



Preliminary Autumn Conference Agenda

Town House, Hamilton 28-30 October 2022

Helpful Information

Venue

Hamilton Town House, Lower Auchingramont Road Hamilton ML3 6HH

Please note: All bags may be subject to search.

Transport

The nearest train station is Hamilton Central which is a short walk from the venue.

Taxis can be booked for transfers from the station.

Cadzow Cars: 01698 891990
Wellman Cars: 01698 891313

Buses 107 and 255 pass by the Town House.

Parking

There is pay and display parking around Hamilton town centre.

Cloakroom

The cloakroom is located on a halfway level down the stairs towards the Exhibition Hall (Avon Room) - please note there is no disabled access.

Conference passes

These will be available for collection on arrival at the venue. They must be worn visibly at all times throughout conference.

Disabled access

The facility is fully barrier free and offers level access to all areas outwith the upper circle in the Main Hall. The facility has 12 separate toilet facilities for the disabled, passenger lifts giving access throughout, low level service points, induction loop facilities at all receptions/service points, and infra-red hearing enhancement facilities in auditoria and ceremony rooms. There are ramps to each public entrance and entry doors are either automatically controlled or on 'hold open' mechanisms. There are also three designated parking bays in the main car park at the rear of the building. Please contact Scottish Liberal Democrats HQ if you have an queries relating to disabled access.

Refreshments

Refreshments will be available for purchase throughout the day. Lunchtime fringes may also provide some complimentary refreshments. If you have any dietary requirements, it would be helpful if you let us know in advance, so we can accommodate you.



Helpful Information

Further information

If you require any further information about any aspect of Conference, please contact 0131 337 2314 or hq@scotlibdems.org.uk

Thanks

Many thanks are extended to all of the staff at the Hamilton Town House. Thanks also to Party Staff for all their support, Kirsty Smith for running the speakers table, MBM for printing the agenda, and to Metro for providing AV service.

Conference Committee

Paul McGarry (Convener)

Aude Boubaker-Calder (Vice-Convener)

Fraser Graham (Vice-Convener)

Jacqueline Bell

Ross Stalker

Gail Bones

John Cole

Michael Ash

Bruce Wilson

Jack Clark

Kirsten Herbst-Gray

Willie Wilson

Jennifer Lang

Scottish HQ Staff

Rachel Palma Randle (Chief Executive)

Megan Wiseman (Operations Manager)

Paul Moat (Head of Campaigns)

James Calder (Development Officer)

Tracey Cooper (Campaigns Manager)

Party Office Bearers

Leader

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Deputy Leader

Wendy Chamberlain MP

Convener

Jennifer Lang

Treasurer

Steve Arrundale

Policy Convener

Carole Ford

Conference Convener

Paul McGarry

Campaigns & Candidates Convener

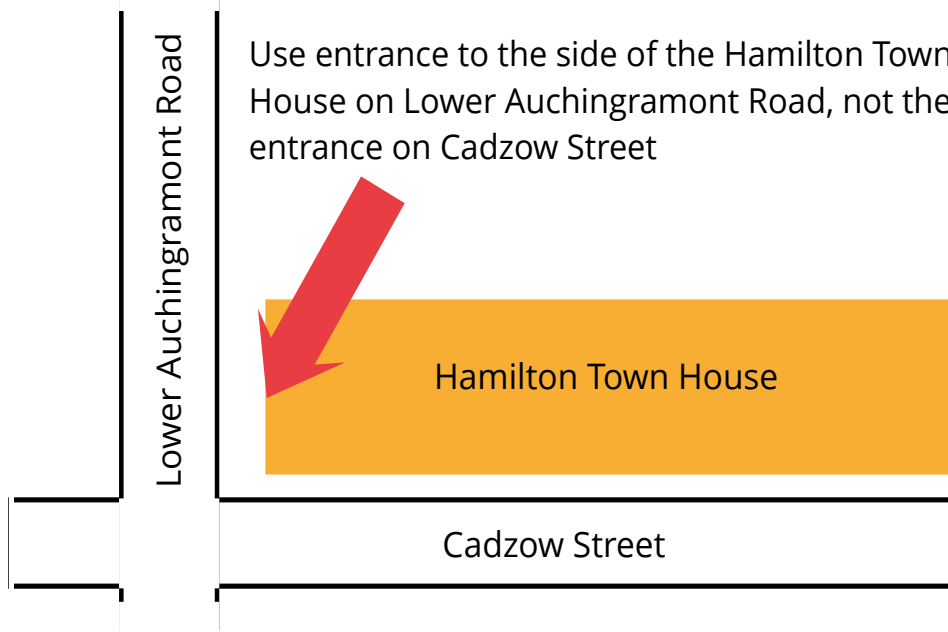
Jenny Marr

President

Willie Wilson



The Venue



Locations of Rooms:

Main Hall: Level 3 - accessible by lift or stairs

Exhibition Hall: Level 1 - accessible by lift or stairs

Cadzow Room: Level 6 - accessible by lift or stairs

Dance Studio: Please follow signs for location

Brandon Room: Level 6 - accessible by lift or stairs

Clyde Room: Level 6 - accessible by lift or stairs

Room allocations for Fringes and Training will be included in the final agenda which will be released in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye out for these.



Notable Dates and Times

Final timings of motions and speeches will be released in the final agenda in the coming weeks. For now we have outlined the start and end times of each day.

Friday 28th October

10am: Conference begins
12.45-1.45pm: Fringes
5-6pm: Fringes
8pm: Conference Quiz

Saturday 29th October

9.30am: Party Business begins
12.45-1.45pm: Fringes
5-6pm: Fringes
8pm: Conference Dinner

Sunday 30th October

10am: Session begins
1.15pm: Conference ends

Please also find the deadlines for amendments and emergency motions below:

Tuesday 25th October 2022 @ 5pm: Deadline for amendments and holding motions

Thursday 27th October 2022 @ 5pm: Deadline to submit Emergency Motions and Topical Motions





SC1: A Fairer Start for Children in Poverty

Submitted by: The Policy Committee

Proposer: Carole Ford

Summator: TBC

1 Conference notes:

2 1. Child poverty rates in Scotland are high and set to
3 increase. Current estimates are that 24% of Scottish
4 children are living in poverty and the effect of the
5 pandemic will be to increase this figure.

6 2. The impact of childhood poverty is well known, including
7 reduced academic attainment, poorer physical and mental
8 health outcomes, shortened life expectancy, increased
9 likelihood of drug and alcohol problems, increased
10 likelihood of homelessness and criminal activity, often
11 resulting in imprisonment. These are all areas in which
12 Scottish statistics reveal a depressing picture both in
13 absolute and relative terms.

14 3. The early years of a child's life, from preconception to
15 age 3, have a disproportionate impact on future physical,
16 emotional and cognitive development.

17 4. The evidence that the impact of poverty is worse in
18 Scotland than elsewhere in the UK, and that this is
19 reflected in measures including health statistics, rates of
20 entry to university and life expectancy.

21 Conference believes:



1. Addressing the impact of poverty on children and their future lives should be a priority for the Scottish Government. Lifting children out of poverty altogether is critically important, but the effects of both absolute and relative poverty must be mitigated.

2. Opportunities and activities which are known to impact beneficially on education, physical health, mental health, confidence and inclusion in society should be open to all children and participation rates improved.

3. Lack of money should not preclude young people from sporting, physical, cultural or social activities. Residential experiences can be transforming and should be available to all.

4. Feelings of exclusion can be more damaging to young people than absolute levels of poverty.

5. To improve the individual life chances of the young people of Scotland, it is as imperative to address the impact of poverty as it is to address the financial circumstances which cause it. The provision of opportunities to participate in a wide social, cultural and physical environment should be available to all.

Conference calls for:

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



- 47 2. Access to IT, library facilities and secure, comfortable
48 spaces for the completion of homework to be a statutory
49 responsibility for local authorities.
- 50 3. All schools to provide extra curricular activities covering
51 a range of activities, backed by Scottish Government
52 resources and staffed by paid teachers or other suitably
53 qualified personnel. This programme to form part of the
54 inspection process for schools and local authorities to be
55 responsible for ensuring all schools are involved.
- 56 4. Arrangements to transport young people between
57 schools if necessary, to increase the range of activities on
58 offer.
- 59 5. Each individual young person's involvement level to be
60 monitored and participation to be encouraged.
- 61 6. From secondary school age, the addition of a voucher
62 scheme to the Young Scot card, or similar, to allow all
63 young people to access activities beyond the school. All
64 young people eligible for free school meals should have
65 automatic access.
- 66 7. Organisations and venues to be encouraged to sign up
67 to the scheme, allowing young people to use their
68 vouchers as payment, covering for example subscription
69 fees to organisations like the Scouts, football or athletic
70 clubs, dance classes, gym sessions, art or music classes,
71 yoga, karate or pilates. All youth organisations to be
72 encouraged to promote access and inclusivity.



- 73 8. The development of a network of residential centres,
74 including outdoor centres and youth hostels, to provide all
75 young people with the opportunity of a residential
76 experience. These
- 77 centres to provide a range of activities, not limited to the
78 physical or outdoors. Art, music, science, maths, literature,
79 dance, cookery – the range of possible residential courses
80 should be as varied as the young people themselves.
- 81 9. All young people eligible for free school meals to have
82 the entitlement to one free residential experience during
83 the school age years.
- 84 10. Infant and child development to be included as a
85 compulsory part of the secondary school PSE programme.
- 86 11. The distribution of baby boxes to be linked to infant
87 and child development classes.
- 88 12. An expert working group to be set up to develop a
89 national programme of support and education, to enable
90 parents to understand and enhance their children's
91 development.



SC2: Moving to a 4-Day Working Week

Submitted by: Scottish Young Liberals

Proposer: Andrew Reynolds

Summator: TBC

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

5 **Conference further notes:**

6 a) A four-day working week is defined as staff working for
7 the same pay for eight fewer hours of work.

8 b) Several countries are currently trialing this workweek or
9 have done so: Iceland's trial from 2015-2019 was regarded
10 as a success as workers were found to be less stressed and
11 had a better work-life balance, Spain and New Zealand are
12 currently in the process of running pilot schemes for a 32-
13 hour workweek, the Scottish Government itself has
14 pledged a fund of £10 million for office-based businesses
15 to try out a shorter working schedule without cutting pay.

16 c) 2/5ths of Scottish workers have experienced poor
17 mental health because of workload. Indeed, one in four
18 sick days has been lost due to work-related stress
19 (Business in the Community/HSE 2020). A four-day working
20 week could remedy work pressures.



d) A shorter working week could have benefits for boosting employment and the overall economy. A reduction in the hours of workers will create more working hours for unemployed persons to fill, with maintained wages and increased leisure time leading to growth in the leisure and arts sectors.

e) Furthermore, research by Autonomy suggests that transitioning into a 4-day work week could lead Scotland on the path to meeting the net-zero 2050 pledge. This is particularly important in the aftermath of COP26, with research suggesting a strong relationship between working hours and carbon emissions from corporate level energy consumptions to individual energy-intensive consumption patterns, building a working and living environment that is unsustainable and damaging (Autonomy).

f) Despite working fewer hours, overall productivity increases. This can be seen in a 2019 trial in Microsoft Japan which led to a 40% increase in productivity and a 23% drop in electricity consumption. Other businesses have adopted this permanently, such as the estate planning firm Perpetual Guardian in New Zealand and several smaller UK businesses such as Aizle restaurant in Edinburgh.

g) Irregular shift workers and individuals on zero hours contracts should be offered additional support to ensure they have greater flexibility as to when they work and do not work excessive hours.



h) According to a July 2022 poll by Autonomy, 9 in 10 government employees supported a move to a four-day working week.

Conference therefore calls for:

1. The Scottish Government to offer a four-day working week to their full-time staff. This working week will consist of reduced working hours for all non-managerial employees, with the same level of pay they currently have.

2. Non-departmental public bodies such as Historic Environment Scotland to begin trials of a four-day working week, offering it to full-time staff where possible.

3. The Scottish Government to offer staff who are on flexi-time or other contracts the option of switching to a 4 day working week or maintaining their current hours with equivalent pay.

4. Advice and financial incentives (e.g., grants) to be offered to encourage businesses to adopt the 4-day working week model.



SC3: Growing Scottish agriculture

Supporters: 12 Members

Mover: Councillor Claire McLaren

Summator: TBC

1 Conference notes:

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

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

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

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

18 E. NFU Scotland’s warning that wholesale land use change
19 to support climate change mitigation which takes



20 agricultural land out of sustainable food production would
21 lead to “rapid socio-economic decline across Scotland”.

22 F. The warning in the UK Climate Change Committee’s Is
23 Scotland Climate Ready? report that “there is currently no
24 strategy in place to ensure the agricultural sector in
25 Scotland remains productive as the climate changes”,
26 despite forecasts for more floods and periods of water
27 scarcity.

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

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

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

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

42 **Conference believes:**

43 i. Both the Scottish and UK Governments have been slow
44 to respond to the multiple threats currently facing



- 45 agriculture, the lack of certainty around the future of the
46 CAP schemes is deterring investment, and this will be
47 detrimental to the future of the industry.
- 48 ii. Future financial support in agriculture should be built
49 around the principles that it will encourage active farming,
50 promote environmental sustainability and restore
51 biodiversity, support profit and employment, enhance
52 critical mass in the supply chain and associated
- 53 industries to increase the processing of food within
54 Scotland and reduce food miles, and fully support the
55 vibrancy of rural and remote communities.
- 56 iii. The UK Government's approach to trade deals risks
57 undermining Scottish and UK agriculture, undercutting
58 goods we produce to high environmental and animal
59 welfare standards.
- 60 iv. Breaking up the UK would mean unprecedented and
61 punishing new barriers and burdens across Scottish
62 agriculture.
- 63 v. The strength of the big supermarkets has been used to
64 drive down prices at the farm gate.
- 65 vi. Agriculture must be supported to reduce its emissions
66 through a Just Transition which protects jobs, guarantees
67 food security, and properly prepares the sector for the
68 worsening impacts of the climate emergency.



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

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

76 **Conference calls for:**

77 1) The UK Government to provide immediate relief in the
78 face of rising costs.

79 2) The Scottish Liberal Democrats to reaffirm that all trade
80 deals should meet UK standards in environmental
81 protection and animal welfare, with the UK Parliament
82 signing off negotiating mandates and completed trade
83 deals.

84 3) The Scottish Government to build upon the initial
85 agriculture transition funding won by Scottish Liberal
86 Democrats, rewarding environmental stewardship and
87 helping agricultural businesses make investments that will
88 rapidly reduce emissions.

89 4) The Scottish Government to launch a fresh campaign to
90 improve consumer awareness of the benefits of cutting
91 food miles and using local produce, alongside reforming
92 procurement processes to better value seasonal Scottish
93 produce and help producers and processors to navigate
94 tendering.



- 95 5) The UK Government to commission an independent
96 review of the role of the Groceries Code Adjudicator Act
97 2013 to establish how it could be further strengthened.
- 98 6) The Scottish Government to promote robust food
99 security assessments of whether land is productive
100 agricultural land which is well suited to support food
101 production and sustainability, prior to its being used for
102 non-agricultural purposes such as forestry, protecting
103 against misplaced carbon offsetting projects.
- 104 7) The Scottish Government to introduce a new system of
105 croft-proofing within future agricultural support and other
106 relevant regulations.
- 107 8) The Scottish Government to publish a statement of how
108 its proposed Land Reform Bill in 2023 will make it easier
109 for new and diverse talent to establish livelihoods in
110 agriculture and to retain existing knowledge and talent.
- 111 9) The Scottish Government and SEPA to work with the
112 agricultural sector to agree a framework for water
113 abstraction in the event of water scarcity, designed to
114 provide the flexibility farmers need, protect against the
115 mass failure of crops and prevent blanket irrigation bans,
116 to be incorporated into a holistic framework for sector-
117 wide adaptation and mitigation.
- 118 10) The Scottish Government to commission an
119 independent review of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code
120 to determine how it can better safeguard the natural
121 environment and the rural businesses people come into



122 contact with, while also protecting the fundamental right to
123 outdoor access.

124 11) The Scottish Government to write to every waiting
125 household to make them aware of how precisely they can
126 benefit from its broadband schemes, and live up to the
127 promises it made on universal access to rural and remote
128 communities.



SC4: Remote Monitoring of Home Working Employees

Submitted by: North Edinburgh and Leith Liberal Democrats

Proposer: AC May

Summator:

1 **Conference notes that:**

2 1. The social distancing requirements brought on by the
3 COVID pandemic accelerated the trend towards working
4 from home.

5 2. Employee monitoring technology is currently
6 permissible under UK law, and it can take many forms,
7 including keystroke logging, screenshot monitoring,
8 remote desktop viewing, activity monitoring, and
9 observation by webcams and microphones.

10 3. While independent surveys have been carried out, there
11 is a distinct lack of government policy on the appropriate
12 extent of these practices or consideration of the impact
13 they may have.

14 **Conference believes that:**

15 1. Working from home can bring many benefits for the
16 environment, the economy and for individuals; however, it
17 is of concern to Conference that the home has now
18 become a de facto extension of the workplace, with the
19 power and authority of the employer being extended over
20 it.



2. There is no standard corporate culture, and some employers will be better at respecting the privacy of employees than others; in the absence of regulation there is a real risk of highly intrusive remote monitoring becoming the accepted norm.

3. While certain job roles do necessitate a certain level of remote monitoring – for example, to ensure data security for GDPR purposes – there must be clear standards set as to which measures are appropriate.

4. Observation of the employee in their home environment can lead to judgement and stereotyping that the employee would not ordinarily face in a work environment, and this may particularly impact members of minority and disadvantaged communities.

5. Measurement of employee performance should be on a basis of productivity, relative to defined line-of-business goals and targets, not keystrokes, number of emails, or presenteeism at a keyboard.

6. Employees and prospective employees should be fully informed of any in-home observation or activity measurement techniques in use by an employer and have the right to opt out unless such observation is strictly necessary for GDPR purposes.

7. Employees and prospective employees should be protected from any adverse consequences should they choose to opt out from an employer's in-home observation and activity measurement techniques.



48 **Conference calls for:**

- 49 1. The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial
50 Strategy to undertake research on the extent of
51 observational and measurement practices of employees
52 working from home across a broad range of industries.
53 This should include capabilities, consent, current practice,
54 future directions, and public perceptions.
- 55 2. The UK Government to introduce new employment
56 legislation that clearly defines and limits the power that
57 employers can exercise over employees in their own home
58 using observation and activity measurement techniques,
59 including protection for employees who choose to opt out.
- 60 3. The Scottish Government, together with their Fair Work
61 stakeholders such as trade unions, to draw up a voluntary
62 code of practice relating to employee remote monitoring,
63 and to update their Fair Work action plan with a view to
64 promoting best practice.



SC5: Safe Exits to Sex Work in Scotland

Submitted by: Central Scotland Liberal Democrats

Proposer: TBC

Summator: TBC

1 **Conference notes:**

- 2 1. The diverse in activity referred to by “sex industry”,
3 covering online and full service sex work, street
4 work, brothels, and strip clubs, and acknowledges
5 the differing impact and vulnerability of those
6 engaged in the sex industry.
- 7 2. The wide range of barriers that may be faced by
8 those wanting to exit from the sex work industry,
9 including but not limited to: criminal convictions,
10 stigma, addiction, and access to employment,
11 education and qualifications, and safe housing.
- 12 3. That 72% of sex workers surveyed by Encompass
13 Network in 2020 reported difficulties or felt it was
14 not possible to exit the industry.
- 15 4. The importance of person centred and trauma
16 informed approaches and collaboration across
17 support services in meeting an individual’s needs,
18 and the success of ‘one stop shops’ in providing
19 access to support.
- 20 5. That the Scottish Government holds responsibility
21 over areas that could make a significant difference
22 to the lives of those engaged and seeking to exit
23 the sex industry.



- 24 6. Conference further notes and re-affirms our
25 existing policy “Standing up for the Rights
26 and Safety of Sex Workers” passed in Autumn
27 2014.

28 **Conference believes:**

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

45 **Conference calls for:**

- 46 1. The Scottish Government to develop a strategy and
47 legal framework that tackles stigma and
48 discrimination towards sex workers, including:
49 2. Quashing past convictions for anything that would
50 be decriminalised or legalised under new models.
51 3. Taking action to prevent the ability of service
52 providers to discriminate against sex workers



- 53 regardless of their position in relation to the law,
54 such as issuing formal guidelines for governmental
55 organisations including the policy and court
56 systems, as to what constitutes acceptable
57 conduct.
- 58 4. The Scottish Government to earmark funds for
59 NHS Trusts and/or local authorities to establish
60 arms length 'one stop shops' to provide a
61 supportive environment for sex workers to access
62 support. These should:
- 63 5. Unite access to healthcare, housing information,
64 benefit claims and other services.
- 65 6. Provide a trusted, continuing point of contact for
66 sex workers.
- 67 7. Be free from requirements to report activity to
68 enforcement authorities.
- 69 8. Be present where a need is identified, exploring
70 innovative models of delivery for rural and remote
71 services.
- 72 9. Include provisions to include representatives from
73 bodies including Local Housing Authorities, Local
74 Education Authorities, local police, and local mental
75 health teams.
- 76 10. Act as gateways to education, training, and
77 employment.
- 78 11. Provided with block grant funding to enable their
79 clients to access supportive courses and
80 educational qualifications anonymously, thus
81 preventing stigma developing and helping them to
82 exit sex work if and when they choose.
- 83 12. Scottish Liberal Democrat MSPs to campaign for
84 future legislation or a Scottish model to include a



85 package of support for those trafficked, exploited
86 or exiting sex work.



SC6: Liberal Democrats strengthening Local Government

Submitted by: ASLDC

Proposer: Councillor Peter Barrett

Summator: Councillor Robert Brown

1 This Conference welcomes:

2 1. the success of Scottish Liberal Democrats in the May
3 2022 Council elections in increasing the Party's number of
4 Councillors by almost a third, with significant gains in
5 South Lanarkshire, Fife, Highland and Edinburgh in
6 particular;

7 2. the increased presence of Liberal Democrats in council
8 Administrations including Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire,
9 Dumfries & Galloway, South Lanarkshire and Argyll and
10 Bute;

11 3. the potential to open up more councils to Liberal
12 Democrat values and deliver more Liberal Democrat
13 policies at local level across Scotland.

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

16 A. the proposed removal from council control of
17 community care and potentially also social work through
18 the SNP Government's ill-considered, bureaucratic and
19 expensive National Care Service proposals;



20 B. the continued failure of the Scottish Government to
21 fund local authorities fairly and equitably in such a way as
22 to enable them to deliver key council services effectively;

23 C. the continued efforts by the SNP Government to
24 micromanage local councils.

25 Conference notes that the European Charter for Local Self
26 Government provides that:

27 a. local authorities should have the right and ability to
28 regulate and manage “a substantial share of public affairs
29 under their own responsibility and in the interests of the
30 local population”;

31 b. local authorities “shall be entitled, within national
32 economic policy, to adequate financial resources of their
33 own”;

34 c. “the financial systems on which resources available to
35 local authorities are based shall be of a sufficiently
36 diversified and buoyant nature to enable them to keep
37 pace ... with the ... cost of carrying out their tasks”;

38 d. that the Scottish Parliament unanimously expressed its
39 view that the Charter should be incorporated into Scots
40 Law.

41 **Conference calls on** the Scottish Government:

42 1. to abide by the principles of the European Charter for
43 Local Self Government and, forthwith, to halt the removal
44 from council control of community care and social work
45 services;



- 46 2. to commit to the principles of the Independent
47 Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy and, in
48 particular, to recognise the constitutional democratic
49 mandate of local councils;
- 50 3. to support parity of esteem between local and central
51 government underpinned by a fiscal framework that
52 recognises the important work councils do;
- 53 4. to give councils a full power of general competence,
54 recognising their right to set their own level of local
55 domestic and business taxes and moving towards enabling
56 councils to raise at least 50% of their funding locally;
- 57 5. to work through COSLA to develop a suite of new
58 powers enabling them to make a real difference to local
59 people's lives, particularly in economic strategy, energy,
60 transport, town planning and funding for affordable
61 housing;
- 62 6. to adopt fair work principles so that councils, as leading
63 local employers, can demonstrate good governance and
64 leadership, attract and retain the talent needed to provide
65 quality service, and guarantee value for money;
- 66 **Conference calls on** Liberal Democrat council groups
67 across Scotland to demonstrate Liberal Democracy in
68 action, by working with local communities to strengthen
69 local democracy and collectively improving the lives of all
70 our communities.



SC7: Freedom of Information and the threat to standards of Democracy

Submitted by Rutherglen & Hamilton West Liberal Democrats

Proposer: Councillor Robert Brown

Summator: Councillor Mark McGeever

- 1 **Conference is concerned** at the creeping erosion of the
- 2 standards of democracy in Scotland and the United
- 3 Kingdom in recent years, including:
 - 4 1. The repeated blocking and delaying of Freedom of
 - 5 Information requests by the Scottish government, which
 - 6 has prompted sustained, formal intervention by the
 - 7 Scottish Information Commissioner since 2017, and whose
 - 8 latest report on the Scottish Government's delivery of the
 - 9 Remedial Action Plan identified a number of areas where
 - 10 Scottish Government performance and practice fell short,
 - 11 including evidence of widespread failures to comply with
 - 12 records management requirements when handling FOI
 - 13 requests;
 - 14 2. Undermining of local democracy by Scottish
 - 15 Government centralisation of the police and emergency
 - 16 services and the proposals for community care;
 - 17 3. The supine weakness of Ministerial Codes of conduct;
 - 18 4. The loose attachment of the UK Conservative
 - 19 Government since 2019 to the rule of law and to
 - 20 international treaties;



21 5. The threat to the ECHR and human rights from the
22 Conservative Government.

23 **Conference notes:**

24 a) the 20th Anniversary in 2022 of the passing of the
25 landmark Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
26 (FoISA) and the key part played by Jim Wallace and Scottish
27 Liberal Democrats in government in Scotland in delivering
28 the Act;

29 b) The 2002 legislation has not kept up to date with the
30 changing landscape of public bodies in Scotland;

31 c) The Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee
32 inquiry report on the FoISA, published in May 2020, stated
33 that "there is a clear need to improve the legislation,
34 particularly in respect of the bodies that it covers and in
35 relation to proactive publication";

36 d) The Scottish Government's consistent avoidance and
37 delay in acting on the detailed recommendations from this
38 all party Committee;

39 e) Whilst the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill adds Care
40 Boards to the bodies covered by FoI, this does not extend
41 to the actual private or 3rd sector care providers;

42 f) Robust Freedom of Information law is a crucial tool for
43 human rights protection, making sure that people in power
44 cannot just make decisions behind closed doors.

45 **Conference reiterates** the longstanding Liberal Democrat
46 commitment that national governments and other public



authorities in Europe should be subject to the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights and condemns the proposed moves by the Conservative Government (reaffirmed by both leading leadership contenders) to replace the Human Rights Act 1997.

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

Conference welcomes the publication of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) (No. 2) Bill, drafted by the Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland and calls for: implementation of the principles of that Campaign's "Call for Action" to protect and strengthen the public's enforceable right to access information, including –

1. Using the current powers under Section 5 of the FoISA to extend enforceable access to information rights to health and social care service providers delivered by the private sector, particularly care homes.

2. Reform of FoISA to ensure the law delivers openness, transparency, accountability and empowerment.

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



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

79 **Conference further calls for:**

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

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

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



SC8: Creating a new approach to solving the housing crisis

Submitted by: Central Scotland Liberal Democrats

Proposer: Paul McGarry

Summator: TBC

Introduction

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

This new model creates a more sustainable and fair approach to this that ensures that future generations will be able to access affordable homes in their own community without being limited to renting. This is not the same as Right to Buy as this model sees restrictions and a continued link with the sponsoring organisation. It does however recognise the benefits that Right to Buy provided in social mobility.

1 Conference believes that:

- 2 1. Under the SNP government we are now in a housing
- 3 emergency.
- 4 2. Continued pressure on the housing market in Scotland
- 5 has made the problem more acute with pressures from
- 6 commercial interests including buy to let and short term
- 7 let markets.



3. This is creating an economic clearance of many areas of Scotland and that if immediate action is not taken may lead to irreversible damage to communities.

4. If urgent action is not taken Scotland will have a generation who will not be able to own their own home.

Conference notes that:

a) In the last 10 years house prices have increased significantly and that this is most significant in areas popular with tourism.

b) In Edinburgh in 2011 the average price for a flat was £164,252 and today it is £236,608.

c) The Scottish Housing Market Review published on 30 September 2021 showed that house price inflation in Scotland increased in Q2 2021 by 10% relative to Q2 2020 – the biggest increase since prior to the 2008 financial crisis.

d) A continued commitment from the Scottish Government to build affordable homes has not solved the issue and fails to recognise the importance of owning your own home for many.

e) The average cost of a deposit on a house currently stands at over £30,000.

Conference further believes that:

i) A new solution is required and we must be innovative in our approaches and this requires changing existing models and creating new devices to address these issues.



- 33 ii) A new type of Scottish Government sponsored housing
34 mechanism should be created, specifically targeted
35 towards establishing a new model for building homes and
36 communities.
- 37 iii) This new type of organisation would work alongside
38 local authorities to provide homes that were available for
39 social buy.
- 40 iv) The exact mechanisms for purchase of these properties
41 would be defined by either the local authority or housing
42 association, though typical hallmarks would include low or
43 supported deposits, shared equity and house prices that
44 are set below market and increased with inflation.
- 45 v) Local authorities and existing housing associations could
46 apply to participate in the new mechanism and would in
47 many cases be well placed to identify local needs and
48 requirements.
- 49 vi) Properties would have restrictions based on reselling
50 and this would be managed through the sponsoring
51 organisation. The criteria for those eligible to participate in
52 this scheme would be set up by the housing association or
53 local authority. The price of the property when being sold
54 or resold would be set at an agreed level that reflected the
55 original value and interest. It would not be held at market
56 value, in a similar way that social rent is less than current
57 private rents.
- 58 vii) This approach would be similar to the current system
59 of social rent through local authorities or housing
60 associations that currently exists in Scotland. It is however



61 extending this principle to home ownership and providing
62 individuals the opportunity to own their home

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

66 **Conference therefore calls for:**

67 1. Scottish Liberal Democrats to campaign for a new
68 approach to social buying.

69 2. Scottish Liberal Democrats to support calls for a new
70 social house building mechanism that reflects and builds
71 on the benefits of a social landlord and applies these to
72 home ownership.

73 3. The Scottish Policy Committee to work further on the
74 details of this implementation and bring a paper back to
75 conference.

76 4. The Scottish Liberal Democrats to continue to campaign
77 for affordable home ownership and that access to
78 affordable homes should trump commercial interest.



SC9: Supporting Scotland's Businesses in a challenging economy

Submitted by: West Lothian Liberal Democrats

Proposer: John Mackenzie

Summator: TBC

1 **Conference notes** with concern:

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

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

11 C. The perilous state of Scotland's small and medium
12 sized businesses, on the high street and elsewhere,
13 particularly in the tourism and hospitality sector, as
14 a result of surging inflation, skyrocketing energy
15 costs, the realignment of working practices



16 following the pandemic and the inability to employ
17 suitable staff.

18 **Conference reaffirms** the Liberal Democrat commitment
19 to:

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

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

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

33 iv) small and medium sized businesses, recognising that
34 dynamic, entrepreneurial businesses are a force for good:
35 entrepreneurs, the self-employed and small businesses



36 form the backbone of local economies and government
37 should support them.

38 **Conference calls** for:

- 39 1. The creation of a business climate to drive
40 investment by restoring the basic principles of
41 honesty, stability, pragmatism and integrity
42 that allows us to build a trusting partnership
43 with business.
- 44 2. A skills revolution by scrapping the Scottish
45 Government's Individual Training Accounts and
46 introducing a reskilling grant for every adult of
47 £10,000 and boost apprenticeships to make
48 them available to 40% of young people
49 entering the workplace.
- 50 3. The empowerment of businesses in local
51 communities. Our local authorities should
52 place businesses at the centre of reinvented,
53 vibrant high streets and local communities, and
54 establish community enterprise hubs. They
55 should invest in SMEs, and use the new subsidy
56 legislation to provide support through the



57 energy crisis to enable them to survive and
58 grow.

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



SC10: Kickstarting an Erasmus replacement

Submitted by: The Policy Committee

Proposer: Willie Rennie MSP

Summator: Wendy Chamberlain MP

1 **Conference notes:**

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

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

16 C. The Scottish National Party’s 2021 election manifesto
17 similarly committed to “create a Scottish programme of
18 exchange to provide mobility and cooperation
19 opportunities” in education and training. However, in April
20 2022, Minister for Higher and Further Education Jamie
21 Hepburn confirmed that the Scottish Government has no
22 confirmed timetable for either consulting upon or



launching its proposed replacement scheme, the Scottish education exchange programme.

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

Conference believes:

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

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

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



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

Conference calls for:

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

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



SC11: Revolutionising Scotland's response to long Covid

Submitted by: The Scottish Policy Committee

Proposer: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Summator: TBC

Conference notes:

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

Conference believes:

- 17 1. The plight of people with long Covid and the
18 implications that it can have for their lives have
19 been overlooked by the Scottish Government.
20



21 2. The collective response to the emergence of long
22 Covid should be revolutionised, putting it on a
23 scale that reflects the potential for this condition to
24 have a profound and lasting impact on public
25 health and the levels of activity, wellbeing and work
26 for thousands of people.

27 **Conference calls for:**

- 28 1. Specialist long Covid clinics to be established in
29 every health board, utilising the evidence emerging
30 from the establishment of clinics in other parts of
31 the UK, bringing a range of clinical and non-clinical
32 services to the same location for the benefit of
33 patients.
- 34 2. The Scottish Government to initiate and coordinate
35 the rollout of health professionals able to offer in
36 home support for those who require it, to include
37 long Covid community nurses.
- 38 3. Scotland-wide access to long Covid physiotherapy
39 and multi-disciplinary rehabilitation.
- 40 4. The Scottish Government and its health partners to
41 maximise the potential for social prescribing in
42 their response to long Covid, connecting patients
43 with community and non-clinical services at no
44 cost, noting the emerging evidence that a wide
45 range of activities from gentle exercise to singing
46 lessons to help with breathing are proving
47 beneficial.
- 48 5. The Scottish Government to work to coordinate
49 and mobilise a volunteer network able to assist
50 people suffering from long Covid, recognising that
51 the illness can be relapsing and remitting in nature.



- 52 6. The Scottish and UK Governments to work
53 together on producing and rolling out new
54 guidance for employers on best practice in relation
55 to assisting employees suffering from long Covid,
56 recognising the wide-range of symptoms, the
57 variability of the condition's impact on individuals,
58 the implications that this can have on ability to
59 work, and the need for employees to have financial
60 certainty and the reassurance and backing which
61 formal guidance can provide.
- 62 7. Social Security Scotland, in consultation with the
63 Department for Work and Pensions, to publish new
64 guidance on long Covid, setting out the financial
65 support and relevant assistance available and how
66 the condition will be accounted for within the social
67 security system.
- 68 8. Public services from local authority education
69 departments to mental health services to be
70 prepared for the lasting physical impact and
71 psychological trauma that can be brought about by
72 long Covid.
- 73 9. A Scottish Government-backed independent expert
74 committee to be established, without an expiry
75 date, to advise upon and coordinate Scotland's
76 response to long Covid, with a remit and resources
77 designed to give the committee a platform upon
78 which it can make Scotland a world-leader in how it
79 responds to long Covid and the distribution of
80 knowledge on the condition.
- 81 10. The Scottish Government to appoint a long Covid
82 champion with the power to influence and inform
83 its response, cutting across the range of relevant
84 ministerial portfolios.



SC12: Energy Diversification and Resilience

Submitted by: Highland Liberal Democrats

Proposer: Councillor Molly Nolan

Summator: Thomas Prag

1 **Conference notes**

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



5. That Scotland has a strong record of innovation and engineering excellence including renewable energy development.
6. That the Scottish Government has turned its back on the potential of 'nuclear' energy as part of the green energy mix, based on outdated perceptions of the risks and the technologies available.
7. Recent experience of the volatility of international energy markets underlines how vulnerable ordinary people are to swings in energy prices.

Conference believes

1. That the Scottish Government should develop its energy strategy to include all potential technologies which can deliver clean and green energy reliably and safely.
2. That new technology and management methods mean that green fission and fusion technologies are safer and cleaner than ever before and have a key role to play in ending our reliance on fossil fuels.
3. In addition, that the Scottish and UK Governments should invest in a wide range of developing technologies to future proof and diversify energy production.
4. That energy production at a more localised level will increase resilience.



- 48 5. That any risk assessment of energy production
49 should include assessing a) the risks to the
50 climate of not reducing our emissions quickly
51 enough and b) the risks to human society if
52 energy supply is unreliable.
- 53 6. That the people of Scotland are ready to accept
54 a more reasoned approach to nuclear power
55 that balances the risk of fusion and fission
56 energy generation against the risk to our
57 planet from accelerating climate change.

58 **Conference calls:**

- 59 1. On the Scottish Government to review its outdated
60 policy which rejects all forms of energy produced
61 from nuclear technology.
- 62 2. On the UK and Scottish governments to urgently
63 investigate the potential of the multiple fission and
64 fusion options already available.
- 65 3. On Liberal Democrat parliamentarians at UK and
66 Scottish level to work with colleagues across the
67 political spectrum to recognise that nuclear
68 sources of energy can be green, clean, local and
69 reliable, and should be assessed objectively.

Scottish Liberal Democrats - Standing Orders

- A. In the event the Scottish Executive determines it is impossible to hold a conference under the normal rules, and instead summons a special meeting of the conference to be held remotely, or the Committee otherwise directs that a conference shall be conducted remotely, these Standing Orders shall apply.
- B. A remote conference shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders that apply to a conference not conducted remotely ('the original Standing Orders'), save that:
 - a) All references in the original Standing Orders to votes, whether by ballot, show of hands or show of voting cards, shall instead be conducted via an online poll or alternative secure method of online voting, designated by the Committee. Similarly all references to speakers cards shall be taken to mean electronic speakers' cards.
 - b) Any communications with the Chair must be made via an online channel designated by the Committee for that purpose and advertised to voting members prior to the commencement of a debate.
 - c) Voting (Section 7) – all voting will be carried out electronically by members registered for conference and eligible to vote, thus removing the requirement for a counted vote.
 - d) Points of Order and Procedural Motion (Section 8) – will be submitted electronically to the chair within the timescales laid out in the Standing Orders.

Standing Orders for a Conference

1. The Conference Committee

1.1. The Conference Committee shall be constituted as specified in Section E10 of the Constitution. The annual election of members by the conference shall be by Single Transferable Vote in a ballot of all members of the Party registered to attend Conference ('Conference Representatives').

1.2. The Conference Convener shall be the Chair of the Conference Committee. At its first meeting after a new election under Section E10 of the Constitution, the Conference Committee may elect one or more Vice-Conveners.

2. The Timetable and Agenda

2.1 The Conference Committee may choose to hold a conference as either a digital or in person conference. The conference committee will as far as practicable make accommodations for a 'hybrid' conference when an 'in-person' conference is held.

2.1. The Agenda for a hybrid meeting of Conference shall include time for one or more of the following items:

- Motions;
- Emergency motions;
- Topical motions;
- A business session or sessions; and

- any other business deemed appropriate by the Conference Committee. The time to be allocated to each type of business and the order of business shall be decided by the Conference Committee.

2.2. The Conference Committee shall, before each meeting of the Conference, prepare a timetable which includes:

2.2.1. The closing date for the receipt of motions (other than Emergency or Topical motions), which shall not normally be less than six weeks before the start of the meeting;

2.2.2. The due date for the publication of the Agenda, which shall not normally be less than four weeks before the start of the meeting;

2.2.3. The closing date for the receipt of Topical Motions, which shall not normally be less than two working days before the start of the meeting; and

2.2.4. The closing date for receipt of amendments which shall not normally be less than two working days before the start of the meeting.

2.2.5. The Conference Committee may, in special circumstances, specify dates later than the normal dates under this Standing Order. It shall report to the Conference its reasons for doing so.

2.3. Submitting organisations shall detail at the time of submission the name and contact details of a

person authorised to agree any redrafting of a motion or amendment and the name of the mover and summator of the motion or amendment, should it be selected for debate at Conference.

2.4. The Conference Committee shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included within the Agenda. The proposers of the motions selected for debate shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision. The Agenda shall be circulated to Local Parties and other bodies entitled to submit motions and amendments under the provisions of Section E19 of the Constitution so that amendments can be tabled to these motions by such bodies. Copies of motions not selected for inclusion in the Agenda shall be available for inspection.

2.5. The Conference Committee shall meet within one week of the deadline for submission of amendments to motions on the Agenda and shall decide which amendments should be accepted and those rejected. The proposers of the amendments selected for debate shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision.

2.6. The Conference Committee shall also meet as soon as practicable after the closing date for the receipt of topical motions and shall decide which of the topical motions duly submitted shall be debated, and the proposers of topical motions selected shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision. The text of any topical motions selected for debate shall be circulated to

Conference Representatives, Local Parties and bodies authorised to submit motions.

2.7. The Conference Committee shall also prepare an agenda for the business session of each meeting of Conference. The Committee shall circulate this, with the text of proposed amendments to the Constitution in accordance with Section L of the Constitution, amendments to Standing Orders, and other party business motions, with the Agenda as per Section 2.4

2.8. The Party's Principal Committees may submit holding motions, which shall identify the issues to be dealt with within the motion but which may be amended and expanded upon later. Standing Orders 2 and 3 shall apply to holding motions as they would apply to ordinary motions, except that:

2.8.1. the final version of the motion shall be submitted not less than two weeks before the start of the meeting of Conference;

2.8.2. The text of the final version shall be circulated to Conference Representatives, Local Parties and other bodies authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E19 of the Constitution, who may submit amendments no later than two working days before the start of the meeting of Conference; and

2.8.3. The Committee shall make available to Conference Representatives the text of the final version and any

amendments chosen for debate, either by their publication in the Conference Daily Bulletin or by any other means the Committee considers most appropriate

2.9. The Conference Committee may, if the circumstances require, propose to 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.

3. Submission of Motions and Amendments

3.1. The Conference Committee may refuse to select a motion for the amendment of the Constitution or Standing Orders if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate at the same meeting of Conference or at the two previous conferences. All other motions in these categories shall be circulated with the Agenda.

3.2. No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Conference Committee, it is insubstantial, outside the legitimate scope of the motion or tantamount to a direct negative of the motion.

3.3. The movers of any motion or amendment that has not been selected shall be notified as soon as is practicable and may appeal to the Conference Committee in accordance with

directions given by the Committee. If an appeal is allowed, the motion or amendment shall be treated as an emergency motion or amendment notwithstanding that it does not comply with Standing Order 5.

3.4. This Standing Order and Standing Order 2 do not apply to procedural motions under Standing Order 8.

3.5. No Topical Motion may be selected for debate at Conference unless the Conference Committee is satisfied that the content of the motion is such that it could not have been submitted in time for the deadline as set out in Section 2.2 for ordinary motions. No Topical Motion can be a holding motion from a Party Committee. bn

4. The Agenda – Special Conferences

4.1. Special Conferences shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of requisition, save that the Conference Committee may allow time for emergency motions and for business which is formal or, in the opinion of the Committee, timely or the best interest of the party to be discussed now.

4.2. The Conference Committee shall draw up an Agenda and circulate in line with Section 2.4. If the Committee deems it necessary the Agenda can be circulated with amendments to be submitted as Emergency Amendments.

4.3. The provisions of Standing Orders 2 and 3 shall, so far as they are not inconsistent with Standing

Orders 4.1 and 4.2, apply to special meetings of the Conference.

5. Emergency Motions

5.1. An emergency motion or amendment must relate to significant developments which have occurred since the relevant closing date or so shortly before that date as to make it impracticable to submit a motion, Topical Motion or amendment in due time. It must be brief and specific.

5.2. An emergency motion or amendment may be submitted by five Conference Representatives or by any persons or bodies authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E9 of the Constitution.

5.3. The Conference Committee may, for each day of the meeting of Conference, set aside time convenient for the debate of Emergency Motions. In such an event, proposed Emergency Motions must be submitted to the Conference Committee, duly signed, by 5pm the day before they are to be debated. Emergency Amendments to motions already on the Agenda for that meeting of Conference must be submitted by 5pm the day before the motion is to be debated.

5.4. The Conference Committee may refuse to select an emergency motion or amendment if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for

debate at the relevant meeting of Conference.

5.5. The Conference Committee will choose the emergency motions or amendments which, in the opinion of the Committee, are most relevant to the concerns of the Conference and can be debated within the time available. The Committee shall make available the text of all emergency motions and amendments chosen for debate either by publication in the Conference Daily Bulletin or any other means the Committee finds most appropriate.

5.6. Amendments shall not normally be taken to the text of an Emergency Motion. However Conference Committee may consider amendments duly signed by 5 Conference Representatives or by any body authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E9 of the Constitution. These amendments must be brief, suitable for debate and of a similar emergency nature. The deadline for submitting amendments to an Emergency Motion will be listed in the Conference Daily Bulletin alongside the text of the Emergency Motion. The movers of the Emergency Motion must be given the opportunity to agree that the text of the amendment be accepted without debate or vote, and the text must be circulated to voting representatives before the start of the debate.

6. Conduct of Debate

6.1. Length of Speeches

6.1.1. The Conference Committee shall decide the time to be allocated for each debate. The Conference Committee shall determine the times allocated to speakers in debates.

6.1.2. Movers of motions shall normally be allocated not more than 12 minutes to move and summate on a motion. Movers of amendments shall normally be allocated not more than 8 minutes to move and summate on a motion. Movers of emergency and topical motions shall normally be allocated 5 minutes to move the motion. Speakers from the floor shall normally be allocated 3 minutes but this may be varied at the discretion of the chair of the debate.

6.1.3. The allocation of the time between moving and summing shall be at the discretion of the mover subject only to notification of the Chair of the debate before the start of the debate. In the absence of such notification the Chair shall be entitled to limit speeches to three quarters of the time allocation for moving and one quarter for summation.

6.2. Order of Debate

6.2.1. The Chair of the debate shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments (or their nominees) shall have the right to summate in the same order, after which the mover of the motion (or their nominee) shall have the right to summate.

6.2.2. Votes will be taken on amendments in the order in which they have been moved and finally, a vote shall be taken on the substantive motion.

6.3. The Chair of the debate may direct that parts of any motion or amendment or group of amendments may be the subject of a separate debate the Conference Committee may also direct that a debate may comprise of more than one substantive motion. In this case it shall be up to the discretion of the Chair as to the allotment of speakers, save that the rights of movers of motions or amendments shall not be infringed.

6.4. The Committee may authorise members of other State or Regional Parties to speak. The Committee may also, invite any person to address a Conference as a guest.

6.5. On any topical motion, policy motion or emergency motion not moved on behalf of the Policy Committee, the Policy Committee shall have the right to nominate one of its members to report to the Conference its views on the motions and/or amendments under debate. Such persons shall be called to speak at any time up to the conclusion of the debate and before any replies and shall be entitled to speak for the same length of time as the mover of the motion. The Executive Committee shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution and the Conference Committee shall have similar rights in relation to motions to amend Standing Orders or motions otherwise relating to the proceedings of the Conference.

6.6. Save as provided in Standing Orders, no person may speak more than once in any debate, a mover of a motion is however entitled to summate the motion..

6.7. All members wishing to speak in any debate, including the movers and summators of motions and amendments, must submit a speaker's card and indicate whether they wish to speak in favour or against a motion or amendment. The Chair of the session shall be responsible for providing a balanced debate between the different viewpoints in the Conference. In circumstances where there is a preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side in any debate, the Chair may announce a departure from this rule.

6.8 The Chair of the debate shall have discretion on all matters relating to the debate and that decision shall be final, except by a standard where a decision is so unreasonable, that no reasonable individual would have made the same decision.

7. Voting

7.1. Members eligible to vote and registered for a virtual conference will be issued electronic Voting cards. At the end of each debate eligible members will be asked to vote by the Chair of the debate. The time available to vote will be left open at the discretion of the chair. The result of the vote will be announced by the Chair.

7.2 A vote will be decided by 50%+1 members, except where specified by stand orders or the constitution.

7.2. In the event of a technical issue occurring during the vote, the Chair may ask for the vote to run a again as many time as necessary to satisfy them the result is certain.

7.3. In the event of a tied vote, the Chair will ask for the vote to be run a second time. If this still results in a tied vote, the debate will be decided on the casting vote of the Chair of the debate.

8. Points of Order and Procedural Motions

8.1. Any member eligible to vote in the debate may raise a point of order electronically with the Chair (details of how to do this will be shared with members at the start of the virtual conference). A point of order shall be taken immediately, except that, during a vote no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the vote itself. The decision of the Chair of the session on all points of order shall be final.

8.2. References Back

8.2.1. A voting member may, at any time before the end of speeches in reply to the debate, submit electronically a motion to refer back the motion under debate. Such a submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred (e.g. Scottish Policy Committee; Scottish Executive) and shall include a short statement of the reasons.

8.2.2. The Chair may decide either to take the motion to refer back immediately or defer it until the end of debate. If more than one request for a reference back is received, the Chair shall have the discretion as to which to take but shall give

consideration to the appropriateness of the bodies to which the motion is being referred, the degree to which the stated reasons for reference back reflect views expressed in the debate and the order in which the requests were submitted, before exercising the rights of discretion. No more than one reference back shall be taken to any motion.

8.2.3. The Chair shall, upon taking the motion to refer back, read it and the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to debate the motion. If the conference decides not to debate the reference back, the reference back automatically falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those voting to debate the reference back the mover of that motion may 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 motion.

8.2.4. The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If the substantive motion is referred to the Executive, Policy Committee or Conference Committee that body shall report to the next meeting of conference stating the action it has taken on the reference back.

8.3. Suspension of Standing Orders

8.3.1. A voting member may, during any session of a conference, move for the suspension of Standing Orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 100 words, to the Chair who shall read them to the Conference.

8.3.2. No motion to suspend Standing Orders may suspend any requirement of the Constitution, nor Standing Orders 2 and 3.

8.3.3. No motion to suspend Standing Orders to introduce a motion or amendment onto the Agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Conference Committee in accordance with the published timetable and any right of appeal has been exercised.

8.3.4. The Chair shall read the statement of purpose and if the suspension is allowable, ask Conference whether it wishes to debate the request to suspend Standing Orders. If the Conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the Conference decides to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Conference may reply. The Chair has the discretion to call other speakers and all speeches will be limited to two minutes.

8.3.5. A motion to suspend Standing Orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two thirds of voting members taking part in the vote. If the procedural motion is carried all Standing Orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

8.4. Separate Votes

8.4.1. A Separate Vote shall be taken on a part of a motion or amendment.

8.4.2. At the direction of the Conference Committee; or

8.4.3. At the discretion of the Chair, when requested to do so by a voting representative. Any voting representative may submit a request for a separate vote to the Chair of a debate. Such a request must be in writing and received before the commencement of the speeches in reply to the debate. The Chair has complete discretion in such a case on whether to take a separate vote.

8.5. These Standing Orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of Conference Representatives present and voting on a motion duly submitted under the terms of Standing Order 3. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from Conference to Conference.