

**Trust in people
Make Britain fairer**



Conference Agenda

Liberal Democrat Autumn Conference

16th - 21st September 2006

Brighton

Don't miss the green fringe!



Sunday 17 September

1600 - 1800	Green Liberal Democrats The Green Conference Briefing	Osborne Suite Hilton Metropole
2000 - 2115	ALDC Nuclear Power - No Thanks	Lancaster Suite Hilton Metropole
2000 - 2115	LDYS: Green and Sexy? Surely Not!	Cambridge Suite Hilton Metropole
2000 - 2115	CentreForum and RSPB Clear Green Water: How can the Lib Dems stay ahead on the environment?	Ambassador Suite Hilton Metropole
2000 - 2115	Green Liberal Democrats Local Works Sustainable Communities Bill	Edinburgh Suite Hilton Metropole

Monday 18 September

2000 - 2115	Scottish Liberal Democrats and Airtricity: Greening Scotland with Nicol Stephen MSP, Deputy First Minister of Scotland	LO Lounge Hilton Metropole
2000 - 2115	LDEG: Can the EU switch off Climate Change?	Chartwell Suite Hilton Metropole

Tuesday 19 September

1300 - 1400	ALDC Reception with Green Switch councils	Windsor Suite Hilton Metropole
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Wednesday 20 September

1300 - 1400	Green Liberal Democrats AGM and launch of Young GLD	Sandringham Suite Hilton Metropole
2000 - 2115	ALDC: Fighting the Greens	Sandringham Suite Hilton Metropole

Listings of green events at conference are for information only, and do not imply that organisations support the Liberal Democrat Green Tax Switch campaign.

There are further green fringes being organised by the Climate Clinic (at the Friends Meeting House) and others. Please check your Conference Directory for details of these additional events.

www.greentaxswitch.com

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See Conference Directory for conference information, fringe, exhibition, features

Conference Directory and Agenda are available in audio and large print versions. See page 3.



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

www.libdems.org.uk

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The Federal Conference Committee is here to serve you!

During the week if you need to find any of the members of the FCC, you should be able to easily identify them by the larger white background badge holder with the light green FCC badge inside.

These are the 2006 members of the Federal Conference Committee.



Duncan Brack, Chair,
directly elected



Andrew Wiseman,
Vice Chair Finance,
English rep



Ruth Polling, Vice Chair,
Communications,
directly elected

Directly elected:



Jon Ball



Catherine Bearder



Sarah Boad



Sal Brinton



Dee Doocey



Gareth Epps



Sue Garden



Chris Maines



Justine McGuinness



Jane Smithard



Robert Adamson
FPC rep



Jeremy Hargreaves
FPC rep



Jock Gallagher
FE rep



James Gurling
FE rep



David Bourne
Welsh Rep



Debra Storr
Scottish rep



Gordon Seekings
Staff rep



Chris Jennings,
Chief Steward,
co-opted

Ex officio:

Paul Burstow MP, Chief Whip.

Chris Rennard, Chief Executive.

Simon Hughes MP, Party President.

Procedural information

Please read carefully the conference information starting on page 72 of the Directory, which includes registration and security information.

Deadlines

Amendments to motions / emergency motions / questions to reports / appeals

The deadline for:

- amendments to motions F21, F28, F32, F41, F43, F45, F49 and F51;
- emergency motions;
- questions to reports; and
- appeals.

is 12.00 noon Wednesday 13th September.

The Federal Conference Committee will make decisions on these on the afternoon of Saturday 16th September. Submitters will not be contacted after the meeting, but can seek feedback from the relevant member of the Committee, who can be contacted via the Information Desk after 17.30 on the 16th.

Emergency motions may be the subject of priority ballots among conference representatives. Ballot papers and the ballot box will be available at the information desk. The poll will be held, if necessary, between 09.30 and 13.00 on Monday 18th September.

Procedure for submission

Amendments, emergency motions and appeals must be signed by 10 conference representatives, or submitted by local parties, state parties, regional parties in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisations or relevant Federal Party Committees.

Questions to reports may be submitted by any conference representative.

Appeals against non-acceptance of motions or amendments 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 or amendment to which they relate; and
- d) specify the justification for the appeal and provide new information of which Conference Committee was unaware when it made its original decision.

Services for the blind and visually impaired

The Conference Agenda and Directory and consultative and policy papers are available in audio format (produced by RNIB).

All conference documents can be made available as pdf files, in large format and on coloured paper.

Please contact Emma Harris at the Conference Office on 020 7227 1350, email: emma.harris@libdems.org.uk by 10th September.

At conference contact RNIB stand 10.

Where possible, the Policy Project Team prefers to receive amendments, emergency motions, appeals and questions to reports via email. To make this easier we have a dedicated email address: motions@libdems.org.uk, to which all motions should be sent. To avoid confusion, motions emailed to any other address cannot be accepted. If you experience any problems with this address, or have any questions, please call 020 7227 1379.

Motions and amendments must be authorised by an officer of the submitting organisation (eg. Chair or Secretary) or another person empowered to do so by that organisation's internal rules. Ideally the person authorising a motion should email that motion to motions@libdems.org.uk from their own email account.

If this is not possible, a contact name, telephone number and party membership number for the person authorising the motion must be included with the emailed motion.

If you do not have access to email, then forms can be posted to the Policy Projects Team, 4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3NB, or faxed to 020 7799 2170.

All items accepted for debate will be detailed in Sunday's *Advance Notice* sheet.

Procedural information continued

Submission of motions by ten conference representatives

If you are submitting an emergency motion or amendment in the name of ten+ conference representatives, the following procedure applies:

- A co-ordinator should be responsible for collecting all signatures and submitting them in one email to motions@libdems.org.uk.
- The signatures should include the person's name, email address, constituency/SAO, and membership number. Signatures submitted by people other than the coordinator will not be accepted.
- If you are submitting a motion in the name of ten+ conference representatives by post or fax, all signatures and accompanying details (email not required) should be submitted together.

Applicability of motions

All motions are Federal in application unless otherwise stated.

Urgent issues

Slots at F22 and F47 have been reserved for discussion of important current political issues. The topics for the discussions will only be selected in the week before conference, and notified through the *Advance Notice* and *Daily Announcements*. Unlike other debates at conference, these discussions will not make new party policy, but are intended to allow



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conference representatives and spokespeople an opportunity to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference.

Suggestions for issues may be submitted by any conference representative, and should be emailed to urgent.issues@libdems.org.uk by noon on Friday 8th September. The title of the issue should be no more than ten words long, 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. Emails should also include full contact details of the submitter, and may include up to 100 words of explanatory background.

The person submitting an issue chosen for one of these slots 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 nominee of the Federal Policy Committee will sum up the main points and suggest any further actions. No vote will be taken.

Advance Notice and Daily Announcements

An *Advance Notice* sheet will be published on Sunday. This will contain amendments to motions, urgent issues, emergency motions for debate or the ballot and questions to reports selected by the Conference Committee.

A *Daily Announcements* sheet will be published each day, Monday to Thursday, and will be available at the start of the morning session from the information desk. It will include last-minute changes to the order of business, movers, emergency motions etc.

Please make sure you collect your *Advance Notice* sheet and *Daily Announcements* sheet as the information they contain will always be vital to understanding the day's business.

Venue

Auditorium

The main conference sessions will take place in the main hall of the Brighton Centre and attendees must

Procedural information continued

ensure they are wearing their photopasses everywhere within the conference centre. Certain areas within the auditorium will be reserved for guests and observers.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere within the Brighton Centre.

Platform seating

Except for the opening ceremony of the conference (Monday morning), the President's and the Leader's speech, any representative at the conference may sit on the platform, subject to space availability. If you wish to sit on the platform you should approach the Platform Steward at the Stewards' Table before the beginning of the session and they will show you where to sit.

Speaking at conference

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

- Conference representatives (or substitutes) who have paid their full registration fee for the conference (i.e. not day visitors).
- Non-voting members who have paid their full registration fee for the conference (i.e. not day visitors).
- Persons who are ex-officio representatives (e.g. Parliamentary spokespersons).
- Persons who have been given permission to speak by the Conference Committee.

No other person may be called to speak in debates.

In exceptional circumstances (such as the possession of particular expertise that would not otherwise be represented in the debate), people who are not either conference representatives or non-voting members may be authorised to submit a speaker's card by the Conference Committee, but they must apply to the Conference Committee at least 48 hours in advance.

Speaker's cards

Anyone who is entitled and wishes to speak must complete a speaker's card to speak in the debate. Cards can be obtained from the steward overseeing the block of seats in which you are sitting or from the information desk from the Saturday afternoon. It is

important that you supply all the information requested on the card and make sure that you complete all the sections legibly.

Please hand the completed card to a steward in the auditorium before the beginning of the morning or afternoon in which the relevant debate occurs. If this is not possible, please hand it in well in advance of the debate.

Lengths of speeches

Lengths of speeches for each debate are published alongside each motion.

The speaker's rostrum 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.

Interventions

There will be interventions during debates F16, F28, F33 and F45. This procedure offers those entitled to speak at conference the opportunity to make concise (one-minute) speeches from the floor during the debate on the motion (see speaking at conference, above, for details of eligibility to speak).

There are two microphones in the body of the auditorium facing the platform. Those wishing to speak during interventions should take their place 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 platform: the green light is switched on at the start of the intervention; the amber light will show 20 seconds before the end of the intervention; the red light will be switched on at the end of one minute and the intervention must stop immediately.

Any questions ?

If you have a query during the conference, please contact the Information Desk, members of the Conference Team or Conference Committee.

The Federal Party

Officers of the Federal Party

Leader	Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell QC MP
President	Simon Hughes MP
Chair of FFAC	David Griffiths
Treasurer	Lord Clement-Jones
Vice President (England)	Stan Collins
Vice President (Scotland)	Judy Hayman
Vice President (Wales)	Lembit Öpik MP
Chief Executive	Chris Rennard CBE

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 (David Griffiths), 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.

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, who must be one of the directly elected or state party reps. FCC members are listed on page 2.

Want to know more about conference?

Following the successful training provided by the Federal Conference Committee for the first time last year, FCC will again be providing training for those who are new to conference or feel they would like to know more.

Welcome to conference

East Mezzanine, Brighton Centre
13.00 Sunday 17th September

Speaking at conference for the first time

Level 3 meeting room, Brighton Centre
17.00 Sunday 17th September

FCC members will be on hand throughout the week to give advice on conference and the opportunities to take part. FCC members will be wearing larger conference badges and are listed with photos on page 2. They can also be contacted via the Information Desk in the Brighton Centre.

Come and find out more!

Trust in people

15.00 Consultative sessions -17.30

Climate change

The Clarence Room
Hilton Brighton Metropole

Chair: Neil Stockley
Rapporteur: Dr Steve Toole



Liberal Democrat crime policy: No soft options

The Sandringham Room
Hilton Brighton Metropole

Chair: Mark Hunter MP
Rapporteur: Marcus Bowell

Setting the agenda: a discussion on moving the EU forward

The Edinburgh Room
Hilton Brighton Metropole

Chair: Diana Wallis MEP
Rapporteur: Chris Davies MEP

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 Parliamentary Team. Where appropriate, the conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final policy papers.

Green tax switch Campaign

This year, our conference has a green theme running right through it.

At Sunday's Green Rally, Menzies Campbell will launch the Party's new environment campaign for fairer, greener taxes. The Green Tax Switch Rally will be held in the Oxford Suite at the Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel from 18.30 to 19.30.

Throughout the Agenda and Directory you will see green events highlighted in our debates and fringe meetings.

Just look out for the campaign logo!



Sunday 17th

10.00 Consultative Sessions -12.30

Crime in the community

The Sandringham Room
Hilton Brighton Metropole

Chair: Graham Tope
Rapporteur: Ruth Isden

Future of the Trident system

The Clarence Room
Hilton Brighton Metropole

Chair: John Roper
Rapporteur: Matt Waldman

Tackling inequality and poverty and lack of opportunity

The Ambassador Room
Hilton Brighton Metropole

Chair: Liz Barker
Rapporteurs: Christian Moon and
Chris Saunders

11.30 Consultative Sessions -12.30

Taking power (Response to the Power Commission Report)

The Norfolk Room
Hilton Brighton Metropole

Chair: Paul Tyler
Rapporteur: Alexander Davies

Note: Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell QC MP will be speaking at this session.

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 Parliamentary Team. Where appropriate, the conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final policy papers.

14.15 Party Business

Chair: Arnie Gibbons
Aide: Justine McGuinness

F1 Report of the Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F2 Standing order amendment: Emergency motions

Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Summation: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

1 **Option 1**

2 *In 4.5 b), add at end:*

3 'or is, in the opinion of the Committee, too poorly drafted to provide a sensible basis for
4 debate'

5 **Option 2**

6 *Delete all of 4.5 and insert:*

7 The Committee may include any emergency motion on the agenda. No amendment shall be
8 taken to any motion selected under this standing order.

9 *In 4.6, delete first sentence.*

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

Note: the existing text of standing orders is given on pages 58-64 of this Agenda. A standing order amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

F3 Standing order amendment: Urgent issues

Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Summation: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

1 *In Glossary of terms, under 'Full session':*

2 *After 'debates', add: ', urgent issue discussions'.*

3 *In Glossary of terms, add:*

Sunday 17th

4 **Urgent issue discussion**

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

6 *In 1.1, 'What is on the agenda', add:*

7 (e) Urgent issue discussions

8 *In 1.3, 'Right to submit agenda items', add:*

9 (e) Proposals for urgent issue discussions may be submitted by any voting member.

10 *In 1.5, 'The deadlines by which motions and amendments and questions to reports must*
11 *be submitted', add:*

12 (h) The closing date for proposals for urgent issue discussions, which shall be at least two
13 days before the start of conference.

14 *In section 4, 'Selection of motions and amendments ...':*

15 *In 4.5, 'Emergency motions', add new 4.5 (b) and renumber:*

16 (b) It is similar in effect to a subject chosen for an urgent issue discussion.

17 *Insert new section 4.8 and renumber:*

18 **4.8 Urgent issue discussions**

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

23 *In section 9, 'Conduct of debate', add new 9.4 and renumber:*

24 **9.4 Urgent issue discussions**

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

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

Note: the existing text of standing orders is given on pages 58-64 of this Agenda. A standing order amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

14.40 Party business

Chair: Arnie Gibbons

Aide: Justine McGuinness

F4 Report of the Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell QC MP (Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

15.00 Party business

Chair: Libby Calton
Aide: Cllr Ruth Polling (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F5 Federal Executive Report

Mover: Simon Hughes MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)

F6 Leadership election regulations

Federal Executive

Mover: Tessa Munt
Summation: To be announced

1 *Delete regulation three and replace with either:*

2 **Option 1**

3 3. The membership register will be released in electronic version to an agreed mailing
4 supplier or suppliers who will facilitate each candidate (at the expense of their campaign)
5 producing further mailings to all members subject to common rules produced by the Acting
6 Returning Officer for the sole purpose of the election. This is to enable each candidate to
7 do mailings to members over and above the official ballot mailing and e-mails via the
8 Acting Returning Officer.

9 **Option 2**

10 3. The sections of the membership register containing the names, addresses and telephone
11 numbers of members will be released in electronic version to each candidate subject to the
12 candidate signing a data protection statement.

13 *Insert new regulation 4 and renumber accordingly:*

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

20 (b) The Acting Returning Officer will co-ordinate arrangements for party member hustings
21 events via the state and English regional parties with a view to balancing the competing
22 demands for media coverage of the campaign, parliamentary and other duties. Other party
23 bodies may only hold events inviting candidates (or their representatives) for hustings-
24 type events with the prior agreement of the Acting Returning Officer. Official party
25 communications channels may only be used to promote hustings events approved by the
26 Acting Returning Officer. Responsibility for organising and paying for any hustings event

Sunday 17th

27 shall lie with the hosting organisation, but the Acting Returning Officer will assist in
28 publicising official hustings events via the party's web-site, e.mail communications, *Liberal*
29 *Democrat News* etc.

30 *Insert new regulation 6 and renumber accordingly:*

31 6. Nominations from the Parliamentary Party shall not include the candidate themselves, and
32 no member of the Parliamentary Party may sign more than one nomination paper. A
33 nomination will be rejected if it depends upon the signature of an MP who has signed a
34 previously submitted and valid nomination form for another candidate standing in the
35 election.

36 *In regulation 8, line 1, delete "the election expenses ... £15,000" and insert: "The Federal*
37 *Executive shall set a spending limit for election expenses, not including travel or subsistence"*
38 *and after "each leadership candidate" insert: "when they set the timetable for the election".*

39 *In regulation 9, line 1, between "produced" and "for", insert: "in paper or electronic form".*

40 *Delete regulation 10 (a) and renumber accordingly.*

41 *In regulation 10 (c), line 2, between "the" and "coverage", insert: "minimum", and after*
42 *"provided", insert: "for".*

43 *Add new regulation 10(d):*

44 10 (d) The Returning Officer may carry out electronic communications to facilitate the election
45 and send out e-mail communications on behalf of the candidates in the election.

46 *In regulation 11, line 1, between "circulated" and "under", insert: "in paper or electronic form".*

47 *In regulation 14, line 4, delete "14th day papers" and insert: "35th day after the declaration*
48 *of the election result" and in line 6 delete "containing" and insert: "contain".*

The current Leadership elections regulations are as follows:

1. The Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall be the Returning Officer. The Chief Executive shall be Acting Returning Officer.
2. The electorate for the purpose of the election shall be those members with current membership of the Liberal Democrats on the closing date for nominations, including those members whose subscriptions were due not more than three months before the closing date.
3. The membership registers, locally and nationally, are confidential and will not be released for the purposes of the election.
4. After acquiring the necessary nominations for candidacy, each candidate may nominate an agent for his or her campaign. A candidate who fails to nominate an agent will be deemed his or her own agent.
5. Federal Party employees shall maintain strict neutrality from the opening date for

- declaration of candidacy. It is recommended that employees of state parties, SAOs and any other relevant employing bodies shall also maintain such neutrality.
6. Party Officers, acting in their capacity as officers at federal, state, regional and local level, are expected, as far as possible, to give equal opportunities and fair balance to all candidates.
 7. The provision of food, drink or entertainment by or on behalf of the candidates, and any other form of treating, will not be allowed.
 8. The election expenses shall be limited to £15,000 for each leadership 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.
 9. All publicity material produced for or on behalf of a candidate shall bear his or her agent's imprint including a full postal address. Any email messages sent out for or on behalf of a candidate for the purposes of publicising their candidacy shall also include a standard form of words provided by the Returning Officer specifying how the recipient of the message may opt out of future messages.
 10. Ballot Papers and Election Address:
 - (a) Ballot papers shall be dispatched to all members within 14 days of the close of nominations.
 - (b) Each candidate shall be entitled to include in the mailing of ballot papers a personal election address covering up to two sides of A4 paper, or A5 in the event of there being more than three candidates, 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.
 - (c) The published personal election address may be reproduced in whatever format is decided by the Returning Officer so long as the coverage provided in regulation 10(b) is met.
 11. No material published or circulated under regulations 8, 9 or 10 shall defame by name or implication any other candidate and no candidate shall so defame any other candidate in the course of personal canvassing.
 12. Any party publication whether in paper or electronic form shall give, as far as possible, equal coverage and a fair balance to all candidates.
 13. The election shall be conducted by secret ballot and the single transferable vote. Counts shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of the Electoral Reform Society's publication 'How to conduct an election by the single transferable vote'. The election count may be scrutinised by the candidate, their agents and one other personal representative and shall be open to any party member, subject to capacity of the venue.
 14. Each candidate and their agent shall complete and lodge with the Acting Returning Officer an election expenses return form. The form must have attached receipts or invoices for all expenditure and must be lodged with the Acting Returning Officer by midday on the 14th day after the closing date for return of ballot papers. The Acting Returning Officer will hold the expenses returns of each candidate on file and these

- may be examined by any party member. The expenses form shall also contain the necessary information to prove compliance with schedule 7 of the PPERA 2000.
15. At the Completion of the Election any candidate who needs to make a report to the Electoral Commission shall do so in consultation with the Party's PPERA Compliance Officer.
 16. The Returning Officer shall have the power to disqualify before declaration of the result, or unseat if declared elected, any candidate who:
 - (a) has brought the party into disrepute during the campaign or where the Returning Officer has clear evidence (e.g. from bankruptcy or financial embarrassment) of this happening in the near future; or
 - (b) is found to be in breach of regulations 3, 7, 8, 11 or 14.
 17. Any party member may lodge, in writing, a formal complaint of infringement of election regulations at any time up to 21 days after the declaration. The written complaint should be addressed to the Acting Returning Officer and specify in detail the nature of the infringement. The Returning Officer shall then decide, in full consultation with the Acting Returning Officer, whether there is sufficient evidence and grounds to uphold the complaint.
 18. Appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer must be referred to the Federal Appeals Panel within 14 days of the decision. For the purposes of Appeals under these regulations the Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall not act as a member of the Federal Appeals Panel, and the other Panel members shall appoint one of their number as Acting Chair.
 19. These regulations will be reviewed by the Federal Executive no later than six months after any Leadership Election.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

Note: under Article 8.4 of the Federal Constitution, this motion as a whole is subject to a vote but is not subject to separate votes.

F7 Presidential election regulations

Federal Executive

Mover: Tessa Munt

Summation: To be announced

1 *Add new regulation 4 and renumber accordingly:*

2 4. The timetable for the election shall be no shorter than 7 weeks and no longer than 12
3 weeks. It shall contain a minimum of 15 days for nominations to be collected and at least
4 14 days between the close of nominations and the despatch of ballot papers.

5 *In regulation 8, line 1, delete "The election ... £2,500" and insert: "The Federal Executive shall*
6 *agree a spending limit for election expenses, not including travel or subsistence expenses,*

- 7 when setting the timetable for the election”.
- 8 *Renumber regulation 9 as 9 (a), and in line 1 between “produced” and “for”, insert: “in paper or*
9 *electronic form”.*
- 10 *Insert new regulation 9 (b):*
- 11 9 (b) Each candidate shall be responsible for supplying material that verifies, to the satisfaction
12 of the Acting Returning Officer, any statement in his or her personal election address
13 claiming that he or she is endorsed by any individual or organisation. Such material must
14 accompany the candidate’s personal election address artwork.
- 15 *In regulation 10, delete “ballot papers and election address”; delete all of 10 (a); and renumber*
16 *10 (b) and (c) as 9 (c) and (d).*
- 17 *In regulation 10(c) line 2, between “the” and “coverage”, insert: “minimum”.*
- 18 *Insert new regulation 9 (e):*
- 19 9 (e) The Returning Officer may carry out electronic communications to facilitate the election
20 and send out electronic communications on behalf of the candidates in the election.
- 21 *In regulation 11, line 1, between “circulated” and “under”, insert: “in paper or electronic form”.*
- 22 *In regulation 14, line 4, delete “14th day after ... papers” and insert: “35th day after the*
23 *declaration of the election result.”*

The current Presidential elections regulations are as follows:

1. The Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall be the Returning Officer. The Chief Executive shall be Acting Returning Officer.
2. The electorate for the purpose of the election shall be those members with current membership of the Liberal Democrats on the closing date for nominations, including those members whose subscriptions were due not more than three months before the closing date.
3. The membership registers, locally and nationally, are confidential and will not be released for the purposes of the election.
4. After acquiring the necessary nominations for candidacy, each candidate may nominate an agent for his or her campaign. A candidate who fails to nominate an agent will be deemed his or her own agent.
5. Federal Party employees shall maintain strict neutrality from the opening date for declaration of candidacy. It is recommended that employees of state parties, SAOs and any other relevant employing bodies shall also maintain such neutrality.
6. Party Officers, acting in their capacity as officers at federal, state, regional and local level, are expected, as far as possible, to give equal opportunities and fair balance to all candidates.

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7. The provision of food, drink or entertainment by or on behalf of the candidates, and any other form of treating, will not be allowed.
8. The election expenses shall be limited to £2,500 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.
9. All publicity material produced for or on behalf of a candidate shall bear his or her agent's imprint including a full postal address. Any email messages sent out for or on behalf of a candidate for the purposes of publicising their candidacy shall also include a standard form of words provided by the Returning Officer specifying how the recipient of the message may opt out of future messages.
10. Ballot Papers and Election Address:
 - (a) Ballot papers shall be dispatched to all members within 14 days of the close of nominations.
 - (b) Each candidate shall be entitled to include in the mailing of ballot papers a personal election address covering up to two sides of A4 paper, or A5 in the event of there being more than three candidates, 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.
 - (c) The published personal election address may be reproduced in whatever format is decided by the Returning Officer so long as the coverage provided in regulation 10(b) is met.
11. No material published or circulated under regulations 8, 9 or 10 shall defame by name or implication any other candidate and no candidate shall so defame any other candidate in the course of personal canvassing.
12. Any party publication whether in paper or electronic form shall give, as far as possible, equal coverage and a fair balance to all candidates.
13. The election shall be conducted by secret ballot and the single transferable vote. Counts shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of the Electoral Reform Society's publication 'How to conduct an election by the single transferable vote'. The election count may be scrutinised by the candidate, their agents and one other personal representative and shall be open to any party member, subject to capacity of the venue.
14. Each candidate and their agent shall complete and lodge with the Acting Returning Officer an election expenses return form. The form must have attached receipts or invoices for all expenditure and must be lodged with the Acting Returning Officer by midday on the 14th day after the closing date for return of ballot papers. The Acting Returning Officer will hold the expenses returns of each candidate on file and these may be examined by any party member. The expenses form shall also contain the necessary information to prove compliance with schedule 7 of the PPERA 2000.
15. At the Completion of the Election any candidate who needs to make a report to the Electoral Commission shall do so in consultation with the Party's PPERA Compliance Officer.

16. The Returning Officer shall have the power to disqualify before declaration of the result, or unseat if declared elected, any candidate who:
 - (a) has brought the party into disrepute during the campaign or where the Returning Officer has clear evidence (e.g. from bankruptcy or financial embarrassment) of this happening in the near future; or
 - (b) is found to be in breach of regulations 3, 7, 8, 11 or 14.
17. Any party member may lodge, in writing, a formal complaint of infringement of election regulations at any time up to 21 days after the declaration. The written complaint should be addressed to the Acting Returning Officer and specify in detail the nature of the infringement. The Returning Officer shall then decide, in full consultation with the Acting Returning Officer, whether there is sufficient evidence and grounds to uphold the complaint.
18. Appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer must be referred to the Federal Appeals Panel within 14 days of the decision. For the purposes of Appeals under these regulations the Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall not act as a member of the Federal Appeals Panel, and the other Panel members shall appoint one of their number as Acting Chair.
19. These regulations will be reviewed by the Federal Executive no later than six months after any Presidential Election.”

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

Note: under Article 8.4 of the Federal Constitution, this motion as a whole is subject to a vote but is not subject to separate votes.

F8 Specified Associated Organisations recognition

Federal Executive

Mover: Simon Hughes MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Summation: To be confirmed

- 1 Conference notes that the Federal Executive has completed the review of the Party’s Specified
- 2 Associated Organisations (SAOs), which it carried out in accordance with article 13 of the
- 3 Federal Constitution.

- 4 In accordance with article 13, Conference agrees to replace the Annexe to the Constitution
- 5 listing SAOs, which expires at this conference, by the following new Annexe, which will remain
- 6 in force until Autumn conference 2010:

- 7 Annexe: The organisations recognised as SAOs in accordance with article 13 are:

- 8 Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors
- 9 DELGA (Liberal Democrats for Lesbian and Gay Action)
- 10 Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats
- 11 Liberal Democrat Agents & Organisers Association

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- 12 Liberal Democrat Youth and Students
- 13 Parliamentary Candidates' Association
- 14 Women Liberal Democrats

15 Conference further notes that as a result of the review the following organisations have not
16 been included in the list of SAOs in the new Annexe to the Constitution:

- 17 Association of Liberal Democrat Trade Unionists
- 18 Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists

19 Conference recognises the pressures placed on SAOs by the recent process of reviewing their
20 operation, and calls on the Federal Executive to reconsider the review process and report its
21 findings to the Autumn 2007 conference.

Amendment One

Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists

Mover: Rowland Morgan

Summation: Richard Balmer

1 *After 'Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors' (line 8), insert:*
2 Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists

3 *In line 18, delete:*
4 Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

15.50 Party business

Chair: Gareth Epps
Aide: Cllr Sarah Boad

F9 Report of the Gender Balance Task Force

Mover: Sandra Gidley MP (Chair of the Gender Balance Task Force)

16.00 Party business

F10 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee

Mover: David Griffiths (Chair, Federal Finance and Administration Committee)

F11 Membership subscription and federal levy

Federal Executive

Mover: To be announced

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that:

2 i) The Liberal Democrats receive a higher proportion of its income from its members'
3 subscriptions than any other major UK party.

4 ii) In the English Party, which applies the subscription levels set by Federal Conference, the
5 annual cost of servicing members and supporting the basic membership structure of the
6 party is £806,345, or £13.12 per member (2006 English Party budget).

7 iii) The current minimum subscription set by Federal Conference is £6.

8 iv) There are people who could be excluded from membership of the Party if they had to pay a
9 subscription higher than the current minimum.

10 Conference resolves that for the year 2007:

11 1. Membership subscription

12 a) The recommended subscription rate shall be £45.

13 b) The minimum subscription rate shall be £9.

14 c) A new concessionary subscription rate of £6 shall apply to those who are, or are
15 entitled to be, in receipt of state benefits other than child benefit or state pension.

16 d) Those paying their subscription through the Youth and Student SAO shall pay a
17 minimum of £6 or, where a new member joins at a Freshers Fair event, a special
18 introductory rate of £1.

19 e) Nothing in this motion prevents a State Party from setting a recommended rate or
20 rates of subscription by its internal procedures which is higher than that agreed by the
21 Federal Conference.

22 2. Federal levy

23 The Federal Levy on new members shall be 0% of the subscription paid and the Federal Levy on
24 renewal subscriptions shall be 42%.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

16.30 Constitutional amendment

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball

Aide: Sue Garden

F12 Campaigns Committee

English Liberal Democrats

Mover: To be announced

Summation: Lembit Öpik MP

1 *In 8.2, 2nd paragraph, before 'a Finance and Administration Committee ("FAC")' insert: '(1)'.*

2 *In 8.2, at the end of the penultimate paragraph (after 'Federal Conference'), insert:*

3 ; and

4 (2) a Campaigns Committee whose members shall serve for a term of two years which will be
5 responsible to the Federal Executive for publicity and broadcasting, campaigning and
6 elections and shall consist of:

7 (a) the Chair of the Campaigns Committee;

8 (b) the President;

9 (c) two representatives of each State elected by their internal procedures (State Parties
10 may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a
11 specific meeting of the Campaigns Committee);

12 (e) the Federal Chief Executive and a representative of the staff employed by the Party at
13 federal level or by the Parliamentary Parties elected by such staff (neither of whom
14 shall be entitled to vote); and

15 (f) five persons elected by the Federal Executive (casual vacancies shall be filled in
16 accordance with the standing orders of the Federal Executive).

17 The Campaigns Committee thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods
18 not exceeding two years as it thinks fit (but so that there shall not be more than three
19 persons co-opted at any time) who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote.

20 *In 8.2, final paragraph, delete: 'publicity and broadcasting, campaigning and elections, and'*

21 *In Article 12, 'Officers', add new 12.5 and renumber existing 12.5 to 12.6:*

22 12.5 The Chair of the Campaigns Committee, who shall be elected for a term of two years by the
23 Federal Executive and shall, upon election, become (if not already a member) a non-voting
24 member of the Federal Executive.

25 *In 8.1(ii), delete (b) and insert:*

26 (b) the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, the Treasurer and the Chair of
27 the Campaigns Committee in accordance with Articles 12.4 to 12.6.

The current Articles 8.1 and 8.2 of the constitution are as follows:

8.1 There shall be a Federal Executive, which shall be responsible for directing, co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Federal Party. It shall consist of the following:

...

(ii) non voting members:

...

(b) the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee and the Treasurer in accordance with Articles 12.4 and 12.5;

8.2 The Federal Executive shall have power from time to time to establish, appoint and remove members of, and vary committees and sub-committees, which shall be responsible to it and which shall report regularly.

In particular, it shall establish a Finance and Administration Committee ("FAC") which will be responsible to the Federal Executive for:

...

The FAC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not exceeding two years as it thinks fit (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time) who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote. The FAC shall have the power to borrow money for the general purposes of the Federal Party and to secure any monies borrowed in such manner as it thinks fit upon the assets of the Federal Party: provided always that the total amount of monies borrowed shall not exceed such amount as may from time to time be determined by the Federal Executive and approved by the Federal Conference.

The Federal Executive shall also have regard to the desirability of establishing sub-committees responsible for publicity and broadcasting, campaigning and elections, and international relations.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

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

17.00 Party business

Chair: Paul Beatty
Aide: Dee Doocey AM (London)

F13 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats

Movers: Paul Burstow MP (Chief Whip, House of Commons)
Lord Shutt (Chief Whip, House of Lords)
Sharon Bowles MEP (Chief Whip, European Parliament)

17.45 Close of session (approx)

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10.30 Formal opening of Federal Conference

Chair: Simon Hughes MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)
Aide: Jane Smithard

F14 The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Brighton & Hove, Councillor David Smith Reply by Norman Baker MP

10.50 Party business

Chair: Catherine Bearder
Aide: Dee Doocey AM (London)

F15 Speech by Michael Moore MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Foreign Secretary

11.10 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Sarah Boad
Aide: Gareth Epps

F16 *Stronger Families, Brighter Futures* (Children and families policy paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Annette Brooke MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for Children)

Summation: Patrick Short (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

- 1 Conference believes that the rights, well-being and development of Britain's children are vitally
2 important, and that the well-being of children cannot be separated from that of their families.
- 3 Conference upholds the Liberal Democrat principles that families should be as independent and
4 self-determining as possible; that individual parents should be free to raise their children as
5 they see fit, within a framework that puts children's interests at the centre; and that the role of
6 the state is to support families through local communities built by and for the people they aim
7 to help.
- 8 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 72, *Stronger Families, Brighter Futures*, as a
9 statement of party policies on children and families, replacing all previous policy papers and
10 motions on these subjects, and welcomes its focus on the three themes of:
- 11 A. Help to prepare people for the responsibilities of parenthood.
12 B. Support for families in maintaining financial and emotional stability.
13 C. Support for families in crisis, including through family breakdown and fostering.
- 14 To help to prepare people for the responsibilities of parenthood, Conference in particular calls
15 for:

- 16 i) Age-appropriate Personal, Social and Health Education to be a statutory part of the
17 National Curriculum.
18 ii) The establishment of mainstreamed 'Contact Points' with trusted professionals such as
19 midwives and health visitors to recognise problems and offer support to families.

20 To support families in maintaining security and stability, and focusing especially on those early
21 years of a child's life which have such a powerful formative influence on later life chances,
22 Conference in particular calls for:

- 23 a) The encouragement of flexible working practices and having shared parental leave between
24 mothers and fathers.
25 b) A Maternity Income Guarantee for the first child, equivalent to the adult minimum wage for
26 a full-time working week for the first 6 months, to be extended to 12 months as statutory
27 parental leave entitlements are increased.
28 c) More affordable and higher quality childcare based on funding models which give some
29 money directly to childcare providers, as well as to parents.
30 d) Children's Centres to be responsible to their communities, using parent forums and
31 encouraging childcare cooperatives.
32 e) Quality of care to be guaranteed through better training for early-years professionals and a
33 localised inspection regime.

34 To support families through the crisis of breakdown, and through the fostering process,
35 Conference in particular calls for:

- 36 1. The best interest of the child to remain paramount in cases of parental separation, but with
37 strong judicial regard to children maintaining contact with both parents.
38 2. A Default Contact Arrangement to take effect on separation providing reasonable contact
39 with the non-resident parent until the parents agree an alternative arrangement or the
40 court makes an order.
41 3. A compulsory meeting to hear 'options for mediation' before the application to the courts
42 is permitted to proceed.
43 4. A Focus on 'Families for Life', which includes a presumption in favour of kinship care.
44 5. Extra educational support for children in care.
45 6. A compulsory registration scheme for all fostering arrangements.

46 Conference also calls for the Children's Commissioner for England to promote and protect
47 children's rights in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Amendment One

Tunbridge Wells

Mover: Chris Ponsford

Summation: Jane Bramwell

- 1 *At end of a) (line 24), add: 'and the right for one parent of every child under two years to return*
2 *to work half-time.'*

Applicability: England only, except a) and b) (lines 23-27) which are Federal, and 1 to 3 (lines 36-42) which are England and Wales.

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Mover and summation: 20 minutes combined; all other speakers: 5 minutes.

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 page 5).

12.25 Party business

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

F17 Speech by Nick Clegg MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary

12.45 Lunch

14.15 Policy motion

Chair: Jane Smithard
Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves

F18 Independent living

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Danny Alexander MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for Disabled People)
Summation: Lord Addington (Lords Spokesperson for Disabled People)

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 i) There are an estimated 10 million disabled people in Britain protected under the Disability
- 3 Discrimination Act.
- 4 ii) While the Disability Discrimination Act and Equality Act have given vital protection to the
- 5 rights of disabled people, lack of disability awareness by many service providers remains a
- 6 significant barrier to disabled people enjoying these rights.
- 7 iii) Many existing Centres for Independent Living are threatened with the loss of all or part of
- 8 their funding and are being excessively driven by funding demands and tendering process
- 9 requirements, rather than pursuing objectives focused on the needs, desires and wishes of
- 10 their disabled members.
- 11 iv) Disabled people face fragmented provision of education services, health services, housing
- 12 provision and other services, along with a lack of statutory duties on local authorities to
- 13 meet minimum standards and respond to individual choices for disabled adults and
- 14 families with disabled children; this results in unmet support needs, inefficient resource
- 15 use and a lack of opportunities for disabled people to take control of their lives.
- 16 v) The Department for Work and Pensions concluded in a working paper on the cost of
- 17 disability in 2005 that extra support benefits for disabled people (Disability Living
- 18 Allowance and Attendance Allowance) are not sufficient to meet the higher living costs
- 19 disabled people face.

20 vi) At least 1 million disabled people who are not employed say they want to work, but are
21 being denied the independence and freedom work can bring to their lives due to barriers
22 such as lack of support for employers to take on disabled people, lack of flexible
23 employment opportunities, work disincentives in the benefits system and poor access to
24 high-quality work-focussed activity and training.

25 Conference further notes the policy development paper *Independent Living* which builds on
26 policy paper 34, *Breaking Down Barriers*. Conference welcomes the following principles which it
27 sets out as the basis for continuing development of the party's policy for disabled people:

- 28 a) Disability is not about medical diagnosis or health condition; disabled people may have
29 particular medial needs, but in a fair society disabled individuals should not have their
30 personal identity defined by medical needs any more than non-disabled people.
- 31 b) The main cause of the unfairness and limited freedom many disabled people face is the way
32 in which society is organised; applying a social model of disability focuses attention on the
33 barriers that prevent disabled people having the same freedoms as non-disabled people,
34 and policies developed in response to such a model are the most likely to achieve social
35 justice for disabled people.
- 36 c) Realising independent living is vital to ensuring fairness and freedom for disabled
37 members of society - this means that all disabled people have a right to the same choices
38 and control as non-disabled people in areas such as education, work, healthcare, housing
39 and leisure, and that disabled people should be free to take responsibility for their lives as
40 equal citizens and make individual choices.

41 Conference calls for:

- 42 1. A user-led Centre for Independent Living to be in every local authority area by 2010.
- 43 2. Stronger minimum statutory requirements for the delivery of services to disabled people,
44 ensuring minimum standards of provision for services such as those related to education,
45 housing, care provision and leisure.
- 46 3. Individual budgets to replace the plethora of existing funds and 'one-size-fits-all'
47 provision of services, based on a single comprehensive assessment of individual needs to
48 allow disabled people to make their own choices, using high-quality advocates if
49 necessary, on the support requirements to meet their personal aspirations.
- 50 4. The removal of barriers to employment for disabled people, in particular through the
51 benefits system with changes to income disregards and permitted earnings; greater
52 support for employers to take on disabled staff; effective promotion of Access to Work
53 funds; and provision of high-quality work-focused training and support .
- 54 5. When decisions are made on the reallocation of resources resulting from greater economic
55 activity of disabled people, closing the gap between extra support provided to disabled
56 people and the extra costs faced by disabled people should be made a priority.

Applicability: Federal, except 1 and 2 (lines 42-45) which are England only.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

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14.45 Party business

Chair: To be announced
Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F19 Question and answer with Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell QC MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Note: Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on question cards to the speakers' table by 12.45 on Monday 18th September. The Chair will select which questions to ask during the session.

15.25 Party business

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

F20 Communications presentation by Edward Davey MP, Chair, Campaigns and Communications Committee

Note: Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on question cards to the speakers' table by 12.45 on Monday 18th September. The Chair will select which questions to ask during the session. A background paper to the presentation will be available at conference.

15.55 Party business

Chair: Cllr Ruth Polling (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Catherine Bearder

F21 Diversity and equality

Federal Executive

Mover: To be announced
Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference affirms that the under-representation of women, people with disabilities, black and
- 2 minority ethnic people and lesbian and gay people in elected public office is unhealthy for
- 3 democracy and good decision-making and that the Liberal Democrats must play their full part in
- 4 correcting this imbalance.

- 5 Conference commits the party to the objective of the full representation in elected public office
- 6 of women, people with disabilities, black and minority ethnic people, and lesbians and gay men,
- 7 believes that this should be afforded the same priority as the party gives to introducing
- 8 proportional representation for elections, and agrees to campaign vigorously for this objective
- 9 in every way possible throughout the remainder of this Parliament.

10 Conference encourages every state, regional and local party, party organisation and individual
11 member to play their part in recruitment, encouragement and support of women and people
12 from all minority groups to ensure a properly representative party at all levels in the near future.

13 Conference welcomes the initiative by party leader, Sir Menzies Campbell MP, to provide
14 leadership and resources towards these aims, and the appointment of Steve Hitchins to work
15 with him on these issues.

16 Conference also notes the initial recommendations of the Federal Executive's Diversity and
17 Equality Review Group, requests the Group to continue its work and report to the Federal
18 Executive at least twice every year in time for its report to be included in the Federal Executive's
19 reports to conference, and requests the President also to report at each conference on the
20 Review Group's work and progress towards the objective of a fully representative party.

21 Conference welcomes in particular plans to provide greater staff resources at party
22 headquarters for promoting diversity and equality, and new procedures for monitoring
23 membership, applicants for candidate approval and selection of parliamentary candidates.

24 Conference agrees that the gender, disability and ethnicity of selected candidates should be
25 considered when assigning target status to UK parliamentary constituencies, and instructs the
26 Federal Executive to work with the State Parties to consider how best to ensure equality and
27 diversity at all other levels of candidate selection.

28 Conference calls on the FE to continue to consult regularly with the Women's Liberal Democrats
29 and the Gender Balance Task Force, Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats and the Ethnic Minority
30 Election Task Force, the Liberal Democrat Disability Association and DELGA and all successor
31 organisations, as well as with appropriate national organisations outside the Party, to maximise
32 the opportunities for achieving full diversity and equality within the party and within public life.

Applicability: Federal.

Note: the deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 13th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 3). Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice Sheet.

Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by voting representatives to the Chair of the debate at any time up to the commencement of closing speeches, but they will have a much higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by 12.00 noon, Wednesday 13th September; to the Policy Projects Team, as above.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes.

Monday 18th

16.35 Party business

Chair: Dee Doocey AM (London)
Aide: Cllr Debra Storr

F22 Urgent issue

This slot has been reserved for discussion of an important current political issue. The topic for the discussion will be selected in the week before conference, and notified through the Advance Notice and Daily Announcements. Unlike other debates at conference, this discussion will not make new party policy, but is intended to allow conference representatives and spokespeople an opportunity to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference. The deadline for the submission of suggestions for issues, by email to urgent.issues@libdems.org.uk, is noon on Friday 8th September. See page 4 for details.

Introducer of issue and spokesperson's response: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

17.15 Policy motion

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves
Aide: Sal Brinton

F23 Rape convictions

Women Liberal Democrats, Cardiff Central, Cardiff South and Penarth

Mover: Elizabeth Jewkes
Summation: Alison Goldsworthy

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
- 2 i) The rate of conviction for rape is currently around 5%, which is lower than anywhere else in
- 3 Europe, the United States, Canada or Australia.
- 4 ii) The number of reported rapes is rising every year, but the rate of successful prosecutions
- 5 resulting in a conviction is falling.
- 6 iii) The number of rapists given a caution and freed has almost doubled in the last decade.
- 7 iv) The health-related costs of rape are estimated to be £73,487 per case.
- 8 v) The Sentencing Guidelines Council proposes allowing the perpetrators of rape to avoid jail
- 9 if they show remorse.
- 10 vi) The report published by Amnesty International in November 2005, *Sexual Assault Research*,
- 11 highlights the differences between public perceptions of rape and reality.
- 12 Conference believes that:
- 13 a) There is a common cultural myth prevailing in society that assumes rape victims are
- 14 somehow to blame for what happens to them.
- 15 b) The Government's failure to take seriously the issue of rape has put many people at risk
- 16 from attackers who effectively get away with this most disturbing of crimes.

17 c) There are no accurate figures available on male rape, but that thousands of men each year
18 are believed to be victims.

19 Conference therefore calls for:

- 20 1. Specially trained prosecutors for rape cases who would be best equipped to counter the
21 perpetuated myth that the victim was 'asking for it'.
- 22 2. An expansion in the number of Sexual Assault Referral Centres.
- 23 3. Rape victims to be examined only by properly qualified forensic specialists, who are trained
24 in examining rape victims.
- 25 4. A national rape helpline to be established.
- 26 5. Special awareness training and education for police officers and health and social care
27 professionals to support male victims of rape.
- 28 6. The Liberal Democrats to oppose the Sentencing Guidelines Council's proposals to allow
29 perpetrators of rape to avoid jail if they show remorse.
- 30 7. The Home Office to commission a study into why England and Wales has such a low rape
31 conviction rate.
- 32 8. A public information campaign to close the gap between the perception and the reality of
33 rape.

Amendment One

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Ros Harper

Summation: Geoff Payne

1 *After vi) (line 11) add:*

- 2 vii) Those found not guilty of rape often remain tainted with the accusation afterwards,
3 despite the finding of the court.

4 *After c) (line 18) add:*

- 5 d) Those found not guilty of crimes should be able to return to their lives free of stigma.

6 *After 8 (line 33) add:*

- 7 9. A change in the law to prohibit the media from identifying anyone, directly or indirectly,
8 about whom a complaint of rape has been made, until such time as they have been
9 convicted.

Applicability: England and Wales.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes.

18.00 Close of session

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Cec Tallack
Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves

F24 Clean and ethical investment

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Gareth Epps
Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference notes the growth of 'clean' or ethical investment and purchasing policies in recent
2 years, notably:
- 3 A. The increased use by charities of ethical investment policies, either of 'avoidance' or
4 'positive investment'.
5 B. The growth of ethical consumerism involving 'fair trade' products and ethical investment
6 policies for individuals.
7 C. The setting up of co-operatives to support growers and producers and plough back profits
8 in order to create better work conditions and pay decent wages through the monitorable
9 standards of the Fairtrade Foundation.
10 D. Strong public support for wider ethical investment policies.
- 11 Conference further notes that:
- 12 i) Many public bodies such as local authority pension funds are seeking to invest 'cleanly',
13 avoiding industries such as tobacco or arms, but Treasury rules currently inhibit this.
14 ii) An increasing number of pension funds are engaging with companies, considering this to
15 be socially responsible investment; however, such engagement is currently deemed
16 inappropriate where the product is the problem, such as with arms and tobacco.
17 iii) Under Freedom of Information legislation, information is now available about local
18 government and other public and voluntary sector pension funds, including information on
19 whether funds are invested in tobacco or arms corporations.
- 20 Conference recognises that over 170 local authorities have already declared themselves
21 Fairtrade Councils, many in initiatives led by Liberal Democrats.
- 22 Conference welcomes these and other Liberal Democrats leading by example on ethical
23 investment.
- 24 Conference believes that socially responsible investment is one of the marks of a civilised
25 society, that consumer choice can be a powerful tool to implement this, and calls on the
26 Government to:
- 27 a) Extend the Charity Commission definition so that ethical investment policies can be
28 entirely consistent with 'the duty to maximise return on investment'.
29 b) Widen the power of general competence so that investment falls within the 'duty to
30 promote economic, social and environmental well-being'.

31 Conference calls upon all Liberal Democrat council groups to encourage their authorities to
32 follow this example and adopt Fairtrade status.

33 Conference also urges:

- 34 1. Liberal Democrat branches, local parties, and council groups to purchase products bearing
35 the 'Fairtrade' mark or equivalent wherever possible, to work with suppliers and
36 contractors, businesses and local people to increase awareness of the ethical issues
37 involved in purchasing decisions and wherever possible to buy products from 'Fairtrade'
38 sources.
- 39 2. Liberal Democrat councillors to press for local authority pension funds to be managed
40 according to ethical principles appropriate to the interests of the beneficiaries and to
41 investigate the means of implementing this within the law.

Applicability: Federal, except b) (lines 29-30) which is England only.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

09.30 Party business

Chair: Iain Smith MSP
Aide: Sal Brinton

F25 Presentation by Scottish Liberal Democrats

The presentation will be led by Nicol Stephen MSP, Deputy First Minister and Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

09.55 Party business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

F26 Speech by Chris Huhne MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



10.15 Policy motion

Chair: Justine McGuinness
Aide: Dee Doocey AM (London)

F27 Setting small business free

Solihull and Meriden

Mover: Lorely Burt MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for Small Business)

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a vital role in the UK
2 economy, accounting for 99% of UK businesses and providing employment to almost 13 million
3 people.

4 Conference is concerned at the rise in the financial burden that regulation places on businesses
5 in the UK, a £10 billion increase in the regulatory burden in the last year alone, according to the
6 British Chamber of Commerce. Conference notes that the Government has yet to implement the
7 substantive deregulation measures recommended in the 2005 Better Regulation Task Force
8 Report to the Prime Minister.

9 Conference notes with concern:

- 10 a) That a disproportionate burden of regulation falls on small businesses, who have to
11 contend with up to nine separate inspection agencies.
- 12 b) That the competitiveness and success of small businesses is impaired by the failure of the
13 government to tackle business crime, open up public sector procurement, and address the
14 financing needs of small businesses.
- 15 c) Businesses face an increase in the rateable value of their property if they install crime
16 prevention measures such as CCTV, and the current business rate structure is
17 disproportionately costly to the small businesses.
- 18 d) That many small businesses suffer at the hands of 'serial liquidators' who cynically
19 liquidate their companies to avoid paying for goods and services.
- 20 e) That the Government's flagship Business Link advice service is failing, with only 4% of
21 small businesses utilising the service.

22 Conference believes that reforms are needed so that government departments actively pursue
23 the deregulation agenda and allow small businesses to flourish in the UK.

24 Conference further believes that business should not receive conflicting business advice from
25 government agencies and that the inspection process should be streamlined to ensure it is less
26 invasive and disruptive. In addition the business rate structure should be reformed to
27 encourage the growth of small and emerging businesses.

28 Conference believes these goals will best be achieved if:

- 29 1. The Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act is repealed and replaced by an annual
30 Deregulation Act providing parliamentary assent to the deregulation agenda.
- 31 2. Departmental targets for deregulation are set, and a Cabinet Minister appointed to oversee
32 and take responsibility for the programme of reform.
- 33 3. Government makes greater use of sunset clauses, and a one-in-one-out approach to new
34 regulations, and brings an end to the practice of 'gold-plating' European legislation.
- 35 4. With particular reference to SMEs, costed independent impact assessments and post-
36 implementation reviews are carried out to ensure that regulations do not levy unwarranted

- 37 costs and are 'fit for purpose'.
38 5. A single rationalised Small Business Inspectorate is introduced to act as a gateway to
39 inspect and advise small businesses on compliance.
40 6. Business crime prevention equipment is disaggregated from the rateable value of a
41 property and does not penalise the company through higher business rates.
42 7. Business rates are reformed to provide an annual allowance of £1,500 for small businesses
43 with a rateable value of less than £25,000, until such time as our longer-term plans for
44 major reform of the business rate system can be implemented.
45 8. The Office of Fair Trading directs greater resources to investigation and enforcement action
46 against serial liquidators who should be 'named and shamed' as a matter of course.
47 9. Business Link and the plethora of business advice agencies are unified and streamlined to
48 provide consistent and warranted advice to small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Applicability: Federal, except 7 (lines 42-44) which is England only.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

10.45 Policy motion

Chair: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Cllr Sarah Boad

F28 *Fairer, Simpler, Greener* (Tax reform policy paper)



Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Vince Cable MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer)
Summation: Chris Huhne MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for
the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

- 1 Conference believes that the UK tax system should be reformed to make it:
- 2 i) Fairer, in relation both to income and wealth.
3 ii) Simpler, for individuals and companies, with fewer rates and reliefs and more
4 transparency.
5 iii) Greener, taxing environmental pollution and resource usage, and giving incentives to
6 sustainability.
7 iv) More local, giving greater freedom for democratic local government to raise and spend
8 revenue.
9 v) More efficient, giving incentives to work and save and for better resource allocation, and
10 recognising the competitive realities of the world economy.
- 11 Conference endorses policy paper 75, *Fairer, Simpler, Greener*, as a statement of the party's
12 policies for revenue-neutral reform of taxation based on these principles. Conference in
13 particular welcomes:
- 14 1. The specific proposals for the national budget in a new Parliament to make the direct
15 taxation system fairer and simpler by:

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- 16 a) Abolishing the existing 10p starting rate of income tax, taking more than two million
17 people out of tax altogether and removing one rate of tax.
- 18 b) Raising the employee NICs threshold so that NICs begin to be paid at the same level of
19 income as income tax, simplifying the system, and seeking to make employee NICs
20 payable on annual rather than weekly earnings.
- 21 c) Raising the starting threshold for the 40% higher rate of taxation to £50,000 pa –
22 taking 1.3 million people out of paying higher rate tax.
- 23 d) Cutting the basic rate of national income tax by 2p, as part of a shift from central to
24 local taxation.
- 25 2. Proposals to help fund these changes and make the tax system fairer without introducing a
26 50% rate of income tax by:
- 27 a) Reforming and simplifying Capital Gains Tax, in particular by removing taper relief.
28 b) Providing pension contribution tax relief at the basic rate of income tax only.
- 29 3. Proposals to tax environmental pollution and resource usage and help fund our other
30 reforms through a 'green tax switch' by:
- 31 a) Replacing the existing Airport Passenger Duty with an aircraft tax based on the
32 emissions of each aircraft.
- 33 b) More steeply graduating vehicle excise duty for new vehicles based on carbon
34 emissions.
- 35 c) Reforming the existing climate change levy, indexing it annually and eventually
36 changing it into a simpler carbon tax.
- 37 d) Indexing fuel duty to inflation except in periods of oil price spikes.
38 e) Phasing in reform of the basis on which business rates are charged to site value rating.
- 39 4. Proposals to make local taxation fairer and increase local accountability by:
- 40 a) Abolishing Council Tax and replacing it with a fairer local tax based on ability to pay.
41 b) Returning the business rate to local control.
- 42 5. Proposals to simplify the tax system for businesses, including by creating a simpler
43 Corporation Tax structure, removing complex reliefs and cutting the Corporation Tax rate,
44 and introducing rates relief for small businesses.
- 45 6. Proposals to simplify and make fairer the taxation of personal wealth and property
46 transactions by:
- 47 a) Reforming Inheritance Tax so that it falls on 'accessions', thresholds are raised and
48 exemptions for lifetime gifts reduced.
- 49 b) Reforming Stamp Duty Land Tax into a progressive tax that only charges higher rates
50 of duty on the proportion of the property value above a threshold.
- 51 7. The long-term ambitions to:
- 52 a) Raise the income tax threshold further – with an intermediate objective to raise the

- 53 threshold to £10,000, the annual equivalent of the National Minimum Wage for a full-
54 time worker.
- 55 b) Enlarge the tax base, tax unearned economic rent and stabilise the property market by
56 further developing policies on land value taxation.
- 57 c) Overhaul the system of taxing transport and congestion to reflect the potential of road
58 user pricing.

59 Conference calls for further policies for land taxation to be developed, including consideration
60 of the Lyons Review report when it is published.

61 Conference further notes that a policy paper on tackling inequality, poverty and lack of
62 opportunity, covering the issue of poverty and the role of benefits and tax credits, will be
63 debated at the September 2007 Party Conference.

Applicability: Federal, except 3 e) (line 38), 4 (lines 39-41) and the last part of 5 (line 44), which are England only.

Note: the deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 13th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 3). Amendments should be written to the text of the motion, not the paper itself, but may refer to proposals in the paper which are not listed in the motion. Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice Sheet.

Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by voting representatives to the Chair of the debate at any time up to the commencement of the closing speeches, but they will have a much higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by 12.00, Wednesday 13th September – to the Policy Projects Team, as above.

Mover and summation: 20 minutes combined; all other speakers: 5 minutes.

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 page 5).

12.45 Lunch

14.15 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr John Commons
Aide: Gareth Epps

F29 Making the climate change switch: a micro solution to a macro problem



Ten conference representatives

Mover: Chris Huhne MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

Summation: David Howarth MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for Energy)

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- 1 Conference notes that climate change is the greatest threat facing the planet.
- 2 Conference notes the failure of Labour's climate change strategy, which is not now likely to
3 meet its target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 20% by 2010, with UK carbon dioxide
4 emissions now actually rising.
- 5 Conference condemns the Labour Government for its approach to reducing emissions from the
6 electricity generation sector, and rejects the need for a new generation of nuclear power
7 generators.
- 8 Conference reaffirms the conclusions reached in the 2005 policy motion, *Tackling Carbon*
9 *Emissions: A Strategy for Clean and Sustainable Energy*, particularly that:
- 10 i) International agreement is more likely to be achieved if developed countries such as the UK
11 set an example by creating a successful low-carbon economy.
- 12 ii) The UK must put itself on course to reduce overall UK CO₂ emissions by a minimum of 60%
13 by 2050, with the development of annual targets up to this date which will be subject to
14 Parliamentary scrutiny.
- 15 iii) 20% of UK electricity should be generated from a range of renewable sources by 2020
16 through, for example, strengthening the Renewables Obligation and developing a similar
17 obligation to promote renewable heat.
- 18 iv) The UK must adopt a sustainable energy strategy based on rejection of new-build nuclear
19 power stations, energy demand reduction, greater energy efficiency, the use of economic
20 instruments, combined heat and power, microgeneration and community-based forms of
21 generation and a mix of renewable energy sources that includes biomass, wind, wave,
22 tidal, and solar.
- 23 Conference acknowledges that the best environmental and economic answer to reducing carbon
24 emissions from the electricity generation sector is to make a real commitment to decentralise
25 energy supply, alongside this radical shift to energy conservation and renewable technologies.
- 26 Conference notes the findings of the Energy Saving Trust, which concluded that by 2050
27 microgeneration could potentially provide up to 30-40% of the UK's total electricity needs and
28 help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 15% per year.
- 29 Conference believes that Ofgem should introduce measures which facilitate the development of
30 micro-generation, including:
- 31 a) Removal of current limits on the development of private wires and raising the limits on the
32 export of power.
- 33 b) Making it a requirement for all electricity suppliers to purchase surplus electricity from
34 domestic power generators at rates that encourage take-off of domestic generation, with a
35 default option of negative metering if suppliers will not fund two-way smart metering.
- 36 c) Reform of standard supply contracts to encourage investment in microgeneration, dynamic
37 demand equipment and the distribution network.
- 38 Conference resolves, in addition, that:

- 39 1. All new buildings should be required to incorporate decentralised energy technologies,
40 with microgeneration and/or district combined heat and power.
41 2. Research is undertaken to identify and implement the most effective fiscal measures to
42 encourage microgeneration at local government level.
43 3. Changes to the planning system should include the introduction of an obligation to find
44 sufficient land for low-carbon and/or low-waste technologies and a presumption in favour
45 of microgeneration and renewables.
46 4. Policy Planning Statement 22 should also be reformed so that it no longer merely calls for
47 'positively worded' energy efficiency policies but demands much higher standards.

48 Conference also acknowledges that greater research and investment into carbon capture and
49 storage techniques is required to tackle emissions from existing centralised fossil fuel power
50 plant that might continue to form part of the UK's power generating portfolio in the longer
51 term.

Amendment One

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Edward Davey MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for
Trade and Industry)

Summation: To be announced

1 *Delete third paragraph (lines 5-7) and insert:*

2 Conference further notes the Government's Energy Review, published in July, expresses its
3 concern at the Government's failure to go further and faster on energy efficiency, renewables,
4 decentralised energy generation and other cleaner, sustainable energy technologies, including
5 clean coal and carbon capture and storage, and is alarmed at proposals to encourage a new
6 generation of nuclear power stations and ministers' failure to rule out all forms of past hidden
7 subsidies for nuclear.

8 Conference contrasts the Labour Government's failures to deliver on its renewable and energy
9 efficiency targets since the last Energy Review in 2003, with the excellent progress made
10 through the efforts of Scottish Liberal Democrats in government, where they are ahead of their
11 own targets, despite setting more ambitious goals than Westminster.

Applicability: Federal, except 1, 3 and 4 (lines 39-40 and 43-47) which are England only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes.

15.00 Party business

Chair: Baroness Walmsley

Tuesday 19th

F30 Question and answer session on health

An opportunity to put questions on health and party policy to a panel of speakers, including:

Steve Webb MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Health)
Baroness Neuberger (Lords Spokesperson on Health and Chair of the Health Policy Working Group)

Note: Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on question cards to the speakers' table by 12.45 on Tuesday 19th September. The Chair will select which questions to ask during the session.

15.40 Party business

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

F31 Speech by Rt Hon Charles Kennedy MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats 1999-2006

16.00 Policy motion

Chair: Roy Thomson
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

F32 Sustainable management of water resources

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Martin Horwood MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for the Environment)
Summation: To be announced



- 1 Conference notes with concern:
- 2 i) The serious impact of lower than average rainfall in the last two winters.
- 3 ii) The increasing numbers of hosepipe and sprinkler bans and drought orders imposed over
- 4 the summer of 2006, affecting thousands of small businesses in sectors such as
- 5 horticulture and more than 13 million people across the south-east of England.
- 6 iii) That there are likely to be widespread environmental problems across southern, central
- 7 and eastern England from the drought which could have major impacts on wildlife, fish and
- 8 navigation.
- 9 iv) The stress of increased abstraction on wetland and river systems and the consequent loss of
- 10 biodiversity.
- 11 v) That the threat of climate change will make extremes of weather increasingly likely in
- 12 future.
- 13 vi) That the primary reason for the failure to cope with drought conditions is poor water
- 14 management and water inefficiency.

15 Conference firmly believes that good water management and water efficiency are central to the
16 sustainable use of water in the 21st century, and applauds those water companies, including
17 Dwr Cymru, Wessex Water and Yorkshire Water, which have significantly reduced rates of water
18 leakages. Conference therefore condemns:

- 19 a) Severn Trent and Thames Water, which are between them leaking more than 450 million
20 litres of water per day more than in 2000, for their failure to manage water resources
21 effectively.
- 22 b) The fact that a number of water companies are making record profits, and paying out huge
23 dividends and bonuses, despite failing to meet targets on leak reduction.
- 24 c) Plans by a number of water companies to build unsustainable desalination plants and
25 large-scale pipelines, including plans by Thames Water to build a £200m plant at Barking in
26 east London which would be the largest outside Saudi Arabia.
- 27 d) The Labour Government for failing to produce a joined-up and sustainable strategy for the
28 future use of water resources in Britain after nine years in power, as illustrated by plans to
29 build 200,000 additional homes per year by 2016 without taking full account of the water
30 resource implications.

31 Conference therefore calls for:

- 32 1. Reform of the current water regulatory regime to include sustainable development in
33 OFWAT's remit and to require that OFWAT promotes the concept of an 'economic level of
34 leakage', ensuring an effective decentralised and sustainable approach to water resource
35 management is at the heart of all water companies' policies, something the Tories'
36 privatisation failed to ensure.
- 37 2. The inclusion of good water resource management in building and planning regulations,
38 including the compulsory use of rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling systems.
- 39 3. Planning guidance to be amended to ensure that new building development areas and
40 regeneration programmes incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS),
41 including soakaways, permeable paving, filter strips and storage ponds or wetlands.
- 42 4. The introduction of home water efficiency ratings of all products using water, and greater
43 government action to promote rainwater harvesting systems, water butts, dual-flush
44 toilets, and other water saving devices and activities.
- 45 5. The extension of compulsory water metering in areas of water scarcity and potential water
46 scarcity, whilst providing adequate security of supply for the poorest in society.
- 47 6. An urgent review of the Government's housebuilding plans to ensure a proper assessment
48 of the impact on water supply and the environment in general.
- 49 7. Local water management forums to be established and given appropriate powers and
50 duties, as envisaged by the Water Framework Directive.
- 51 8. An examination into how water companies which persistently fail to meet their targets for
52 reducing leakages, or which do not promote sustainable water use in the best interests of
53 consumers and the environment, can be converted into not-for-profit companies based on
54 the best practice model of Dwr Cymru.

55 Conference calls on all Liberal Democrats to take personal and political action to implement
56 these policies and secure the sustainable future of water resources and the natural
57 environment.

Applicability: England and Wales.

Tuesday 19th

Note: the deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 13th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 3). Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice Sheet.

Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by voting representatives to the Chair of the debate at any time up to the commencement of closing speeches, but they will have a much higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by 12.00 noon, Wednesday 13th September; to the Policy Projects Team, as above.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

16.30 Policy motion

Chair: Baroness Barker
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

F33 ***Your Community, Your Choice*** (English local government policy paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Andrew Stunell MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government)

Summation: Judith Jolly (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

- 1 Conference notes that at the core of Liberal Democracy is a belief that decision-making should
- 2 be as close as possible to the people affected by the decisions and that active citizenship and
- 3 involvement leads to better governance.

- 4 Conference regrets that successive Labour and Conservative governments have stripped powers
- 5 away from councils and given them to boards, trusts and other bodies that are not accountable
- 6 to the communities they serve. Conference believes this process of breaking up local democracy
- 7 is fundamentally against the principles of Liberal Democracy and is leading to poorer decisions
- 8 and fewer people taking part in local affairs.

- 9 Conference therefore calls for the rebuilding of strong, efficient, effective and accountable local
- 10 councils that are able to provide services that give value for money whilst being accountable to
- 11 the residents they serve.

- 12 Conference therefore welcomes the proposals outlined in policy paper 73, *Your Community, Your*
- 13 *Choice*.

- 14 In particular, conference supports the key themes of the paper:

- 15 i) Strong community government as the foundation of decision-making.
- 16 ii) The devolution of power from Whitehall so that it is as close to those affected by decisions
- 17 as is practically and efficiently possible.
- 18 iii) Community and local decision-making should be answerable to residents rather than
- 19 Whitehall ministers, with all local elections conducted by the single transferable vote
- 20 system.

- 21 iv) Active citizenship and community involvement should be actively encouraged.
22 v) A diversity of structures will be used for exercising powers, with no one-size-fits-all
23 approach.

24 To put these proposals into action, conference supports the following policies:

25 **1. Community government:** we would ensure all communities have the right to set up their
26 own decision-making structures, with communities encouraged to adopt models that could
27 include the following:

- 28 a) A community council having the right to take on functions from the principal local
29 government tier, with the opportunity for councils to work together on joint
30 commissioning.
31 b) Area committees, made up of members of the principal tier of local government for a
32 particular community, which would handle local government functions for that
33 community.
34 c) Local management of libraries, parks, sports facilities and other local government
35 service buildings – where local people want it, operating in a similar way to school
36 governing bodies responsible for day-to-day management, with a devolved budget
37 but within the strategic control of the principal local authority.

38 **2. Freeing local government:** we would reverse the Government's centralising culture and
39 get rid of the straitjacket of centralised control, through:

- 40 a) Introducing a concordat for local government in England that defines the rights and
41 responsibilities of local government and limits the power of central government to
42 interfere in local decision-making.
43 b) Supporting for most areas a single principal tier of government, but ensuring that any
44 changes to the current system are approved first by local referenda which would
45 present residents with a range of options on local council structures.
46 c) Requiring any creation of an elected city region to be approved first in a local
47 referendum.
48 d) Giving councils enhanced powers so that they can address the real needs of their
49 residents.
50 e) Allowing councils to draw up their own internal structures, rather than impose a
51 limited number of models from the centre, but requiring them to be open and
52 democratically accountable and have clear lines of responsibility.
53 f) Shifting the balance of revenue-raising from central to local government.

54 **3. Councils cooperating across boundaries:** we would make local government responsible
55 for services currently provided by quangos, boards, agencies and trusts by:

- 56 a) Freeing councils to work in strategic partnerships across areas to operate functions
57 jointly where they are too large for individual councils to handle.
58 b) Ensuring that any joint bodies set up by councils to run services taken from central
59 government are open and representative of their constituent councils.

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60 Conference accepts *Your Community, Your Choice* as the current statement of policy of the Liberal
61 Democrats on local and regional governance in England, replacing all previous policy papers
62 and motions on this issue.

63 Conference further calls on Liberal Democrat members to campaign on the proposals and to
64 press the government for reforms of local governance that will lead to better, more effective and
65 efficient decision-making that gives communities and individuals a real say over their own
66 destinies.

Applicability: England.

Mover and summation: 20 minutes combined; all other speakers: 5 minutes.

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 page 5).

18.00 Close of session

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Catherine Bearder
Aide: Cllr James Gurling

F34 Hospital nutrition

16 conference representatives

Mover: Jackie Bell

Summation: Steve Webb MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Health)

1 Conference notes:

- 2 a) The importance of good nutrition in maintaining good general health and in enabling
3 recovery from illness.
- 4 b) That according to the National Institute of Clinical Excellence, up to 40% of hospital
5 patients are malnourished on admission, including up to 60% of elderly people.
- 6 c) That 17 million hospital meals are thrown away annually throughout the UK for reasons
7 including poor quality, being cold on delivery and a lack of staff to enable frail or confused
8 clients to eat.
- 9 d) The variable implementation of existing local hospital nutritional standards across the
10 country, including nutritional assessment on hospital admission and referral to a dietician
11 for those at risk.
- 12 e) That there are shortages of dieticians for nutritional advice within hospitals and shortages
13 of qualified nurses and ancillary staff to allow feeding time for those patients who require
14 assistance to eat.
- 15 f) That the Government recently decided to end the Better Hospital Food programme.

16 Conference believes in the right of all to have access to adequate nutrition and help to eat an
17 appropriate diet.

18 Conference calls for:

- 19 1. Nutritional awareness to be part of training for doctors, nurses and other relevant staff in
20 hospitals and the community so that all are aware of patients at risk of malnutrition in
21 hospital.
- 22 2. The creation of national standards on nutrition, to be adhered to by staff of all hospitals,
23 including nutritional scoring on admission and referral to a dietician to be a matter of
24 course for all patients at risk.
- 25 3. Hospitals to establish regular meetings of relevant staff to consider nutrition within their
26 own unit.
- 27 4. Respect to be given to the wishes of patients in hospital regarding their nutrition.
- 28 5. Provision of adequate levels of dieticians and of qualified nurses and ancillary staff to
29 enable the very frail to eat their meals.

Applicability: England.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

Wednesday 20th

09.30 Policy motion

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

F35 Emergency motion

Note: the deadline for emergency motions is 12.00, Wednesday 13th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 3). Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

10.00 Party business

Chair: Andrew Stunell MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government)
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

F36 Presentation by Liverpool City Council Liberal Democrat Group

The presentation will be led by Cllr Warren Bradley, Leader of Liverpool City Council.

10.20 Party business

Chair: Cllr Chris Maines
Aide: Cllr James Gurling

F37 Speech by Dr Vincent Cable MP, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer



10.40 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Ruth Polling (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Catherine Bearder

F38 School headteachers

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Sarah Teather MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Skills)

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference recognises the importance of good leadership in schools, and that head teachers
- 2 play a vital role as educators, managers and leaders in the community.

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3 Conference notes that around one in four schools throughout England have been unable to
4 make an appointment after advertising for a new head and that many schools are operating with
5 temporary headteachers.

6 Conference believes that without urgent action the divide between schools with high-quality
7 leaders and those which struggle to appoint a new head will only widen. Conference further
8 believes that too often these schools also face other staffing difficulties that hold back the
9 learning achievements of their pupils.

10 Conference calls for the following actions to ensure that all schools have high-quality
11 leadership at all times:

- 12 1. A national plan to ensure sufficient candidates for all types of schools are able to access the
13 National Professional Qualification for Headship.
- 14 2. All schools must be proactive about identifying possible future school leaders, and all
15 potential candidates for headship must be given operational management experience and
16 the opportunity to undertake leadership qualifications - this could be achieved by a group
17 of local schools working together.
- 18 3. The creation of a route for returners and mature entrants into teaching to enable them to
19 access headship within five years.
- 20 4. A replacement of the present Ofsted Inspection framework with one based more clearly
21 upon supporting school leaders in helping their school achieve its goals effectively.
- 22 5. A guarantee of sufficient and effective multi-agency support for head teachers in taking on
23 new tasks.
- 24 6. A reduction in the burden of unnecessary administration that head teachers face,
25 particularly of the smallest schools.
- 26 7. Discussions with those responsible for faith schools about methods to overcome any
27 particular problems facing such schools seeking a new head teacher.
- 28 8. Research by the National College of School Leadership into perceived barriers to entry into
29 school leadership among under-represented groups such as minority communities.

Applicability: England.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

11.10 Party business

Chair: Gareth Epps
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

F39 Party awards

Presentation of awards, including the Penhaligon Award.

11.20 Party business

F40 Speech by Simon Hughes MP, President of the Liberal Democrats

Make Britain fairer

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11.40 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr James Gurling
Aide: Cllr Debra Storr

F41 Rural communities



Ten conference representatives

Mover: Chris Huhne MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

Summation: Roger Williams MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for Rural Affairs)

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 A. Labour has failed rural areas from its mishandling of foot and mouth in 2001 to the current
3 Rural Payments Agency fiasco.
4 B. This compounds years of Conservative neglect when services declined, social housing was
5 sold, the CAP budget spiralled and policies were introduced that contributed to BSE.
6 C. Liberal Democrats have a strong and proud record of representing rural communities.

7 Conference recognises that small businesses lie at the heart of the rural economy and calls for:

- 8 i) Red tape to be slashed and business rates reformed to benefit small businesses in particular.
9 ii) Support for rural tourism by opposing a 'bed tax' and encouraging clean beach policies,
10 demonstration farms and eco-tourism.
11 iii) Support for rural shops through a Small Shops Protection Bill requiring local authority
12 sustainable retail plans.
13 iv) Creation (in consultation with the devolved administrations) of a legally binding
14 supermarket code effective for the whole food chain to ensure that supermarkets do not
15 exploit suppliers, farmers or consumers.
16 v) A government review of the coverage and quality of broadband in remote areas.

17 Conference acknowledges that rural communities deserve and pay for public services as much as
18 non-rural communities and calls for:

- 19 a) Recognition of the importance of visible policing in rural communities through recruiting
20 extra police nationally.
21 b) Support for rural schools through the promotion of shared teaching arrangements and IT
22 and video-conferencing technologies.
23 c) Local health provision to reach even the most isolated communities by support for rural
24 outreach clinics or home visits from GPs, district nurses, dentists and other health
25 professionals.
26 d) Recognition that cars are often necessary in sparsely populated areas by granting a VED
27 discount for those who most need it and examining the viability of EU derogation to permit
28 lower excise duty on fuel in such areas.
29 e) Support for rural Post Offices through radical reforms which will raise £2 billion to
30 modernise the network and stop the wave of closures.
31 f) The crisis in affordable rural housing to be tackled by increasing local authorities' fiscal

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32 and planning powers over second homes and promoting schemes such as 'golden share'
33 affordable homes.
34 g) Poverty among older people (who live disproportionately in rural areas) to be tackled
35 through free personal care and the introduction of a Citizen's Pension to remove a million
36 pensioners from means-testing.

37 In order to secure the role of agriculture at the heart of many sustainable rural communities,
38 Conference calls for:

- 39 1. An acceleration in the reduction in export subsidies and the replacement of production
40 subsidies with payments for social goods while continuing to support Less Favoured Areas
41 schemes.
- 42 2. A reduction in single farm payment bureaucracy, for instance by imposing a minimum
43 payment threshold of 100 euros.
- 44 3. An end to the two-tier regulation of animal welfare and environmental standards in food
45 production by pressing for greater EU powers to check imports and requiring that labelling
46 reflect these standards.
- 47 4. Encouragement of the efficient production of biomass and biofuel crops.
- 48 5. Continued opposition to commercial growing of GM crops until it is known that they are
49 environmentally safe and for communities to be allowed to create GM-free zones.
- 50 6. Support for local and regional management of fish stocks while lobbying for EU structural
51 funds to apply to fishing communities' development plans

Applicability: England, except iv) (lines 13-14), d) and e) (lines 26-30), the second part of g) (lines 35-36) and 3 (lines 44-46) which are Federal.

Note: the deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 13th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 3). Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice Sheet.

Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by voting representatives to the Chair of the debate at any time up to the commencement of closing speeches, but they will have a much higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by 12.00 noon, Wednesday 13th September; to the Policy Projects Team, as above.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes.

12.25 Party business

Chair: Dee Doocey AM (London)
Aide: Sue Garden

F42 Presentation by Lord Coe, Chair of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games

12.45 Lunch

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14.15 Policy motion

Chair: Sal Brinton
Aide: Jane Smithard

F43 Transport and social exclusion



Rochdale, Orkney and Shetland

Mover: Alistair Carmichael MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Transport)

Summation: Paul Rowen MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Transport Minister)

1 Conference notes that after nine years of power the Labour Government has spectacularly failed
2 to solve the problems in transport created by the Tories and to use transport as a tool to tackle
3 social exclusion. Conference notes in particular that:

- 4 i) Levels of congestion and traffic have continued to rise, and are predicted to rise further
5 still over the coming years.
6 ii) Bus use in most regions of England outside London has been falling.
7 iii) The cost of motoring has fallen, whilst the cost of travelling by train and bus has risen in
8 real terms.
9 iv) There is a widening social gap in terms of access to transport.

10 Conference believes that:

- 11 a) There is a very close causal relationship between social exclusion and poor and expensive
12 transport.
13 b) Poor transport often hinders access to jobs for many people, particularly for the young, the
14 disabled, people in ethnic minorities and people on low incomes.
15 c) Poor transport hinders access to other public services such as hospitals.
16 d) Under the current Government investment in public transport disproportionately benefits
17 the better-off.
18 e) While recognising the valuable contribution of community transport projects in many
19 areas, people in many rural areas are still heavily dependent on use of the private car for
20 transport.
21 f) Decisions on local transport planning are best made by the people most directly affected by
22 them rather than by civil servants and ministers in Whitehall.

23 Conference therefore calls for:

- 24 1. An end to the current highly centralised approach to transport planning with greater power
25 given to local communities on matters such as the setting of targets for traffic reduction
26 and for the development of good quality integrated commuter links between bus and rail.
27 2. More power to be given to local authorities and/or Passenger Transport Authorities /
28 Executives to license and regulate bus services in partnership with private-sector
29 providers.
30 3. Local authorities and/or Passenger Transport Authorities / Executives to foster fair
31 competition, allowing a wider range of providers in the market, using both VED rebate and

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- 32 local revenue streams such as bonds.
33 4. Light rail and community rail schemes to play an important role as part of an integrated
34 transport policy, with greater control for local authorities and/or Passenger Transport
35 Authorities / Executives over funding and timetabling decisions.
36 5. The rapid introduction of a national road user pricing scheme to tackle congestion and
37 pollution, and to level out the inequalities of motoring costs across the country, replacing
38 the current systems of congestion charging, fuel duty and vehicle excise duty.
39 6. Measures in the short term to use discounts to vehicle excise duty and the powers to permit
40 variable rates of duty for specified remote rural areas, to compensate people living in
41 remote and rural areas for the increased costs of motoring borne by them, recognising the
42 social necessity of car use in such areas.

Applicability: England, except 5 and 6 (lines 36-42) which are Federal.

Note: the deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 13th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 3). Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice Sheet.

Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by voting representatives to the Chair of the debate at any time up to the commencement of closing speeches, but they will have a much higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by 12.00 noon, Wednesday 13th September; to the Policy Projects Team, as above.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes.

15.00 Party business

Chair: Sue Garden
Aide: Cllr Sarah Boad

F44 Speech by Sarah Teather MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Skills

15.20 Policy motion

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

F45 *Trust in People: Make Britain free, fair and green* (Report of the Meeting the Challenge Working Group)



Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Edward Davey MP (Chair, Campaigns and Communications Committee)
Summation: Duncan Brack (Vice Chair, Meeting the Challenge Working Group)

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- 1 Conference condemns successive Labour and Conservative Governments for:
- 2 a) Taking too much power to Whitehall and Westminster, shutting out the views of most of
 - 3 Britain's people and eroding their trust in politics.
 - 4 b) Making Britain into a more unequal society, where too many people are prevented from
 - 5 making the best of their lives.
 - 6 c) Failing to face up to the environmental challenges confronting Britain and its people.
- 7 Conference commits Liberal Democrats to building:
- 8 1. A freer Britain, in which people are trusted and empowered to take the greatest possible
 - 9 control over their own lives.
 - 10 2. A fairer Britain, in which everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential, free from
 - 11 the barriers imposed by poverty and inequality.
 - 12 3. A greener Britain, in which business, communities and individual citizens are encouraged
 - 13 to value, protect and enhance our natural environment.
- 14 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 76, *Trust in People: Make Britain free, fair and green*,
- 15 as the statement of priorities for developing Liberal Democrat policies and campaigning
- 16 messages during the remainder of this Parliament.

Applicability: Federal.

Note: the deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 13th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 3). Amendments should be written to the text of the motion, not the paper itself; amendments may refer to proposals in the paper which are not listed in the motion. Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice Sheet.

Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by voting representatives to the Chair of the debate at any time up to the commencement of the closing speeches, but they will have a much higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by 12.00, Wednesday 13th September – to the Policy Projects Team, as above.

Mover and summation: 20 minutes combined; all other speakers: 5 minutes.

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 page 5).

16.50 Policy motion

Chair: Geoff Payne
Aide: Sue Garden

F46 End modern slavery and trafficking

13 conference representatives

Mover: Liz Lynne MEP

Summation: Nicola Davies

1 Conference notes with concern that:

- 2 i) 200 years after William Wilberforce succeeded in outlawing the slave trade, it is estimated
3 that 12 million people live in slavery, at least half of them children.
- 4 ii) Human trafficking is the fastest growing means by which people are forced into slavery and
5 the third largest source of illegal income after drugs and arms.
- 6 iii) There has been an enormous increase of trafficking in Europe, particularly in Britain and
7 especially related to prostitution, child trafficking for domestic slavery, and the black
8 economy.
- 9 iv) It is estimated that over 4,000 women, girls and boys, some as young as 10, are trafficked
10 into Britain alone every year for sexual exploitation, but those who are discovered have in
11 too many instances been treated as criminals or illegal immigrants instead of being given
12 help as victims of crime.

13 Conference believes that:

- 14 a) Liberal Democrats must take a lead in setting free the modern victims of slavery and
15 trafficking.
- 16 b) The British Government and most EU states have failed to acknowledge the scale of the
17 crisis, let alone take effective steps to deal with it.
- 18 c) The Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, Council
19 Directive 2004/81/EC and Article 4 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights should be used
20 as the basis for effective action to help the victims and destroy the criminal networks
21 responsible.
- 22 d) It is a disgrace that Britain has not yet signed the Council of Europe Convention on
23 Trafficking.

24 Conference calls for:

- 25 1. Britain and all other Council of Europe members to sign and ratify the Council of Europe
26 Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings and to consider further
27 measures aimed at improved transnational cooperation.
- 28 2. The UK Government and European Commission should provide assistance to future EU
29 candidate countries to ensure they have anti-trafficking policies that respect human rights
30 and reach the standards set by the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against
31 Trafficking in Human Beings.
- 32 3. A network of safe havens to be set up across Britain and the rest of Europe, which will treat
33 trafficked people as victims, providing medical care, counselling and legal aid, in particular
34 the possibility of helping to prosecute traffickers.
- 35 4. The UK and other EU member states to comply with Council Directive 2004/81/EC on
36 residence permits for victims of trafficking and for coordinated schemes to assist victims
37 who want to go back to their home country.
- 38 5. The British Government, other EU member states and the European Commission to launch

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- 39 awareness campaigns targeted at potential victims, warning of the dangers, with advice on
40 their rights and obligations and where to get help.
- 41 6. Support for campaigns such as Business Travellers Against Trafficking, which aims to
42 improve reporting of trafficking-related crime.
- 43 7. Police forces around Britain to follow the lead of the West Midlands and Metropolitan Police
44 in mounting major intelligence-led operations to liberate victims forced into prostitution
45 in 'brothel prisons' and to arrest the criminals responsible.
- 46 8. Employers, trade unions and councils to be encouraged to work together in uncovering and
47 supporting the victims of trafficking, with multi-agency monitoring of vulnerable
48 employment sectors.

Amendment One

Twickenham and Richmond

Mover: Dee Doocey AM (London)

Summation: Dr Vincent Cable MP

1 *After 5. (line 40), insert:*

- 2 6. A public awareness campaign to encourage people to report suspected cases of victims of
3 slavery, emphasising that people who traffic and/or use and abuse the victims of
4 trafficking will be prosecuted
- 5 7. Strengthening the role of units such as the Paladin Team (the only unit of its kind in the
6 country dealing exclusively with child trafficking) to expand its operations, coordinate
7 efforts and share intelligence.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes.

17.30 Party business

Chair: Cllr Debra Storr

Aide: Sal Brinton

F47 Urgent issue

This slot has been reserved for discussion of an important current political issue. The topic for the discussion will be selected in the week before conference, and notified through the Advance Notice and Daily Announcements. Unlike other debates at conference, this discussion will not make new party policy, but is intended to allow conference representatives and spokespeople an opportunity to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference. The deadline for the submission of suggestions for issues, by email to urgent.issues@libdems.org.uk, is noon on Friday 8th September. See page 4 for details.

Introducer of issue and spokesperson's response: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

18.00 Close of session

Trust in people

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Sue Garden
Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F48 Emergency motion

Note: the deadline for emergency motions is 12.00, Wednesday 13th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 3). Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

09.30 Policy motion

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

F49 Human rights in the United Kingdom

Somerton and Frome, Ten conference representatives

Mover: David Heath MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Leader of the House of Commons)

Summation: Simon Hughes MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs)

- 1 Conference reaffirms its commitment to human rights in the United Kingdom and overseas,
2 recognising:
- 3 a) The continuing importance of the European Convention on Human Rights ratified by the
4 United Kingdom in 1951.
- 5 b) That the human rights set out in the Convention are just as much British as they are
6 European, and are in no way foreign to British traditions and civil and political liberties.
- 7 c) The Human Rights Act 1998, which gives citizens of this country the opportunity to seek
8 protection of their rights before a British court rather than a court in Strasbourg, to have
9 been right both in principle and in practice.
- 10 d) That there is no incompatibility between the protection of the rights of the individual and
11 the duty to protect the public from harm.
- 12 Conference accordingly regrets:
- 13 1. Comment which seeks to undermine the Human Rights Act by ascribing to it responsibility
14 for actions having no merit in law or decisions based on the incompetence of public
15 authorities.
- 16 2. Attempts to blame the judiciary for correctly interpreting law that has been drafted or
17 applied incorrectly by ministers.
- 18 3. Injudicious arguments for derogation from, substitution for or duplication of articles of the
19 European Convention on Human Rights for short-term political advantage.

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20 Conference therefore commits The Liberal Democrats to continue to resist further erosion,
21 either intentional or inadvertent, by the present or future governments, of the liberties of
22 British citizens, the right to jury trial, the right to freedom of expression and the right of
23 assembly, as a continuing assertion of the importance of human rights in the United Kingdom.

24 Conference calls on all Party members and elected representatives to campaign to promote the
25 benefits of civil and political rights to all UK residents, and reminds them of the importance of
26 winning the argument in the United Kingdom that human rights are as important to the
27 majority as the minority, to the many as to the few.

Applicability: Federal.

Note: the deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 13th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 3). Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice Sheet.

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Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

10.00 Party business

Chair: Simon Hughes MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)
Aide: Cllr Ruth Polling (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F50 Speech by Grigory Yavlinsky, Leader of the Russian Democratic Party, Yabloko

10.20 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Alan Sherwell
Aide: Justine McGuinness

F51 ***Britain's Global Responsibilities: the international rule of law*** **(International law policy paper)**



Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)
Summation: Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

1 Conference endorses policy paper 74, *Britain's Global Responsibilities: the international rule of*
2 *law*, as a statement of party policy on international law.

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3 Conference notes the Party's long-standing support of international law and of effective and
4 inclusive international institutions and welcomes the paper's proposals for reforms to better
5 deal with problems and challenges that do not respect national boundaries.

6 Conference in particular welcomes the paper's proposals to:

7 1. Treat intervention and the use of force as a last resort, following:

- 8 a) Strong arguments for preventive military action where consideration has been given
9 to the strategies of persuasion, negotiation, containment and deterrence.
- 10 b) Exhaustion of all peaceful methods to protect populations suffering human rights
11 abuses by their own governments.
- 12 c) Failure of the Security Council to give a mandate for action to protect fundamental
13 human rights in a widely supported and demonstrably legitimate case for
14 intervention.

15 2. Build an effective framework to tackle multinational crime and terrorism by:

- 16 a) Ensuring that countries where terrorism originates have the capacity and the will to
17 fight terrorist organisations.
- 18 b) Working towards the negotiation of a comprehensive international convention on
19 money laundering.
- 20 c) Ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human
21 Beings.

22 3. Protect human rights as intrinsically linked both to development and individual and
23 collective security through:

- 24 a) Ensuring that the UN Human Rights Council fulfils its responsibilities and ensures that
25 its members maintain the highest standards of human rights.
- 26 b) Prohibiting persons to be returned to a country where it is likely that they will be
27 tortured.
- 28 c) Implementation of EU-wide regulations prohibiting the production and export of
29 equipment which has no other use than for torture or inhumane treatment.
- 30 d) A public inquiry into the allegations of extraordinary rendition.

31 4. Deliver prosperity and manage problems in the global economy through:

- 32 a) A thorough re-evaluation of the governance of international finance.
- 33 b) Reform of the IMF to render it more responsive, transparent and accountable.
- 34 c) Transforming the World Bank from a development agency to a global club in which
35 developing country beneficiaries and rich country benefactors have a sense of
36 ownership and financial responsibility.

37 5. Ensure the UK plays a role in corporate reporting standards for environmental, social and
38 human rights impacts of their operations by:

- 39 a) Supporting voluntary labelling schemes which inform customers about the conditions
40 in which end products are produced.

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- 41 b) Working to achieve the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable
42 Development's commitments on corporate responsibility.
43 c) Supporting the UN Global Compact to advance good corporate citizenship.
- 44 6. Tackle cross-border corruption by:
- 45 a) Actively enforcing the OECD Convention on Bribery and working to strengthen it to
46 include the bribery of foreign political officials.
47 b) Extending the application of domestic law to corrupt acts involving British nationals
48 and companies operating abroad.
49 c) Using the UK's Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative as a model for an EU
50 initiative to require transparency of payments by EU-based multinational companies.
51 d) Supporting the OECD Financial Action Taskforce's investigation into offshore financial
52 centres.
- 53 7. Negotiate more effective global rules to protect the global environment through:
- 54 a) Placing the implementation of environmental treaties at the forefront of
55 environmental policies.
56 b) Ensuring that institutions and states treat poverty, infectious disease and
57 environmental degradation as interconnected and overlapping threats.
58 c) Guaranteed funding for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to enable
59 it to expand and improve the effectiveness of its activities.
60 d) A multilateral regulatory framework on investment that will, amongst other
61 objectives, establish principles on the protection of the environment, whilst ensuring
62 transparent, stable and predictable conditions that will encourage FDI and protect
63 investors' investments.
64 e) The UK, operating through the EU, to reach agreement on a much more ambitious set
65 of targets for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and beyond.

Applicability: Federal.

Note: the deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 13th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 3). Amendments should be written to the text of the motion, not the paper itself; amendments may refer to proposals in the paper which are not listed in the motion. Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice Sheet.

Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by voting representatives to the Chair of the debate at any time up to the commencement of the closing speeches, but they will have a much higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by 12.00, Wednesday 13th September – to the Policy Projects Team, as above.

Mover and summation: 20 minutes combined; all other speakers: 5 minutes.

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11.35 Party business

Chair: Simon Hughes MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F52 Speech by the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell QC MP



12.45 Close of Conference (approx)

Standing orders for the 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 amendments. **Emergency motions must be brief.***

Emergency amendment

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

Full session

Any part of the conference agenda during which debates 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 and pre-manifesto 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.

Pre-manifesto paper

A paper prepared by the Federal Policy Committee in the year before a Westminster or European Parliamentary election as an indication of the themes and policies likely to be

included in the manifesto, and submitted to conference for debate. A pre-manifesto paper will not contain substantive new development of policy.

Procedural motion

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

Move to next business

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

Reference back

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

Request for a count

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

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 orders amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

Secondary standing orders amendment

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

Topical motion

A motion which would otherwise qualify as a policy or a business motion, but is either about an event which occurs after the deadline for submission of motions but before the deadline for submission of amendments or on a topic announced by the Committee in the Preliminary or Final Agenda as meriting a topical motion.

Topical Motions (except for those announced in the Final Agenda but not published until the meeting of the conference) may have amendments submitted to them in the same way as policy or business motions. *Any such amendment should be of significant importance, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.*

Voting member

A person who is entitled to vote at conference. This term includes substitutes 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.

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 Policy Committee and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, accounts, the annual report, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments.
- c) Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers and pre-manifesto papers) and topical motions.
- d) Emergency motions.
- e) Any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate.

The time to be allocated to each type of business and the order of that business shall be decided by the Committee provided that conference may decide not to take any particular item on the agenda.

1.2 Conference or council of state parties

In addition, time before or after any meeting may be agreed with the

relevant state party for a meeting of the conference or council of that party.

1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the relevant Federal Committee.
- b) Business motions (including amendments, topical business motions 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 and pre-manifesto papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, topical policy motions, 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.

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 and amendments and questions to reports must be submitted

The Committee shall specify:

- a) The closing date for the receipt of constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders and policy motions accompanying policy papers. This shall be at least 15 weeks before the start of conference.
- b) The closing date for the receipt of policy and business motions. For the autumn conference, this shall be at least 15 weeks before the start of conference. For the spring conference, this shall be at least 8 weeks before the start of conference.
- c) The due date for the publication of the Preliminary Agenda.
- d) The closing date for receipt of amendments to the items published in the Preliminary Agenda and for the receipt of topical motions (autumn conference only) and policy motions accompanying pre-manifesto papers. This shall be at least 8 weeks before the start of conference.
- e) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the Final Agenda, which

shall be at least two days before the start of conference.

- f) Notwithstanding 1.5(e), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the Final Agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(e). 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.
- g) The closing date for the submission of emergency motions and amendments and amendments to topical motions and policy motions accompanying pre-manifesto papers published in the Final Agenda, 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 Preliminary and Final Agendas. Two or more such sessions may be held simultaneously.

2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

Any member of the Party may be called to speak at a consultative session and, with the approval of the chair, non-members with relevant expertise may also be called.

2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

At the discretion of the chair a vote by show of hands may be taken to indicate the weight of opinion among members present on any issue that has been debated.

3. The Preliminary Agenda

3.1 The shortlisting of motions

The Committee shall draw up a Preliminary Agenda and shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included in it. For the autumn conference, the Committee may allocate time for one or more policy or business motions to be selected by ballot.

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 Circulation of the Preliminary Agenda

The Preliminary Agenda, including the text of all motions selected for debate or included in a ballot, shall be circulated to those entitled to submit motions. 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.

4. Selection of motions and amendments for both the Preliminary and Final Agendas

4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

In drawing up both the Preliminary and Final 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:

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

4.2 Selection of amendments

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:

- Similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate or ballot at the same meeting of conference.
- Similar in effect to a motion that has been rejected at either of the last two meetings of conference.
- 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.
- 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.
- Ambiguous.

4.4 Topical motions

The Committee may include any topical motion on the agenda. The Committee may announce, in the Preliminary and/or Final Agenda, that it has reserved time for a topical motion on a particular subject and invite submissions on that subject by the dates for the submission of topical motions and emergency motions, respectively, as specified in Standing

Order 1.5 prior to the start of conference.

4.5 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 unclear as to its meaning or intent.
- c) It falls outside the definition of emergency motions.

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

4.6 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.5, 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.

4.7 Emergency amendments

The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to select emergency amendments for debate, save that emergency amendments shall not be taken at spring conference.

4.8 Holding motions

A policy or business motion which contains no substantive text at the time of its submission (a 'holding motion') may be submitted for consideration by the Committee. This includes policy motions intended to accompany policy papers yet to be published. The Committee may accept no more than two such motions from any one body on to the agenda for any autumn conference, and one such motion from any one body for any spring conference. In unusual circumstances, such as the conference

immediately following a general election, the Committee shall have discretion to accept a higher number of holding motions. A full account of the reasons for the submission of all holding motions shall be included in the report to conference of the relevant committee.

5. The Final Agenda

5.1 Drawing up the Final Agenda

The Committee may, in drawing up the Final Agenda:

- a) Transfer any constitutional or standing order amendment from the ballot to the agenda for debate.
- b) Remove a motion which was on the Preliminary Agenda.

The Final Agenda shall be circulated to voting conference members as soon as practicable.

5.2 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

The Committee shall, in drawing up the Final 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 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.

6. Special meetings

6.1 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 a Preliminary Agenda and, if appropriate, specify a date for the submission of amendments. The Committee may, if necessary, proceed straight to a Final Agenda and set an appropriate deadline for 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, uncontroversial.

6.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

In setting dates for the submission of

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

7. Appeals

7.1 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 or the removal of any motion from the Preliminary Agenda. 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 a topical or emergency motion or amendment according to the stage of the agenda-setting process at which the appeal has been allowed.

7.2 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.

8. The chair

8.1 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.

8.2 *The chair's aide*

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

9. Conduct of debate

9.1 *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 Final Agenda. Such variation shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.

9.2 *Withdrawal of motions and amendments*

Once the Committee has included a motion or amendment, or part of a motion or amendment, in the Final Agenda, it may not be withdrawn except by leave of conference.

9.3 *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.

9.4 *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.

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.

9.5 *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.

9.6 *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.

9.7 *The length of speeches*

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

9.8 *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.

10. Voting at conference

10.1 *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.

10.2 *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 12.5 below.

A recount will only be held if the chair is not satisfied that the first count was accurate.

10.3 *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 12.4 below.

11. Points of order

11.1 *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.

12. Procedural motions

12.1 *Next business*

a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.

- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.
- d) The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting 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.

12.2 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 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.

12.3 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.

12.4 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 before the commencement of the speeches in reply to the debate. The chair shall have complete discretion whether to take a separate vote.

12.5 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.

12.6 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.

12.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

13. Reports

13.1 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). It may also include consideration of any other reports submitted by any Federal Party committee or sub-committee.

13.2 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 (e) and (f). The Committee shall publish in advance of the report session all the questions submitted

under Standing Order 1.5 (e) which are in order, compositing similar questions where appropriate.

13.3 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.

13.4 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 (f), can be taken. After the conference the Committee shall publish the answers to all questions submitted under Standing Orders 1.5 (e) and (f) which are in order, and to all supplementary questions asked.

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

Any report tabled by a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for approval by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move the rejection of any part of the report or of the report as a whole. A voting member wishing to move a rejection shall submit a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report, stating the section(s) which they wish to have rejected. All moves to reject a report must be debated (except that the chair

shall have discretion to choose between moves to reject the same part of the report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

13.6 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.

14. Amendment of standing orders

14.1 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.

15. The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

15.1 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 a member of the Committee either directly elected by conference or elected by one of the State Parties.

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