

# Reports to Autumn Conference 2009 Bournemouth

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# Federal Conference Committee

The Federal Conference Committee is responsible for organising the two Federal conferences each year. This includes choosing the agenda from amongst the policy and business motions submitted by conference reps, local, regional and state parties, specified associated organisations and Federal committees, and also 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 (or substitute); three state party reps; two reps from the FE and two from the FPC; and twelve members directly elected by conference reps. It elects its own chair (currently Duncan Brack), who must be one of the directly elected reps.

## **New arrangements at Bournemouth: finish time**

As in 2008, this year's autumn conference follows the new Saturday – Wednesday pattern. Last year's feedback indicated this was popular with conference reps, and allowed some people to come for the weekend who would not otherwise have attended.

This year we are making one more change: conference will finish, with the leader's speech, on Wednesday afternoon *after* lunch, at about 3.45 or 4.00pm. (We had intended to do this last year, but couldn't because of broadcaster scheduling clashes.) We believe this will achieve a higher media profile for the speech itself (the evening news bulletins being more watched than the lunchtime ones), and will also enable us to include more policy motions on the agenda.

## **New arrangements at Bournemouth: amendments to motions**

Last year's extensive changes to standing orders simplified the motions deadline schedule, reducing it to two deadlines, in early July (motions) and early September (amendments). The significant increase in the number of motions we received by the July deadline indicates that our objective of making it easier for local parties and conference reps to submit motions has been achieved.

This means, of course, that every item on the agenda is still open to amendment. The deadline for submitting amendments – and also emergency motions, suggestions for topical issue discussions and questions to reports – is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. This will allow Conference Committee to meet a week before conference to select the amendments, rather than doing this on the eve of conference. We will then be able to let you know what we've selected by Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, four days before conference, which is when the new *Conference Extra* publication will be placed on the web and emailed out (copies will also be available at conference).

We continue to provide a drafting advisory service, and encourage all emergency motion and amendment submitters to make use of it – those who have used it in the past have had a higher chance of having theirs accepted. The deadline for the advisory service for amendments and emergency motions is 25<sup>th</sup> August; drafts should be sent to [motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk).

## **New arrangements at Bournemouth: agenda timings**

In most cases, it is the discussions on the amendments to the motions, rather than on the motions themselves, that form the core of the debate. Since, under the new timings, the agenda is being circulated before the amendments are known, that means that the Conference Committee will not decide the final timings for agenda items until after the amendments deadline.

As I reported to the spring conference, therefore, and as you can see from the agenda itself, the Bournemouth agenda does not have timings included; agenda items are allocated to mornings or afternoons, and are listed in the order in which they will taken, but are published without times.

The timings will only be added when we publish *Conference Extra* on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, four days before conference starts.

This is an important change to our procedures, but we are confident that reps will be able to adjust to it (at the Labour conference, each day's agenda is only published that morning!). As usual, we look forward to your feedback on it afterwards.

### **New arrangements at Bournemouth: conference documents**

Since we were anxious to get the conference agenda to you as early as possible in August, to give you enough time to consider submitting amendments, we have split the conference documents into two mailings. The Agenda and policy papers will be followed a few weeks later by the Directory, containing details of the exhibition and fringe meetings, and the consultation papers.

Finally, as noted above, *Conference Extra* (replacing the old *Advance Notice*) will be available the week before conference (via web and email), and *Conference Daily* (the renamed *Daily Announcements*) will be available every day at conference (in print). Make sure you pick up your copies!

### **Agenda**

As noted above, we received a higher number of decent policy motions than we have had submitted in recent years, and had a much tougher job than usual in selecting them. In making the final selection we have tried to focus on the most politically salient issues in the run-up to the election. We have also aimed to increase the time available for each motion, to enable conference chairs to select as diverse a range of speakers as possible. Although we have increased the total time devoted to policy debates compared to last year, we have still had to turn down many otherwise good motions. In many cases, though, we hope to see them re-submitted (suitably updated) for future conferences.

The main FPC policy paper debates are on consumer policy, environment, UK response to globalisation, women, and the pre-manifesto paper, which will be the key document feeding into preparations for the next general election manifesto. The FPC is also organising two consultation sessions on the Saturday morning, and one further session is being organised by the parliamentary spokespeople on disability.

In addition to the debates and set-piece speeches, we have our normal range of other sessions, including two presentations (from the Liberal Democrat groups in Leeds and Kingston), two panel discussion sessions (on campaigning on the environment, and on David Heath MP's Privacy Commission) and three Q&A sessions (on the economy, on crime and policing, and with the party leader). As in autumn 2008, the parliamentary parties report session will take the form of a Q&A session, which worked well last year. The party committee reports sessions will include for the first time a report from the new Diversity Engagement Group, which will be delivered by its chair, Vince Cable MP.

### **Conference rally and welcome drinks**

The conference rally, "Liberal Democrats: Ready to Win", will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September, between 6.30pm and 7.30pm, in the main auditorium. Sarah Teather MP will compere the event, and Nick Clegg MP will be joined by Charles Kennedy MP, TV personality and campaigner Floella Benjamin, and PPC for Birmingham Perry Barr Karen Hamilton, to set out why only the Liberal Democrats can deliver a different, better Britain. The rally will be preceded by a civic drinks reception, kindly hosted by the newly elected Mayor of Bournemouth.

Conference Committee is also organising a short briefing for anyone unfamiliar with conference (especially, but not only, for first-timers to conference), later that evening, at 9.45pm, in Old Harry's Bar in the Bournemouth Highcliff Marriott. We hope this will be helpful in explaining how conference works and how to get the best out of it for those new to the experience.

### **Future venues**

We always consider a wide range of conference centres for hosting future Liberal Democrat conferences. The current size of the conference and the scale of public interest it draws make it an attractive event for many towns and cities to host, but also restricts the number of venues with adequate facilities.

2010 venues will be:

- Spring: Birmingham, 12–14 March
- Autumn: Liverpool, 18–22 September

We are very pleased to be organising our first-ever conference in Birmingham. Should the venue prove suitable, we expect to hold an autumn conference there in 2011.

### **Access**

The Conference Access Group, convened by Robert Adamson, continues to make conference as accessible for all as possible, expanding its work to tackle obstacles facing those with a broader range of disabilities. If you are interested in the work of the Group, please feel free to contact Robert on [Robert@Robertadamson.info](mailto:Robert@Robertadamson.info).

### **Stewards and security**

As always, conference can only take place due to the massive contribution and efforts of the volunteer stewards' team, who handle security, look after the exhibition, fringe, information desk, stage and auditorium, and ensure that we all get the most out of conference. We are pleased to have been able to appoint Mike Ross as our new Deputy Chief Steward, working with Adrian Beavis, our Chief Steward, and all their colleagues in the stewards' team.

Due to the high profile of the Liberal Democrat conference, some security checks are necessary – though we aim to keep these to a minimum – and our stewards will be supported by SIA-qualified security contractors in this task. Please see the relevant section in the Directory for the procedures.

### **Federal Conference Committee**

FCC members are here to help you make the most of conference – do feel free to ask us any questions you may have relating to the agenda and how to speak in debates. You can identify us by the larger badges we wear, with 'FCC' prominently displayed; there are also pictures of us (to varying degrees of flattery) on the inside front page of the Agenda.

FCC members are also assigned to the state and English regional parties, and SAOs, to liaise with them during the year, provide advice and assistance on submitting motions or otherwise getting involved in conference, and appear at particular conferences to answer your questions. See the contact details at the end of this report, and don't hesitate to get in touch with the relevant FCC member.

## Thanks

The vast bulk of the hard work of organising conference throughout the year falls on the professional staff in Conference Office in Cowley Street: Lucy Billingsley, Carol Caruana, Sian Jenkins and Emma Price. This year the team has also been supported by Sonia Goodland, Lizi Porter, Katy Pritchard and Rob Pritchard, whose help has been invaluable.

I would also like to express my warmest thanks to all the others who make conference possible: to all my colleagues on the Conference Committee; to Chris Fox, first in his role as Policy and Communications Director and latterly as the party's new Acting Chief Executive, and Ben Stoneham, HQ Director in Cowley Street; to the Policy Projects Team, led by Christian Moon, who process the motions and prepare much of the agenda material; and of course to the stewards' team.

I look forward to seeing you in Bournemouth.

**Duncan Brack**  
**Chair, Federal Conference Committee**  
**July 2009**

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England	Geoff Payne; <a href="mailto:geoff@geoffpayne.org">geoff@geoffpayne.org</a>
Scotland	Jenni Lang; <a href="mailto:Jenni.Lang@centrica.com">Jenni.Lang@centrica.com</a>
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# Federal Policy Committee

The Federal Policy Committee 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, 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.

## Policy Development

Since the Spring Conference, four policy papers on Women, Consumers, the UK Response to Globalisation and the Natural Environment have been produced and are presented for debate at Bournemouth.

Policy working groups, supported by the Policy and Research Unit (PRU), have also drafted consultation papers on Localism and Quality of Life. There will be consultation sessions to discuss these on the morning of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September in Bournemouth and they are also available for online comment on the [www.consult.libdems.org.uk](http://www.consult.libdems.org.uk) website. These groups will all proceed to develop their ideas and will hold further consultation at the Spring 2010 conference and eventually present their final conclusions in a policy paper for debate at the Autumn 2010 party conference, taking into account the outcome of the consultation sessions and other input from both within and outside the party.

The Youth policy working group will present its policy paper at the Spring 2010 conference.

A policy working group has been established on International Development. It will bring a consultation paper to the next spring conference and its full policy paper to the Autumn 2010 conference.

The FPC has also taken the decision to commission policy papers on the subjects of the Voluntary Sector and Inequality & Social Exclusion for the Spring and Autumn 2011 conferences respectively. The policy working groups for these papers have not yet been set up as they will not start work this year.

The FPC is very grateful for the contribution made by the chairs and members of working groups who voluntarily give a great deal of time to assist the Party's policy development process.

The table below sets out the latest schedule of policy development work:

Conference	Consultation Papers	Policy Papers
Sept 2009	Localism Quality of Life	Women Consumers UK Response to Globalisation Natural Environment A Fresh Start for Britain
March 2010	International Development Localism Quality of Life	Youth
Autumn 2010	The Voluntary Sector	Localism Quality of Life
Spring 2011	Inequality and Social Exclusion	The Voluntary Sector
Autumn 2011		Inequality and Social Exclusion

### The General Election Manifesto

The Manifesto Group is chaired by Danny Alexander MP, and the other members are: myself as Chair of FPC, Dr Richard Grayson (Vice Chair, FPC), Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, FPC), Steve Webb MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions), Vince Cable MP (Shadow Chancellor), Edward Davey MP (Chair of Campaigns and Communications) David Laws MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families) and Susan Kramer MP.

The first outcome of the group's work was the *Make It Happen* vision and values paper debated last Autumn. Since then the group has developed *A Fresh Start for Britain* which is presented for debate at Bournemouth. This paper sets out our overall principles and the priorities which we will apply in developing the manifesto for the next general election.

Members with policy ideas to contribute for the Manifesto can email them to [manifesto@libdems.org.uk](mailto:manifesto@libdems.org.uk) or write to Danny Alexander MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

### European Parliamentary Election Manifesto

The European Manifesto Group was chaired by Danny Alexander MP, and the other members were: myself as Chair of FPC, Dr Richard Grayson (Vice Chair, FPC), Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, FPC), Edward Davey MP (Chair of Campaigns and Communications and Shadow Foreign Secretary), Jeremy Browne MP (Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury), Andrew Duff MEP (Leader, LDEPP), Graham Watson MEP (Leader, ALDE Group), Sarah Ludford MEP, William Wallace (Foreign Affairs Spokesperson and Deputy Leader in the Lords), Linda Jack (FPC) and Dr Julie Smith (FPC).

This group produced the manifesto *Stronger Together, Poorer Apart*. The web-based design of this manifesto was an innovation and it is intended to develop upon this approach for the next general election manifesto.

### Developing the Policy Panel

Thanks to all those who responded to the invitation to put themselves forward for the panel which now has nearly 600 members. Party members can still volunteer themselves at any time via the consultation website [www.consult.libdems.org.uk](http://www.consult.libdems.org.uk). To improve communication and involve panel members more in policy work, we have a regular policy newsletter, *Focus on Policy*. This newsletter keeps members of the panel informed about new publications on the consult website, new working groups and other initiatives, and includes articles from working group chairs, spokespeople, FPC members and the leadership team. It is our hope that, in future, panel members will have a much more active role in policy-making within the Party and that the policy process will benefit from their wealth of knowledge, expertise and experience.

## Regional Links

To encourage policy debate across the party we have FPC representatives to take responsibility for promoting policy debate within each of the regions of England and to attend regional conferences where appropriate.

Region	
Devon & Cornwall	Theo Butt Philip
East of England	Richard Grayson/Geoff Payne/Linda Jack
East Midlands	Susan Gaszczak
London	Jo Hayes/ Jeremy Hargreaves
Northern	Robert Adamson
North West	Stan Collins
South Central	Neil Fawcett/Ruth Coleman
South East	Susan Gaszczak
Western Counties	Theo Butt Phillip
West Midlands	Phil Bennion/Susan Juned
Yorkshire & the Humber	William Wallace/Duncan Brack

The FPC has also decided to appoint representatives to Party SAOs:

SAO	
ALDES	Julie Smith
ALDC	Susan Juned
DELGA	Geoff Payne
WLD	Ruth Coleman
Liberal Youth	Theo Butt Phillip
PCA	Susan Gaszczak
Liberal Democrat Lawyers	Jonathan Marks
EMLD	Linda Jack

## Policy and Research Unit Staffing

The Policy and Research Unit (PRU) combining the Adviser teams and the Policy Projects Team provides staff support for the FPC and its working groups.

The Policy Projects Team consists of Christian Moon (Head of Policy), Navprit Rai (Policy Officer), and Debbie Enever (Policy Officer). Helen Banks (Policy Officer) is currently on maternity leave. The Policy Projects Team has also benefited from voluntary work by Louisa Latham, Vamsi Velagapudi and Ruby Peacock.

The Advisers have recently been restructured into three teams each led by a Senior Adviser. The Economy, Economy and Business Team consists of Chris Saunders (Senior Adviser, Economy & Treasury), James Lloyd (Environment, Energy, Food & Rural Affairs), Katie Waring (Work & Pensions), and Andrew Clegg (Business and Enterprise). The team also currently includes Helen Dommett working on secondment from PWC on tax issues. The Security and Society Team consists of Ben Jones (Senior Adviser, International Affairs & Defence), James McGrory (Home Affairs and Justice) plus a vacancy. The Public Services and Localism team consists of Steve Lotinga (Senior Adviser, Health), Alice Douglas (Communities & Transport), and Sam Cannicott (Education). The Adviser team has benefited from voluntary work by: Johannes Olschner, Nicola

Atkins, Matt Mattioli, Ruth Gripper and Stephane Amoyel. Verity Harding has recently been appointed as Project Support Officer to provide administrative, HR and project management support in the PRU.

As ever, the FPC is much indebted to the Policy and Research Unit staff and volunteers for all their hard work in support of the FPC.

We would also like to record our thanks to Greg Simpson, who has recently left the post of Head of Policy and Research to take up a senior position in the civil service. Greg has been an excellent servant to the party in several roles over a period of eleven years.

**Nick Clegg MP**  
**Chair of Federal Policy Committee**  
**July 2009**

# Federal Executive

The Federal Executive 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 (see below) 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, two other MPs, one peer, one MEP, two councillors, three state party reps and fifteen members directly elected by conference reps.

Since our last report to Conference only four months have passed, yet the FE has been busy working on a variety of issues.

## **Party Awards**

The FE has approved a new process for making Party Awards and there will be a number of awards being made at Conference this year as part of the President's speech. The two types of award (President's for those elected to public office and the Harriet Smith for those not elected) recognise outstanding contributions to the Party over a significant period of time.

## **Strategy**

The Leader made a presentation on his strategy at the first FE meeting following Spring Conference. The FE found this both informative and useful. At each of our meetings we now receive an update on General Election planning issues.

## **Chief Executive**

Following Chris Rennard's resignation as Chief Executive, on the grounds of ill health, Chris Fox has been appointed as Interim Chief Executive until the General Election. The process to recruit his successor will be led by Federal Executive.

## **Electoral Commission & Compliance**

The President has met twice with the new Chair of Electoral Commission, Jenny Watson, at their request to talk to them about the burden of compliance, particularly on small local parties. At the first meeting the President suggested wide consultation on the practical impact of regulating the new legislation. They have already started talking to Party staff about this, which is a positive move.

## **Candidate Retention Report**

A number of party staff & volunteers have reviewed the support we offer our parliamentary candidates. As a result Margaret Joachim (who has experience as a regional candidates chair, vicar, project manager and former PPC) & Tim Farron MP have been commissioned to facilitate moving the recommendations forward and will be reporting back to the FE at its October meeting.

The FE regularly discusses and feeds back to the Leader on topical political issues, representing different viewpoints from across the party. Topics covered by this include the Speaker (and subsequent resignation), the economy and the expenses issue. The FE felt that a code of conduct for Liberal Democrat Parliamentarians should be developed. Work on this has started and will be completed once the Parliamentary Standards Bill has completed its passage through Parliament and both Houses have agreed their own codes.

The regular work of the FE, such as monitoring the KPIs, receiving reports from the FFAC, Diversity Engagement Group, International Relations Committee, Campaign for Gender Balance & the Chief Officers' Group is carried out at each meeting.

### **COG & Party Boards**

The Minutes of the Chief Officers Group are an agenda item for each meeting of Federal Executive. The Chief Officers' Group has established the four Party Boards; Capability (chaired by Marcus Evans), Fundraising (chaired by Lord Clement-Jones), Technology (chaired by Lynne Featherstone MP) & Audit & Compliance (chaired by Sir Ian Wrigglesworth). The Audit & Compliance Board is a committee of the Party Trustees. The FE have appointed Baroness Lindsay Northover and Michael Jeans as new Trustees and thank Baroness Neuberger & Lord Sharman for their work as they step down as Trustees.

### **Scrutiny**

An important part of the FE's role is scrutinizing the work of various parts of the Party. Since the Spring Conference the FE has looked at the European & Local Election campaigns and has conducted a review of Membership

We will be meeting at Conference to review the report of the relationship between the Party & Councillors & Council Groups, which has already borne fruit in helping deal with disputes at a local level, looking at ALDC and receiving an update on Ears 9.

I have to report that Ed Davey has resigned as Chair of the Campaigns & Communications Committee after successfully overseeing the European & Local Election campaigns. His work has been invaluable and one of his legacies is the improved coordination between different parts of the Party. The FE will be electing a new CCC Chair at its meeting at Conference and I will update you on this at Conference.

### **Party Motions**

Finally you will see that the FE is proposing a number of amendments to the Leadership, Committee & Presidential elections. These changes are to update the regulations to reflect the possibility of electronic voting in the future and lessons learnt from recent elections.

**Ros Scott**  
**Party President**  
**July 2009**

# Federal Finance and Administration Committee

The Federal Finance and Administration Committee 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 normally also reports directly to the Federal Conference.

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

The FFAC committee, elected in January 2009 for a two year term, continues to monitor and report regularly to the Federal Executive on the Administration of the Party and its Finances (construed narrowly as the monies raised and spent by the Federal Party) As agreed by the Chief Officers Group the Committee now meets jointly with the Management Board of POLD (the Parliamentary Office of the Liberal Democrats).

## **Membership and Fundraising Services**

The Party has continued the development the Membership Data On-line website that supports the membership work of local parties and more functionality will be added this year to enable local membership secretaries to implement changes on line. Over sixty percent of local parties now use this facility rather than the old-fashioned paper reports.

Work has begun on designing a similar website for local party Treasurers that will make the process of submitting the donation reports required by the Electoral Commission much more efficient.

There has been a small net increase in membership in the first half of 2009. This is encouraging as it is the first time since 2005 that the party has had two consecutive positive quarters. It reflects the fact that renewal rates are back up and that there is increased local party activity.

## **Expanding Fundraising Activity for the General Election**

The Party has recently appointed a new interim fundraising position through until the General Election. This new member of staff will be working on higher value gifts to meet the challenge of the general election campaign, focussing on widening the financial support for the Party beyond its existing donor base.

## **Developing internet and electronic communications capabilities**

Over the summer the Party has been re-organising the staff structure for those working on data, websites and email communication. This is an area of growing importance and complexity. The ways in which people communicate with each other and engage with organisations is changing and the Party needs to be able to reflect this in the way it works.

We now have four staff working in these areas clearly focussed on the objectives that the Party needs to achieve. Two new technical posts have been created, one for data and business systems, the other for the internet and electronic communication. The other two posts have been re-structured to focus on website content and on rolling-out the lessons learned on new technology more widely across the Party.

These changes were completed in July and as we go through the autumn we will begin to see the benefits to both the internal and external internet resources of the Party.

### **Environmental Activity**

Continuing initiatives are being taken to reduce the carbon footprint of Cowley Street, working with staff representatives. In addition to the well established recycling schemes waste at the Party Headquarters is now being turned into electricity, further reducing the amount being sent to land waste.

### **Preparations for the General Election**

A new Press Conference facility, with improved arrangements for training, has been installed in the Boardroom of the Cowley Street premises in readiness for the General Election.

### **IT Support**

An outside contractor has been engaged to improve IT service support within Cowley Street.

### **PPERA Compliance**

The number of accounting units filing accounts with the Electoral Commission as a result of their gross income or expenditure exceeding the £25,000 threshold has increased this year from 107 to 116 sets of accounts. This consisted of 94 sets of accounts in the over £25,000 band and 6 in the £250,000+ band. There were 14 sets of accounts that were over £25,000 in 2007 that fell below that threshold in 2008.

The Political Parties and Elections Bill 2009 is due to complete its passage through parliament in July 2009. This will make amendments to the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 in the following areas: Investigatory Powers of the Electoral Commission; Increase the civil sanctions like fines that the Commission can impose without going to court; introduce declaration of source of funds for all donations over £7,500; new declarations about sources of funds for unincorporated associations; and increase the three main recording and reporting thresholds for donations.

The declarations of donations made, statement of accounts submitted and campaign expenditure made by the Party can be viewed on the Electoral Commission's website at <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/regulatory-issues/Regpartydonations.cfm>

### **2008 financial results**

The accounts show a surplus on the general fund of £55,000 before a loss on the pension scheme of £121,000 due to lower returns on the scheme assets in what was a difficult year for markets. This actuarial deficit of £121,000 was largely offset by the additional contributions of £114,000 the party has made, which together with other minor adjustments resulted in the scheme deficit only increasing from £51,000 to £55,000.

The election campaign fund aims to build funds towards a General Election and reduce the imbalance between the party's election spending and that of its major rivals. The high level of activity started the previous year in preparation for a possible autumn 2007 election was maintained throughout 2008.

Overall the party ended the year with net assets of £457,000.

### **Income**

Total income for the year was less than 1% down on 2007. Lower cash and "in-kind" donations were partially offset by higher conference income. The increase in charges to party bodies represents the greater sharing of costs.

### **Expenditure**

Total expenditure increased by approx. £150,000 (2.6%) with the biggest increases in conference and staff costs. Staff costs increased due to the full year effect of the higher campaign activity.,,

additional resources put into the Conference Office, and bringing in-house the administration of Liberty Network and the Business Forum. The prior financial year had benefited from a non-recurring adjustment to the accrual for pension costs, whereas 2008 suffered from a much higher Pension Protection Fund levy payment relating to the closed defined benefit pension scheme.

### **Cash**

At the end of 2008 the Party had net funds of £497,000 compared to £1,045,000 at the end of 2007. The reduction in net funds broadly reflects the income and expenditure account deficit before the pension scheme loss for the year.

We did not need to use our overdraft facility during 2008, and it will probably not now be needed in 2009. The facility has however been renewed for £1m. in anticipation of the 2010 General Election.

### **2009 activity**

While for the first half of the year income on both the general fund and the campaign fund are ahead of budget, we cannot yet be completely confident that a positive variance will continue for the second half. The positive first half result for the general fund is due to better than expected appeals and Spring conference income.

Expenditure for the first six months is marginally below budget for the general fund and significantly below budget for the campaign fund, where some expenditure commitments have been deferred in order to conserve resources.

Current indications are that the general fund will achieve a modest surplus before any adjustments relating to the pension scheme. It is difficult to forecast the outturn for the campaign fund at this early stage but it will be important to go into 2010 with a significant accumulated surplus in readiness for the General Election.

### **2010 Budget**

The FFAC is required under the Party Constitution to propose an outline budget for the next year for approval by Conference - several months before the FFAC or the senior management team have started serious work on the following year's budget, and at a stage when we have only five months of current year management accounts information.

All we can therefore really do (as in previous years) is to identify as a guideline known unavoidable changes from the current year's budget. This indicative budget (appendix A) is for the general fund only. (It is impossible at this stage to establish what resources will be available to the Campaign fund, where the aim in 2010 will be to raise and spend as much as possible, including any reserves brought forward from 2009.)

Part of the agreement to eliminate the pension scheme deficit is that the party has been making additional contributions of £9,500 a month above the amount needed to meet current service costs. From May 2009 these additional contributions will reduce to £6,600 a month, though there is an increase in the amount needed to cover the current service costs themselves.

The detailed work on the budget will take place in the autumn in consultation with the relevant party bodies with a view to the final budget being agreed by the Federal Executive in December and reported to next Spring's conference.

The FFAC has started work on considering the post General Election Federal-State Party financial settlement and will report to the FE during the Autumn.

### **The Liberal Democrats (Trustees) Limited**

The accounts of the Liberal Democrats (Trustees) Limited are included within the reports to conference and the FFAC would like to thank the Trustees, chaired by Sir Ian Wrigglesworth, for their advice and assistance throughout the year.

## **Party Business**

In approving this Report, conference is asked formally:

1. to approve the outline budget for 2010
2. to adopt the audited accounts for 2008
3. to reappoint Mazars LLP as the Party's auditors.
4. to confirm that The President and the Chair of the Federal Finance & Administration Committee for the time being, on behalf of the Party and with the specific prior agreement of the FFAC, may agree the terms of the overdraft with the Royal Bank of Scotland, and that such delegation will also extend to the operation of the Party's bank accounts.
5. to indemnify the President and Chair of the Federal Finance & Administration Committee by the Federal Party of the Liberal Democrats for any personal commitments made to the bank but only insofar as they relate solely to this resolution.

**Duncan Greenland**  
**Chair, Finance & Administration Committee**  
**Registered Treasurer**  
**July 2009**

### Appendix A 2010 Outline Budget

	£	£	Comments
<i>Unavoidable changes 2009 to 2010</i>			
<b>2009 budgeted income</b>		<b>3,121,000</b>	
Projected income changes:			
Increase in Federal income		25,000	Increase in Federal levy income from increase in subscription rate and membership numbers.
<b>2010 budgeted income</b>		<b>3,146,000</b>	
<b>2009 budgeted expenditure</b>		<b>(3,175,000)</b>	
Unavoidable expenditure changes:			
Rates	(3,000)		Unavoidable increase
Reduction in additional contributions to eliminate the pension scheme deficit	15,000		From May 2009 the additional contributions reduce from £9,500 a month to £6,600, though this is partly offset by higher regular contributions
Net cost of Federal Committee & Presidential election	(15,000)		No elections in 2009.
		(3,000)	
<b>2010 budgeted expenditure</b>		<b>(3,178,000)</b>	
<b>Net Budget Deficit - basic</b>		<b>(32,000)</b>	
Deficit to be eliminated		32,000	Can be achieved by increase in income and/or reductions in expenditure
<b>OUTLINE 2010 BUDGET SURPLUS</b>		<b>£nil</b>	

# THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS (TRUSTEES) LIMITED

## Directors' Report to the Members for the year ended 31 December 2008

The Directors submit their report for the year ended 31 December 2008, and the Company's balance sheet as at that date.

By virtue of Article 8.3 of the present Constitution of the Liberal Democrats ("the Party"), the function of the Company is to acquire, hold and dispose of such assets of the Federal Party (as defined in that Constitution) as the Federal Executive (as so defined) may from time to time direct.

Where the Company enters into any transaction, it does so as trustee and/or agent for the Party. On this basis, the Company is dormant within the meaning of Section 249AA of the Companies Act 1985 and does not prepare a profit and loss account.

The Directors of the Company during the year ended 31 December 2008 were:

Lord Clement-Jones

Lord Dholakia

Duncan Taylor Greenland

Eric Hamilton Lowry (Irish)

Baroness Neuberger

Lord Sharman

Lord Vallance

Sir Ian William Wrigglesworth

*Signed on behalf of the Board*



Secretary

Dated: 23 June 2009

Registered in England

No. 2231620

*Registered Office*

4 Cowley Street

London SW1P 3NB

**THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS (TRUSTEES) LIMITED**

**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2008**

	£
Assets	NIL
Liabilities	NIL

Throughout the year ended 31 December 2008, the Company was dormant, and accordingly entitled under Section 249AA(1) of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") to exemption from audit.

Members have not required the Company to obtain an audit in accordance with Section 249B(2) of the Act.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for:

- (a) ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 221 of the Act; and
- (b) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of its financial year, and of its profit and loss for the financial year, in accordance with Section 226 of the Act, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to accounts so far as applicable to the Company.

Approved by the Board on 23 June 2009



**IAN WRIGGLESWORTH**

*Director*

# PARLIAMENTARY PARTY (COMMONS)

## **Introduction**

The months since the Spring Conference have been a testing time for the Liberal Democrat parliamentary party, but one in which Nick's leadership has seen us clearly established in the media as a distinct political force to be reckoned with. Most importantly, he has established a reputation for credibility and consistency, bolstered by Vince Cable's reputation and insight into the catastrophic failure of the banks, the money markets and our economy.

## **Gurkhas**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> April we had the second of our Opposition Days and we chose to debate a motion on the settlement rights of Gurkhas. We won the vote sending shockwaves through Government and the media; we won by a stunning 267 votes to 246. Our debate paved the way for the Government to bring forward revised immigration rules to allow Gurkhas who served with the British army prior to 1997 to settle. Nick Clegg had continued to give a high profile to a cause that had been supported by Charles Kennedy and Sir Menzies Campbell and the astonishing result – the defeat of the Government on a Lib Dem Opposition Day – was the result of sticking to principle and justice in the face of cowardice and political scaremongering from a desperate Government.

## **Expenses**

The scandal over parliamentary expenses, which began with the revelations around the employment arrangements for Conservative MP, Derek Conway's sons, culminated in a series of devastating exposes by the Daily Telegraph who obtained details of the receipts that were due to be published, before confidential information such as bank account details and third party information could be removed. Quickly establishing a team to examine the expenses of all our MPs, I was pleased to be able to report to Nick that no Liberal Democrat MP had claimed for a phantom mortgage, flipped the designation of their second home to maximise their gain from allowances or avoided capital gains tax. Since the end of March, Nick had been pushing for the three main party leaders to take the political lead and agree radical reform. With Brown dithering and Cameron unable to commit his backbenchers to radical reform, Nick Clegg committed the Liberal Democrats to supporting the recommendations to come from the Committee on Standards in Public Life, without amendment. Eventually, the party leaders agreed to put the system of allowances beyond the reach of Parliament, setting up an Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to implement a new expenses and allowances regime, drawing on Sir Christopher Kelly's recommendations, as well as introducing new mechanisms for the payment and monitoring of that money.

## **Speaker**

Nick's bold decision to call for the Speaker to resign prompted the unfolding of a series of constitutional events that had not been seen since the resignation of Sir John Trevor in 1695. It was an act that required personal and political courage, opening him up to attack from both Labour and Conservative sides of the House, and taken because it was clear that Speaker Martin could not oversee the shake-up of MPs' expenses necessary to restore a measure of public trust to the House of Commons. Speaker Martin's resignation allowed the first election for Speaker by secret ballot, reducing the power of the Whips to influence the outcome.

## **Other activity in Parliament**

With the second part of our Opposition Day we raised the issue of Sri Lanka and post-conflict support as its devastating civil war drew to a close. Following the unsatisfactory establishment of the Iraq Inquiry, and the Government's eventual and humiliating u-turn in

the face of public and political pressure, David Heath introduced a ten minute rule bill to re-establish Parliament's historic right to hold inquiries without the say-so of Government. In another rare move, Willie Rennie's presentation bill to ensure driving instructors convicted of sexual offences can be suspended, even if not yet removed from the official register of approved driving instructors, has received Government backing and been given accelerated passage through the Commons.

Disappointingly, however, David Heath's Fuel Poverty Bill, backed by a large array of green groups and anti-poverty charities, was shamefully sabotaged by the Government who talked it out to prevent it progressing to Committee.

### **Organisational changes**

After many years of service we bid farewell to George Crozier and Jonathan Wallace, who comprised the PICS team. With their departure, responsibilities have been reallocated to other departments. Having managed the Policy and Research Unit for many years, Greg Simpson has also moved on, assuming a senior speech-writing role with the Ministry of Defence. From the Media Centre we have bid farewell to Jo Foster, Jamie Hamill and Luke Croydon. We are very grateful to all of these for the hard work and service they have provided to the parliamentary party and I wish them well in their future careers.

### **Conclusion**

If the last few months have shown me anything it is that, despite the natural inclination of the media to a simple two-party view of our politics, there is a tremendous need and appetite for a progressive and reforming third party that is prepared to challenge the old orthodoxies and speak with a clear and united voice in the public interest. With less than a year to the General Election, I know we will take every opportunity we have in Parliament to press home the message that the tired old politics of the last century are finished. Whether it is the economy, the health of our politics and our constitution, the future of our environment or our military priorities and support for our over-stretched troops in Afghanistan, if people want a politics that is in touch with their concerns and priorities, they have only one party to choose: the Liberal Democrats.

**Paul Burstow MP**  
**Chief Whip (Commons)**  
**July 2009**

# Parliamentary Party (Lords)

The Liberal Democrat group in the House of Lords has, as usual, been very busy, listed below is the work on the various Bills and general debates. 46 out of 71 peers are mentioned. Many others do unsung work on the various committees of the House and asking very many written and oral questions

## **Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill.**

**Joan Walmsley, Margaret Sharp, Sue Garden, Dominic Addington and Brian Cotter** have contributed to the debates on this Bill. While we welcome the efforts to boost the role of apprenticeships we find that most of this Bill is superfluous, contributing to nothing more than further bureaucracy of the education system. The Bill is currently in committee and is unlikely to gain parliamentary approval until mid November.

## **Banking Act**

The Government's Banking Bill in response to the recent turbulence in the banking sector was completed and became law in February. The Bill was led by **Dick Newby** and **Matthew Oakeshott**. Lib Dems used this Bill to highlight the case for separating investment banking from deposit taking (the Glass-Steagall approach). The Government conceded on a more general amendment that would enable there to be a biannual report to Parliament on the operation of the Act.

## **Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill (HL)**

**Eric Avebury** led a team consisting of **Sue Miller, Roger Roberts, Martin Thomas, Kishwer Falkner, Trevor Smith, William Wallace and Archy Kirkwood** in scrutinising this Bill, which merges functions of HM Revenue and Customs with the UK Border Agency, brings the Government's new citizenship requirements into effect and makes some further changes to immigration law. When the Bill returned to the Lords from the Commons the Government had conceded on the three issues on which they'd been defeated in the Lords.- retention of the Common Travel area, the method of applying for citizenship and the set-up of the new tribunals system

## **Business Rates Supplements Act**

**Sally Hamwee** and **Graham Tope** led on this Bill that allows local authorities to introduce a levy on top of the national non-domestic rates to provide money for projects promoting economic development. We regretted that this was yet again a missed opportunity to reform local taxation. Our key concerns were that the proposals would be imposed on businesses rather than being a measure to work with businesses. We therefore pushed for a requirement that a ballot should be held before the imposition of any Business Rate Supplement, something the Government opposed.

## **Coroners and Justice Bill**

**Martin Thomas** is leading a big team (**Sue Miller, John Alderdice, Veronica Linklater, Alex Carlile, Anthony Lester, Dick Taverne, Rupert Redesdale, Willie Goodhart, Navnit Dholakia**) to scrutinise this large Bill, which has just completed committee stage in the Lords. Amongst other things the Bill reforms the coroners system, which hasn't been substantively reformed since the 1890s, proposes reforms to the law of murder, places the Government's measures on anonymity for witnesses (passed last year) on a permanent footing, establishes a new Sentencing Council, deals with the suicide laws, and makes changes to the laws on criminal memoirs and data protection.

### **Health Bill (HL)**

**Liz Barker** and **Jenny Tonge** led on this Bill with contributions from **Lindsay Northover**. The Bill covers a range of issues - It allows the Secretary of State to publish the NHS constitution for England. Quality Accounts, setting out measurements of quality for the benefit of patients, clinicians and managers were also brought forward. We were worried that these would be akin to school league tables that fail to reflect the areas they serve. The Bill permits the piloting of direct payments for healthcare for those with long term medical conditions. It also contained provisions banning the display of tobacco products at the point of sale. A free vote was allowed on this issue reflecting concerns within the parliamentary party for both public health and for small shops. All other votes on this topic were whipped.

### **Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill**

**Tony Greaves**, **Sally Hamwee** and **Graham Tope** contributed to this Bill, and we were deeply opposed to large parts of it, especially the latter half on economic development, where our peers pushed strongly on concerns about regional strategies, Leaders Boards, sustainable development, and Economic Prosperity Boards.

### **Marine and Coastal Access Bill (HL)**

**Tony Greaves**, **Paul Tyler**, **Sue Miller**, **Sally Hamwee**, **Jim Wallace**, **Richard Livsey**, **William Wallace** and **John Burnett** participated for the Lib Dems on this multi-faceted Bill. Its passage through the Lords took 6 months, and we were able to influence 14 Government concessions, greatly improving the Bill as it passed to the Commons. The Bill establishes the Marine Management Organisation and Marine Conservation Zones and Lib Dem Peers supported the Conservatives on the only Government defeat on the Bill – on the issue of the desirability of covering the whole of marine planning regions with a plan. The final section created an English coastal pathway and is quite unconnected to the rest of the Bill, and although we have opposed the idea of compensation for landowners, we supported the idea of an appeal system

### **Northern Ireland Bill**

**Trevor Smith** and **Angie Harris** worked on this Bill which establishes another model for a department of policing and justice in Northern Ireland. The Bill was rushed through parliament following intensive negotiations in Northern Ireland. Our main concern in the Bill was to protect the position of a Minister of Justice in a devolved administration. Given how controversial policing and justice matters are in Northern Ireland, we felt it would be prudent to protect a minister, at least in the first instance, from vexatious attempts to remove a minister from office. However, the Bill left the Lords unlamented.

### **Parliamentary Standards Bill**

**David Shutt** has led a team consisting of **Paul Tyler**, **Sally Hamwee**, **Willie Goodhart**, **Anthony Lester** and **Jim Wallace** in scrutinising this piece of emergency legislation to put in place a new system for dealing with MPs' allowances. The Bill had already raised concerns relating to parliamentary privilege when it was discussed in the Commons; this was also raised by **Anthony**, as was the right to MPs of fair representation under the Bill, an issue that the Government conceded on. **David** was concerned about the inter-relationships provided for in the Bill, and spoke about the very strong need for a proper sunset clause on the Bill. The Government accepted the principle of an amendment which we had tabled on the need for a sunset clause. However, their proposal was unsatisfactory as they suggested that the most controversial aspects of the Bill – those dealing with criminal offences for MPs, a statutory code of conduct relating to financial interests and the investigation by the new Commissioner for Parliamentary Investigations into MPs – should be renewed by secondary legislation. We tabled an amendment at report stage to ensure that if these provisions are to continue, the Government should come back with primary legislation, to be scrutinised properly within the normal parliamentary timescales, rather than rushed through as this Bill has been and instead of the minimal scrutiny which is offered by secondary legislation. Our amendment was defeated by 79 votes, the Tories, as usual abstaining at the last minute.

### **Policing and Crime Bill**

**Sue Miller** is leading on the flagship Home Office Bill of this session, together with **Angie Harris, Navnit Dholakia, Bill Bradshaw and Joan Walmsley**. The Bill, which is at the 'committee stage, deals with policing reform, prostitution, lap dancing clubs, alcohol disorder, gang injunctions, proceeds of crime, extradition, security at airports and DNA

### **Political Parties and Elections Bill**

**Paul Tyler** and **Chris Rennard** have led on this Bill, with support from **Bob Maclennan, Willie Goodhart** and **Tony Greaves**. Whilst there is little to be critical of in the Bill, the Government has missed a vital opportunity to clean up politics. During the course of the Bill we tabled amendments to introduce a mechanism to allow constituents to recall their MP if found guilty of misconduct; to bring forward the recommendations of Hayden Phillips to put a cap on donations and a limit on party spending; to stop constituencies being flooded by centrally-funded campaign literature; to encourage smaller donations by providing for tax relief, which was recommendation by the Committee on Standards in Public Life. All of our proposals were defeated by Labour and Conservative peers. When the Bill returned to the Commons the Government accepted the principle of their one defeat in the Lords, on an amendment proposed by back-bench Labour peer to ensure that donations to political parties could not be made by people who are not ordinarily resident and domiciled in the UK.

### **Postal Services Bill (HL)**

The Postal Services Bill, which included the separation of the Post Office and Royal Mail and the partial privatisation of the Royal Mail, has been kicked into the long grass by the Government yet the Bill actually completed all its stages in the House of Lords, where our team consisted of **Tim Razzall, Brian Cotter, Bill Bradshaw** and **David Alliance**. The Liberal Democrats generally opposed the Bill as it did not meet the five tests that the party set, which were that it must (1) guarantee the Post Office's future as a public sector, public service organisation, (2) deliver the substantial investment which the post office network desperately needs to give it a sustainable future, (3) guarantee a full 6 day a week Universal Service Obligation (USO) throughout the UK, (4) ensure a competitive future for Royal Mail and not leave the company at a disadvantage to its rivals and (5) provide for a fair ownership structure which properly reflects the interests of all stakeholders. Although some of these points have been met by the Bill, the failure to establish an employee shared ownership scheme for Royal Mail and an investment fund for the postal network underline why we could not support the Bill.

### **Saving Gateway Accounts Act**

**Dick Newby** was our speaker in this Bill, which introduces a cash saving scheme for people at working age on lower incomes. The Bill is now law, following Government concessions for a review and report to Parliament on the operation of the scheme.

### **Welfare Reform Bill**

**Celia Thomas, Archy Kirkwood** and **Matthew Oakeshott** are our spokespeople on this Bill.

It creates pilots for "work for your benefit schemes" for long-term jobseekers, abolishes Income Support and moves all claimants on to either Jobseekers' Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance. It also introduces a regime of benefit sanctions for non-attendance at Jobcentres, individual budgets for disabled people, includes lone parents of children over the age of three and requires claimants who are drug-dependent to enroll in treatment or rehabilitation in return for their benefits. The Bill has completed committee stage and will go into Report when the House resumes in October after the summer recess.

### **Debates introduced by Liberal Democrats have been:**

**Hugh Dykes** – UK membership of the euro

**Lucius Falkland** – the treatment of patients outside hospital

**Roger Roberts** – the provision of benefits to non-British citizens resident in the UK

**Jenny Tonge** – cognitive therapy

**Patrick Glasgow** – BBC's public service broadcasting

**Liz Barker** – economic crisis in health  
**Dominic Addington** – Dyslexia  
**Martin Thomas** – the Channel 4 programme on mosques  
**Nigel Jones** – St Helena  
**Richard Livsey** - public and private services in rural communities  
**John Burnett** – wounded service personnel  
**Paul Tyler** – constitutional reform  
**Bill Bradshaw** – safety on public transport  
**Bill Bradshaw** – the bus industry  
**Dick Taverne** –prospects for nuclear fusion  
**The following peers also initiated debates on secondary legislation**  
**Archy Kirkwood** - HB Functions regulations and Social Security Regulations  
**Tim Clement-Jones** - Legislative reform (minor variations to premises Licences) Regulations  
**Sue Miller** – Terrorism Act order and ID cards Orders

**Liberal Democrat Private Members' Bills**

**David Steel** – House of Lords Bill  
**Anthony Lester** – Cohabitation Bill  
**Dominic Addington** – Community Amateur Sports Club Support Bill  
**Tim Clement-Jones** – Live Music Bill  
**Matthew Oakeshott** – House of Lords (members' taxation status) Bill  
**Rupert Redesdale** – Dog Control Bill  
**Paul Tyler** - Driving instruction (suspension of powers) Bill

The work of the group in the Lords is much enhanced by the work of the Whips Office staff led by **Carolyn Rampton** – they are **Elizabeth Hanna, Tom Kiehl, Tim Oliver** and **Anne-Marie Christoffersen-Deb**. This year we have also been assisted by **Jake Holland, Julie Porksen** and **Rupert Dewey**, all of whom have now moved on. We thank them all.

**David Shutt**  
**(Lord Shutt of Greetland)**  
**Chief Whip (Lords)**  
**July 2009**

# Parliamentary Party (Europe)

Following the European Elections on June 4th, the Liberal Democrats held onto all eleven of their seats in the European Parliament. We saw the departure of Emma Nicholson and Elspeth Attwooll, after ten years of service, and the arrival of Catherine Bearder and George Lyon to take their place. As we start the discussion of our priorities, it is against the background of the financial crisis and the referendum on the Lisbon Treaty. Whatever happens, our MEPs promise to continue to work hard to get the best out of Europe, and to show up those who say that nothing can be done.

**Fiona Hall** (North East), the newly elected leader of the Liberal Democrat delegation in the European Parliament, will be stressing the importance of action at a European level to tackle climate change and the economic recession. Fiona continues as a member of the Committee for Industry, Research and Energy where she is pushing for major investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy in order to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy security, and create green jobs. She is currently the Liberal group's negotiator on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive recast, which will tighten energy efficiency standards for new and existing buildings.

**Catherine Bearder** (South East) has become an MEP following a career in the voluntary and environmental sectors, and is known locally as a passionate campaigner and activist. She is looking forward to championing the needs of the South East in the European Parliament over the next five years.

Catherine has been appointed to serve as a member of the Committee for Regional Development, where she intends to work to reduce the gap in the levels of development of the EU's regions. She also hopes to support and promote the work of the voluntary sector, and to further simplify the functioning of the EU's structural funds. Through her role on the Committee on International Trade, Catherine will try to ensure that free trade deals with the developing world are not made at the expense of the poor of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

**Sharon Bowles** (South East) was elected in July to lead the European Parliament's powerful Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee - the first British or Liberal to do so. Liberal Democrat support for Euro membership countered the implicit bar created by the UK opt-out. The committee is responsible for scrutinising regulation of the financial markets of the EU, and oversight of the European Central Bank. Over the past four years Sharon has been highly successful on the committee, working extensively on banking and insurance. She intends to use her position to ensure that the EU's rules are intelligent, workable, and properly enforced, and help rather than hinder the recovery from the current crisis.

Sharon remains a substitute member of the Legal Affairs Committee, and will continue to take an interest in company law, accounting, and intellectual property issues when they arise.

**Chris Davies** (North West) notes that although the forthcoming UN climate change conference in Copenhagen is dictating the EU environmental agenda at present, in its wake there is likely to be the need for further legislative measures. He will lead for ALDE on the Environment and Public Health Committee, while working in particular to ensure that the financial mechanism he introduced to promote the development of carbon capture and storage technology is put to good effect. Over the next few years many environment laws need to be updated and their application improved, and it is welcome that the Commission intend to give much greater priority to the protection of biodiversity both on land and beneath our seas.

**Andrew Duff** (East) was Leader of the European Parliamentary party until July, and instrumental in negotiating key posts in the new Parliament for the delegation's members. He remains ALDE spokesman on constitutional affairs and is the Parliament's rapporteur on electoral reform. He chairs the Parliament's Federalist Intergroup and is President of the Union of European Federalists. His latest book is *Saving the European Union: the Logic of the Lisbon Treaty* (Shoehorn).

**Liz Lynne** (West Midlands) was recently elected First Vice-President of the European Parliament's Employment and Social Affairs Committee and continues as the party's European spokesperson on Employment and Social Affairs. As the lead within the wider ALDE group on the revision of the EU's Working Time Directive, Liz worked with the firefighters' union and other organisations to help secure the retention of the UK's opt out of the 48 hour limit in the Directive, after Labour MEPs voted to scrap it. The loss of this opt out would have had a devastating impact on retained firefighters, businesses and the right of workers to choose to work overtime.

Liz has also worked to secure new EU wide antidiscrimination laws to outlaw discrimination in access to goods and services covering all areas presently excluded, including disability, age, religion or belief and sexual orientation. Liz has also continued to campaign on Gaza, Kashmir and against trafficking in human beings.

**George Lyon** (Scotland) is a former Minister for Finance and Parliament in the Scottish Government and a former President of NFU Scotland. He intends to use his experience of budgetary and farming issues in his new role on the European Parliament's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, and he will also be the Spokesperson for the ALDE group on these issues. The committee will have a key role in shaping EU law if the Lisbon Treaty is ratified, particularly in relation to the budget and reform of the CAP, and George is keen to make sure that the Liberal's voices are heard.

**Sarah Ludford** (London) continues to hold a strong interest in data protection and surveillance, and was responsible for the European Parliament's Report on the risks of 'profiling' and data-mining in policing, anti-terrorism, and border control. The Report stressed the problems that this poses in terms of human rights and discrimination, and called for safeguards to prevent individuals being mistakenly targeted. Sarah has also stressed that the Liberal Democrat's support for the European Arrest Warrant is subject to adequate procedural safeguards being in place.

In working with Susan Kramer MP on the Liberal Democrat campaign against a third runway at Heathrow, Sarah has pressed for the breach of EU pollution standards to be a key battleground. She has also not stopped lobbying the government and the European Commission on behalf for those of her constituents facing injustice, such as Aspergers' sufferer Gary McKinnon, who is facing extradition to the US.

**Bill Newton Dunn** (East Midlands) pulled off a stunning result in the European Elections, thanks to his large team of activists. Despite the abolition of his region's sixth seat, which he held, he won the fifth seat in its place. This represented a small positive swing to the Liberal Democrats, who have been gaining council seats in the region in every election since 2002.

In the European Parliament itself, Bill pulled off a surprise victory for the Lib Dems. Five 'Quaestors' are elected from among all MEPs to run the internal business of the parliament and to advise the President and Vice-Presidents. As the Liberal group had not put up an official candidate, Bill assembled his own campaign and rallied support, and within two days

had been elected to serve for the next two and a half years. Bill has also been appointed to the Overseas Development Committee and the Environment Committee.

**Diana Wallis** (Yorkshire and the Humber) was re-elected Vice-President of the European Parliament in July, and so becomes the first British woman of any political party to serve two terms in that role. She hopes to continue the work which she has started in the field of Parliamentary reform, particularly on transparency.

Diana was the Rapporteur for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee's Report on regulating the trade in seal products. She remains the party Spokesperson on the Legal Affairs Committee, and will continue to push for access to justice, and greater legal certainty for consumers and businesses across Europe.

In July Diana was jointly awarded this year's 'Srebrenica 1995' prize for 'the unselfish support and assistance that she has provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the fight for truth and justice'. She will continue her work on Arctic governance issues, and intends to take a leading role in parliamentary cooperation as part of Iceland's application to join the EU.

**Graham Watson** (South West) led the ALDE Group until the 2009 European Parliament elections. Having served seven and a half years in the job - longer than any of his predecessors - and having built the Group from 46 MEPs in 2002 to 106 MEPs at its peak in 2008, he stood down as planned to allow the election of his successor (former Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt). In the new Parliament Graham will serve on the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Delegation for relations

**Sharon Bowles MEP**  
**Acting Chief Whip (European Parliament)**  
**July 2009**

# Campaign for Gender Balance

The Campaign for Gender Balance was established by the Federal Executive in October 2001, in response to the conference debate on gender balance in September 2001. Its role is to achieve the targets agreed by conference for increases both in the number of women on the list of approved candidates, and in the number of women candidates fighting target seats. It implements a range of training, mentoring and support activities for women standing, and considering standing, for parliament. It is currently chaired by Rosalyn Gordon.

## Current Situation (at 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009):

### Approved list – 860 approved, 206 women: **24% women**

(8 women approved out of 32 approved so far in 2009, 25 awaiting assessment)

### Selected PPCs– 303 selected, 68 women: **22% women** (*MP reselections not included*)

The Campaign closely monitors information regarding approval and selection figures, to gain an accurate picture of the gender balance within the Party. As predicted in the CGB report to Conference in Spring 2007, there has been a drop in the percentage of selected PPCs (from 39% in Jan 2007) due to the still relatively low numbers of female approved candidates. We are looking forward to these numbers increasing as the new approvals process gains momentum across the country.

### **Increasing the number of women on the list of approved parliamentary candidates therefore continues to be a key focus for the Campaign.**

The more approved candidates we have, the more who can apply to become selected as PPCs and, subsequently, increase the numbers of female MPs in future elections.

CGB has found that the best way to build up our numbers of good quality female approved candidates is by (1) inspiring women to get involved, (2) offering training events to build up skills, (3) providing a network of contacts and (4) mentoring women to get approved.

We also aim to take our campaign directly to the women we want to encourage to stand for election in as many regions as possible.

Below sets out the numerous projects we have undertaken to achieve our objectives:

### **Objective 1: 150 extra approved women candidates by the next GE**

- **New women** - 83 new women on approved list since 2005 General Election.
- **CGB 'Inspiration and Training Days'** provide training and encouragement for those women who would like to get more involved in the Party. The Campaign has run 2 Inspiration Days so far in 2009, in Portsmouth in February, and Durham in June. These regional events have attracted 25 women members who are interested in becoming approved candidates for the Party.
- **Mentoring scheme** continues to be popular, with 16 women linked with CGB mentors in 2009.
- **Mailings** to 1204 new female party members in July to encourage them to think about approval.
- **Outreach and support** for all women who have requested application forms to offer help and encouragement. CGB regularly follows up with women who have requested application packs for approval but have not returned them, to encourage them to apply and offer help and support if needed.

## **Objective 2: 40% of our new MPs to be women after the next GE**

- **Winnable Seats** - Approximately 40% of our most winnable seats (according to 'swing to win' figures) have women PPCs.
- **Held Seats** – 4 out of the 6 held seats that have MPs standing down, have selected women (all of whom received support from the Campaign)
- **Selection Campaigns** - 10 approved women have been given help with selection campaigns by CGB mentors in the last six months, and 5 have gone on to be selected as PPCs.
- The **Future Women MPs Weekend** was held in High Wycombe in March 2009. This intensive residential course is targeted at women members who have serious ambitions to become MPs, and offers expert training and skills development for potential candidates. 18 participants were selected for the course from a strong field of applicants - from this group, 5 have already applied for approval and 4 have applied for seats. The weekend received excellent feedback from the participants  
*'A fantastic weekend...just what I needed to build my confidence and broaden my knowledge'*  
*'I would fully recommend it to any women who want advice, tips or the confidence to go through with it!'*
- **By-Elections** - All women going for selection in recent by-elections have been offered full support by CGB. We are delighted that April Pond was selected to fight in Norwich North in July.
- **A Parliamentary 'Open Day'** was held on 14<sup>th</sup> July for 14 potential candidates, giving them an opportunity to experience a day in the life of an MP, and inspire them to make it their future career!

*'What a great job! It has really made me want to apply for the process so expect an application form soon'*

*'It was an incredibly enlightening day and anyone who believes MP's don't earn their money really should shadow one just for a day. The experience of Westminster was a real eye opener'*

*'What an inspiring day! I am even more determined and excited about becoming an MP now'*

- **CGB online 'Resource Centre'** provides an additional source of advice and support, containing downloadable documents that may be useful to candidates, such as sample manifestos, hustings speeches and tips on becoming a PPC.

## **Additional projects/activity**

- **Full training programme** at Federal Conferences in support of both above objectives.
- **CGB Open Meeting** was held at Cowley Street on 7<sup>th</sup> July to update supporters and encourage input and consultation on future activities.
- **An e-mail newsletter** is sent out every month to 659 subscribers which includes details of training events, relevant news items and new PPC adverts.
- **Fundraising** events and donations have raised £6596 for the Campaign from January to July 2009. The annual CGB Fundraising Auction will be held at Autumn Conference on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 8pm – 10pm
- **Report into the retention of PPCs** - Vicky Booth and Dinti Batstone from CGB worked with Tamsin Hewett from the English Candidates' Office to co-author a report into PPC resignations. A disproportionate number of resignations in the past year have been women, and CGB conducted in-depth interviews with candidates (male and female) to identify key reasons for the resignations. A 20 page report was presented to the FE and the ECC in March and a working group is examining ways to improve candidate support. Tim Farron MP has agreed to act as Candidates' Champion.
- **Submission to the current Speakers Conference** on underrepresented groups within Parliament, and were invited to attend the committee to give oral evidence.

- **Publications** - We submit articles and features to various internal and external publications to encourage women to attend our events and consider candidacy
- **Website** - The Campaign website ([www.genderbalance.org.uk](http://www.genderbalance.org.uk)) and Facebook site are also regularly updated with relevant news and features.

Thanks to our Vice-Chairs, Jane Bonham-Carter and Dinti Batstone, Candy Piercy, who is Head of Training for the Campaign; All our mentors, trainers and volunteers who generously give their time in support of the Campaign; and to Vicky Booth, our Campaign Coordinator.

**Rosalyn Gordon**  
**Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance**  
**July 2009**

# DIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP

The Federal Executive Committee meeting of 17 March 2008 agreed to accept the strategy document presented by the National Diversity Adviser: 'Meeting the Diversity Challenge – From Barriers to Benefits'. In addition, the Executive also agreed to set up the Diversity Engagement Group (DEG) to oversee achievement of the Party's equality and diversity priorities. This initiative was to involve nominated 'Champions' from all sections of the Party in leading the new strategic and accountable body responsible for every aspect of delivering our diversity agenda and for reporting back to FE.

## **Progress to Autumn 2009:**

**Diversity Monitoring and Target Setting** - Key departments / functions and party stakeholders are completing their agreements around targets and adoption of the diversity monitoring form, guidelines and data reporting procedures.

### **HQ and POLD Executive Group – Staff equality and diversity forum**

- \* Internal staff group chaired by HQ Director Ben Stoneham meets regularly and representation in the form of 'Diversity Champions' has now been extended to cover all areas of HQ and POLD staff.
- \* All teams and directorates have now undertaken full equality impact assessments. More training has been set up for new staff
- \* HQ and POLD are now recording all staff diversity monitoring data gathered confidentially and on a voluntary basis on the personnel system.
- \* Staff survey has now been completed

**Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats** - "New Generation Leadership Project" has now been launched - This programme is fully supported by Nick Clegg and the Leadership Office and aims to identify, develop and promote BME talent within the party and encourages greater partnership activities / events within local communities.

**BME Media Training** - The Party is now providing special full-day training sessions for Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic party members as part of the New Generation initiative.

**Federal Policy Committee / PRU** - A Federal Policy Committee Equality Impact Assessment Group is auditing all new policy proposals against equality and diversity principles.

**Promoting diversity within the regions** – The following regions are working successfully in partnership with DEG to appoint diversity champions and deliver good practice initiatives highlighted in the 'North West Review': London, South East, Yorkshire and Humber, North West and West Midlands.

**Delivering regional inspiration days / mentoring / training** – Negotiations are underway with the regions for working in partnership to deliver BME inspiration days, provide mentoring support and training to individuals from a small number of pilots. The target group will be

BME members with leadership potential / aspirations and who wish to take up a more front-line role within the party.

**Liberal Democrat Disability Association (LDDA) Review** – The DEG LDDA Review Group is currently working towards completion of this organisational review by October 2009.

**Supporting candidates** – Regular and on-going support by is being provided by the Diversity Adviser to BME candidates in target and moving forward seats.

**Dr Vince Cable MP**  
**Chair – Diversity Engagement Group**  
*July 2009*

## Approval and selection diversity update – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Service level agreements have been signed between the English Party and the Scottish and Welsh Parties, and candidate records from Scotland and Wales have been transferred to the membership database. These records are being reviewed and all candidates have been asked to complete diversity monitoring forms. These are currently being chased-up, and we expect to be able to provide full diversity statistics for Scotland and Wales by the end of 2009.

### Approved Candidates

#### Gender

State	Approved candidates	Men	Women	% Women
England	718	550	168	23.4%
Scotland	84	62	22	26.2%
Wales	57	42	15	26.3%
Total	859	654	205	23.8%

#### Ethnicity

We have the following monitoring information for approximately 92% of approved candidates in England – as yet this information is only available for 14% of Welsh candidates and 12% of Scottish candidates so it is not statistically relevant at this stage.

Not supplied	Asian Indian	Asian Pakistani	Mixed	White British	White Irish	White other	Other
58 (8%)	10	14	15	574	12	19	16
<b>% total of the number supplied (660)</b>	1.5%	2.1%	2.3%	87%	1.8%	2.9%	2.4%

#### Religion

We have the following information for approximately 90% of approved candidates in England – as yet this information is only available for 14% of Welsh candidates and 12% of Scottish candidates so it is not statistically relevant at this stage.

Not supplied	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	None	Other
73 (10%)	362	10	24	225	24
<b>% total of the number supplied (645)</b>	56%	1.6%	3.7%	34.9%	3.7%

## Selected Candidates (not including MPs)

### Gender

State	Selected candidates	Men	Women	% Women
England	281	219	62	22%
Scotland	17	11	6	35.3%
Wales	17	14	3	17.7%
Total	315	244	71	22.5%

### Ethnicity

The following information is available for 93% of selected candidates in England – as yet this information is only available for 18% of Welsh candidates and 16% of Scottish candidates so it is not statistically relevant at this stage.

Not supplied	Asian Pakistani	White	Other
21 (7.5%)	10	236	14
<b>% total of the number supplied (260)</b>	3.9%	90.8%	5.4%
<b>% total of the number selected (281)</b>	3.6%	84%	5%

### Religion

The following information is available for 90% of selected candidates in England as yet this information is only available for 18% of Welsh candidates and 16% of Scottish candidates so it is not statistically relevant at this stage.

Not supplied	Christian	Muslim	None	Other
28 (10%)	145	13	84	11
<b>% total of the number supplied (253)</b>	57.3%	5.1%	33.2%	4.4%
<b>% total of the number selected (281)</b>	51.6%	4.6%	29.9%	3.9%

Please note – these figures are only correct as of the date below, as figures change with every assessment centre and Local Party selection.

**English Candidates' Office**  
**27 July 2009**