



**LIBERAL  
DEMOCRATS**

# Autumn Conference

Bournemouth 19th – 23rd September 2009

## Conference Agenda

Clear Print Version

## A fresh start for Britain

Choosing a different, better future

**[www.libdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference)**

See the separate **Conference Directory** for further features, general conference information, exhibition, fringe and diary.

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## Documents for the blind and visually impaired

This clear print version of the Conference Agenda has been produced in line with RNIB guidance. Photographs and graphics have been omitted, and it is in black and white for ease of printing and copying.

A range of electronic versions of the Conference Agenda, Directory, Training Schedule and policy and consultation papers are available for download online. These include PDF files, plain text files for blind computer users and clear print versions (designed in line with RNIB guidelines). Download from:

**[www.libdems.org.uk/conference/conferencepapers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference/conferencepapers)**

If you are unable to access the Internet and would like any files emailed or posted to you, contact the Conference Office on 020 7227 1350 or at **[conferences@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferences@libdems.org.uk)**

For clear print copies of any papers whilst at conference (eg Conference Daily etc), ask at the **Information Desk**.

# Introduction

Welcome to the autumn 2009 Liberal Democrat conference!

There are three important differences about the way we're organising conference this year – following the changes conference agreed in 2008.

First, all the motions in this agenda are open to amendment. In our new, simpler system, the deadline for amendments, emergency motions, and questions to reports is 12 noon on Tuesday 8th September.

Second, we'll be able to tell you which of these items we select several days before conference, rather than on the day you arrive. The new **Conference Extra** will be emailed out to conference representatives, and put on the party website, on Tuesday 15th September. Amendments often provide the really controversial debates, so we wanted to make sure you received them in good time before conference.

Finally, you'll notice that we aren't publishing any times in this agenda. That's to allow us to adjust the timings for debates when we know what the amendments are. **Conference Extra** will contain the final session timings, and these will be repeated in **Conference Daily** each day.

We received plenty of really good motions by the first deadline; now we're looking forward to seeing plenty more material for debate submitted by 8th September.

I look forward to seeing you in Bournemouth.

**Duncan Brack**

Chair, Federal Conference Committee

(The published Agenda has a page of photographs of the members of the Federal Conference Committee which have been omitted from this version.)

# Welcome to autumn conference

## By Nick Clegg MP

Bournemouth 2009 will be one of our most important Conferences ever.

This is the last autumn Conference before a general election. With Labour finished and much of the country still unconvinced that Cameron's Conservatives offer anything better, this is an extremely exciting time for our party.

The ideas we agree in Bournemouth will shape the choices we offer voters at the next General Election. I'm proud that we are the only mainstream political party that has its policies decided by its members.

We're here to debate the things people really need – like tax cuts for people on low and middle incomes paid for by closing loopholes for the wealthy; like creating green jobs to help the economy recover and make our environment more sustainable; and like making sure every child gets the best chance in life.

It's our duty both to set our vision for a better, different future and to explain to the British people the tough choices a Liberal Democrat government would take. Labour won't be honest about their plans. The Conservatives simply refuse to spell out what they will do.

But the Liberal Democrats will. Over the last few years we've been ahead of the curve on every major event in British politics – not least of all on the collapse of the banks, with Vince taking the lead in exposing government failure.

From overhauling MPs' expenses, to giving all Gurkha soldiers the right to stay in the UK, to calling for ID cards to be scrapped, we've led the way on the issues that matter. Now is our chance to capitalise on that momentum and outline our vision for a fairer, greener and stronger Britain.

At the heart of that vision is the simple idea that it's time for something different. Ours is a voice for a different politics, where votes are fair, decisions are transparent, influence can't be bought and governments are held to account. And it's a voice for a different way of managing the economy, based on honesty about

## **Welcome to autumn conference continued**

what the country can afford, new regulation to stop the banks from ever gambling us into recession again, and green investment to create jobs.

Now that the established orders in both politics and economics are crashing down, we have a golden opportunity to win support for the fundamental change that our country needs.

You won't hear the other two parties making the same commitments. They can't, they're part of the status quo; not part of the solution but part of the problem.

It's because of our principles – fairness, freedom, trust in people, protecting the environment – that we can offer people the hope for a different future, even in the very tough economic times that are to come.

With Labour finished and the Conservatives still more spin than substance, the Liberal Democrats will continue to speak out for what's right, because no other party can.

See you all in Bournemouth!

### **Nick Clegg MP**

Leader of the Liberal Democrats

(In the published Agenda, this feature has a photograph of Nick Clegg meeting Gurkha veterans outside Parliament.)

The Twitter logo is displayed in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font.

During conference week, we will be tweeting live from the auditorium.

Follow us at [www.twitter.com/LibDemConf](http://www.twitter.com/LibDemConf)

for updates on who's speaking, when agenda items are about to start and how conference has voted.

# Members' training programme

## Free training for party members

An extensive range of training courses is taking place at Federal Conference.

These courses are open to all party members. A party membership card is required for access to training courses.

Full details of the training courses are listed in the separate Conference Training Guide or online at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference)

## New to conference?

Unsure what Federal Conference is all about?

Anyone unfamiliar with conference is invited to come to this session aimed at helping you to get the most out of your first – and subsequent! – visits.

Location: Old Harry's, Marriott Highcliff

Time: 21.45 – 22.30

Date: Saturday 19th September

## Conference Extra and Conference Daily

### New conference publications

Conference Extra will be published in the week before conference. It will contain the timings for conference sessions, amendments, emergency motions and questions to reports (it replaces the old Advance Notice). Conference Extra will be emailed to party members and put on the party website on Tuesday 15th September, and will be available at the Information Desk at conference.

Conference Daily will be published each day at conference. It will include last-minute changes to the order of business, movers, amendments, emergency motions etc. (it replaces the old Daily Announcements). Make sure you pick up your copy of Conference Daily from the Information Desk each morning – it will be vital to your understanding of the day's business.

For a clear print version, ask at the Information Desk.

# Auditorium information

Everything you need to know concerning the main conference sessions in the Auditorium at this year's autumn conference is listed below in alphabetical order. For general conference information, see the separate **Conference Directory**. If you have any questions onsite, please ask a steward or go to the **Information Desk** in the Windsor Foyer of the Bournemouth International Centre (BIC).

## Access

Access to all areas of the **BIC** is possible **only with a valid, visible conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard**. You will be asked to show your pass when you enter the **BIC** and you are required to wear the pass with the lanyard visible at all times within the building.

Please allow time for security check queues at the BIC during key times – particularly after lunch and ahead of popular events.

## Amendments to motions

**All motions** are open to amendment.

Amendments must be signed by 10 voting representatives, or submitted by local parties, State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisations or Federal Party Committees.

The deadline for amendments is **12.00 Tuesday 8th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to **motions@libdems.org.uk**, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

If posting, please use the standard form included with the Agenda mailing or a photocopy. Those submitting amendments are encouraged to include a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment.

You are encouraged to use our drafting advisory service; deadline for draft amendments is Tuesday 25th August, to **motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk**.

All amendments accepted for debate will be detailed in **Conference Extra** – see **page 9**.

# Auditorium information continued

## Appeals

Appeals against non-acceptance of motions should:

- a) be typed clearly on one side of an A4 sheet;
- b) give a contact name and telephone number;
- c) include a copy of the original motion to which they relate; and
- d) specify the justification for the appeal and provide new information of which the Conference Committee was unaware when it made its original decision.

Appeals must be signed by 10 voting representatives, or submitted by local parties, State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisations or Federal Party Committees.

The deadline for appeals is **12.00 Tuesday 8th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to [motions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motions@libdems.org.uk), or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

## Applicability of motions

The Federal Conference makes policy for the Federal Party. However, the English Party has 'passed up' responsibility for policy-making to the Federal Party in all areas and the Welsh Party for some areas. The applicability of each motion is shown in this Agenda.

## Auditorium

The main conference sessions will take place in the **Auditorium** in the **Windsor Hall** of the **Bournemouth International Centre (BIC)**. See the *Conference Directory* for a map of Bournemouth and plan of venue.

The **Speakers' Table** is located at the front of the Auditorium, to the left of the stage.

A clearly marked '**no walking zone**' has been created in front of the right of the stage to ensure that sightlines to the sign language interpreters are not obstructed. Please be aware of this when you are moving around the Auditorium.

**All areas of the BIC are non-smoking.**

## **Auditorium information continued**

**Please ensure that all mobile phones / pagers are switched off before entering the Auditorium.**

### **Conference Daily**

Conference Daily will be published each day at conference and will include last-minute changes to the order of business, movers, amendments, emergency motions etc. (it replaces the old Daily Announcements). Conference Daily will be available at the start of the morning session from the **Information Desk**.

Make sure you collect your copy of Conference Daily each morning, as the information it contains will always be vital to understanding the day's business.

You can place an advert in Conference Daily to give up-to-date information about your organisation or event to conference-goers. Contact Carol Caruana, [carol.caruana@libdems.org.uk](mailto:carol.caruana@libdems.org.uk), 020 7227 1323 or via the **Information Desk** at conference.

### **Conference Extra**

Conference Extra will give the timings of conference sessions and will contain amendments to motions, topical issues, emergency motions for debate or the ballot and questions to reports, plus last-minute changes to the order of business, movers etc. (it replaces the old Advance Notice). Conference Extra will be circulated by email to all party members and posted on the party website on Tuesday 15th September, and will be available for collection from the **Information Desk** at conference.

To place an advert in Conference Extra, contact Carol Caruana, [carol.caruana@libdems.org.uk](mailto:carol.caruana@libdems.org.uk), 020 7227 1323.

### **Consultative sessions**

Consultative sessions take place on Saturday 19th September in the **Marriott Highcliff** between 10.00 and 12.30. See **page 22** for details.

### **Disabled access and facilities**

The seating area in the **Auditorium** (in the Windsor Hall on the ground floor of the

## Auditorium information continued

BIC) will be mostly on the flat.

If you require **ramped access to the stage**, this can be found behind the drop curtain to the right of the stage. Please ask a steward if you have any problems locating it.

An infrared **hearing system** is in operation throughout the Windsor Hall. To access the service you need to obtain additional equipment from the venue, available free of charge from the security office of the BIC, at the top of the escalators of the Windsor Foyer. Hearing aids need to be switched to the T position to receive the signal.

**Sign language** interpretation will be provided during all sessions held in the Auditorium. A number of seats are reserved in front of the right of the stage for representatives using this service.

For those representatives who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual impairment, a small number of seats are reserved at the front of the Auditorium.

## Emergency motions

The slots at **F30** and **F41** have been reserved for emergency motions or topical issues (see also **topical issues** on **page 14**).

Emergency motion debates are debates with a vote, which make formal party policy like any other policy motion, but which refer to a development since the **1st July deadline for motions**. Emergency motions must be signed by 10 voting representatives, or submitted by local parties, State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisations or Federal Party Committees.

The deadline for emergency motions is **12.00 on Tuesday 8th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to **[motions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motions@libdems.org.uk)**, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. A standard form is included in the Agenda mailing; if posting, please use this or a photocopy.

You are encouraged to use our drafting advisory service; deadline for draft amendments is Tuesday 25th August, to **[motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk)**.

## **Auditorium information continued**

Emergency motions may be the subject of priority ballots among voting representatives. Ballot papers and the ballot box will be available at the **Speakers' Table** in the Auditorium. The poll will be held, if necessary, **between 09.00 and 13.00 on Sunday 20 September**. If there is a simple choice between two motions, a card vote will be held in the **Auditorium** at **12.20 on Sunday 20 September**.

The emergency motions accepted for debate or the ballot will be detailed in **Conference Extra**.

### **Flash photography**

Representatives vulnerable to epilepsy should note that flash photography is frequently used in the conference Auditorium.

### **Interventions**

There will be interventions during debates **F4, F11, F18, F26, F33, F36** and **F45**. This procedure offers voting or non-voting representatives the opportunity to make concise (one-minute) speeches from the floor during the debate on the motion. Eligibility to make an intervention is the same as for making a speech (see **speaking at conference on page 13**).

There are two microphones in the body of the Auditorium facing the stage. Those wishing to speak during interventions should sit in the designated seats and complete the form handed to them by the steward overseeing those seats. Three lights will be visible on either side of the stage: the green light comes on at the start of the intervention; the amber light will show after 40 seconds; the red light will come on at the end of one minute and the intervention must stop immediately.

### **Policy discussions**

Policy discussions, **F5** and **F16**, give conference representatives the chance to hear and participate in a panel discussion. Following presentations from the panel, representatives may ask brief questions or make concise comments from the floor. Those wishing to do so should sit in the designated seats by the two microphones in the body of the Auditorium. Eligibility is the same as for making a speech (see **speaking at conference on page 13**).

# Auditorium information continued

## Question and answer sessions

This year's conference features three Q&A sessions, with the party leader (**F14**), on crime policy (**F22**) and on the economy (**F37**). Any voting or non-voting representative may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) to any of these sessions and, if selected by the chair of the session, will be asked to put the question from one of the **intervention mikes** in the Auditorium.

Questions may be submitted using a form which should be collected from and returned to the **Speakers' Table** in the Auditorium up until **shortly before each session** (see Agenda for times). Questions may also be emailed to **questions@libdems.org.uk** until **17.00 on Thursday 17th September**.

## Questions to reports

Any elected representative can submit a question to any of the reports of the Federal Committees and the Parliamentary Parties, included in the separate reports document.

The deadline for receipt of questions is **12.00 Tuesday 8th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to **questions@libdems.org.uk**, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. If posting, please use the standard form included in the Agenda mailing or a photocopy. Questions to reports will be detailed in **Conference Extra** – see **page 9**.

Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the **Speakers' Table** in the Auditorium on speaker's cards up until **one hour before the start of the session**.

## Separate votes

Requests for separate votes on parts of motions may be submitted in writing by any voting representative to the **Speakers' Table** in the Auditorium. Requests for separate votes must be submitted by the commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled, or, for debates scheduled for the first day of conference, by **12.00 Tuesday 8th September** to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to **motions@libdems.org.uk**, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

# Auditorium information continued

## Speaking at conference

Only three categories of people are entitled to speak in a debate at conference:

- Voting representatives (or substitutes), elected by their local parties or appointed ex-officio (e.g. MPs, PPCs, council group leaders, etc.), who have paid their full registration fee for the conference.
- Non-voting representatives who have paid their full registration fee for the conference (this does not include day visitors).
- Persons who have been given permission to speak by the Federal Conference Committee.

**No other person may be called to speak in debates, including during interventions.**

Anyone who is entitled and wishes to speak must complete a speaker's card to speak in the debate.

Speakers' cards can be obtained from the **steward overseeing the block of seats in the Auditorium** in which you are sitting, from the **Information Desk** from 13.00 on Saturday and from the **foyer of the Marriott Highcliff Hotel** from Friday evening.

**You must complete all sections of the speaker's card legibly.** Hand the completed card to a **steward in the Auditorium** before the beginning of the morning or afternoon in which the debate occurs. If this is not possible, hand it in well in advance of the debate.

See **page 16** for tips on filling in your speaker's card.

**Lengths of speeches** for each debate are shown in this Agenda after each motion.

The **speaker's rostrum** in the Auditorium has three lights. 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 speech. The red light is switched on when all the time is used up, and speeches must stop immediately. Duplicate lights will be visible to the audience on either side of the stage.

See also **interventions** on **page 11**.

# Auditorium information continued

## Topical issues

The slots at **F30** and **F41** have been reserved for topical issues or emergency motions (see also **emergency motions** on **page 10**).

Topical issue discussions, unlike other debates at conference, will not make party policy, but are intended to allow representatives and spokespeople an opportunity to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference, but where it might be premature to move to formal policy-making.

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any voting representative, and should be emailed to **motions@libdems.org.uk** by **12.00 on Tuesday 8th September**. Emails should include full contact details of the submitter and may include up to 100 words explanatory background.

The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should not include an expression of opinion. For example, 'The Chaos on the Railways' would be acceptable, 'The Chaos on the Railways can be solved by Renationalisation' would not.

The topical issue to be discussed is chosen by officers of the Federal Conference Committee and Federal Policy Committee and will be detailed in **Conference Extra** – see **page 9**.

The person submitting an issue that has been chosen will be expected to speak for five minutes to introduce the discussion. The relevant Parliamentary spokesperson will be invited to respond. At the end of the debate, a member of the Federal Policy Committee will sum up the main points and suggest any further actions.

## Twitter

During conference week, we will be tweeting live from the auditorium. For updates on who's speaking, when agenda items are about to start and how conference has voted, follow us at **www.twitter.com/LibDemConf**.

## Voting status and voting / non-voting photo passes

You will only be able to register as a voting representative if the Party's Membership Department:

## Auditorium information continued

- 1 has already received written notification from the Returning Officer of your local party that you have been elected as a voting representative\*; or
- 2 has already received written notification from the Returning Officer of your local party that you are a substitute elected by your local party Executive after a voting representative has informed them that s/he is unable to attend\*; or
- 3 receives at the **Membership Desk** at conference (in the Windsor Lobby on the ground floor of the BIC) written notification from the Returning Officer of your local party that you have been elected as a voting representative or as a substitute.

\* For a voting photo pass to be sent out before conference this information must have been received **by 7th August 2009**. Otherwise you will be sent a non-voting photo pass.

If you have received a non-voting photo pass and believe you are a voting representative, you need to get an officer of your local party to inform Membership Services (see below) in writing of the elected representatives of your local party. Your voting status cannot be changed over the phone.

If you have received a non-voting photo pass but are attending conference as a substitute voting representative, you need to get an officer of your local party to write to Membership Services with the name, address and membership number of the representative you are substituting for, as well as your own full details, **before 12.00 on Friday 11th September**, and bring a copy of this letter to the **Membership Desk** at conference.

You may then collect the appropriate pass from the **Membership Desk** in the Windsor Lobby on the ground floor of the BIC.

Write to: Membership Services, 4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3NB or email **membership@libdems.org.uk**.

## Website

For conference details online, please see **[www.libdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference)**.

# Speaking in conference debates

Debates are the heart of federal conference: they're where the party sets its policy and decides its future direction. Unlike in the other parties, the Liberal Democrat conference is sovereign, and what it decides really matters.

Any party member can speak in debates: all you need is to be registered as either a voting or a non-voting representative. Then fill in and submit a speaker's card and wait to see if you're called in the debate.

Speaker's cards are available from the Speaker's Table and from the stewards in the Auditorium. They can also be collected from the Information Desk in the BIC or the foyer of the Marriott Highcliff Hotel.

There are three key points to remember to maximise your chances of being called:

## 1 Submit your card well in advance

If you hand your card in late, in a popular debate you're virtually guaranteeing you won't be called. The chair and aide team for the debate always meet well in advance to plan the debate – sometimes the previous day.

## 2 Fill in your card completely

The second major mistake potential speakers make is not to fill in their card completely. As well as the information on the front of the card (name, local party, for or against the motion, etc.), there are two sections on the back, for relevant background (professional or consumer experience, party background, etc.) and for a brief outline of what your speech is going to be about.

These sections are needed for the chair and aide to balance the debate – to make sure that people with relevant experience are called (not necessarily to the exclusion of others, but professional or user backgrounds are always valuable), and to make sure that they don't call a whole string of people who'll make the same point.

## 3 Make sure it's readable!

Don't take this as an invitation to fill every square centimetre of the card; and don't write illegibly, or in very small letters, or in green ink ... the easier you make it for the chair and aide to read your card the more likely you will be to be called.

# The order of debate at conference

**Policy and business motions:** generally, conference will consider a motion in the following way:

- 1 Proposer of the motion speaks
- 2 Proposers of any amendments speak in turn
- 3 Speakers will then be called on all sides of the debate with the Chair seeking to ensure balance
- 4 Interventions will be taken (if listed on the agenda)
- 5 Summators of the amendments will speak in turn
- 6 The Summator of the motion will speak
- 7 The Chair will take votes on the amendments and separate votes (if any) in turn – for and against
- 8 A vote will be taken on the motion as a whole

**Voting:** decisions on the motion, on amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting.

**Separate vote:** any voting representative can submit a request for a separate vote – for procedure and deadlines see page 8. When a separate vote is taken, the Chair shall ask conference to vote on whether to delete or retain the specified words or section.

**Counted vote:** the Chair of the session may decide that a vote is so close that it needs to be counted. Alternatively, if any voting representative wants a counted vote, they may request one from the floor; if fifty other voting representatives stand and show their voting cards in support, a count will be taken.

## **The order of debate at conference** continued

**Procedural motions** concern the procedure by which conference operates.

They are:

- Reference Back (to stop debate and send the motion to a specified body for more work);
- Next Business (to stop debate and move to the next item of business on the agenda);
- Suspension of Standing Orders (to lift one or more of the rules governing the operation of conference).

They may be submitted by voting representatives in writing at the Speaker's Table together with a statement of reasons of 75 words or less.

They generally work in the following way (there are some exceptions – see Standing Orders on page 118 for specific guidance):

- 1 The Chair reads out the statement in support of the motion, submitted in advance
- 2 A vote will be taken on whether there will be a mini-debate on the motion
- 3 The mover of the motion may speak
- 4 Someone to oppose the motion may speak (the Standing Orders generally set out who that is)
- 5 Other speaker may be taken (this is not common)
- 6 Conference votes on the motion

**Voting:** decisions on procedural motions are made by simple majority of those voting, except for the suspension of standing orders, which requires the support of two-thirds of those voting.

# Agenda index

The sessions listed will take place in the morning or afternoon and in the order shown. The precise times will be published in Conference Extra and in Conference Daily – see page 6.

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**Wednesday 23rd morning 09.00 – 12.40**

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F42	Reports: Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats	107
F43	Policy Motion: The Policing of Protest	108
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F46	Party Awards	117
F47	Speech: Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Nick Clegg MP	117

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# Saturday 19th morning

Consultative sessions on Saturday morning will start at 10.00 and end at 12.30.

## Consultative Sessions

### **Disability Issues: An Enabling Society?**

Dorchester 1	Chair:	Paul Rowen MP
Marriott Highcliff	Rapporteur:	Cllr John Commons

### **Localism**

Dorchester 2	Chair:	Lord Wallace of Saltaire
Marriott Highcliff	Rapporteur:	Navprit Rai

### **Quality of Life**

Bryanston Suite	Chair:	Jeremy Hargreaves
Marriott Highcliff	Rapporteur:	Debbie Enever

Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than the full-scale conference debates for conference representatives and other party members to participate in the party's policy- and decision-making process. Each session examines a particular topic and hears contributions from party members and in some cases outside speakers.

The sessions will be organised by the relevant Policy Working Group or other party body. Where appropriate, the conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final policy papers. Consultative papers for the sessions are included with the Agenda mailing.

# Saturday 19th afternoon

Saturday afternoon sessions will start at 14.20 and end at 17.20. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in *Conference Extra* and *Conference Daily* – see page 9.

## Formal Opening of Federal Conference

Chair: Baroness Scott of Needham Market (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F1 Speech of Welcome from Annette Brooke, MP for Dorset Mid and Poole North**

## Party Business

### **F2 Report of the Federal Conference Committee**

Mover: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 8th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 12. Questions selected will be detailed in *Conference Extra*. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 13.20 on Saturday 19th September.

# Saturday 19th afternoon continued

## **F3 Report of the Federal Policy Committee**

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

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 8th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 12. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 13.20 on Saturday 19th September.

## Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Sarah Boad

Aide: Dee Doocey AM

## **F4 Real Women (Women Policy Paper)**

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Jo Swinson MP (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

Summation: Lynne Featherstone MP (Shadow Cabinet Equality Spokesperson)

- 1 Conference welcomes the equality gains women have made over the last few decades but regrets
- 2 that the rate of change is slowing and actually going into reverse in some areas; for example, the
- 3 gender pay gap widened last year.

## Saturday 19th afternoon continued

4 Conference regrets that women still do a disproportionate amount of the care-giving and unpaid work  
5 in society and that they are increasingly encouraged to 'live up to' unrealistic ideals of beauty and  
6 imagery, which often trivialises their position within society.

7 Conference believes that all people should have equal opportunities in life and not be held back  
8 because of the circumstances of their birth, including their gender. Conference is committed to  
9 addressing the particular needs of women through national policy and believes that this policy should  
10 be guided by the following principles:

11 A. Expanding opportunities so that:

- 12 i) Women have a real choice about how to balance caring responsibilities and work.
- 13 ii) Men can play a fuller role in the lives of their children.
- 14 iii) Women (and men) can achieve a better work-life balance.

15 B. Empowering women to:

- 16 i) Improve their financial situation.
- 17 ii) Make them feel safer.
- 18 iii) Increase their access to information.
- 19 iv) Challenge trends which overly sexualise and trivialise the position of women.

## Saturday 19th afternoon continued

20 C. Challenging conformity by:

21 i) Encouraging diversity in the media and popular culture.

22 ii) Allowing young girls the space to develop their own ideals.

23 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 91, Real Women, as a statement of the party's key  
24 policies for eradicating gender inequalities and creating a better society. Conference particularly  
25 welcomes:

26 1. Plans to create a safer society and help the victims of crime by:

27 a) Providing up to 10 new Sexual Assault Referral Centres and 15 new Rape Crisis  
28 Centres.

29 b) Ending the 'no recourse to public funds' requirement which currently applies to those with  
30 uncertain immigration status.

31 c) Introducing a well-publicised guard's carriage on late-night trains.

32 d) Developing a stopping-on-request service for buses late at night.

33 e) Providing a freephone helpline for use by victims of trafficking and for clients who suspect  
34 that women have been trafficked.

35 2. Proposals to create a better work-life balance and improve childcare by:

36 a) Extending the right to request flexible working to all employees.

## Saturday 19th afternoon continued

- 37            b)    Reaffirming the proposals for universal childcare and enhanced parental leave in policy  
38                            paper 88, The Best Start for Children, The Best Deal for Families.
- 39    3.    Proposals to challenge the narrow and overly sexualised aesthetic presented in the media and  
40            popular culture by:
- 41            a)    Requiring OFCOM and the ASA to mainstream gender equality into their regulation of the  
42                            media.
- 43            b)    Requiring all advertisements to declare the extent to which digital retouching technology  
44                            has been used to create overly perfected and unrealistic images of women (and men).
- 45    4.    Proposals to allow young girls (and boys) the space to challenge conformity and to decrease  
46            their chances of developing eating disorders by:
- 47            a)    Banning the use of digital retouching technology in advertisements aimed at under 16s,  
48                            which creates overly perfected and unrealistic images of women (and men); we would  
49                            work with industry professionals to ensure that legislation was appropriately worded to  
50                            reflect these aims.
- 51            b)    Providing age-appropriate lessons on body-image and media literacy as part of Personal,  
52                            Social and Health Education (PSHE) in schools.

## Saturday 19th afternoon continued

- 53 5. Proposals to improve the physical and mental health of women by:
- 54 a) Producing patient-recorded outcome measures for the cosmetic surgery industry.
- 55 b) Improving school and community sports facilities to make them cleaner, safer and more
- 56 female-friendly.
- 57 c) Recruiting and training more health visitors and midwives.
- 58 6. Plans to tackle discrimination at work and in pay by:
- 59 a) Requiring companies to publish data on the pay scales within their organisations and to
- 60 conduct pay audits.
- 61 b) Allowing women (and men) to bring representative actions and allowing women from
- 62 ethnic minorities who have faced 'double discrimination' to bring a case on more than
- 63 one ground.
- 64 c) Allowing the use of hypothetical comparators.
- 65 d) Introducing a 'name blanking' policy so that job applicants apply with National Insurance
- 66 numbers.
- 67 e) Scrapping mandatory retirement ages.

Applicability: Federal, except 1 (lines 26–34), 4 b) (lines 51–52), 5 (lines 53–57) and childcare aspects of 2 (lines 35–38), which are England only.

## Saturday 19th afternoon continued

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 11 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, and for requests for separate votes, is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7 and 'separate votes' on page 12. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

### Policy Discussion

Chair: Simon Hughes MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change)

Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F5 Campaigning on the Environment**

How can we maintain public interest in the environment during an economic downturn?  
What are the best ways to get our environmental messages across?

## Saturday 19th afternoon continued

This session offers a chance to conference representatives to hear and participate in a panel discussion on these and other relevant questions.

Panellists will include:

- Fiona Hall MEP (Leader, Liberal Democrat Group, European Parliament)
- John Sauven (Executive Director, Greenpeace UK)
- Ben Page (Chief Executive, Ipsos Mori)

Presentations by the panellists will be followed by a chance for conference representatives to ask brief questions or make concise comments from the floor. See 'policy discussions' on page 11.

### The Conference Rally

## Liberal Democrats: Ready to Win

Sarah Teather MP will comperere the Rally at the last Autumn Conference before the General Election.

Nick Clegg MP will be joined by Charles Kennedy MP, TV personality and campaigner Floella Benjamin, and PPC for Birmingham Perry Barr Karen Hamilton, to set out why only the Liberal Democrats can deliver a different, better Britain.

### Saturday 19th September

5.30 – 6.15pm, Welcome drinks, Solent Hall, BIC kindly hosted by the Mayor of Bournemouth

6.30 – 7.30pm, The Rally, Windsor Hall, BIC

# Sunday 20th morning

Sunday morning sessions will start at 09.00 and end at 12.40. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in *Conference Extra* and *Conference Daily* – see page 9.

## Party Business

Chair: Sal Brinton

Aide: Arnie Gibbons

### **F6 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance**

Mover: Ros Gordon (Chair of the Campaign for Gender Balance)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 8th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See ‘questions to reports’ on page 12. Questions selected will be detailed in *Conference Extra*. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers’ Table on speaker’s cards up until 17.20 on Saturday 19th September.

### **F7 Report of the Diversity and Equality Group**

Mover: Dr Vincent Cable MP (Chair of the Diversity and Equality Group)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 8th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See ‘questions to reports’ on page 12. Questions selected will be

# Sunday 20th morning continued

detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 17.20 on Saturday 19th September.

## Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Gareth Epps

Aide: Ian Walton

### **F8 The Future of Devolution**

Scottish Liberal Democrats and Welsh Liberal Democrats

Mover: Tavish Scott MSP (Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats)

Summation: Kirsty Williams AM (Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats)

- 1 Conference believes that Scotland and Wales are distinct nations with distinct identities and long-
- 2 standing political, cultural and social identities.
  
- 3 Conference celebrates ten years of devolution in Scotland and Wales and congratulates those,
- 4 not least in the Liberal Democrats, who worked for generations to bring about change through the
- 5 Scotland Act and the Government of Wales Act.
  
- 6 Conference recognises that opposition to devolution is declining and smaller and smaller
- 7 percentages of people now wish to recentralise power within the UK, and that there now exists an

## Sunday 20th morning continued

8 appetite for the devolution of further powers and responsibilities to Scotland and Wales.

9 Conference notes:

10 i) The report of the Calman Commission on Scottish Devolution which recommends significant  
11 new powers and responsibilities for the Scottish Parliament and more formal, strengthened  
12 links between the governments and parliaments at Holyrood and Westminster.

13 ii) That the debates started by the All-Wales Convention and the Independent Commission  
14 of Funding and Finance for Wales are leaning towards the acquisition of a greater range of  
15 powers for the National Assembly for Wales in order to serve better the people of Wales.

16 Conference believes that:

17 A. Devolution is about using powers for a purpose to build a more liberal society, where local  
18 communities and individual citizens are empowered and where government is equipped to  
19 act to widen the opportunities and life chances available to every individual.

20 B. The experience of the last ten years has shown that Whitehall does not always know best and  
21 that people are better served by different governments working closer to them.

22 C. The devolution of powers to Scotland and Wales has brought benefits to public services and  
23 politics across the whole of the UK, including:

## Sunday 20th morning continued

- 24 i) The campaign to retain the principle of free higher education having been strengthened  
25 as the result of changes supported by the Liberal Democrats in Scotland and Wales.  
26 ii) The demand for decent, affordable personal care for the elderly having found a new voice  
27 because of the work of the Scottish Parliament.  
28 iii) The legal restriction on smoking in public places in England having been made more  
29 comprehensive because of the lead set by the legislation passed by the Scottish  
30 Parliament.  
31 iv) The implementation of the Foundation Phase in primary education in Wales having led  
32 the debate on how education for younger children should be delivered.

33 D. On matters such as green energy targets, improvements to public transport, community  
34 regeneration and policies to protect families from home repossession, the people of every  
35 part of the United Kingdom have benefited from stronger debate about the policy choices  
36 available to their governments.

37 Conference calls for:

- 38 1. All parties in the UK Parliament, the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for  
39 Wales to endorse the work and recommendations of the Calman Commission on Scottish  
40 Devolution.
- 41 2. All parties to commit to campaigning for the devolution of greater legislative powers to the  
42 National Assembly for Wales and for powers over other areas, such as justice, prisons and

## Sunday 20th morning continued

- 43           policing and broadcasting, to be devolved to the Assembly.
- 44       3.    The UK Parliament, the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales to embrace a  
45           new constitutional arrangement which is flexible and adaptable enough to meet the changing  
46           needs of the United Kingdom but which will stand the test of time in the twenty-first century,  
47           including:
- 48           a)    Immediate reform to parliamentary procedures to reflect the need for closer working and  
49                greater collaboration between parliaments.
- 50           b)    The introduction of a shared system of responsibility and control with clear rules to reflect  
51                a new relationship between the UK and devolved governments based on mutual respect  
52                and co-operation.
- 53           c)    The UK Parliament to use the Queen's Speech to guarantee parliamentary time for  
54                legislation to enact the necessary changes to the Scotland Act and Government of Wales  
55                Act to widen the economic, environmental and social choices available to the people of  
56                Scotland and Wales while adding to the effective governance of the whole of the United  
57                Kingdom.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

## Sunday 20th morning continued

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.20, Saturday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

### Presentation

Chair: Susan Gaszczak  
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

#### **F9 Presentation by the Liberal Democrat Group on Kingston-upon-Thames Borough Council**

The presentation will be given by leading councillors including Cllr Derek Osbourne (Council Leader)

### Speech

Chair: Cec Tallack  
Aide: Cllr Ruth Polling

#### **F10 Speech by Norman Lamb MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Health**

# Sunday 20th morning continued

## Policy Motion

Chair: Baroness Barker

Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

### **F11 Thriving in a Globalised World – A Strategy for Britain (Domestic Responses to Globalisation Policy Paper)**

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Lord Teverson (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

Summation: David Hall-Matthews

- 1 Conference recognises that globalisation has brought enormous benefits to the UK, but also
- 2 that it brings challenges. Conference, however, rejects any alleged solutions to the challenges of
- 3 globalisation based on the UK simply turning inward upon itself.
  
- 4 Conference believes that the Liberal Democrat response to the impact of globalisation on the UK
- 5 should focus on:
  - 6 i) The development of a competitive, flexible and decentralised economy.
  - 7 ii) Tackling the economic and social issues which may arise from international movements of
  - 8 labour.
  - 9 iii) Meeting these challenges in a way which promotes sustainable production and consumption.

## Sunday 20th morning continued

10 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 92, Thriving in a Globalised World – A Strategy for  
11 Britain. In particular, conference welcomes its proposals to:

12 1. Create a better skilled and more flexible workforce by:

13 a) Fully funding the off-the-job training costs of apprenticeships.

14 b) Developing a national application system for apprenticeships, similar to UCAS.

15 c) Covering the full fee costs for first level 3 qualifications (e.g. A-levels, advanced  
16 apprenticeships and NVQ Level 3) for those over age 25.

17 d) Abolishing tuition fees for all part-time and full-time HE courses.

18 2. Promote research, development and innovation (RDI) by:

19 a) Working more closely with the private sector in prioritising and exploiting RDI.

20 b) Creating a strategic research capacity fund for university RDI.

21 3. Spread economic opportunities across the UK by:

22 a) Devolving power to local authorities so that they can raise and spend taxes on local  
23 priorities.

24 b) Encouraging local authorities to work with the Debt Management Office to issue bonds  
25 and raise money for local investments.

26 c) Decentralising central government by moving departments out of London.

## Sunday 20th morning continued

- 27 4. Rebuild a competitive, well-regulated financial services sector which supports the wider  
28 economy by:
- 29 a) Bringing about a restoration of a local banking infrastructure, with a clear separation  
30 between 'utility' style high-street banking and higher-risk investment banking.
- 31 b) Ensuring that hedge funds are run responsibly and if they cannot stick to the industry  
32 scheme of best practice then to introduce statutory regulation.
- 33 c) Exposing any potential high-risk activity by introducing a disclosure regime whereby all  
34 positions of economic interest above a specific threshold would be disclosed to the  
35 market.
- 36 d) Refining the bank licensing system within the stricter prudential regulatory regime,  
37 strengthening conflicts of interest rules, and bringing the banking sector within the purview  
38 of competition law in a way similar to that of other sector-specific regulators in the UK.
- 39 e) Committing the business tax regime to consistency rather than constant changes and  
40 identifying areas for greater international cooperation on tax policy, for example by  
41 treating accounting conventions consistently.
- 42 5. Ensure that migration benefits all geographical areas and sections of the community by:
- 43 a) Introducing a regional points-based work permit system which awards more points to  
44 immigrants willing to move to areas where there are the will and the resources to welcome  
45 them, as well as for possessing skills which the UK economy as a whole needs.
- 46 b) Launching an urgent review into how population is measured at the local level so that

## Sunday 20th morning continued

- 47 sudden changes in local population can be more swiftly reflected in the allocation of  
48 central resources to local authorities.
- 49 c) Requiring government departments to collect data on the regional and sector-specific  
50 effects of migration on employment and wage levels.
- 51 d) Strengthening employment law in relation to agency and temporary workers.
- 52 6. Promote sustainable production, consumption and trade by:
- 53 a) Replacing the concept of ‘air miles’ and ‘food miles’ with an agreed international labelling  
54 system which measures ‘environmental impact’ and covers key indicators such as  
55 energy efficiency and biodiversity.
- 56 b) Introducing national carbon consumption targets and giving these the same level of  
57 prominence as carbon emissions targets.
- 58 c) Analysing product supply chains in order to identify the opportunities for reducing resource  
59 use, and providing support for industry initiatives to reduce resource use and pollution.

Applicability: Federal, except 1 a)–c) (lines 13–16) and local government aspects of 3 (lines 21–26) which are England only, and 1 d) (line 17) which is England and Wales.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see ‘speaking at conference’ on page 13.

## Sunday 20th morning continued

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 11 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.20, Saturday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

### Speech

Chair: Ros Gordon

Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

#### **F12 Speech by Edward Davey MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Foreign Secretary**

# Sunday 20th afternoon

Sunday afternoon sessions will start at 14.20 and end at 18.00. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in Conference Extra and Conference Daily – see page 9.

## Speech

Chair: Jenni Lang  
Aide: Tessa Munt

### **F13 Speech by Tavish Scott MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats**

## Question and Answer Session

Chair: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)  
Aide: Justine McGuinness (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F14 Question and Answer Session with Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats**

A chance for conference representatives to put questions, on any topic, to the leader of the Liberal Democrats in a 'Town Hall' style event. Representatives may submit questions to the Speakers' Table up until 12.40 on Sunday 20th September – see 'question and answer sessions' on page 12. In addition, questions may be emailed to [ask@nickclegg.com](mailto:ask@nickclegg.com), sent via Twitter to [@nick\\_clegg](https://twitter.com/nick_clegg), or posted on Nick's Facebook site at [Facebook.com/nickclegg](https://www.facebook.com/nickclegg), up until 12.40 on Sunday 20th September.

# Sunday 20th afternoon continued

## Policy Motion

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Dee Doocey AM

### **F15 Standing Up for Civil Liberties**

Ten conference representatives

Mover: David Howarth MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Justice)

Summation: Chris Huhne MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary)

1 Conference notes that:

2 A. The last twenty years has seen the steady erosion of civil liberties in Britain.

3 B. A generation of children are growing up as strangers to the treasured freedoms on which  
4 Britain once prided itself.

5 C. The Government is spending billions of pounds collecting more and more of people's personal  
6 data.

7 Conference notes with concern that:

8 i) Britain has the largest DNA database in the world, including data on a million innocent people.

9 ii) There is one CCTV camera for every fourteen people in Britain.

## Sunday 20th afternoon continued

- 10     iii)    Surveillance powers designed to fight serious crime and terrorism have been used over 10,000
- 11            times by councils in the last five years.
- 12     iv)    The Labour Government has created over 3,600 new criminal offences.
- 13     v)    Privacy International ranks Britain alongside Russia, China, Malaysia and Singapore as the only
- 14            countries in the world which are 'endemic surveillance societies'.
- 15     vi)    Britain has the longest period of detention without charge of all comparable common law
- 16            countries.
- 17     vii)   Recent events, including the G20 protests and the pre-emptive arrest of 114 environmental
- 18            activists in Nottingham, have indicated an increasingly repressive approach to policing
- 19            protest.
- 20     viii)   Asylum seekers, gypsies, prisoners, terror suspects and other groups have suffered a
- 21            sustained attack on their human rights.

22    Conference believes that:

- 23     a)    Successive authoritarian Labour and Conservative Governments have passed laws which
- 24            have turned the UK into a surveillance state.
- 25     b)    Liberty should not be sacrificed in the name of security.
- 26     c)    The state must not be allowed to trample over an individual's right to privacy, liberty, free
- 27            expression and association.
- 28     d)    The commitment of political parties to civil liberties and human rights is measured by whether
- 29            they are prepared to protect them in the case of unpopular and marginalised groups and not
- 30            just for 'free-born Englishmen'.

## Sunday 20th afternoon continued

31 e) A Freedom Bill should be created to restore and protect fundamental liberties.

32 Conference therefore calls for:

- 33 1. The maximum period of pre-charge detention to be reduced back to 14 days.
- 34 2. The flawed control orders regime to be abolished.
- 35 3. The unfair extradition treaty with the United States to be renegotiated.
- 36 4. ID cards to be scrapped, including for foreign nationals.
- 37 5. Surveillance powers to be restricted for use only for the investigation of serious crimes and to  
38 require a warrant from a magistrate.
- 39 6. All innocent people, except those acquitted of a serious violent or sexual offence, to be  
40 removed from the DNA database immediately.
- 41 7. The regulation of CCTV, following a Royal Commission.
- 42 8. The immediate restoration of the right to protest in Parliament Square.
- 43 9. The restoration of the right to a public assembly of more than two people.
- 44 10. No restrictions in the right to trial by jury for serious offences.
- 45 11. The strengthening of freedom of information, with fewer exemptions and more power for the  
46 Information Commissioner.
- 47 12. The ContactPoint database of all children to be scrapped.
- 48 13. The repeal of the offences of aggravated trespass and trespass on designated sites.
- 49 14. The Repeal of Section 76 of the Terrorism Act, under which it may be an offence to photograph  
50 a police officer.
- 51 15. The repeal of pre-charge bail conditions, which allow the police to impose draconian restrictions

## Sunday 20th afternoon continued

52 on people that have not been charged with any crime.

53 16. The removal of 'offensive' as an ingredient of a crime under Section 5 of the Public Order Act.

Applicability: Federal, except 6 (lines 39–40) and 11 (lines 45–46), which are England and Wales, and 12 (line 47) which is England only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 11 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.20, Saturday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

# Sunday 20th afternoon continued

## Policy Discussion

Chair: David Heath MP (Chair, Privacy Commission)

Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F16 Privacy Commission**

Why is information kept? How is it kept? How is it used? Should there be a right to privacy?

This session offers a chance to conference representatives to hear and participate in a panel discussion on these and other relevant questions.

Panellists will include Shami Chakrabarti (Director, Liberty).

Presentations by the panellists will be followed by a chance for conference representatives to ask brief questions or make concise comments from the floor. See 'policy discussions' on page 11.

# Sunday 20th afternoon continued

## Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Ruth Polling

Aide: Erlend Watson

### **F17 Tidal Solution: The Way Forward**

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Steve Webb MP

Summation: Michael German AM

- 1 Conference accepts the urgent need to tackle climate change and regrets the government's
- 2 lamentable progress towards its own modest target of 15% of energy consumption to come from
- 3 renewable sources by 2020.
  
- 4 Conference recognises the potential to generate power from the tidal range of the Severn Estuary.
- 5 Conference notes that the debate about how best to harness the power of the Severn has been
- 6 running for decades.
  
- 7 Conference reaffirms its commitment to 30% of the UK's electricity coming from clean, non-carbon-
- 8 emitting sources by 2020, rising to 100% by 2050, and commits to generating a significant part of
- 9 that from tidal energy.

## Sunday 20th afternoon continued

- 10 Conference notes the report by the Liberal Democrat Severn Tidal Group A Tidal Solution – the Way  
11 Forward.
- 12 Conference calls upon the Government to provide significant enabling funds for emerging  
13 technologies.
- 14 Conference believes the only sustainable way forward for generating electricity in an environmentally  
15 friendly way is to put Wales and the South West of England to the very front of the world in tidal  
16 energy technology and provide skills and expertise that can be sold around the world.
- 17 Consequently, Conference endorses the following range of proposals to generate energy from the  
18 Severn Estuary:
- 19 1. Research into tidal range solutions should be properly funded, and treated with urgency, by  
20 providing significant enabling funds for emerging technologies through the Government's already  
21 established processes and by developing a range of innovative solutions such as fences, reefs,  
22 and tidal impounds or lagoons.
  - 23 2. In particular, conference notes the potential of the Tidal Reef solution proposed for Minehead  
24 to Aberthaw and believes that full-scale research and development of this scheme should see  
25 immediate progress.
  - 26 3. A tidal impound should be built in the Bristol Channel/Severn Estuary as a pilot project which

## Sunday 20th afternoon continued

27 could provide electricity generation on demand.

28 4. A barrage may be part of the mix of tidal solutions available in the Bristol Channel and the Severn  
29 Estuary – while the proposal for a large barrage from Brean to Lavernock is not an appropriate  
30 solution given the huge environmental cost, the intermittency of its electricity production, and the  
31 expected completion date of around 2030, we believe that the ‘Shoots’ Barrage, following the  
32 line of the second Severn crossing, offers the best choice, balancing environmental, economic  
33 and speed of construction issues.

34 Conference notes that taken together, the Liberal Democrat proposals laid out in the report A Tidal  
35 Solution – the Way Forward will provide more electricity from renewable sources than a Brean to  
36 Lavernock Barrage.

Applicability: England and Wales.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see ‘speaking at conference’ on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See ‘amendments’ on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.20, Saturday 19th September, see ‘separate votes’ on page 12.

# Monday 21st morning

Monday morning sessions will start at 09.00 and end at 12.40. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in Conference Extra and Conference Daily – see page 9.

## Policy Motion

Chair: Dee Doocey AM

Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

## **F18 Parliamentary Expenses**

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Paul Burstow MP (Chief Whip, House of Commons)

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 A. The grave effect that the expenses scandal has had on the standing of the House of
- 3 Commons, the reputation of individual MPs and the conduct of democratic politics.
- 4 B. That self-regulation of MPs expenses has failed.
- 5 Conference recognises that:
- 6 i) Liberal Democrat MPs have been consistent advocates of freedom of information, leading the

## Monday 21st morning continued

- 7 fight against the attempt by Labour and Conservative MPs to exempt MPs' expenses from  
8 Freedom of Information legislation.
- 9 ii) Liberal Democrats MPs have been consistent advocates of greater transparency and reform  
10 of the system of expenses and allowances, being the only party united in voting for tighter  
11 rules and independent audit of MPs' expenses.
- 12 Conference believes that:
- 13 a) All expenses must be justified on the basis of enabling MPs to do their job.  
14 b) Taxpayers have a right to know how their money is being spent and MPs, as public servants,  
15 should therefore behave in a transparent and fair manner.  
16 c) Since MPs should deliver the best value for money for the people they represent, any reform  
17 of expenses should not increase, and ideally should reduce, the total cost of politics to the  
18 taxpayer.  
19 d) No one should be above the law, and any MPs found guilty of criminal wrongdoing should  
20 face the full penalty of the law.
- 21 Conference therefore calls for:
- 22 1. Those MPs who have clearly and deliberately broken the rules with respect to expenses to be  
23 subject to appropriate investigation and, where justified, criminal prosecution.  
24 2. All MPs, regardless of party allegiance, to commit to implementing the recommendations of  
25 Sir Christopher Kelly's independent inquiry.

## Monday 21st morning continued

- 26 3. Liberal Democrat internal procedures to be beyond reproach and to ensure that MPs stay  
27 within the spirit of any new rules, as well as the letter of them.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 20th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

### Presentation

Chair: Sal Brinton

Aide: Susan Gaszczak

#### **F19 Presentation by the Liberal Democrat Group on Leeds City Council**

The presentation will be given by leading councillors including Cllr Richard Brett (Council Leader).

# Monday 21st morning continued

## Policy Motion

Chair: Arnie Gibbons

Aide: Ros Gordon

### **F20 Demanding the Truth on Torture**

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Edward Davey MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Foreign Secretary)

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference notes that:
  - 2 A. Despite pressure from MPs, campaign groups and the media, the Government refuses to set  
3 up a full public inquiry into allegations that the UK Government had a policy between 2002  
4 and 2005 that permitted British Intelligence Services to act in ways that may have given rise  
5 to complicity in torture and illegal abduction.
  - 6 B. Compelling evidence exists to show that former Prime Minister Tony Blair, amongst others,  
7 was fully aware of the policy guidance that led to potential acts of complicity in torture.
  - 8 C. The Government not only opposes a full inquiry, but has deliberately and persistently prevented  
9 the publication of materials that may provide evidence of torture, and that it has done so to

## Monday 21st morning continued

10 avoid its own censure and embarrassment and not for reasons of national security.

11 D. The allegations include:

12 i) The systematic receipt and use of intelligence that the Intelligence Services knew was  
13 obtained through torture.

14 ii) The involvement of MI5 agents in the questioning of detainees – both directly and  
15 indirectly (with the provision of information and the suggestion of possible questions)  
16 – who it was known by British Intelligence were subject to torture or degrading treatment  
17 by foreign government agents.

18 iii) The illegal holding of detainees in British territorial waters off Diego Garcia in the British  
19 Indian Ocean Territory.

20 iv) The handing over by British forces to US authorities of Iraqi detainees, who were  
21 subsequently illegally rendered to Afghanistan, where it is alleged detainees have been  
22 subject to torture or degrading treatment in US detention facilities.

23 E. Britain has legal commitments that demand that it will not be complicit with acts of torture or  
24 illegal abduction under the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the UN Convention Against Torture  
25 (Article 4) and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

26 Conference believes that:

27 a) The use of torture is morally abhorrent, illegal and an ineffective means of gathering intelligence

## Monday 21st morning continued

- 28 and evidence, and condemns direct or indirect collusion in its use in all circumstances.
- 29 b) British security interests will only be served by protecting and upholding fundamental human  
30 rights and the rule of law.
- 31 c) All those who authorise, practice, or collude in torture should, where possible, be brought to  
32 justice in accordance with the requirements of national and international laws.

33 Conference calls for:

- 34 1. A full and independent public inquiry into the facts relating to the involvement or knowledge  
35 of the British Government on matters relating to torture, extraordinary rendition and the illegal  
36 transfer of detainees to foreign jurisdictions in the period between 11 September 2001 and  
37 20 January 2009.
- 38 2. The Government to provide the inquiry with full details on each and every policy it has adopted  
39 over the last 20 years as to how British officials should act in circumstances in which it may be  
40 suspected or is known that officials of third countries are acting in violation of the prohibition  
41 against torture in circumstances that may cause British officials to be put in danger of being  
42 complicit in torture.
- 43 3. The immediate release of the summary of the 42 intelligence documents relating to the  
44 treatment of Binyam Mohammed, as referred to in the High Court ruling of 4th February  
45 2009.
- 46 4. Tony Blair not to be supported by any British or EU Government for the post of President of  
47 the European Council, as it would be wholly inappropriate for him to occupy such a position  
48 before an inquiry has established his role in the formulation of British policy on torture.

## Monday 21st morning continued

- 49 5. The Government to renegotiate the terms of its agreement with the United States over the  
50 use of the island of Diego Garcia to include full respect for fundamental human rights and  
51 a complete accounting of the circumstances in which the base on that island was used in  
52 relation to internationally prohibited acts.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 20th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

### Speech

Chair: Qassim Afzal

Aide: Cllr Ruth Polling

**F21 Speech by Tim Farron MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

# Monday 21st morning continued

## Question and Answer Session

Chair: Brian Paddick

Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F22 Question and Answer Session on Crime Policy**

Panellists will include:

- Chris Huhne MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary)
- Jan Berry (Independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate)
- Juliet Lyon (Director, Prison Reform Trust)
- Professor Larry Sherman (Wolfson Professor of Criminology, University of Cambridge)

A chance for conference representatives to put questions on any crime policy issue, to a panel including party spokespeople and outside experts. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 18.00 on Sunday 20th September. Questions may also be emailed to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk) until 17.00 on Thursday 17th September. See 'question and answer sessions' on page 12.

# Monday 21st morning continued

## Speech

Chair: Caroline Pidgeon AM

Aide: Cllr James Gurling

**F23 Speech by Dr Vincent Cable MP, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer**

# Monday 21st afternoon

Monday afternoon sessions will start at 14.20 and end at 18.00. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in Conference Extra and Conference Daily – see page 9.

## Policy Motion

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Jenni Lang

### **F24 Development in a Downturn**

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Michael Moore MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for International Development)

Summation: John Barrett MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for Work and Pensions)

- 1 Conference reiterates its long-standing commitment to international development and recalls the
- 2 party's lead on this issue.
  
- 3 Conference notes the global financial crisis and recession and the unprecedented response from
- 4 Western governments, but remains particularly concerned that this global emergency will have
- 5 potentially devastating consequences for the world's most vulnerable people and fragile states.
  
- 6 Conference further notes the food and oil price crises of last year which forced 150 million people

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

7 in the developing world back into extreme poverty and is alarmed that the current global downturn  
8 will trap another 90 million people in poverty.

9 Conference recalls the pledges made by the G8 at the 2005 Gleneagles summit to increase aid  
10 levels by \$50bn per year by 2010 (including to Africa by \$25bn) and deeply regrets the failure to  
11 honour these pledges in years of sustained global economic growth. Conference believes that in a  
12 time of economic downturn concerted action to fulfil these outstanding pledges is now essential to  
13 prevent a dramatic reversal of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

14 Conference reaffirms its commitment to internationalism and multilateralism and believes that the  
15 G8 and G20 have a particularly crucial role in tackling the global impact of the economic crisis.

16 Conference notes the action agreed in the communiqué of the G20 summit in London, but also  
17 notes the World Bank's Global Development Finance 2009 report which highlights that despite  
18 these measures the developing world is set to lose \$1 trillion this year.

19 Recalling the Liberal Democrat spokesperson's paper Development in a Downturn; Dealing with  
20 the Global Emergency, Conference calls for further action to assist the developing world through  
21 this economic crisis with the establishment of a 'G20 compact' charged with:

22 1. Delivering on previous aid promises, including:

23 a) A 'Gleneagles Recovery Plan' to realise the pledges to increase official development

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

- 24 assistance to Africa by \$25bn and in total by \$50bn per year by 2010.
- 25 b) A 'Route 0.7' which sets out in detail how each G8 nation will achieve the UN target of  
26 0.7% of gross national income on development assistance.
- 27 c) Reform of the World Bank, with an explicit mandate to deliver the MDGs.
- 28 2. Reforming the international financial architecture, and rejuvenating the private sector,  
29 including:
- 30 a) A 'Green New Deal' to put the environment at the heart of the world's economic recovery  
31 and assist developing countries with climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- 32 b) A 'Remittances Taskforce' to dramatically reduce the charges applied to personal  
33 remittances and to promote the development of financial infrastructure.
- 34 c) Strengthening the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and establishing a  
35 Standing Committee on Tax Evasion to tackle illicit capital flight from developing countries  
36 and to take action against tax havens.
- 37 d) Initiating measures in the UK to prevent the actions of so-called 'vulture funds', and  
38 working with partners in the EU and USA to establish similar measures.
- 39 3. Strengthening the social safety net, including:
- 40 a) A 'Global Fund for Social Protection' to assist and advise on the development of national  
41 welfare schemes.
- 42 b) A new funding mechanism for the World Food Programme to enhance its ability to

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

43 respond to changing food security trends and decrease its reliance on emergency  
44 funding appeals.

45 Beyond this Compact, Conference further calls on the international community to conclude the  
46 Doha development round as a matter of urgency and to conclude a substantive agreement at  
47 the Copenhagen climate change summit, including a significant financial package to support  
48 developing country adaptation.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 20th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

# Monday 21st afternoon continued

## Speech

Chair: Ros Gordon

Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

### **F25 Speech by Sarah Teather MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Housing Minister**

## Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Alan Sherwell

Aide: Justine McGuinness (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F26 Our Natural Heritage (Natural Environment Policy Paper)**

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Martin Horwood MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for the Environment)

Summation: Paul Burall (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

1 Conference believes that:

- 2 A. A healthy natural environment is crucial not only to quality of life but also to the sustainability  
3 of life on the planet; it provides humankind with food, clean water and clean air, employment,  
4 opportunities to improve physical and mental health and the enjoyment of beauty and

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

- 5 tranquillity.
- 6 B. Humans are using the planet's finite natural wealth at an ever-increasing and unsustainable  
7 rate, threatening to exhaust key resources by the middle of the century unless net  
8 consumption is curbed.
- 9 C. The planet's delicately balanced ecosystems and the diversity of plant and animal life are  
10 crucial to humankind's future health, well-being and ultimately survival; the threat to them is as  
11 important as climate change.
- 12 D. Public policy on the natural environment should be guided by technical and scientific evidence  
13 but also by the value placed on the natural environment by people.

14 Conference reaffirms the key principle of the Liberal Democrat constitution that 'each generation  
15 is responsible for the fate of our planet and, by safeguarding the balance of nature and the  
16 environment, for the long-term continuity of life in all its forms'.

17 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 93, Our Natural Heritage, as a statement of the party's  
18 key policies for protecting and enhancing biodiversity and the natural environment. Conference  
19 particularly welcomes its proposals to:

- 20 1. Introduce policies to cut net consumption and ultimately achieve zero waste to landfill by:
- 21 a) Giving top-tier local authorities a statutory duty to develop resource recovery plans for  
22 all types of waste in their area to maximise the recovery of useful resources and bring  
23 efficiencies of scale.

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

- 24            b)    Passing an Anti-Waste & Resource Efficiency Act to establish an independent Resource  
25                      Efficiency Committee (REC) to identify the key resources being used unsustainably and  
26                      recommending legally binding targets for reducing their net consumption.
- 27            c)    Setting sustainable design standards for key products and requiring specified products to  
28                      be sold with parts and labour guarantees for at least five years to ensure people benefit  
29                      from products which are made to last.
- 30        2.    Boosting water efficiency by:
- 31            a)    Reforming Ofwat's remit to put water resource efficiency at the heart of water companies  
32                      plans, including tougher leakage targets and fair billing that delinks corporate profit from  
33                      increased water use.
- 34            b)    Providing stronger planning guidance in favour of compulsory rainwater harvesting  
35                      systems, greywater recycling, green roofs and sustainable urban drainage systems.
- 36            c)    Introducing smart water metering in areas of water stress by 2020 to inform and support  
37                      fair billing and reduce energy and water use.
- 38        3.    Defend the natural environment at local level by:
- 39            a)    Introducing landscape-scale policies, to be agreed between local authorities, with  
40                      measurable objectives which could include the promotion of biodiversity, the restoration  
41                      and protection of natural features such as water channels, wetlands, forests and  
42                      moorlands, the reduction of flood risk, increased tranquillity, the protection of grade 1

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

- 43 and 2 agricultural land, the encouragement of local food production and the protection  
44 of Green Belt and green spaces of particular value to local people, including urban green  
45 spaces.
- 46 b) Using environmental capacity as the key guidance for identifying sites for development in  
47 the planning system.
- 48 c) Giving local authorities a duty to protect local biodiversity and set local targets for wildlife,  
49 using the planning system to encourage the provision of wildlife-friendly features and  
50 wildflower areas in all new developments, with a duty to promote the establishment of  
51 wildlife corridors.
- 52 d) Extending the protection offered by the designation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest  
53 (SSSIs) to other natural habitats that cannot be replaced, including the small remaining  
54 areas of ancient woodland and upland moorland, or which connect areas of biodiversity  
55 and allow migration in response to climate change.
- 56 4. Ensure that everyone has access to the natural environment and that local people have  
57 control over it by:
- 58 a) Insisting on Natural England's Natural Green Space standards being incorporated into  
59 Local Development Frameworks to ensure accessible green space is provided for  
60 everyone.
- 61 b) Increasing the general right of access to the countryside, along the lines of the model  
62 introduced by Liberal Democrats in Scotland.

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

- 63 c) Creating a new designation – similar to SSSI status – to protect green areas of  
64 particular importance or value to the community (such as green spaces close to urban  
65 populations).
- 66 d) Reverse Labour’s Planning Act to return planning decisions to local control.
- 67 5. Act on noise and light pollution, with policies to:
- 68 a) Improve and enforce noise pollution regulations, tackling the noisiest vehicles and planes  
69 and strengthening building regulations.
- 70 b) Recognise the threat of burgeoning external lighting to both wildlife and people’s  
71 enjoyment of their local environment and the skies, requiring local authorities and  
72 government agencies to control and where possible reduce the impact of artificial  
73 lighting.
- 74 6. Provide proper enforcement of environmental legislation by:
- 75 a) Ensuring environmental crimes, including water pollution and wildlife crime, are properly  
76 enforced and the penalties truly reflect the damage done and the cost of clean-up.
- 77 b) Making the Environment Agency the ‘buck-stops-here’ body with responsibility for co-  
78 ordinating the enforcement of environmental protection regulations and with the power to  
79 direct the other bodies involved to fulfil their duties.
- 80 7. Take decisive action to protect the natural environment on the international stage, including:

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

- 81 a) Urgent development of the new system of bilateral agreements between the EU and  
82 forest-rich developing countries to reform forestry governance and exclude illegal timber  
83 products from trade.
- 84 b) Encouraging the use of public procurement policy throughout the EU to require legal and  
85 sustainable timber and timber products for all government contracts.
- 86 c) The adoption at EU level of new legislation making it illegal to import and possess timber  
87 produced illegally in foreign countries.
- 88 d) The adoption of minimum standards of national forestry governance as a condition for  
89 the provision of carbon financing for avoided deforestation under the climate change  
90 regime, ensuring that the money benefits forest communities and promotes sustainable  
91 forest management.
- 92 e) Ratification of ILO 169, recognising the rights of indigenous peoples to land rights,  
93 equality and freedom, supporting their stewardship of forests and other important lands.

Applicability: England only, except 1c) (lines 27–29) and 7 (lines 80–93) which are Federal.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see ‘speaking at conference’ on page 13.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See ‘interventions’ on page 11 for further information.

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 20th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

### Policy Motion

Chair: Iain Smith MSP

Aide: Tessa Munt

#### **F27 Reaffirming the Military Covenant**

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Nick Harvey MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Defence)

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes:

- 2 i) The bravery, commitment and professionalism of Britain's Armed Forces, as demonstrated in  
3 deployments around the world, particularly Afghanistan and Iraq.
- 4 ii) The party's ongoing commitment to Armed Forces' welfare and wider defence policy, through

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

- 5 Nick Harvey's paper Our Nation's Duty in 2007 and No Choice but Change by Sir Menzies  
6 Campbell QC MP, in 2008.
- 7 iii) That the mismatch between resources and expectations, coupled with high levels of  
8 overstretch, undermines the work of the armed forces and the success of operations.
- 9 iv) That over 60,000 serving personnel, including soldiers on the front line in Afghanistan, are  
10 paid less than the starting salary of a police officer or firefighter.
- 11 v) That years of neglect by successive Labour and Conservative Governments have left three-  
12 quarters of service family accommodation in England alone below the highest standard, with  
13 much of it in an unacceptable condition.
- 14 vi) That the psychological toll from service in Iraq and Afghanistan remains unquantifiable but will  
15 become increasingly apparent over the next decade.
- 16 Conference believes that:
- 17 a) Service personnel are the lifeblood of the Armed Forces and the country's most valuable  
18 military asset.
- 19 b) If the armed forces continue to be submitted to overstretch without proper resources, the  
20 country fails to honour the military covenant and endangers their effectiveness.

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

- 21 c) Military effectiveness depends upon the recognition and fulfilment of the obligations of the  
22 military covenant.
- 23 d) The 'duty of care' to service personnel and their families should be honoured, and the military  
24 covenant reaffirmed and restored.
- 25 Conference therefore calls for:
- 26 1. The basic pay of lower ranks and NCOs to be brought in line with equivalent police ranks, so  
27 that a private in Afghanistan is paid no less than a newly qualified police constable, funded  
28 through MOD staff restructuring.
- 29 2. A doubling in the number of forces' family homes refurbished from around 800 to around  
30 1600 per year, halving the length of time it will take to achieve the highest grade, funded  
31 through reasonable reductions in senior armed forces officers in the MOD.
- 32 3. A review of the current arrangements for repair and maintenance of forces' accommodation  
33 with a feasibility study on returning to a warden system for military housing estates.
- 34 4. The military covenant between the state, society and the army to be codified to guarantee real  
35 entitlements for service personnel of all three services and their families.

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

- 36 5. Proper medical provision for all service personnel including post-conflict debriefings and  
37 counselling, with particular emphasis on post-traumatic stress disorder.
- 38 6. Reform to voting arrangements for service personnel so that they and their families can  
39 exercise their democratic rights.
- 40 7. Savings to be sought from fighter jet procurement and operational costs and invested in  
41 helicopters for Afghanistan to provide vital additional capabilities.
- 42 8. A full-scale Strategic Security and Defence Review.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 20th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

# Monday 21st afternoon continued

## Party Business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball  
Aide: Cllr James Gurling

### **F28 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee**

Mover: Cllr Duncan Greenland (Chair, Federal Finance and Administration Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 8th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 12. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.30 on Monday 21st September.

## Party Business

### **F29 Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy**

Federal Executive

Mover: Cllr Duncan Greenland (Chair, Federal Finance and Administration Committee)  
Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that:

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

- 2 a) The Federal Executive is proposing that there be no change in minimum, concessionary or  
3 Youth and Student SAO and Freshers Fair subscription rates.
- 4 b) The Federal Executive is proposing that the recommended rate should rise from £50 to £52  
5 for 2010, which is expected to be General Election year.
- 6 c) Last year conference voted to raise the Federal Levy by 2% so that more of the increased  
7 income from subscriptions could be spent in the areas most in need of support in the local  
8 elections and that this had a beneficial effect on our local election campaign in June.
- 9 d) In 2010, as well as the general election, there will be important local council elections,  
10 including the London Borough elections and the Metropolitan Councils, in which we are  
11 defending control of a significant number of councils and seeking to control more as well as  
12 defending nearly 1,000 council seats.
- 13 e) During 2010, the party also needs to prepare for the very big round of local elections in 2011.
- 14 f) The Federal Executive is therefore proposing that Federal Levy on membership renewal  
15 subscriptions for 2010 should remain at the 44% rate set by conference for 2009, so that  
16 additional funding can again be made available for the local elections where support is most  
17 needed.
- 18 g) The English Party may consider alternative mechanisms of redistributing funds to areas of  
19 greatest need and that this might reduce the need for the higher rate of levy in the future.

20 Conference therefore resolves that for the year 2010:

- 21 1. The recommended subscription rate shall be £52.  
22 2. The minimum subscription rate shall be £10.

## Monday 21st afternoon continued

- 23 3. The concessionary subscription rate for those in receipt of, or entitled to, state benefits other  
24 than child benefit or state pension shall be £6.
- 25 4. Those paying their subscription through the Youth and Student SAO shall pay a minimum of  
26 £6 or, where a new member joins at a Freshers Fair event, a special introductory rate of £1.
- 27 5. The Federal Levy on new members shall be 0% of the subscription paid and the Federal Levy  
28 on renewal subscriptions shall be 44% of the subscription paid.
- 29 Conference further resolves that nothing in this motion prevents a State Party from setting a  
30 recommended rate or rates of subscription by its internal procedures which is higher than that  
31 agreed by the Federal Conference.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 20th September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

# Tuesday 22nd morning

Tuesday morning sessions will start at 09.00 and end at 12.40. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in Conference Extra and Conference Daily – see page 9.

## Emergency Motion or Topical Issue

Chair: Chris Gurney  
Aide: Arnie Gibbons

### **F30 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue**

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or discussion of an important current political issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 12.00, Tuesday 8th September. See 'emergency motions' on page 10 and 'topical issues' on page 14 for further information. Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Conference Extra.

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 procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

## Tuesday 22nd morning continued

### Policy Motion

Chair: Tessa Munt

Aide: Ros Gordon

### **F31 Rail Franchises**

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Sandy Walkington

Summation: Norman Baker MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Transport)

1 Conference notes:

- 2 i) The growing number of passenger rail franchises now being agreed with substantial and  
3 increasing amounts of premium to be paid to the Treasury.
- 4 ii) That rail franchisees also have to pay their share of the costs of Rolling Stock Operating  
5 Companies' and Network Rail's charges.
- 6 iii) That Britain's rail fares are already among the highest in Europe.
- 7 iv) That in most cases franchisees are awarded a private monopoly with no choice of provider  
8 being offered to the rail traveller.

## Tuesday 22nd morning continued

9 Conference condemns recent increases in both regulated and unregulated rail fares, which are  
10 higher than the then rate of inflation and bore particularly hard on those who depend on the railway  
11 to commute to work.

12 Conference deplures:

- 13 a) The fact that the Labour Government has continued to pursue a highest premium model of  
14 awarding monopoly franchises, with clear problems and stresses now becoming evident  
15 across the rail industry and consequent large fare increases which are little more than a  
16 stealth tax on one of the greenest modes of transport.
- 17 b) The way this franchise model has led to companies overbidding for franchises, creating the  
18 situation where both GNER and now National Express have handed back the East Coast  
19 franchise to the Government, leaving the taxpayer with a greater cost to bear.
- 20 c) The apparent inability of the Office of Rail Regulation to force transparency in how individual  
21 fares from individual stations are set even for regulated fares, and its past acquiescence in  
22 disproportionate increases imposed on particular classes of passenger who use off-peak  
23 services and in differing fares being applied arbitrarily to apparently similar journeys from  
24 similar stations.

25 Conference further notes belated moves by the Government to end the situation where individual  
26 regulated fares are allowed to increase by more than the RPI+1% cap in ways that further  
27 increased fare inequalities as long as the overall 'basket' of regulated fares increased by no more  
28 than the cap.

## Tuesday 22nd morning continued

29 Conference demands that:

- 30 1. The Government retain the East Coast franchise until the end of the current franchise term  
31 as a public interest franchise, to act as a public sector comparator to drive up standards and  
32 drive down costs across the rest of the rail network.
- 33 2. The Government scrap the failing franchise system and replace it with one that prioritises the  
34 passenger over higher premium payments; new franchise conditions must lead on quality of  
35 service and of passenger experience, including, where possible, fare reductions, with rolling  
36 reviews to ensure standards are being met.
- 37 3. The government guarantee that any surplus from franchise premiums should continue to be  
38 invested in rail improvements, to include improved services, more rolling stock, and, where  
39 economically viable, the reopening of stations and lines.
- 40 4. As soon as possible overall annual increases in rail fares should be at no more than inflation,  
41 as part of the wider agenda of promoting green forms of travel.

Applicability: England and Wales.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 11 for further information.

## Tuesday 22nd morning continued

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 21st September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

### Speech

Chair: Justine McGuinness (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)  
Aide: Erlend Watson

#### **F32 Speech by Baroness Scott of Needham Market, President of the Liberal Democrats**

### Policy Motion

Chair: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)  
Aide: Cllr Ruth Polling

#### **F33 A Fresh Start for Britain: Choosing a Different, Better Future**

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Danny Alexander MP (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

Summation: To be announced

## Tuesday 22nd morning continued

1 Conference believes that Britain is facing a crisis in which:

2 i) The economy is in a mess.

3 ii) The gap between rich and poor keeps growing.

4 iii) Dangerous climate change and environmental degradation threaten everyone.

5 iv) The political system is rotten.

6 Conference further believes that:

7 A. Labour and the Conservatives have had decades to get things right but chose to look the  
8 other way while bankers gambled with people's jobs and savings, and too many politicians  
9 forgot that they should serve the country, not themselves.

10 B. The only hope for a different way of doing things in Britain is the Liberal Democrats.

11 Given the economic circumstances and uncertainty about the state of public finances, conference  
12 recognises that:

13 I. The only certainty is that the next government will have to make very hard choices about  
14 spending – cuts will be necessary to deliver any priorities.

15 II. Any new spending should be paid for by a specific cut made elsewhere, to ensure it is  
16 deliverable even in these tough economic times – this means that we will not increase public  
17 spending overall.

## Tuesday 22nd morning continued

18 III. The tax cuts we propose to help those on low and middle incomes will not be funded by cuts  
19 in services, but by making taxes fairer and greener, so that the richest pay their fair share and  
20 polluters pay for the damage they cause.

21 IV. While nobody can yet be certain what the country can afford, we can be certain about the  
22 values and principles that will guide us in the tough choices that lie ahead – the British people  
23 can be certain that any hard choices made by Liberal Democrats will be firmly guided by our  
24 values, unlike Labour or Conservatives.

25 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 94, A Fresh Start for Britain: Choosing a Different,  
26 Better Future, and in particular welcomes the priorities it sets out for the development of our next  
27 general election manifesto:

28 1. Creating a sustainable economy – we will be honest about what the country can afford, and  
29 change the system to create a stable economy that keeps people in work, protects and  
30 enhances our environment and ensures the mistakes that caused the recession don't happen  
31 again. That means:

32 a) Putting Britain back to work and fighting climate change through investment in green  
33 economic growth to create jobs, renewable energy, affordable homes and green  
34 infrastructure.

35 b) A totally new approach to banking, so that excessive risk taking by bankers doesn't  
36 jeopardise the whole economy again; we will split up the biggest banks, so that high-risk  
37 casino banking does not put ordinary people's savings at risk.

## Tuesday 22nd morning continued

- 38 2. Building a fair society – we will empower every individual and community, fighting disadvantage  
39 and entrenched inequality. That means:
- 40 a) Fairer taxes to lift the burden on ordinary people and make sure the richest pay their fair  
41 share; we have already set out plans to reduce taxes on hard-pressed low and middle  
42 income people, paid for by closing unfair loopholes that increase the gap between rich  
43 and poor.
- 44 b) Giving every child the very best start in life – we want to invest in support for children  
45 and young people so that the next generation doesn't pay the price for mistakes made  
46 today; action in the earliest years, like our plan to cut class sizes, is critical to tackling the  
47 entrenched disadvantage, which takes root in early childhood, that so disfigures Britain.
- 48 3. Cleaning up politics – we will promote openness, decentralisation, accessibility and  
49 accountability, so that politicians really listen to people, understand and act. That means:
- 50 a) Cleaning up Westminster by reforming expenses, ending big donations, electing the  
51 House of Lords, cutting the power of Ministers, reducing the number of MPs, and giving  
52 local people the right to sack any MP found guilty of serious wrongdoing.
- 53 b) Delivering the radical shake-up that the British people demand, by making sure every  
54 vote counts so that safe seats are a thing of the past and MPs are forced to listen to the  
55 people they represent.

Applicability: Federal, except 2 b) (lines 44–47) which is England only.

## Tuesday 22nd morning continued

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 11 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 21st September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

# Tuesday 22nd afternoon

Tuesday afternoon sessions will start at 14.20 and end at 18.00. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in Conference Extra and Conference Daily – see page 9.

## Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr James Gurling

Aide: Susan Gaszczak

### **F34 Child Protection**

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Annette Brooke MP (Shadow Minister for Children)

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
  - 2 i) There is not enough public awareness of the extent to which child abuse and neglect occurs
  - 3 in the UK, or of what can be done to help resolve it.
  - 4 ii) The current child protection system is unfair on children and families, as there are huge
  - 5 variations in the thresholds for starting care proceedings and children often have no means of
  - 6 making other professionals aware of their own feelings and opinions.

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

- 7      iii)   Despite significant restructuring of children’s services, communication between key child  
8           protection agencies has remained poor and resulted in mistakes being made which put  
9           children’s lives at risk.
- 10     iv)    The Government has failed to deal effectively with the problems faced by social workers,  
11           which has meant that 10% of all social worker posts in the UK remain unfilled; social workers  
12           are spending more time filling in forms than working with children and families; and many  
13           social workers are not well trained enough to deal with the complexities of child protection.

14    Conference believes that:

- 15     a)    Children live and grow up in communities, which is why child protection is the responsibility of  
16           everybody and should not just be left to professionals.
- 17     b)    Child abuse and neglect can be reduced significantly through education and support for those  
18           families in need of help.
- 19     c)    Children have the right to have their feelings and opinions heard and acted upon, particularly  
20           when decisions are being made about their futures.
- 21     d)    Inter-agency work is crucial if any significant progress and cultural change is to be made in the  
22           field of child protection.
- 23     e)    Much of the excellent and challenging work done by social workers often goes un-  
24           recognised.

25    Conference notes the Spokesperson’s paper Protecting Children and in particular endorses its  
26    proposals to:

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

- 27 1. Make child protection everybody's responsibility by running a government-led communications  
28 campaign highlighting the prevalence of child abuse and by providing routes for people to report  
29 their concerns.
- 30 2. Work to ensure that all members of the children's workforce have child protection training.
- 31 3. Help families to become more resilient under pressure by offering them support, including an  
32 entitlement to parenting classes through children's centres to all parents taking up the pre-  
33 school childcare entitlement proposed in policy paper 88, The Best Start for Children, The  
34 Best Deal for Families.
- 35 4. Publish as much as possible of a Serious Case Review in an anonymised form in order to  
36 make the child protection system more transparent and ensure that lessons are learnt.
- 37 5. Scrap the ContactPoint Database and use the savings to offer additional administrative and  
38 technical support to social workers.
- 39 6. Recognise the important role which housing associations and ALMOs play in child protection  
40 and place on them a statutory duty to co-operate with children's trusts in safeguarding  
41 matters.
- 42 7. Work to ensure that all children have the right to an advocate so that their voice is heard.
- 43 8. Improve multi-disciplinary training by making secondments between different agencies a  
44 mandatory part of social workers' continuous professional development.
- 45 9. Bring about long-term changes to the status and training of social workers, noting the positive  
46 experiences of the teachers' workforce.
- 47 10. Set up an expert body to consider thresholds for taking children into care.

Applicability: England only.

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 21st September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

### Speech

Chair: Cllr Chris Maines

Aide: Ros Gordon

### **F35 Speech by Chris Huhne MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary**

### Policy Motion

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

Aide: Tessa Munt

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

### F36 Energy and Climate Change

Twenty conference representatives

Mover: Simon Hughes MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change)

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference believes:
  - 2 A. Britain, Europe and the world need to develop a new sustainable economy, based on clean,  
3 renewable energy and the efficient use of energy and resources and reduced dependence on  
4 fossil fuels, to drive economic recovery, create thousands of jobs and help secure Europe's  
5 future energy supplies.
  - 6 B. Any new global framework for mitigating and adapting to climate change must be effective,  
7 just and realistic, with industrial countries taking responsibility for their historic emissions.
  - 8 C. The active participation and commitment of Brazil, China, India and the USA is crucial to any  
9 successful agreement of a replacement for the Kyoto Protocol at this year's United Nations  
10 Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.
  - 11 D. Any new international agreements must be based on the best scientific evidence, and this  
12 indicates that climate change is happening faster and more aggressively than previously

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

13 estimated; and that to avoid catastrophic climate change, average global temperature needs to  
14 increase by no more than 1.7° C, corresponding to atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> of  
15 no more than 350 parts per million.

16 E. Responsibility for the delivery of international targets must come at local, regional and national  
17 levels, and the UK must set an example in tackling climate change by raising its emissions  
18 reduction target for 2020 from 34% below 1990 levels to 40% below.

19 Conference therefore calls for:

20 1. A global agreement at Copenhagen to:

21 a) Ensure that greenhouse gas emissions peak no later than 2015.

22 b) Commit industrial countries to reduce their emissions by 40% over 1990 levels by 2020  
23 and to phase out fossil fuel and industrial greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 with at  
24 least 75% of these cuts being achieved domestically.

25 c) Secure at least a 75% reduction in global emissions from deforestation by 2020, and the  
26 halving of the carbon intensity of global food production by 2050.

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

- 27 d) Provide finance for adaptation in developing countries additional to the existing  
28 commitment by developed countries to spend 0.7% of gross national income on  
29 international development.
- 30 e) Commit developed countries to contribute \$160 billion in each year of the period 2013–  
31 2017 to assist with mitigation and adaptation measures in developing countries and for  
32 this contribution to be deposited with the United Nations.
- 33 f) Implement the following policy instruments:
- 34 i) A Leapfrog Fund to facilitate the development of low-carbon technologies, energy  
35 efficiency and renewable energy in developing countries, together with the reform of  
36 patent rules.
- 37 ii) A United Nations Adaptation Fund to provide grants for communities vulnerable to  
38 the impact of climate change without increasing the burden on indebted countries.
- 39 iii) A multilateral insurance mechanism available for developing countries which  
40 implement risk reduction under the Adaptation Fund, designed to cover climate-  
41 related risks or disaster losses.
- 42 iv) A fund to prevent deforestation and promote biodiversity, fully respecting the rights  
43 of local and indigenous peoples and consistent with the United Nations Declaration  
44 on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

- 45 g) Establish all its funds and mechanisms as the responsibility of the United Nations, to  
46 be run in an open and transparent manner with an equitable decision-making process  
47 between developed and developing countries.
- 48 2. Action at EU level, including:
- 49 a) Incisive political leadership in the global negotiations by the EU institutions.  
50 b) The ALDE Group and ELDR Party galvanising European and national parliamentarians to  
51 raise public awareness of the critical importance of the Copenhagen outcome.  
52 c) EU targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency beyond 2020, including specific  
53 targets for 2030 and 2050, to be set within the next five years.  
54 d) Development of a functioning EU energy market where economies of scale, carbon  
55 reduction, cost efficiencies and fair competition improve the security of energy supply  
56 and reduce costs for consumers.  
57 e) The EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to include high minimum efficiency  
58 standards for building components, and a requirement for public authorities to implement  
59 the recommendations on Energy Performance Certificates within 3 years, and the  
60 removal from the Directive of the 1000m<sup>2</sup> threshold for buildings undergoing renovation.
- 61 3. Action in the UK to deliver a 40% reduction in UK greenhouse gas emissions and a 30%  
62 energy efficiency saving, relative to 1990 levels, with 40% of UK electricity to come from clean  
63 sources, by 2020, including:

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

- 64 a) Development of a dynamic UK electricity grid that can better connect and integrate new,  
65 clean energy technologies, enable more active management of demand and supply  
66 fluctuations and enable the UK to promote and participate fully in a European supergrid.
- 67 b) A minimum of 33 gigawatts (GW) of offshore energy and at least 11GW more onshore  
68 wind energy by 2020.
- 69 c) A UK Emissions Performance Standard to ensure that new coal-fired power generation  
70 plants must use carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, with a CCS regime  
71 phased in for all industrial emissions from 2020.
- 72 d) New energy efficiency legislation for products, and further development of the well-  
73 understood A–G labelling scheme, using recalibration to reflect improvements in  
74 technology.
- 75 e) A ‘Warm Homes’ programme coordinated nationally and delivered locally to make all UK  
76 homes energy-efficient by 2020.
- 77 f) The merger of the Carbon and Energy Saving Trusts into a single delivery authority  
78 responsible for delivering all the UK energy and climate targets, which will provide  
79 tailored advice and support for local authorities, businesses, and the voluntary and public  
80 sectors.
- 81 g) A Suppliers Obligation (replacing the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) in the form  
82 of an absolute cap on total carbon emissions from household energy suppliers with an  
83 emissions reduction target of at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2020.
- 85 h) New requirements on OFGEM to support decentralised energy and introduce a price  
85 regime which decouples corporate profit from increased energy use.

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

- 86            i)    Guaranteed fair prices for energy consumers to prevent people being charged relatively  
87                    more for less energy used, to reduce prices for fuel-poor households and to offer fewer  
88                    tariffs, all of which must be simple to understand and easy to compare.
- 89            j)    Mandatory carbon reporting on investments for all businesses and banks and an end to  
90                    public money going into unconventional fuels such as tar sands.
- 91            k)    Putting the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) on hold until agreement can be  
92                    reached in the EU to ensure that only sustainable biofuels are supported.

Applicability: Federal, except 3 f) (lines 77–80) which is England only

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see ‘speaking at conference’ on page 13.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See ‘interventions’ on page 11 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See ‘amendments’ on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 21st September, see ‘separate votes’ on page 12.

# Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

## Question and Answer Session

Chair: Julia Goldsworthy MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government)

Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F37 Question and Answer Session on the Economy**

Panellists will include:

- Vincent Cable MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer)
- Jeremy Purvis MSP (Scottish Liberal Democrat Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth)
- Cllr Howard Sykes (Leader, Oldham Council)
- Liam Halligan (Chief Economist of Prosperity Capital Management and Economic Commentator, Sunday Telegraph)

A chance for conference representatives to put questions, on any economic policy issue, to a panel including party spokespeople and outside experts. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Tuesday 22nd September. Questions may also be emailed to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk) until 17.00 on Thursday 17th September. See page 12.

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

### Party Business

Chair: Justine McGuinness (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

### **F38 Report of the Federal Executive**

Mover: Baroness Scott of Needham Market (President of the Liberal Democrats)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 8th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 12. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 14.20 on Tuesday 22nd September.

### **F39 Constitutional Amendment: Nomination of Presidential Candidates**

Federal Executive

Mover: To be announced

Summation: To be announced

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

- 1 In Article 12.1, after the words 'not less than', delete all and insert:
- 2 200 representatives entitled to attend the Federal Conference in not less than 20 Local Parties
- 3 (including, for this purpose, the Specified Associated Organisations representing youth and
- 4 students as provided by Article 13.8).

The relevant text of the existing constitution is as follows:

12.1 A candidate for the office of President shall require the nomination of not less than 50 representatives entitled to attend the Federal Conference.

Applicability: Federal.

A constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 21st September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

### F40 Amendments to Election Regulations

Federal Executive

Mover: To be announced

Summation: To be announced

### Amendments to Committee Election Regulations

1 Insert new rule 4 (b) and renumber subsequent parts of rule 4 accordingly:

2 (b) The Returning Officer may make provision for voters to view the candidates' election  
3 addresses electronically as well as, or instead of, through the postal mailing.

4 Insert new rule 5 and renumber subsequent rules accordingly:

5 5. The Returning Officer may make provision for voters who wish to do so to cast their ballots  
6 electronically.

The relevant text of the existing regulations is as follows:

4. (a) Each candidate shall be entitled to include in the mailing of ballot papers for each election in which he or she is a candidate a personal election address covering up

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

to one side of A5 paper, printed by and at the expense of the Federal Party. Election address artwork in camera ready form must reach the Acting Returning Officer at an address and by a date to be notified.

(b) Each candidate shall be responsible for supplying material that verifies, to the satisfaction of the Acting Returning Officer, any statement in his or her personal election address claiming that he or she is endorsed by any individual or organisation. Such material must accompany the candidate's personal election address artwork.

(c) No candidate may incur, or directly or indirectly authorise or cause to be incurred any further expenses on campaigning at any time before or after the close of nominations.

(d) Candidates or their supporters must not use e-mail, e-groups, cix conferencing or websites during these elections to promote their candidacy,

(e) Candidates must not carry out any activities during the election period, which may be viewed as treating.

### **Amendments to Leadership Election Regulations**

- 7 Change rule 4 (a) to rule 4 and delete rule 4 (b).
- 8 Insert new rule 5 and renumber subsequent rules accordingly:
- 9 5. (a) The Acting Returning Officer shall co-ordinate arrangements for official party member  
10 hustings events via the states and regions with a view to balancing the competing demands

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

11 for media coverage of the campaign, parliamentary and other duties. Other party bodies may  
12 only hold hustings-type events if they invite all candidates to attend, but they do not require  
13 the agreement of all candidates to attend or send a representative in order to proceed. Events  
14 designated as official hustings by the Acting Returning Officer shall take precedence over any  
15 other arrangements a candidate may have made.

16 (b) Official party communications channels may only be used to promote hustings events  
17 approved by the Acting Returning Officer. Responsibility for organising and paying for any  
16 hustings event shall lie with the hosting organisation, but the Acting Returning Officer will  
19 assist in publicising official hustings events via the party's website, e-mail communications,  
20 Liberal Democrat News, etc.

21 Insert new rule 11 (d) and renumber subsequent parts of rule 11 accordingly:

22 (d) The Returning Officer may make provision for voters to view the candidates' election  
23 addresses electronically as well as, or instead of, through the postal mailing.'

24 Insert new rule 14 and renumber subsequent rules accordingly:

25 14. The Returning Officer may make provision for voters who wish to do so to cast their ballots  
26 electronically.

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

The relevant text of the existing regulations is as follows:

4. (a) The timetable for the election shall be no shorter than 8 weeks and no longer than 13 weeks. It shall contain a minimum of 15 days for nominations to be collected which must be on the official forms provided by the Acting Returning Officer for the specific election and available from the day following the setting of the timetable by the Federal Executive. It shall provide for at least 21 days between the close of nominations and the despatch of ballot papers and at least 21 days for the return of ballot papers.

(b) The Acting Returning Officer should co-ordinate arrangements for 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. Other party bodies may only hold events inviting candidates (or their representatives) for hustings type events with the prior agreement of the Acting Returning Officer. 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 web-site, e-mail communications, Liberal Democrat News etc.

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

### Amendments to Presidential Election Regulations

27 Insert new rule 5 and renumber subsequent rules accordingly:

28 5. (a) The Acting Returning Officer shall co-ordinate arrangements for official party member  
29 hustings events via the states and regions with a view to balancing the competing demands  
30 for media coverage of the campaign, parliamentary and other duties. Other party bodies may  
31 only hold hustings-type events if they invite all candidates to attend, but they do not require  
32 the agreement of all candidates to attend or send a representative in order to proceed. Events  
33 designated as official hustings by the Acting Returning Officer shall take precedence over any  
34 other arrangements a candidate may have made.

35 (b) Official party communications channels may only be used to promote hustings events  
36 approved by the Acting Returning Officer. Responsibility for organising and paying for any  
37 hustings event shall lie with the hosting organisation, but the Acting Returning Officer will  
38 assist in publicising official hustings events via the party's website, e-mail communications,  
39 Liberal Democrat News, etc.

40 In rule 9, after 'campaign.' insert:

41 This shall include any expenditure (or the relevant proportion of any expenditure) incurred before  
42 an individual becomes a candidate if the property, services or facilities are used for the purposes of  
43 the candidate's election.

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

44 Insert new rule 10 (d) and renumber subsequent parts of rule 10 accordingly:

45 (d) The Returning Officer may make provision for voters to view the candidates' election  
46 addresses electronically as well as, or instead of, through the postal mailing.

47 Insert new rule 14 and renumber subsequent rules accordingly:

48 14. The Returning Officer may make provision for voters who wish to do so to cast their ballots  
49 electronically.

The relevant text of the existing regulations is as follows:

9. The Federal Executive shall agree a spending limit for election expenses, not including travel or subsistence expenses, when setting the timetable for the election for each presidential candidate. No candidate, or his agent, shall exceed this limit in the production of publicity material and all other expenditures connected with the campaign. All donations above £200 must comply with the provisions of Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

Applicability: Federal.

These amendments to election regulations will be moved together but will be voted on separately.

## Tuesday 22nd afternoon continued

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See 'amendments' on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 21st September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

# Wednesday 23rd morning

Wednesday morning sessions will start at 09.00 and end at 12.40. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in Conference Extra and Conference Daily – see page 9.

## Emergency Motion or Topical Issue

Chair: Cllr John Commons

Aide: Dee Doocey AM

### **F41 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue**

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or discussion of an important current political issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 12.00, Tuesday 9th September. See ‘emergency motions’ on page 10 and ‘topical issues’ on page 14 for further information. Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Conference Extra.

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 procedure for speaking in this debate, see ‘speaking at conference’ on page 13.

# Wednesday 23rd morning continued

## Party Business

Chair: Cllr Ruth Polling

Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

### **F42 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats**

Commons: Paul Burstow MP (Chief Whip) and Lorely Burt (Chair of Parliamentary Party)

Lords: Lord McNally (Leader) and Lord Shutt (Chief Whip)

Europe: Fiona Hall MEP (Leader) and Catherine Bearder MEP (Chief Whip)

Each of the three reports will be moved briefly, and voted on at the end of the session, but the bulk of the session will be used to allow conference representatives to put questions on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the UK or European Parliaments to the panel. Any questions submitted to the reports by the normal deadline (12 noon Tuesday 8th September – see ‘questions to reports’ on page 12) will be taken. In addition, conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers’ Table in the Auditorium by 18.00 on Tuesday 22nd September. The Chair will select which of these questions shall be asked during the session.

## Wednesday 23rd morning continued

### Policy Motion

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Ros Gordon

#### **F43 The Policing of Protest**

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Dee Doocey AM

Summation: David Howarth MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Justice)

1 Conference notes with concern the more aggressive approach to protest recently adopted by the  
2 police, notably the treatment of demonstrators at Kingsnorth power station in Kent in August 2008  
3 and at the G20 demonstrations in the City of London on 1st and 2nd April 2009; and the pre-  
4 emptive arrest of 114 environmental protestors in Nottinghamshire on 13th April 2009.

5 Conference recognises that the policing of demonstrations is a necessary and sometimes difficult  
6 task but believes that the strategy and tactics currently being adopted are fundamentally wrong,  
7 because of the threat to democratic rights, the distress and physical injuries caused, and the  
8 damage to the reputation of the police.

## Wednesday 23rd morning continued

9 Conference welcomes the interim report of the HMIC review of public order policing, and believes  
10 that the publication of the final report due later this autumn should be an opportunity for a thorough  
11 reassessment and reform.

12 Conference believes that British policing is at its best when it adheres to the historic Peelian  
13 principle, 'that the police are the public and the public are the police'.

14 Accordingly, Conference believes that the policing of protest should be based firmly on the  
15 following principles:

16 1. Demonstrations and other peaceful forms of protest are a fundamental democratic right,  
17 which all public bodies are under a duty to facilitate and protect.

16 2. It is not the business of the police to set the boundaries of democratic expression; in particular,  
19 it is unacceptable for the police to prevent or disrupt legitimate protest through such tactics  
20 as pre-emptive arrest and draconian bail conditions.

21 3. Policing of demonstrations must always be proportionate; the police must recognise the  
22 fundamental need to facilitate peaceful protest while dealing with the specific problem of  
23 preventing criminal acts committed by a minority.

24 4. The use of aggressive or intimidatory tactics against peaceful protesters is provocative,  
25 inappropriate, and counter-productive, since it increases the tension and likelihood of

## Wednesday 23rd morning continued

- 26 violence; the police must use aggressive tactics such as ‘kettling’, baton charges, and attacks  
27 with dogs only when they are absolutely necessary and proportionate; the seizure of personal  
28 property from demonstrators is not acceptable.
- 29 5. Any officers not clearly identifying themselves by wearing an identification number are  
30 committing a disciplinary offence; this rule is unlikely to be respected unless transgressors are  
31 subject to disciplinary procedures.
- 32 6. The police must exercise due care and attention when making statements to the media, since  
33 predictions of violence can be self-fulfilling; while acknowledging that the police are often  
34 under media pressure to comment on events, they should avoid offering definitive comment  
35 before the relevant facts are known.
- 36 7. The police must consider Britain’s reputation abroad and not commit acts that set a poor  
37 example and thus undermine the country’s efforts to promote human rights.

Applicability: England and Wales.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see ‘speaking at conference’ on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See ‘amendments’ on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

## Wednesday 23rd morning continued

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Tuesday 22nd September, see 'separate votes' on page 12.

### Speech

Chair: Cllr Marisha Ray

Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

#### **F44 Speech by Lynne Featherstone MP, Parliamentary Spokesperson for Youth and Equality**

### Policy Motion

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Susan Gaszczak

#### **F45 Are We Being Served? (Consumer Policy Paper)**

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: John Thurso MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills)

Summation: Jonathan Marks QC (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

## Wednesday 23rd morning continued

- 1 Conference notes that:
  - 2 A. In people's daily lives everyone depends on buying goods and obtaining services from both  
3 the private and the public sectors.
  - 4 B. Labour and Tory governments alike have presided over a steady move in recent decades  
5 towards larger, more centralised and less responsive organisations.
  - 6 C. Although IT has brought great benefits in efficiency, it has led big organisations to be  
7 increasingly impersonal and remote – the so-called 'Faceless Britain'.
  - 8 D. The people hit hardest by these developments have been those most in need – the elderly,  
9 those in poverty and those on benefits.
- 10 Conference believes that:
  - 11 i) Everyone should be able to buy the goods and obtain the services they need easily, efficiently  
12 and on fair terms.
  - 13 ii) The fundamental entitlement to an honest and straightforward approach and a high quality  
14 of service is the same for services provided in the public sector as for goods and services  
15 purchased in the private sector.
  - 16 iii) Open, liberal and competitive markets, both national and local, properly regulated, lead to  
17 greater choice, diversity and general prosperity and help maintain fairness.

## Wednesday 23rd morning continued

16 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 95, Are We Being Served?, as a statement of the  
19 party's key policies for people accessing goods and services. Conference particularly welcomes its  
20 proposals to:

21 1. Introduce a new Universal Service Code, which will:

22 a) Secure for the public a quality of service that complies with the principles of  
23 responsiveness, informed choice, consumer protection and effective redress.

24 b) Be mandatory in the public sector and for all businesses seeking major contracts with or  
25 franchises from local or national government.

26 c) Be encouraged throughout the private sector, with larger companies having an obligation  
27 to report upon their compliance with the Code.

28 2. Introduce a general duty to trade fairly, enforceable by individuals as a private right as well as  
29 by the relevant authorities in case of infringement.

30 3. 'Get the market right' by taking steps to ensure that competition is improved and that local  
31 competition is promoted, including:

32 a) Establishing a local competition office within the Office of Fair Trading for the promotion  
33 of local and regional competition.

34 b) Introducing a compulsory 'local competition' test for all planning applications for new  
35 retail developments and requiring that they show beneficial effects.

## Wednesday 23rd morning continued

- 36 c) Requiring developers to indemnify local authorities against the costs of any substantial  
37 appeal against planning permission.
- 38 d) Changing the way lucrative public contracts are allocated to encourage smaller and more  
39 local businesses to fulfil them.
- 40 4. Ensure people are able to make informed choices, by:
- 41 a) Requiring appropriate products to be sold with the key information highlighted at the time  
42 of supply in clear summary boxes to assist comparison.
- 43 b) Working through the Energy Saving Trust and the Carbon Trust (which we will merge into  
44 one organisation) to improve and streamline environmental labelling.
- 45 c) Improving the quality of information made available to the public about the financial  
46 consequences of transactions.
- 47 d) Obliging suppliers to provide all clients and customers with a brief summary of their key  
48 statutory rights.
- 49 e) Requiring large companies to produce an audited Social Responsibility Report on their  
50 compliance with the Universal Code and the duty to trade fairly, their corporate social  
51 responsibility and their environmental record.
- 52 5. Make sure people are further protected from unfair and unscrupulous commercial practices  
53 and from fraud, by:

## Wednesday 23rd morning continued

- 54 a) Making it compulsory for companies taking substantial deposits from customers or  
55 clients to hold deposit protection.
- 56 b) Imposing restrictions on directors of companies which go into liquidation leaving  
57 customers who have made advance payments unprotected.
- 58 c) Establishing a public warning system on fraudulent activity here and abroad.
- 59 d) Taking specific action to protect children as vulnerable consumers.
- 60 6. Make redress and enforcement more streamlined and accessible, by:
- 61 a) Introducing an umbrella ombudsman service to harmonise ombudsman services and  
62 make them more accessible and more generally available.
- 63 b) Increasing the resourcing of the Trading Standards Service and broadening their role to  
64 enable them to take up more individual complaints against traders.
- 65 c) Enabling Citizens Advice to provide advisers at courts on a regular basis to help people,  
66 particularly with small claims.
- 67 7. Provide the most appropriate statutory environment: by taking responsibility for representing  
68 the interests of consumers out of the hands of Department for Business, Innovation and Skills  
69 (DBIS) and moving the Minister for Consumer Affairs from DBIS to an independent cross-  
70 cutting senior ministerial post, entitled to attend cabinet on relevant matters, to champion the  
71 interests of people accessing goods and services in both the public and the private sectors.

## Wednesday 23rd morning continued

Applicability: Federal, except 1b (lines 24–25), 3d (lines 38–39) and 6 (lines 60–66) which are Federal or England only depending on the particular service affected, and 3b and 3c (lines 34–37) which are England only.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see ‘speaking at conference’ on page 13.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See ‘interventions’ on page 11 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 8th September. See ‘amendments’ on page 7. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Tuesday 22nd September, see ‘separate votes’ on page 12.

# Wednesday 23rd afternoon

Wednesday afternoon sessions will start at 14.30 and end at 16.00 approximately.

## Party Business

Chair: Baroness Scott of Needham Market (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F46 Party Awards**

The Harriet Smith Awards

The President's Awards

The Penhaligon Award

The Patsy Calton Award

The Albert Ingham Award

Liberal International Prize for Freedom

## Speech

### **F47 Speech by the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Nick Clegg MP**

# Standing orders for Federal Conference

## 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.

### **Elected representative**

A person elected by a local party or an SAO to represent them at conference. This term does not include substitutes appointed to replace an elected representative at a particular meeting of conference. It does include elected representatives who have not registered for a particular meeting 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.**

# Standing orders glossary of terms continued

## **Emergency amendment**

An amendment to a motion which relates to a specific event which occurred after the deadline for the submission of amendments. **It must be brief and uncontentious.**

## **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.

## **Non-voting member**

A party member who has paid the appropriate registration fee, but, because they are not an elected representative, is not entitled to vote at conference. A non-voting member is, however, entitled to submit a speaker's card for any item on which voting members may submit a speaker's card.

## **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:

# Standing orders glossary of terms continued

## ***Move to next business***

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

## **Reference back**

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

## **Request for a count**

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

## **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 Executive, Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 200 conference representatives 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 person who is entitled to vote at conference. This term includes substitutes

# Standing orders glossary of terms continued

replacing conference representatives for a particular meeting of conference. It does not include conference representatives who have not paid any registration fee that may be in force nor does it include day visitors or observers who are not conference representatives.

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## 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 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 Party in the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords, the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament, the Federal Executive, the Federal Finance and Administration Committee, 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, 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.

# Standing orders continued

## **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 Executive, Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives. 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 conference representatives.
- e) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any voting member.

## **1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted**

All motions and amendments must be submitted to the Committee. They must be typed clearly and accompanied by the name, address and telephone number(s) of a person authorised to agree to their being composited or redrafted. Motions submitted by conference representatives must be accompanied by all their signatures, names and addresses.

## **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.

## Standing orders continued

- b) The closing date for the receipt of amendments to motions published in the Agenda and emergency motions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- c) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with the Agenda. Any supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference with the permission of the Committee.
- d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the Agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- 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 notified to conference representatives and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper may be treated as notice for this purpose.

### **1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances**

In special circumstances the Committee may specify later dates than those indicated above. In particular, where developments which, in the opinion of the Committee, are of great importance have taken place after the closing date for emergency motions and questions to reports, the Committee may make time available for an additional emergency motion or for a statement to be made on behalf of the Party or for additional questions to be submitted to reports.

## **2. Consultative Sessions**

### **2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions**

The subjects for debate at consultative sessions shall be chosen by the Committee on the advice of the Federal Policy Committee and, where appropriate, the Federal Executive, and published in the Agenda. Two or more such sessions may be held simultaneously.

# Standing orders continued

## **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 conference representative 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 either selected for debate or included in a ballot to allow conference representatives to determine an order of priority for allocating time.

### **3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates**

The Committee shall, in drawing up the Agenda, have due regard to the balance of State and Federal policy debates and in particular shall as far as possible organise the agenda so that all matters which relate solely to one or more state parties but not all State Parties or the Federal Party shall be considered at either the beginning or the end of the conference.

## **4. Selection of Motions and Amendments**

### **4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions**

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

## Standing orders continued

- 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.

### **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.

## Standing orders continued

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 Representatives attending Conference as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall decide how many motions shall be debated in the time available.

### **4.6 Emergency amendments**

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

### **4.7 Topical issue discussions**

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

## **5. Special Meetings**

### **5.1 Timetabling of special meetings**

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

### **5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings**

In setting dates for the submission of motions and amendments and giving notice thereof and of the conference itself the Committee shall endeavour to follow the

# Standing orders continued

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. If the person who is excluded is a voting member of conference, their local party or SAO shall be contacted immediately and invited to appoint a substitute for the remainder of the conference.

## **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.

# Standing orders continued

## 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, after which the mover of the motion (or the mover's nominee) shall have the right of reply. Votes shall then be taken on the amendments and options in the order in which they have been moved and, finally, on the substantive motion. The Committee may direct that part of any motion or amendment or groups or amendments may be the subject of a separate debate.

### 8.4 Topical issue discussions

The Committee shall direct the order of the discussion. Normally the proposer of the subject shall speak first, and a representative of the Federal Policy Committee shall speak last.

### 8.5 Who may speak

Only voting or non-voting members may speak at a full session of conference, save that other persons may speak in the following circumstances:

- a) As a member of the Federal Policy Committee representing that committee in a policy debate.
- b) As a member of the Federal Conference Committee representing that committee in debates on standing orders and matters of conference procedure.
- c) As a member of the Federal Executive representing that committee on matters of party business.

## Standing orders continued

d) If called by the chair of the session, after the Committee has given permission.

Such permission shall only be given exceptionally.

Additionally the Committee may invite any person to address the conference as a guest.

### **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 Executive 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 and non-voting members wishing to speak in any debate shall submit a speaker's card, prior to the commencement of the debate in which they wish to speak, stating whether they wish to speak for or against an amendment, the motion or part of the motion. The chair shall be responsible for the choice of the speakers and shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between the different viewpoints in the conference, but may announce a departure from this rule if there is an overwhelming preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side. The chair shall have the discretion to accept speakers' cards after the start of the debate. Save as provided for in these standing orders, no person may speak more than once in any debate.

### **8.8 The length of speeches**

The Committee shall set out in the Agenda time limits for speeches.

### **8.9 Where to speak from**

All speeches shall be made from the rostrum, save that speeches by the President or Leader of the Party, except when participating in debate, or by a guest invited by the Committee, or on the occasion of the opening or the closing of the meeting, may be made from the platform.

# Standing orders continued

## 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.

## 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

## Standing orders continued

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 representative)**

- a) A voting member, who has not already spoken in the debate, may, at any time before the chair has asked the first speaker in reply to stand by, submit, in writing, a request to refer back the motion under debate. The submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a statement of the reasons, including reasons why voting against the motion would not achieve a similar result, not exceeding 75 words.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. If more than one request is received, the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken with respect to any motion.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to refer. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the reference back, it falls.
- d) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item

## Standing orders continued

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 Executive, 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 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.

# Standing orders continued

## 11.5 Counted vote

Any voting member may ask for a counted vote, which shall be taken if the request is supported by 50 members rising in their places and showing their voting cards.

## 11.6 Suspension of standing orders

- a) A voting conference member may, during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of standing orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 75 words, to the chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.
- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the 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.

## Standing orders continued

### **11.7 No procedural motions during votes**

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

## **12 Reports**

### **12.1 Which reports are tabled**

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

### **12.2 Submission and selection of questions**

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

## Standing orders continued

A voting member may move the rejection of any part of the report or of the report as a whole. A voting member wishing to move a rejection shall submit a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report, stating the section(s) which they wish to have rejected. All moves to reject a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between moves to reject the same part of the report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall 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 conference, and at least one Vice Chair, who must be members of the Committee either directly elected by conference or elected by one of the State Parties.

# The Federal Party

## Officers of the Federal Party

Leader	Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
President	Baroness Scott
Chair of FFAC	Cllr Duncan Greenland
Treasurer	Lord Clement-Jones
Vice President (England)	Brian Orrell
Vice President (Scotland)	Audrey Findlay
Vice President (Wales)	John Last CBE
Acting Chief Executive	Chris Fox

## Federal Executive

The FE is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Federal Party, including overall strategy, campaigning, organisation and staffing. The Federal Finance and Administration Committee and the Campaigns and Communications Committee both report to the FE.

The FE has 29 voting members: the Party President (who chairs it) and three Vice Presidents; the Leader and two other MPs; one peer; one MEP; two councillors; three state party reps; and fifteen members directly elected by conference reps.

## Federal Finance and Administration Committee

The FFAC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party, directing its administration and ensuring its compliance with the provisions of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. It is responsible to the FE, but also reports directly to the Federal Conference.

The FFAC has 14 voting members: the Chair (currently Cllr Duncan Greenland), Party Treasurer and five other members (elected by the FE); the Party President; three state party reps; and the Chief Executive and two other members of Federal (HQ and Parliamentary) staff.

# The Federal Party

## Federal Policy Committee

The FPC is responsible for researching and developing policy and overseeing the Federal Party's policy-making process. This includes 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 four other MPs; the Party President; one peer; one MEP; three councillors; three state party reps; and fifteen members directly elected by conference reps. It must be chaired by one of the five MP members, and is currently chaired by the Leader.

## Federal Conference Committee

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 reps, local, regional and state parties, specified associated organisations and Federal committees, and taking decisions on topics such as venues, registration rates and other administrative and organisational matters. It works within a budget set by the FFAC.

The FCC has 21 voting members: the Party President; the Chief Whip; three state party reps; two reps from the FE and two from the FPC; and twelve members directly elected by conference reps. It elects its own chair (currently Duncan Brack), who must be one of the directly elected reps.