work with local authorities to expand
50 them to popular in-town locations such as public car parks and
51 supermarkets.
- 52 m) Invest in residential on-street charging, using the existing lamp
53 post infrastructure wherever possible so as not to clutter the
54 pavement.
- 55 n) Provide greater and more ambitious support for all forms of
56 public transport and for active travel initiatives involving walking
57 and cycling.
- 58 Conference reaffirms pledges in the Liberal Democrat 2017
59 manifesto to:
- 60 1. Extend ultra-low-emission zones to 10 more towns and cities.
61 2. Require all private hire vehicles licensed to operate in urban
62 areas should be electric, hybrid, or capable of running on other
63 ultra-low emission technology, within five years.
64 3. Reform vehicle taxation to encourage sales of electric and low-
65 emission vehicles and develop electric vehicle infrastructure
66 including universal charging points.

Applicability: Federal; except 3 (lines 64–66), which is England and Wales; and d) (lines 30–32), f) (lines 35–36), j) (lines 43–44), l), m) & n) (lines 52–57), and 2. (lines 61–63), 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 13.

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F8 CONTINUED

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 16 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 13 – is 13.00, Monday 4 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

15.55 Business motion and constitutional amendment

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Aide: Cllr Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, FCC).

F9 Business motion: A Registered Supporters' Scheme

Federal Board

Mover: Mark Pack.

Summation: Miranda Roberts (Chair, Federal People Development Committee).

- 1 Conference notes that:
 - 2 I. Successful political parties are mass movements of people who
3 work together to realise common values and political aims.
 - 4 II. The Party's strategy, adopted by Federal Conference in spring
5 2018, set out a plan for building a mass grassroots political
6 movement.
 - 7 III. Membership of the Liberal Democrats remains unusual amongst
8 UK political parties in the important role that members have in
9 running the Party, including the rights to:
 - 10 a) Decide on the Party's policy, through the rights to submit
11 policy motions, to take part in policy working groups, to elect
12 members of the Federal Policy Committee and to speak and
13 vote at Federal Conferences.
 - 14 b) Choose the Party's elected representatives by voting to select
15 local Council candidates, Westminster candidates, Assembly
16 and Parliamentary candidates.

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F9 CONTINUED

- 17 c) Set the direction for the Party by voting in internal Party
18 elections, including for President and Federal committees,
19 and by voting at Federal Conference on the Party's strategy.
- 20 d) Nominate candidates for Leader.
- 21 e) Participate further themselves by applying to be candidates
22 representing the Party in public elections, serving on Federal
23 Committees with substantive power over how the Party is run
24 and by holding posts in local parties, regional parties, state
25 parties and party organisations – all with major powers and
26 autonomy.
- 27 f) Access information and training via the members area of
28 the Federal website and extensive training sessions, often
29 provided for free.
- 30 IV. Liberal Democrat Party membership has more than doubled
31 since 2014 but is still less than 4% of those who voted for the
32 Party at the 2017 general election.
- 33 V. Many local parties, both large and small, have shown great
34 success at recruiting regular helpers beyond their formal
35 membership ranks, with some of our keenest deliverers,
36 canvassers and poster sites being people who have decided not
37 to join the Party.
- 38 VI. The Federal Party has also had great success at recruiting people
39 who regularly support the Party's national campaigns but also
40 have decided not to join the Party.
- 41 VII. Between them, these local and national groups of supporters are
42 estimated to come to more than 250,000.
- 43 VIII. However, the Party's ability to treat supporters well and to get
44 the most from their support is hampered by the way information
45 about the supporters is fractured across the Party and often
46 not readily available to those who will make best use of it (for
47 example, local supporters may not see national campaigns, and

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F9 CONTINUED

48 those responding to national campaigns may not know what is
49 happening in their local area).

50 IX. Some of our sister parties are developing registered supporter
51 categories that have also led to substantial increases in full
52 membership. This includes registered supporters having some
53 rights although not full membership rights.

54 Conference believes that:

55 A. 21st century political parties need to draw people into their
56 movements in new and effective ways.

57 B. The experience of recent campaigns, including our successful
58 Exit from Brexit campaign, is showing that our members and
59 supporters welcome online and national campaigning as one of
60 the ways to demonstrate and act on their political beliefs.

61 C. Any supporter scheme should be for the whole Party so that
62 supporters can benefit from all the different advice, support and
63 activities that the Party can offer and so that all parts of the Party
64 can benefit from the scheme.

65 D. Any supporter scheme should be attractive to those who sign
66 up, but there should be clear differences between the rights and
67 benefits of membership and the benefits to supporters.

68 Conference therefore recommends that:

69 1. The current arrangements for supporters be formalised into a
70 registered supporter scheme as set out in the accompanying
71 paper.

72 2. Eligibility to become a registered supporter will include:

73 i) That the minimum age for supporters will match that for
74 membership.

75 ii) People not on the electoral roll will be able to register as
76 supporters (for example: under 18s and those living abroad).

77 iii) Members of other parties will be permitted to register as

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- 78 supporters; this will allow those who vote tactically for us and
79 support us in other ways to become more involved.
- 80 3. Registered supporters will be asked to confirm that they support
81 the Party's values as set out in the short version of the Preamble
82 to the Party Constitution, and there will be a 30 day cooling off
83 period on both sides for new supporters along with a process by
84 which supporters can be expelled for not upholding these values
85 or for other behaviour that brings the Party into disrepute.
- 86 4. The Federal Party database will administer the database of
87 registered supporters, providing access in secure ways to other
88 parts of the Party, including local, regional and state parties, as
89 well as Party bodies.
- 90 5. Local parties are provided with the data and support to welcome
91 new registered supporters and to help identify within the
92 30-day cooling off period any who do not meet the scheme's
93 requirements.
- 94 6. The benefits for supporters will include:
- 95 i) Contributing their views on policy and campaigning priorities.
96 ii) Serving on Policy Working Groups where they have relevant
97 expertise.
98 iii) Attending Federal Conference as a Supporter (paying an
99 appropriate fee, but without the right to vote).
- 100 iv) Joining Associated Organisations (if those bodies wish to let
101 supporters join).
- 102 v) Access to Party affinity schemes, such as the Ecotricity energy
103 deal.
- 104 vi) Regular contact from the Party, nationally and locally,
105 including ways to get involved, find out more and
106 opportunities to attend some Party training events.
- 107 vii) Being able to vote in the election for the Leader of the Party
108 (but not to nominate candidates in such an election); this

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109 would not be open to supporters who are members of other
110 political parties or who fail other verification checks, such as
111 to confirm that they are real people.

112 7. The Federal People Development Committee (FPDC) will monitor
113 arrangements for the supporter scheme, liaising with the State
114 parties. This will include conversion to donor and membership,
115 diversity amongst supporters and activity levels of supporters by
116 region and state.

117 8. The complaints system to enable 3 will be clear and robust:

118 i) Supporters will not have the same rights as members, and the
119 Party will be able to terminate the supporter's participation
120 in the scheme if they have breached our rules, values or
121 supporter code of conduct. This will be overseen by the
122 Membership Subcommittee of the FPDC.

123 ii) There will be no appeal against removal from the supporter
124 scheme.

125 iii) No member who has been expelled or suspended from the
126 Party, or had their membership application rejected, may join
127 the supporter scheme unless the sole grounds for doing so
128 was membership of another party.

129 9. All parts of the Party, including local, regional, state and SAO/
130 AOs, will be encouraged to involve supporters in appropriate
131 ways; HQ (working with volunteers) will produce guidance for
132 each grouping as to how best this can be achieved.

Applicability: Federal.

F9 and F10 will be debated together but voted on separately. For timings and deadlines, see note after F10 on page 64.

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F10 Constitutional Amendment: A Registered Supporters' Scheme

Federal Board

Mover: Mark Pack.

Summation: Miranda Roberts (Chair, FPDC).

Group One: Registered Supporter Scheme

1 In the title of Article 3, after 'Membership' insert 'and Registered
2 Supporters'.

3 In 3.1 (a), after 'Membership of the Party' insert 'or participation in its
4 Registered Supporter Scheme'.

5 In 3.1 (b), after 'As a Member' insert 'or a Registered Supporter'; and
6 after 'any Party member' insert 'or Registered Supporter'

7 In 3.1 (c), after 'As a Member' insert 'or a Registered Supporter'.

8 Insert new 3.3:

9 3.3 The Federal Party shall operate and administer a Registered
10 Supporter Scheme, open to those who wish to support the
11 Party's work without joining as a member. Except where
12 otherwise dictated by this Constitution or those of the State
13 Parties, the regulations governing the Registered Supporter
14 Scheme shall be made by and administered on behalf of
15 the Federal People Development Committee, notified to the
16 Conference and published on the Party website.

17 At the end of 3.6, after 'Article 22.' insert 'Participation in the Party's
18 Registered Supporter Scheme may be refused by the Federal People
19 Development Committee on the grounds set out in (a) and (b). The
20 only right of appeal shall be pursuant to Article 21 on any matter
21 relating to the interpretation of this Constitution.'.

22 At the end of 3.7, after 'Article 22.' insert 'Participation in the Party's
23 Registered Supporter Scheme may be revoked by the Federal People

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F10 CONTINUED

24 Development Committee on the grounds set out in (a)-(c) or (e)-(f).
25 The only right of appeal shall be pursuant to Article 21 on any matter
26 relating to the interpretation of this Constitution.’.

27 Renumber 3.8 as 3.8 (a).

28 Insert new 3.8 (b):

29 b) The Federal Party shall maintain a register of participants
30 in the Registered Supporter Scheme, access to which shall
31 be provided to party bodies as required for its efficient and
32 effective operation. Any body holding or having access to such
33 data shall ensure that it is not disclosed to any person other
34 than for the proper purposes of the Party. Party bodies shall
35 comply with the directives of the Federal Board in relation to
36 the Party’s data protection registration.

37 In 8.10, after ‘Party members’ insert ‘, but others may be invited to
38 attend in a non-voting role, including Registered Supporters’.

39 In 13.2, Insert new (e):

40 e) Making regulations governing the Registered Supporter
41 Scheme, supervising the administration and the promotion of
42 the Scheme, notifying such regulations to the Conference and
43 publishing them on the Party website.

Group Two (A): Electing the Leader

44 Insert new 3.8 (c):

45 c) In addition, the Federal Party shall administer as required a
46 register of participants in the Registered Supporter Scheme
47 who are eligible to vote in a party leadership election. This
48 shall exclude Registered Supporters who are members
49 of another party. It shall also exclude other Registered
50 Supporters who fail such verification checks as the Federal
51 People Development Committee deem necessary to ensure

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52 the integrity of this register and which are set out in the
53 regulations made under Article 3.3.

54 In 17.1, after 'members of the Party' insert 'and Registered Supporters
55 on the register created under Article 3.8 (c)'.

56 In Leadership Election Regulations (LER) 1, delete 'The Head of
57 Compliance and Constitutional Support shall be' and insert 'A
58 member of the Party's compliance staff shall be appointed by the
59 Acting Returning Officer as'.

60 At the end of LER 2, after 'before the closing date' insert ', and
61 participants in the Party's Registered Supporter Scheme who are
62 on the register administered under Article 3.8(c) of the Federal
63 Constitution on the closing date for nominations'.

64 In LER 3, after 'membership register' insert 'and Registered Supporter
65 Scheme register for the election'; and after 'of members' insert 'and
66 registered supporters'.

67 In LER 5 (a), after 'member' insert 'and Registered Supporter'; and after
68 'members' insert 'and Registered Supporters'.

69 In LER 5 (b), delete 'Liberal Democrat News'.

70 In LER 11, delete 'Executive' and insert 'Board'.

71 In LER 22, delete both instances of 'Executive' and insert 'Board'.

Group Two (B): Standing for Leader

72 In 16.1, after 'Its Leader shall be the Leader of the Party elected as
73 provided in Article 17.' insert 'If such Leader of the Party is not a
74 Member of the House of Commons, it shall elect a Leader of that
75 Parliamentary Party from among its number.'.

76 Delete 17.2 (c).

77 In 17.5, delete 'Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons' and
78 insert 'the Party'.

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79 In LER 7 (a), delete 'Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons' and
80 insert 'Party'; and delete 'other' and Insert 'the'.

Group Three: the twelve-month rule

81 At the end of 18.2 (b), after 'within the relevant State;' insert 'new
82 members of the Party may apply to be entered on the list, and if their
83 application otherwise satisfies the States Candidates Committee
84 their previous participation in other walks of life can be taken into
85 account;'.

The existing text of the relevant articles of the Federal Constitution:

ARTICLE 3: Membership

- 3.1 (a) Membership of the Party is open to all persons who agree with its fundamental values and objectives without discrimination as to age, ethnic origin, religion, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.
- (b) As a Member of the Liberal Democrats, you must treat others with respect and must not bully, harass, or intimidate any Party member, member of staff employed to support Liberal Democrats, Party volunteer, or member of the public. Such behaviour will be considered to be bringing the Party into disrepute.
- (c) As a member of the Liberal Democrats, you must abide by the Party's data protection rules as laid out in the Member's Data Protection Code.
- 3.6 Membership may be refused by an enrolling body on one or more of the following grounds:
- (a) material disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the Party;
- (b) the admission of the applicant would be likely to bring the Party into disrepute; or
- (c) membership of another political party in Great Britain.

Any person whose membership is refused shall have a right of appeal, which must be made in writing within 14 days of the applicant being advised of the refusal to admit, and which shall be dealt with in accordance with the

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F10 CONTINUED

guidance published under Article 22.

- 3.7 Membership may be revoked on one or more of the following grounds:
- (a) material disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the Party;
 - (b) conduct which has brought, or is likely to bring, the Party into disrepute;
 - (c) standing against the candidate of the Party in any election to public office;
 - (d) membership of or support for another political party in Great Britain.
 - (e) a breach of the standards set out in Article 3.1(b);
- or
- (f) discrimination against another person on the basis of a protected characteristic as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

Membership shall not be revoked unless the member has been notified of the grounds on which revocation is to be considered and has been given a reasonable opportunity to reply. Where paragraph (c), (d) or (e) of this Article 3.7 applies, membership shall be automatically and immediately suspended, and in other cases of urgency. The person or body designated in the procedures made under Article 22 may suspend membership while revocation is being considered. If the procedures do not designate such a person or body, the Chair/Convenor of the relevant State Party or their deputy, or for members outside the UK the Federal Board's Chair or Vice-Chairs may suspend membership while revocation is being considered. 'Any person whose membership is revoked shall have a right of appeal, which must be made in writing within 14 days of the applicant being advised of the revocation, and which shall be dealt with in accordance with Article 22. Any person whose membership is refused shall have a right of appeal, which must be made in writing within 14 days of the applicant being advised of the refusal to admit, and which shall be dealt with in accordance with the guidance published under Article 22.

- 3.8 A register of members shall be maintained by each State Party. A register of members resident outside Great Britain shall be maintained by a State Party designated by the Federal Board to act as agent for the Federal Party.

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Any body entitled to maintain a list of members may use the list for its own internal purposes. The Federal Party shall have direct access to such lists. Any body holding or having access to such lists shall ensure that the information contained in them is not disclosed to any person other than for the proper purposes of the Party. Party bodies shall comply with the directives of the Federal Board in relation to the Party's data protection registration.

ARTICLE 8: The Policy-Making Process and Conference

8.10 The Conference shall consist of party members.

ARTICLE 13: The Federal People Development Committee

13.2 The functions of the FPDC, working with State Parties and other Party bodies as appropriate, shall be:

- (a) Coordinating, planning and supervising the training strategy for the Federal Party;
- (b) Coordinating, planning and supervising the diversity engagement strategy for the Party;
- (c) Coordinating, planning and supervising the membership recruitment, retention and activation strategy for the party; and
- (d) Working with AOs and SAOs as set out in Article 20 to support them in recruiting and maintaining membership and implementing the Party's policies on diversity.

ARTICLE 16: The Parliamentary Parties

16.1 The Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons shall consist of all Members of that House in receipt of the Party's whip. Its Leader shall be the Leader of the Party elected as provided in Article 17. It shall be entitled to make such regulations (not being inconsistent with this Constitution) as it thinks fit for the conduct of its own proceedings. In particular, these regulations shall make provision for a Chief Whip and, if thought fit, a Deputy Leader of such Parliamentary Party.

ARTICLE 17: The Leader

17.1 The Leader of the Party shall be elected by the members of the Party in accordance with election rules made pursuant to Article 6.6.

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17.2 An election for the Leader shall be called upon:

- (a) the Leader asking for an election;
- (b) the death or incapacity of the Leader;
- (c) the Leader ceasing to be a Member of the House of Commons (other than a temporary cessation by reason of a dissolution);
- (d) the receipt by the President of the resignation of the Leader or of a declaration of intent to resign upon the election of a new Leader;
- (e) a vote of no confidence in the Leader being passed by a majority of all Members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons;
- (f) the receipt by the President of a requisition submitted by at least 75 Local Parties (including for this purpose, the Specified Associated Organisation or Organisations representing youth and/or students) following the decision of a quorate general meeting; or
- (g) the first anniversary of the preceding general election being reached without an election being called under any of paragraphs (a) through (f), provided that:
 - (i) the Federal Board may postpone such an election for no more than one year by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting; and
 - (ii) this paragraph (g) shall not apply if the Leader is a member of the Government.

17.5 Nominations must be of a Member of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, who must be proposed by at least ten percent of other members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons and supported by 200 members in aggregate in not less than 20 Local Parties (including, for this purpose, the Specified Associated Organisations representing youth and students as provided by Article 20.8) and must indicate acceptance of nomination.

ARTICLE 18: Parliamentary Candidates

18.2 In deciding whether to enter an applicant on a list, each State Candidates Committee shall take into account:

- (a) the support shown by the applicant for the fundamental values and objectives of the Party;

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F10 CONTINUED

- (b) the previous participation by the applicant in the work of the Party or a former Party, both generally and within the relevant State;
- (c) the need to ensure that the list contains a reasonable balance between both sexes and different age groups, and includes representatives of different social and economic groups and of ethnic minorities; and
- (d) such other considerations as may be relevant in the circumstances.

LEADERSHIP ELECTION REGULATIONS (LER)

1. The Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall be the Returning Officer. The rules of the Federal Appeals Panel shall make provision for a process to replace the Chair in this role if necessary. The Chief Executive shall be the Acting Returning Officer. The Head of Compliance and Constitutional Support shall be the Deputy Acting Returning Officer. Other Deputy Acting Returning Officers may be appointed if required by the Acting Returning Officer.
2. The electorate for the purpose of the election shall be those members with current membership of the Liberal Democrats on the closing date for nominations, including those members whose subscriptions were due not more than three months before the closing date.
3. The sections of the membership register containing the names, addresses and telephone numbers of members will be released in electronic version to each candidate subject to the candidate signing a data protection statement agreeing to abide by the party's data protection policies under article 3 of the Federal Party Constitution. Any candidate or supporter of a candidate facilitating a breach of this clause will be deemed to be in breach of the Party's Data Protection Registration. Candidates should also have due regard to their own data protection responsibilities when collecting and using any data of their own in a Party Election.
5. (a) The Acting Returning Officer shall co-ordinate arrangements for official party member hustings events via the states and regions with a view to balancing the competing demands for media coverage of the campaign, parliamentary and other duties and the desirability of party members to have a chance to attend a hustings. One or more of the

SATURDAY 16 MARCH F10 CONTINUED

official hustings may take place partly or wholly online and at least one shall be wholly online. Other party bodies may only hold hustings-type events if they invite all candidates to attend, but they do not require the agreement of all candidates to attend or send a representative in order to proceed. Events designated as official hustings by the Acting Returning Officer shall take precedence over any other arrangements a candidate may have made.

- (b) Official party communications channels may only be used to promote hustings events approved by the Acting Returning Officer. Responsibility for organising and paying for any hustings event shall lie with the hosting organisation, but the Acting Returning Officer will assist in publicising official hustings events via the party's website, e-mail communications, Liberal Democrat News, etc.
7. (a) Nominations must be of a Member of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, who must be proposed by at least ten percent of other members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons and supported by 200 members in aggregate in not less than 20 Local Parties (including, for this purpose, the Specified Associated Organisations representing youth and/or students)
11. The Federal Executive shall set a spending limit for election expenses, not including travel or subsistence, for each leadership candidate, when they set the timetable for the election. No candidate, or their agent, shall exceed this limit in the production of publicity material and all other expenditures connected with the campaign. All donations above £500 must comply with the provisions of Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.
22. These regulations will be reviewed by the Federal Executive no later than six months after the completion of the elections. Before conducting the review, the Federal Executive shall first ask the Returning Officer and Acting Returning Officer to submit a report to it on the conduct of the elections. The report must include a report on any diversity measures taken as a result of any requirement under the Federal Party Constitution, potential data protection breaches and any changes or clarifications required by rulings

SATURDAY 10 MARCH F10 CONTINUED

made by the Returning Officer or the Federal Appeals Panel.

Applicability: Federal.

F9 and F10 will be debated together, but voted on separately.

Mover and summation of motions: 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 13.

The deadline for amendments to these motions – see page 16 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 13 – is 13.00, Monday 4 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

The vote on F10 will be split into the four groups indicated. F10 is a constitutional amendment, so each group requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

17.40 Party business

Chair: Cllr Joe Otten. Aide: Cllr Victor Chamberlain. Hall Aide: Jennie Rigg.

F11 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties

Movers: Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP (Commons); Lord Newby (Lords); Catherine Bearder (Europe).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 4 March. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 12.50 on Saturday 16 March. See page 15 for further information.

18.00 Close of session

Sunday 17 March

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Cara Jenkinson. Aide: Cllr Simon McGrath. Hall Aide: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC).

F12 Access to Justice for All

15 members

Mover: Lord Marks (Lords Spokesperson for Justice).

Summation: Alistair Carmichael MP (Commons Chief Whip and Spokesperson for Northern Ireland).

1 Conference believes that:

2 A. Access to justice is a crucial right: and one that is vital for
3 individuals to enforce their other rights and to defend
4 themselves from injustice.

5 B. Legal aid is critical to ensuring access to justice for all and has
6 been since its introduction in 1949.

7 Conference notes with concern that:

8 i) Legal aid spending in England and Wales has been cut by £933
9 million in real terms since 2011: much more than the £450
10 million forecast by the Government when it introduced the Legal
11 Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO).

12 ii) The number of civil cases receiving legal aid funding for early
13 legal advice and assistance has fallen by more than 80% since
14 2011, and the number granted legal aid for representation has
15 fallen by 30%.

16 iii) The number of criminal cases receiving legal aid funding has
17 fallen by a third since 2011.

18 iv) The number of people appearing in civil and family courts
19 without legal representation has increased significantly since
20 LASPO took effect.

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21 v) The number of civil legal aid providers has fallen by a third since
22 2012, creating 'legal aid deserts': parts of the country where
23 there are no legal aid providers for particular areas of law.

24 vi) Cuts to legal aid have disproportionately affected the vulnerable,
25 particularly disabled people, women, BAME people and those
26 whose first language is not English.

27 Conference regrets that:

28 a) Cuts to legal aid have damaged access to justice, increased the
29 number of unrepresented litigants and created justice deserts.

30 b) Too many people, especially the most vulnerable, are currently
31 denied their right to access to justice, contributing to poverty and
32 social exclusion.

33 c) A lack of access to legal advice prevents the amicable resolution
34 of many cases, with the result that they are contested in court
35 unnecessarily, causing stress to the parties and wasting time and
36 expense.

37 Conference calls for:

38 1. The restoration of legal aid for early legal advice and assistance
39 – and representation where merited – in welfare, debt,
40 employment, immigration, housing and family law cases.

41 2. The legal aid system to be made simpler and more generous for
42 both civil and criminal cases, with everyone in receipt of means-
43 tested benefits automatically eligible.

44 3. Urgent reform of the Exceptional Case Funding scheme for legal
45 aid, including simplifying the application process, to ensure that
46 no one is prevented from enforcing their human rights by a lack
47 of funds.

48 4. A new right to affordable, reasonable legal assistance with a new,
49 independent Justice Commission to monitor and enforce it.

Applicability: England and Wales.

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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 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 16 – is 13.00, Monday 4 March. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Saturday 16 March – see page 13.

09.45 Party business

Chair: Susan Juned. Aide: Cllr Joe Otten. Hall Aide: Liz Lynne.

F13 Federal Board Report

Mover: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 4 March. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Sunday 17 March. See page 15 for further information.

10.00 Emergency motion or topical issue discussion

Chair: Chris Maines. Aide: Cllr Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Mary Reid.

F14 Emergency motion of topical Issue discussion

This slot has been reserved for the debate of an emergency motion and/or discussion of topical issues.

The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Monday 4 March. The motion selected for debate or the motions

SUNDAY 17 MARCH F15 CONTINUED

proposed for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. See pages 15 and 16.

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

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

For eligibility and procedures for speaking in the debates see page 13.

10.45 Policy motion

Chair: Jennie Rigg. Aide: James Gurling. Hall Aide: Cllr Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC).

F15 Town Centres Fit for the Future

10 members

Mover: Baroness Pinnock (Lords Spokesperson for Communities and Local Government).

Summation: Lord Fox (Spokesperson for Business, Enterprise and Industrial Strategy).

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
- 2 I. Britain's high streets and town centres are struggling due to:
 - 3 a) A weak economy caused by a crisis in productivity.
 - 4 b) Continued Brexit uncertainty.
 - 5 c) The burden of business rates.
 - 6 d) The rise of online shopping.
 - 7 e) Increased staff and pension costs.
 - 8 f) Issues particular to an area, such as out-of-town shopping,
 - 9 parking problems, or planning failures.
- 10 II. Around 3,200 stores have closed since the beginning of 2014,

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11 and footfall in every month of 2018 was lower than it was 12
12 months before, putting thousands of jobs at risk.

13 III. Prominent high-street and out-of-town retailers including Toys
14 R Us and Maplin have fallen into administration, while other
15 flagship retailers including Marks & Spencer and Debenhams
16 have announced plans to close stores.

17 Conference believes that:

18 A. Liberal Democrats should champion business innovation and the
19 benefits to consumers that online retail has brought.

20 B. Town centres are the heart of our local communities and should
21 not be abandoned purely to market forces.

22 C. Local and national governments have a vital role to ensure that
23 town centres continue to thrive.

24 Conference calls on local authorities and city regions to:

25 i) Ensure that there is a long-term plan for the future of their town
26 centres, developed in consultation with businesses, civil society
27 and residents; town centres should have a well-defined brand,
28 supported by local investment, aesthetic regeneration and
29 reform of the planning system so local authorities have the tools
30 they need to ensure their town centres thrive.

31 ii) Make it as easy as possible for entrepreneurs to set up on the
32 high street, by offering low-cost incubation space and business
33 support for start-ups; temporary pop-up units should be
34 available for start-ups to trial new products and services without
35 being tied to long rents.

36 iii) Maintain an up-to-date register of assets so that councils and
37 businesses know who owns what property in town centres,
38 building on existing good practice such as the One Public Estate
39 programme – this will help councils formulate better plans

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- 40 for redeveloping town centres, and help businesses use local
41 building stock more efficiently.
- 42 iv) Use local insights to improve customers' experiences of visiting
43 town centres, including by (for example) providing free public Wi-
44 Fi, and ensuring that public spaces are well-lit.
- 45 Conference calls on the Government to empower local decision-
46 makers to improve their town centres by:
- 47 1. Reforming commercial planning law as a matter of priority,
48 enabling councils to ensure that commercial space is used
49 flexibly and efficiently, including:
- 50 a) Making it easier for councils to change permitted use where
51 deemed appropriate, including through a fast-track procedure
52 to permit a temporary change of use when a space is left
53 empty.
- 54 b) Ensuring that commercial property cannot be converted to
55 residential property without planning consent.
- 56 c) Creating new planning classes for multiple use, so that
57 services can be combined where they would not be viable on
58 a standalone basis.
- 59 d) Introducing new planning use classes for town centres giving
60 councils the power to discourage "clustering" of certain
61 businesses types.
- 62 2. Sharing helpful examples of existing good practice between town
63 centres, signposting local councils towards funding and advice,
64 benchmarking performance, and providing common standards
65 for data collection.
- 66 3. Encouraging businesses to create an industry-led body
67 to help brick-and-mortar retailers adapt to the changing
68 economy – this body should support shops to improve their
69 online offer, help them expand the use of technology on their
70 premises, and encourage them to attract shoppers through

SUNDAY 17 MARCH F15 CONTINUED

- 71 offering experiences such as in-store advice, demonstrations,
72 competitions, events and courses.
- 73 4. Financing this transformation of town centres by expanding the
74 “Future High Streets Fund” announced in the 2018 Budget, which
75 was only allocated enough money to support 27 areas over five
76 years, far below what is actually needed.
- 77 Conference also reaffirms its call on the Government to replace
78 business rates with a Commercial Landowner Levy, removing the
79 disincentive to invest in a business’s buildings, plant and machinery,
80 rebalancing the economy and cutting the average business rates bill
81 in over 90% of local authorities.

Applicability: England.

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 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 16 – is 13.00, Monday 4 March. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday’s Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Saturday 16 March – see page 13.

11.30 Policy motion

Chair: Mary Reid. Aide: Susan Juned. Hall Aide: Cllr Simon McGrath.

F16 No to Unpaid Internships, Yes to Real Opportunities

Young Liberals

Mover: Tara Copeland.

Summation: Jack Worrall.

SUNDAY 17 MARCH F16 CONTINUED

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) An internship is a fixed period of work, undertaken to develop
3 skills and experience with a view to pursuing a career in a sector.
- 4 ii) Under the 1998 National Minimum Wage Act all workers –
5 including interns – are entitled to the minimum wage, unless
6 they are working as volunteers: in practice some voluntary roles
7 are effectively unpaid internships.
- 8 iii) In January 2018 The Sutton Trust, a social mobility charity,
9 estimated that over 40% of internships carried out by young
10 people were unpaid. It is estimated that, even with travel costs
11 paid, the minimum living cost of an intern was over £1,000 per
12 month in London and over £800 per month in Manchester.
- 13 iv) The 2017 report from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on
14 Social Mobility warned that the existence of unpaid internships
15 was a contributing factor to the dominance of young people
16 from wealthy backgrounds in high-paying professions.
- 17 v) Both the Sutton Trust and the All-Party Parliamentary Group
18 on Social Mobility, as well as other specialist groups such as the
19 Social Mobility Commission, have called for unpaid internships
20 over four weeks long to be banned.
- 21 vi) YouGov polls have shown that 70% of the public support the
22 aforementioned measure, as do two thirds of businesses, with
23 only one in eight businesses opposed.

24 Conference believes that:

- 25 a) While some individuals with access to savings may benefit from
26 unpaid internships, this is at the expense of the majority without
27 access to such savings, and prevents the latter from having a fair
28 chance to compete for opportunities.
- 29 b) That work experience placements, apart from those that are part
30 of a course leading to a recognised qualification, lasting more
31 than four weeks should be classified as employment.
- 32 c) That having paid and publicly advertised internships, for a period

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33 greater than four weeks, will boost the number of people taking
34 up internships and thus diversify the pool of talent.

35 Conference calls for:

- 36 1. Better enforcement of existing law to ensure that voluntary roles
37 are truly voluntary.
- 38 2. All work experience placements, unless they are part of a course
39 leading to a recognised qualification, that last for more than four
40 weeks to be treated as employment, requiring a contract and the
41 National Minimum Wage.
- 42 3. All internships to be advertised on the same basis that
43 organisations advertise their jobs.

Applicability: Federal.

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 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 16 – is 13.00, Monday 4 March. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Saturday 16 March – see page 13.

12.15 Speech

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Aide: Cllr Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Nicholas da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC).

F17 Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats @vincecable, #LDconf

The speech will be preceded by a minute's silence in memory of Paddy Ashdown.

13.30 Close of session

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

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after the deadline for the submission of amendments. It must be brief and uncontentious.

Full session

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

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 5.4 of the Federal Party constitution.

Procedural motion

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

Move to next business

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

Reference back

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

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Request for a count

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

Separate vote

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

Suspension of standing orders

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

Special conference

An additional meeting of the conference requisitioned by the Federal Board, Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 200 members in not fewer than 20 local parties, under the provisions of Article 6.6 of the Federal constitution.

Standing order amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

Secondary standing order amendment

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

Topical issue discussion

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

Voting member

A 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

1. The conference agenda

1.1 What is on the agenda

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

- a) One or more consultative each 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 9 of the Federal Party's Constitution, the Federal Board, the Federal Policy Committee 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,

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Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated 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.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 party members.
- e) 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

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of the Committee.

- d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference, except for questions to the reports of the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament, where the closing date shall be at least one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- e) Notwithstanding 1.5(d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(d). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference

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

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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.

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.

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4. Selection of motions and amendments

4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

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

The Committee may:

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

4.2 Selection of amendments

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

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4.4 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

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

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

4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.4, must be placed either on the agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection by Conference. The Committee may hold separate ballots to select which of a range of emergency policy motions and which of a range of emergency business motions to debate. If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the voting members as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall organise the debates on the motions in the order chosen by conference in the ballots.

4.6 Emergency amendments

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

4.7 Topical issue discussions

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

5. Special meetings

5.1 Timetabling of special meetings

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

5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

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

6. Appeals

6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

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

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7. The chair

7.1 Who chairs conference

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

7.2 The chair's aide

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

8. Conduct of debate

8.1 Variation in the order of business

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

8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

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

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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, 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

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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.

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.

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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.

11.2 Reference back (moved by a voting member)

- a) A voting member, who has not already spoken in the debate, may, at any

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- 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 they consider appropriate. A nominee of the Federal Policy

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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

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chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.

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

11.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

12 Reports

12.1 Which reports are tabled

The business session or sessions of the conference must include consideration of reports from the bodies listed in Standing Order 1.1(b).

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12.2 Submission and selection of questions

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

12.3 Whether questions are in order or not

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

12.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered

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

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

Any report tabled by a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for approval by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move the rejection of any part of the report or of the report as a whole. A voting member wishing to move a rejection shall submit a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the

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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 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

Officers of the Federal Party

Leader: Sir Vince Cable MP

President: Baroness Sal Brinton

Chair of FFRC: Antony Harris

Treasurer: Lord Mike German

Vice President (England): Tahir Maher

Vice President (Scotland): Sheila Ritchie

Vice President (Wales): Cadan ap Tomos

Chief Executive: Sir Nick Harvey

Federal Conference Committee (FCC)

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

The FCC has 22 voting members: the Party President; the Chief Whip; three state party representatives; one representative from the FB, two from the FPC, one from the FCEC and one from the FPDC; and twelve members directly elected by party members. It elects its own chair, who must be one of the directly elected representatives.

Federal Policy Committee (FPC)

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

The FPC has 29 voting members: The Party Leader and six other Parliamentarians; the Party President; two councillors; three state party

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representatives; one representative of the Federal Communications and Elections Committee; and fifteen members directly elected by party members. It must be chaired by the Leader.

Federal Board (FB)

The FB is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Party's strategy and the work of the Federal Party. The Federal Board also has responsibility, at least once per Parliament, for preparing a document outlining the Party's Strategy, for submission for debate and agreement by Conference.

The FB has 35 voting members: the Party President (who chairs it); the Leader and three other Parliamentarians; the chairs of the three state parties; the chairs of each of the Federal Committees including a vice-chair of the Federal Policy Committee; a councillor; a Young Liberals representative; three state party representatives; and 15 members directly elected by party members.

Federal Finance and Resources Committee (FFRC)

The FFRC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party, overseeing its administration and ensuring its compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, as well as overseeing the Party's risk management operations and its Risk Register.

The FFRC has 14 voting members: the Registered Treasurer and Chair; the three Registered Treasurers of the state parties; five other members (elected by the FB); Party Treasurer; the Party President; one representative of the Parliamentary Office of the Liberal Democrats; the Chief Executive; and one member of Federal staff.

STANDING ORDERS

