

# Agenda index

---

## Sunday 16th September Page

10.00	Consultative Sessions	10
-12.15	Europe; Further and Higher Education; Housing; Private Finance Initiative	
14.20	F1 Formal Opening of the Federal Conference by Lord Dholakia	11
	F2 Report: Federal Conference Committee	11
	F3 Report: Federal Policy Committee	11
14.50	F4 Academic Boycott of Israel	11
15.20	F5 Q&A Session on Second Chances in Education and Training	13
16.05	F6 <i>The Power to be Different</i> (Local and Regional Governance Policy Paper)	13
17.05	F7 Report: Federal Executive	15
	F8 Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	15
	F9 Federal Appeals Panel	15

---

## Monday 17th September

09.00	F10 Dentistry	16
09.35	F11 Speech: Dr Vincent Cable MP	17
09.55	F12 <i>Zero-Carbon Britain – Taking a Global Lead</i> (Climate Change Policy Paper)	17
11.25	F13 Women in Prison	20
11.55	F14 Presentation: Steve Webb MP	21
14.20	F15 Tourism	21
14.50	F16 Speech: José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission	23
15.15	F17 Q&A Session: Menzies Campbell MP	23
16.00	F18 Action on Bullying	23
16.30	F19 Speech: Danny Alexander MP and Julia Goldsworthy MP	25
16.50	F20 Report: Federal Finance and Administration Committee	25
	F21 Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy	25
17.15	F22 Reports: Parliamentary Parties	26

---



---

## Tuesday 18th September

09.00	F23 Making Planning Local, Rewarding Community Housing	27
09.40	F24 <i>Reducing the Burden</i> (Tax Reform Policy Paper)	28
11.10	F25 Speech: Norman Lamb MP	30
11.30	F26 Immigration in the 21st Century	30
14.20	F27 Urgent Issue	32
14.50	F28 Speech: Michael Moore MP	32
15.10	F29 <i>Freedom from Poverty, Opportunity for All</i> (Poverty and Inequality Policy Paper)	33
16.40	F30 Citizenship and Identity	36

---

## Wednesday 19th September

09.00	F31 Taking Action to Tackle Excess Packaging	37
09.30	F32 Presentation: Alliance Party of Northern Ireland	39
09.50	F33 <i>For the People, By the People</i> (Better Governance Policy Paper)	39
11.10	F34 Speech: David Laws MP	41
11.30	F35 Emergency Motion	42
12.00	F36 Party Awards	42
	F37 Speech: Simon Hughes MP	42
14.20	F38 Accounting for the Environment	42
14.50	F39 Speech by Lynne Featherstone MP	44
15.10	F40 Q&A Session on Climate Change	44
16.10	F41 Speech: Susan Kramer MP	44
16.30	F42 Israel and the Palestinian Territories	45
17.30	F43 Urgent Issue	47

---

## Thursday 20th September

09.00	F44 Emergency Motion	48
09.35	F45 Managing the Impact and Risk of Flooding	48
10.00	F46 Presentation: Stockport Lib Dems	50
10.45	F47 The Surveillance Society	51
11.45	F48 Speech: Menzies Campbell MP	53

---

# Sunday 16th

## 10.00 Consultative Sessions -12.15

### Europe

Charlotte Room  
The Grand Hotel

Chair: Sir Colin Budd  
Rapporteur: Laura Richards-Gray

### Further and Higher Education

Empress Room  
The Grand Hotel

Chair: Stephen Williams MP  
Rapporteur: Ruthe Isden

### Housing

Alexandra Room  
The Grand Hotel

Chair: Andrew Stunell MP  
Rapporteur: Mark Norris

### Private Finance Initiative

Albert Room  
The Grand Hotel

Chair: Dr Vincent Cable MP  
Rapporteur: Will de Peyer

*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. Consultative papers for the Europe and Further and Higher Education sessions are included with the Final Agenda mailing – papers for the other two sessions will be made available at Brighton.*

## Brighton 2007 Members' training programme

### Free training for party members

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

Training courses will take place in the Quality and Holiday Inn Hotels from Saturday to Wednesday. These courses are open to all party members – on presentation of a conference photo pass or Party membership card.

Full details of the training courses are listed in the training brochure available online at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference)



# The Environment

## 14.20 Party Business

Chair: Simon Hughes MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)  
Aide: Cllr James Gurling

### F1 Formal Opening of the Federal Conference by Lord Dholakia

### F2 Report of the Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

*The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 66 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 13.20 on Sunday 16th September.*

### F3 Report of the Federal Policy Committee

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

*The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 66 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 13.20 on Sunday 16th September.*

## 14.50 Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball  
Aide: Geoff Payne

### F4 Academic Boycott of Israel

*Finchley & Golders Green*

Mover: Monroe Palmer  
Summation: Jonathan Davies

- 1 Conference notes that, at its annual conference on 30 May 2007, the University and College Union
- 2 (UCU) passed a motion effectively calling for an academic boycott of Israel.
- 3 Conference believes that:
- 4 i) Academic freedom and the exchange of ideas are of paramount importance in conflict
- 5 resolution.
- 6 ii) Many Israeli academics have been at the forefront of opposition to illiberal Israeli government
- 7 policies, so it is entirely counter-productive to sever links with such academics.



## 15.20 Party Business

Chair: Sarah Teather MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills)  
Aide: Sal Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

### F5 Question and Answer Session on Second Chances in Education and Training

*Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 14.20 on Sunday 16th September. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See page 66.*

## 16.05 Policy Motion

Chair: Arnie Gibbons  
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

### F6 *The Power to be Different* (Local and Regional Governance Policy Paper)

*Federal Policy Committee*

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

Summation: Judith Jolly (Chair, Policy Working Group)

1 Conference regrets the twenty-year assault under successive Labour and Conservative governments  
2 on the independence of English councils, which has restricted the ability of local authorities to  
3 address the challenges facing their communities in the 21st century, such as global warming and  
4 increased globalisation.

5 Conference believes that:

- 6 i) Increasing centralisation, with a one-size-fits-all approach to problems in places as diverse as  
7 Cornwall, Cambridge and Camden, has not improved quality of life in English communities.  
8 ii) At the core of Liberal Democracy is a belief that individuals and communities, not central  
9 government, know what is best for themselves; and that therefore individuals and communities  
10 should be able to wield real political power on their own behalf.  
11 iii) Individuals and communities should have the freedom to make local decisions about local  
12 needs and priorities, thereby providing the services they need and want.

13 Conference notes that local authorities have been leading the way in addressing the issues facing  
14 their communities, in particular the examples of good practice from Liberal Democrat-run councils  
15 such as:

- 16 A. Liverpool improving its waste collection service, which repairs and re-uses furniture for use by  
17 homeless and low-income families, rather than putting it in landfill.  
18 B. Kingston-upon-Thames giving any group of a hundred citizens the right to call in any decision  
19 of the council.

# Sunday 16th

- 20 C. Chesterfield powering a leisure centre and coach station with photovoltaic cells, and other  
21 public buildings through geothermal heating.  
22 D. Somerset County Council establishing community justice panels to tackle anti-social behaviour  
23 and minor misdemeanours.

24 Conference therefore calls for a renaissance in local and regional government in England, as outlined  
25 in Policy Paper 79, *The Power to be Different*, through a radical devolution of power, responsibilities  
26 and finance from Whitehall to democratically elected local and regional government, and in  
27 particular welcomes the following policies:

28 1. A new relationship between central and local government based on an agreement, or  
29 covenant, incorporating the provisions of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and  
30 which scraps nationally-set targets for local government.

31 2. The greater involvement of residents in local decision-making and in the running of local  
32 services by:

33 a) The devolution of greater powers to parish, town and community councils so they are  
34 making decisions about local services, rather than bureaucrats in Whitehall.

35 b) The creation of a single principal tier of local government across the country, subject to  
36 community approval.

37 c) The establishment of local governing boards to run local services, made up of people who  
38 use local services, working with their councils to make decisions over the management of  
39 those services.

40 d) The introduction of a fair voting system for local elections, using the single transferable  
41 vote.

42 3. Setting councils free by giving them greater financial independence and autonomy, to be  
43 achieved by increasing the amount of money councils spend which is raised locally; in the  
44 longer term 75% (rather than the current 25%) of total revenue should be raised locally.

45 4. Allowing the future shape and scope of unelected quangos to be determined by elected local  
46 authorities, who should have the power to scrap quangos, change quangos' remits, and reduce  
47 or transfer their powers and functions.

48 5. The promotion of stronger and better local leadership by removing the requirement  
49 on councils to have an executive-scrutiny split in decision-making, and by restoring the  
50 requirement to hold a referendum before creating the post of directly-elected mayor.

51 6. Reducing the barriers that dissuade people from standing as councillors to encourage more  
52 good-quality local representatives.

53 7. The establishment of directly-elected regional government in those regions that want it,  
54 taking powers and functions from central government; outside those areas the existing  
55 regional chambers should be reformed, making them more democratic and accountable to  
56 the people they serve.

*Applicability: England.*

# Sunday 16th

*Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes.*

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

*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 under 'speaking at conference' on pages 67 and 68.*

## 17.05 Party Business

Chair: Geoff Payne  
Aide: Cllr Debra Storr

### F7 Federal Executive Report

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

*The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 66 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.05 on Sunday 16th September.*

### F8 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance

Mover: Jo Swinson MP (Chair of the Campaign for Gender Balance)

*The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 66 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.05 on Sunday 16th September.*

### F9 Federal Appeals Panel

Mover: Cllr Philip Goldenberg (Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel)

*Under Article 14.6 of the Federal Constitution, the Federal Appeals Panel determines and publishes its own procedures subject to confirmation by conference. There will therefore be a vote on confirmation of the new procedures, which are set out in the reports document.*

## 18.00 Close of Session

# Monday 17th

## 09.00 Policy Motion

Chair: Cec Tallack  
Aide: Cllr Ruth Polling (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### F10 Dentistry

*North Norfolk*

Mover: Sandra Gidley MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Health Minister)

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference believes that despite the promise that everyone would have access to an NHS dentist  
2 by 2001, NHS dentistry is now in crisis, with less than half of British adults registered with an NHS  
3 dentist before the introduction of the new contract in April 2006.
- 4 Conference deplores the fact that one year after its introduction, the new NHS dental contract has  
5 failed on its stated aims of improving access to NHS dentistry, improving oral health and raising the  
6 quality of dental care, in particular noting that:
- 7 a) Two million people who wanted to gain access to an NHS dentist before the new contract  
8 were still unable to do so after its implementation.
- 9 b) 85% of dentists responding to a BDA survey said the new contract had not improved access to  
10 NHS dental services for patients.
- 11 c) Only a third of practices across England are taking on new NHS patients, with large regional  
12 variations.
- 13 d) Preventive care does not have a contractual value, meaning that dentists who are under  
14 pressure to meet their contractual targets are unable to prioritise this vital service.
- 15 e) More than 1,500 dentists opted out of the NHS just three months after the new contract was  
16 introduced in April 2006, representing an 8% decline.
- 17 f) The reliance of Primary Care Trusts upon patient charge revenue has left many trusts with a  
18 shortfall in their budget for commissioning dentistry.
- 19 Conference calls for urgent action to enable dentists to take on more NHS work, including:
- 20 1. Building more flexibility into the new dental system by having a higher Unit of Dental Activity  
21 value for patients in greatest need, such as children and new patients, and giving preventive  
22 care a UDA value.
- 23 2. Ensuring that NHS dentistry promotes preventive oral health by scrapping the charge for  
24 dental check-ups and developing Personal Dental Plans which will set out how frequently  
25 people should have a check-up, and how better to look after their teeth.
- 26 3. Reforming the current system for monitoring dentists' performance so that services more  
27 readily meet patients' needs.

- 28 4. Having a minimum standard of service guaranteed to patients by each Primary Care Trust.
- 29 5. Future changes to the dental system to be made in conjunction with professionals and patient  
30 groups, ending the acrimony that results from having many dentists working within the NHS  
31 'under dispute'.
- 32 6. The establishment of a commission to examine how effective the current dental system is  
33 at delivering high quality dental care for the most vulnerable groups, and to come up with  
34 proposals to secure high quality dental care for all.

*Applicability: England.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

## 09.35 Party Business

Chair: Sal Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)  
Aide: Cllr Ruth Polling (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### F11 **Speech by Dr Vincent Cable MP, Deputy Leader and Liberal Democrat Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer**

## 09.55 Policy Motion

Chair: Baroness Barker  
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

### F12 **Zero-Carbon Britain – Taking a Global Lead (Climate Change Policy Paper)**

*Federal Policy Committee*

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

Summation: Neil Stockley (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

- 1 Conference recognises that the scientific evidence for man-made climate change is now  
2 overwhelming and that if decisive action is not taken in the next decade, any prospect of a stable  
3 climate may be lost.
- 4 Conference calls for an urgent response to this serious threat.
- 5 Conference believes that:
- 6 i) The long-term strategic goal of climate change strategy should be to limit the average global  
7 temperature increase to within 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- 8 ii) An international approach to tackling climate change is essential, with developed countries

# Monday 17th

9 taking the lead in transforming themselves into low-carbon, high energy efficiency  
10 economies.  
11 iii) The latest available evidence suggests that the objective of climate change strategy must be  
12 to make the UK carbon-neutral over the longer term.

13 Conference endorses Policy Paper 82, *Zero-Carbon Britain – Taking a Global Lead*, which sets out a  
14 framework for a clear, long-term strategy to set this country on the path to a carbon-neutral future.

15 Conference in particular welcomes specific proposals to:

16 1. Provide UK leadership for an international framework that will enable each country to manage  
17 the transition to a low-carbon economy by:

- 18 a) Reaching agreement on a much more ambitious set of targets in the negotiations for the  
19 second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and beyond.  
20 b) In the short-term, developing a post-2012 framework that allows different countries to  
21 participate according to their national circumstances through a multi-stage approach.  
22 c) In the medium-term, allocating emissions on a per capita basis, first to developed  
23 countries, but eventually to all countries.

24 2. Introduce credible and predictable mechanisms for pricing carbon by:

- 25 a) Strengthening the EU Emissions Trading System, by linking it to the EU target to reduce  
26 greenhouse gas emissions, setting national emissions caps for rolling five-year periods on  
27 an incrementally reducing basis, aiming for full auctioning of allowances and broadening  
28 the scheme to cover aviation, shipping, and road transport through fuel suppliers.  
29 b) Reforming Labour's Climate Change Levy into a carbon tax that would apply to primary  
30 fuels as they enter the economy, once our energy efficiency measures have become  
31 effective in tackling fuel poverty, using revenues to cut other taxes.  
32 c) Making a green tax switch by more steeply graduating VED for new vehicles, based on  
33 carbon emissions, reforming the per-ticket Air Passenger Duty into a per-flight Aircraft  
34 Tax, and indexing fuel duty to GDP growth except in periods of oil price spikes, using the  
35 revenue to cut income tax.

36 3. Bring forward environmentally sustainable technologies by:

- 37 a) Setting a target for 30 per cent of the UK's electricity to come from clean, non-carbon  
38 emitting sources by 2020, rising to 100 per cent by 2050, providing new incentives for  
39 renewable energy sources and small-scale micro-generation through guaranteed prices  
40 ('feed-in tariffs').  
41 b) Providing new incentives for renewable heat technologies.  
42 c) Promoting transitional technologies such as carbon capture and storage.  
43 d) Rejecting a new generation of nuclear power stations.  
44 e) Working to introduce mandatory UK/EU average vehicle emissions targets of 120g  
45 CO<sub>2</sub> /km by 2015, 95g/km by 2020, and zero carbon for all new cars by 2040.  
46 f) Increasing the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation to require at least 10 per cent of all  
47 fuel sold on UK forecourts to come from renewable sources by 2015.

48 4. Encourage behavioural changes by:

# Monday 17th

- 49 a) Requiring all new homes to be built to the GreenHouse standard no later than 2011 (this  
50 is the best known standard for building homes that require no fossil fuels for their space  
51 heating).
- 52 b) Introducing 'WarmHomes' packages of improvements available for existing houses  
53 funded through 'green mortgages', which enable people to use the savings from their  
54 lower energy use to pay back the cost of the package through their quarterly energy bill.
- 55 c) Setting up a Future Transport Fund to invest in key rail and light rail improvements and  
56 extensions, including High-Speed Rail, by using the proceeds from charging road freight  
57 for using the motorways and the proceeds from a climate change charge on air flights  
58 within the UK, exempting 'lifeline' flights.
- 59 5. Enhance the UK's ability to adapt to the effects of climate change by:
- 60 a) Developing a UK national adaptation plan to educate individuals and businesses about  
61 what adaptations are necessary in response to climate change.
- 62 b) Ensuring that government departments are given a clear responsibility for planning for  
63 the effects of climate change.
- 64 c) Investing in flood management systems.
- 65 6. Help developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change by:
- 66 a) Working for the establishment of an International Leapfrog Fund to facilitate the  
67 development of low-carbon technologies, energy efficiency and renewable energy  
68 technologies in developing countries.
- 69 b) Advocating a new UN Adaptation Fund.
- 70 7. Ensure that UK climate change strategy is credible and capable of being implemented by:
- 71 a) Placing a legal duty on ministers to achieve the long-term goal of a carbon-neutral UK  
72 and producing annual carbon budgets.
- 73 b) Setting up a Cabinet Committee on climate change.
- 74 c) Creating a new Department of Environment, Energy and Transport.

*Applicability: Federal, except 4 a) and 4 b) (lines 49–54), and 5 c) (line 64), which are England-only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

*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 under 'speaking at conference' on pages 67 and 68.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 62. Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet.*

*For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see page 67.*

# Monday 17th

## 11.25 Policy Motion

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

### F13 Women in Prison

*Women Liberal Democrats*

Mover: Debbie Enever  
Summation: Anne-Marie Bunting

1 Conference notes with concern that:

- 2 a) The number of women in prison has more than doubled during the past decade, although there  
3 has been no corresponding rise in the number of women committing more serious crime.  
4 b) Nine out of ten are convicted of non-violent offences.  
5 c) 66 per cent of women prisoners are mothers and each year it is estimated that nearly 18,000  
6 children are separated from their mothers by imprisonment.  
7 d) The fact that as women are a small minority of the overall prison population, their particular  
8 circumstances and needs are often overlooked.  
9 e) Alternatives to prison are both more economical and proven to be more effective at cutting  
10 the reoffending rate.

11 Conference welcomes Baroness Corston's report of her review of women with particular  
12 vulnerabilities in the criminal justice system, published in March 2007.

13 Conference calls on the government urgently to implement Baroness Corston's findings,  
14 specifically:

- 15 1. That repeat crime can be cut substantially by supporting women to overcome addictions and  
16 mental health problems and also encouraging support mechanisms that help to keep women  
17 away from crime.  
18 2. Ensuring there is a strong, consistent message from the top of government, with full reasons in  
19 support of its stated policy that prison is not the right place for women offenders who pose no  
20 risk to the public.  
21 3. Providing a high-level champion for women to ensure that the needs of women offenders and  
22 those at risk of offending are met.  
23 4. Setting up an inter-departmental ministerial group to steer change for women who offend or  
24 are at risk of offending.  
25 5. Accelerating preparations by all criminal justice agencies to implement the new gender  
26 equality duty and radically transform the way they deliver services for women.  
27 6. Extending the Together Women Programme to establish a much larger network of women's  
28 community centres, some with residential provision and committing within six months to a  
29 10-year programme to replace existing women's prisons with small local custodial units.  
30 7. Ending routine strip searching in women's prisons.  
31 8. Improving sanitation conditions in women's prisons, as called for by the Chief Inspector of  
32 Prisons, as a matter of urgency.  
33 9. Urgently to review the cross-agency support currently provided for recently released women  
34 prisoners.

# Monday 17th

*Applicability: England.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

## 11.55 Party Business

Chair: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Tessa Munt

### F14 Presentation by Steve Webb MP, Chair of Manifesto Working Group

*This session will allow conference representatives to submit concise questions or make short contributions. Details of the procedure will be published in the Advance Notice sheet.*

## 12.40 Lunch

## 14.20 Policy Motion

Chair: Iain Smith MSP

Aide: Gareth Epps

### F15 Tourism

*Ten conference representatives*

Mover: Don Foster MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport)

Summation: Lord Lee of Trafford (Lords Spokesperson on Tourism)

1 Conference notes:

- 2 i) That a thriving tourism industry is an integral part of the economic and social well-being of  
3 Britain, through the provision of employment, investment, and tax revenue, for urban and rural  
4 areas.
- 5 ii) The enormous value of tourism to the UK, as the seventh largest sector, with an annual direct  
6 visitor expenditure of £85bn, and an estimated employment force of 2.2 million people or  
7 7.7% of the working population.

8 Conference regrets:

- 9 A. The existence of a 'tourism deficit' which over the last 10 years has risen from £4.7bn to £18.0bn  
10 per annum.
- 11 B. That Britain's global share of the tourism market has fallen by 16% over the last twenty years.
- 12 C. The government's failure over the last ten years to provide additional funding for VisitBritain's  
13 overseas marketing budget resulting in the recent loss of almost a fifth of its staff.

# Monday 17th

14 Conference reaffirms its commitment to the previous policy motion *Valuing Tourism and Tourists*  
15 and in particular the need to:

16 I. Establish an English Tourist Board (VisitEngland) with similar responsibilities to those of  
17 Scotland and Wales.

18 II. Uphold VisitBritain's role in promoting Britain overseas, while transferring the marketing of  
19 England to VisitEngland.

20 To improve the position of tourism, Conference believes that the following measures are necessary:

21 1. Reforming the structure of the bodies currently dealing with tourism by:

22 a) Establishing a permanent Cabinet sub-committee on tourism.

23 b) Seeking to develop and strengthen the Tourism Alliance as an effective national trade  
24 association for operators in the tourism industry.

25 c) Encouraging the development of Local Destination Management Groups to form  
26 partnerships between local authorities, local businesses involved in the visitor economy,  
27 and education.

28 d) Encouraging regional tourist organisations to develop regional strategies.

29 2. Making sure that sustainability and the environment are important considerations in tourism  
30 by:

31 a) Improving transport facilities to take account of climate change, damage to the  
32 environment attributable to tourism, and service to the customer.

33 b) Encouraging the adoption of rigorous energy efficiency standards for accommodation  
34 services through 'WarmHomes' packages.

35 c) Improving the quality of public and private facilities to create a 'virtuous circle' in order for  
36 the visitor economy to benefit local communities and encourage sustainable tourism.

37 d) Encouraging more efficient use of scarce resources through improved cohesion and  
38 coordination in their use; this can be achieved by improving public/private partnerships  
39 at all levels and by the sharing of best practice through Local Destination Management  
40 Groups.

41 3. Improving the quality of tourism by:

42 a) Ensuring the adoption of a unified grading scheme for accommodation by means of a  
43 benefits scheme.

44 b) Improving the relevance, accuracy, consistency and timeliness of local, national, and  
45 international data.

*Applicability: Federal, except I (lines 16–17), 1 b) to 1 d) (lines 23–28), 2 b) (lines 33–34), 2 d) (lines 37–40),  
and 3 a) (lines 42–43), which are England-only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

# Monday 17th

## 14.50 Party Business

Chair: Simon Hughes (President of the Liberal Democrats)  
Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

### F16 Speech by José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

*Introduction by Graham Watson MEP, Leader of the ALDE Group in the European Parliament.*

## 15.15 Party Business

Chair: Sandi Toksvig  
Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### F17 Question and Answer Session with Menzies Campbell MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

*Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Monday 17th September. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See page 66.*

## 16.00 Policy Motion

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

### F18 Action on Bullying

*Ten conference representatives*

Mover: Stephen Williams MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for Schools)  
Summation: Annette Brooke MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for Children, Young People and Families)

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 a) Bullying in schools is a growing problem which has a negative effect on the educational and
- 3 social achievements of children and young people.
- 4 b) Bullying is regularly found to be the number one concern of parents and children.
- 5 c) Bullying has a deep impact on its victims, causing a wide range of problems from general
- 6 unhappiness, poor concentration and low self-esteem to anxiety, depression, self-harm and
- 7 even suicide.
- 8 d) Research shows that a third of pupils who truant do so because they are being bullied.
- 9 e) Bullying often takes place outside normal school hours and sites.

# Monday 17th

- Monday
- 10 f) There are consequences later in life for bullies and the community as bullies are more likely to  
11 have criminal convictions than non-bullies.
- 12 g) Schools and staff should feel confident in implementing a clear and consistent approach to  
13 dealing with bullying.
- 14 Conference condemns the lack of positive action in dealing with bullying and the fact that attempts  
15 to tackle bullying often focus on changing the behaviour of the victim without addressing the  
16 underlying social causes of bullying;
- 17 Conference believes that bullying should not be tolerated either within school or the wider  
18 community and that prevention as well as cure should inform the whole system.
- 19 Conference therefore calls for:
- 20 1. Support for guidance that schools, in conjunction with their pupils and the wider school  
21 community, should agree a definition of bullying based on minimum standards which  
22 specifically addresses homophobic, gender, racist, disability and faith-based bullying as well as  
23 more subtle forms of bullying such as exclusion from friendship groups.
- 24 2. Schools and their governors to develop anti-bullying policies which also take account of  
25 out-of-school bullying, to be reviewed every three years and include a robust complaints  
26 procedure.
- 27 3. Schools to be required to keep a record of bullying including the nature of the incident,  
28 thereby creating an accurate and reliable database of bullying and making it easier to tackle  
29 the problem.
- 30 4. A member of the Governing Body or school's senior management team to have specific  
31 responsibility for anti-bullying policy.
- 32 5. Each school to have a trained member of staff to counsel children who are the victims of  
33 bullying.
- 34 6. The Government to commission a long-term study of a number of schools, looking at both  
35 general trends in bullying and also the effectiveness of different approaches in different  
36 circumstances.

*Applicability: England.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 62. Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet.*

*For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see page 67.*

## The Environment

## 16.30 Party Business

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

### F19 **Speech by Danny Alexander MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and Julia Goldsworthy MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury**

## 16.50 Party Business

Chair: Roy Thomson  
Aide: Sal Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

### F20 **Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee**

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

*The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 66 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 15.50 on Monday 17th September.*

### F21 **Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy**

*Federal Executive*

Mover: Duncan Greenland (Chair, Federal Finance and Administration Committee)  
Summation: Jonathan Davies (Treasurer, English Liberal Democrats)

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 a) Last year Conference created a new concessionary subscription rate for those in receipt of (or
- 3 entitled to) state benefits other than child benefit and the state pension.
- 4 b) By creating this new subscription rate, the party can move the minimum subscription towards
- 5 the amount that covers the annual cost of servicing members and supporting the basic
- 6 membership structure without excluding from membership people unable to afford this
- 7 amount.
- 8 c) In the English Party, which applies the subscription levels set by the Federal Conference, the
- 9 annual cost of servicing members and supporting the basic membership structure of the Party
- 10 is £806,345 or £13.12 per member (2006 English Party Budget).
- 11 d) The current subscription rates are:
- 12 i) Concessionary and LDYS – £6.
- 13 ii) Special Freshers' Fair Events – £1.
- 14 iii) Minimum – £9.
- 15 iv) Recommended – £45.

# Monday 17th

Monday

16 Conference resolves that:

- 17 1. The recommended subscription rate shall be £48.
- 18 2. The minimum subscription rate shall be £10.
- 19 3. The concessionary subscription rate for those who are, or entitled to be, in receipt of state
- 20 benefits other than child benefit or state pension shall remain unchanged at £6.
- 21 4. Those paying their subscription through the Youth and Student SAO shall pay a minimum
- 22 of £6 or, where a new member joins at a Freshers Fair event, a special introductory rate of £1
- 23 (both unchanged).
- 24 5. Nothing in these motions prevents a State Party from setting a recommended rate or rates
- 25 of subscription by its internal procedures which is higher than that agreed by the Federal
- 26 Conference.

27 Conference further resolves that the Federal Levy on new members shall be 0% of the subscription

28 paid and the Federal Levy on renewal subscriptions shall be 42%.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

## 17.15 Party Business

Chair: Jane Smithard  
Aide: Arnie Gibbons

### F22 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)

*The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 66 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.15 on Monday 17th September.*

## 18.00 Close of Session

## 09.00 Policy Motion

Chair: Catherine Bearder

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

### F23 Making Planning Local, Rewarding Community Housing

*Ten conference representatives*

Mover: To be announced

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that:

2 a) Since Labour was elected in 1997, house prices in Britain have tripled, leaving millions unable  
3 to afford to buy a decent home of their own.

4 b) Both Labour and Tories support a planning system based on illiberal top-down targets, that  
5 can force unpopular development on to local communities.

6 c) Land values rise by around £3m per hectare when planning permission is granted.

7 Conference believes that a more locally-based planning system could unlock the rise in land values  
8 for the benefit of the community, whilst encouraging local authorities and communities to provide  
9 affordable housing in places people want to live.

10 Conference therefore calls on the Government to abolish the current outdated, ineffective and  
11 unpopular top-down planning regime and replace it with a locally-based system of community  
12 planning auctions in which:

13 1. All individual landowners have the right to nominate some or all of their land for development,  
14 and to set the price at which they are prepared to sell it.

15 2. Councils grant outline planning permission for any land they were offered if the local  
16 community is prepared to see that land developed, and if they believe the price offered is  
17 reasonable.

18 3. Councils can then auction the land to developers, with that outline planning permission,  
19 receiving the difference between the amount paid by developers, and the amount set by the  
20 original land owner, thus obtaining major financial benefit for the community.

21 4. Councils are free to use any money to reduce local taxes and/or improve local services,  
22 ensuring local communities can gain significantly from local developments.

23 5. Existing protections such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest should remain.

24 Conference notes that, as a rule of thumb, a local authority that allowed development equal to 1%  
25 of the current housing stock in the area would be able to reduce council tax by £800.

# Tuesday 18th

26 Conference notes that this will give local authorities an incentive to allow development in their  
27 area, allowing the total abolition of all top-down housing and the current planning regime.

*Applicability: England.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

## 09.40 Policy Motion

Chair: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Justine McGuinness

### F24 **Reducing the Burden (Tax Reform Policy Paper)**

*Federal Policy Committee*

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

Summation: Dr Vincent Cable MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer)

1 Conference regrets that after ten years of the current Labour Government:

- 2 i) The tax system remains unfair, with the bottom 20% of households paying a higher proportion  
3 of their income in taxes than the top 20% of households.
- 4 ii) Wealth inequality is worse than at any time under Margaret Thatcher.
- 5 iii) The tax system has also become incredibly complex under Labour, with the tax code doubling  
6 in length.
- 7 iv) Green taxes have fallen from 3.6 per cent of GDP in 2000 to just 2.9 per cent of GDP today.

8 Conference believes that the tax system should be reformed to make it:

- 9 a) Fairer – with tax cuts for those on lower incomes paid for by removing loopholes exploited by  
10 the rich.
- 11 b) Simpler and easier to understand – especially for pensioners and small businesses.
- 12 c) More decentralised – so that there is a clearer link between local services and local  
13 accountability.
- 14 d) Greener – giving incentives for responsible use of resources.

15 Conference asserts that it is feasible and right both to change environmentally damaging behaviour  
16 and raise revenue through the tax system.

17 Conference welcomes the fact that Liberal Democrats are the only party that has firm plans for  
18 fairer and greener, but not higher, taxes.

19 Conference therefore endorses Policy Paper 81, *Reducing the Burden*, as a statement of the party's  
20 policies on reform of the tax system, building on and updating Policy Paper 75, *Fairer, Simpler,*  
21 *Greener*. Conference in particular welcomes proposals to:

# Tuesday 18th

- 22 1. Cut the basic rate of national income tax by 4p – this will mean that even after Council Tax is  
23 abolished and replaced by Local Income Tax, the vast majority of people will be paying a lower  
24 rate of income tax overall.
- 25 2. Abolish the unfair Council Tax and replace it with a tax based on the ability to pay – Local  
26 Income Tax is a fairer way to raise local government revenue, as acknowledged by Sir Michael  
27 Lyons in his review of local government.
- 28 3. Increase environmental taxes, particularly by reforming Air Passenger Duty into an Aircraft Tax  
29 and more sharply graduating VED by emissions on new cars.
- 30 4. End taper relief for Capital Gains Tax.
- 31 5. Limit tax relief on pension contributions to the basic rate.
- 32 6. Return the Business Rate to local control, and place it on a site value basis within one  
33 parliament.
- 34 7. Reform residential stamp duty, ending the current regressive ‘slab’ structure, with the long-  
35 term objective of ensuring all those buying properties up to £500,000 in value pay less than at  
36 present.
- 37 8. Reform Inheritance Tax by raising the threshold at which estates start to pay IHT, with a  
38 medium-term objective of raising the starting threshold to £500,000, and limiting the  
39 exemption on lifetime gifts to those made 15 years before death.
- 40 9. Radically simplify the tax code, removing hundreds of pages of regulations.
- 41 10. Introduce a simplified ‘postcard’ style tax return form, which would release over 6 million  
42 taxpayers from the need to fill in a full tax return.
- 43 11. Introduce a simple statutory definition of residence for tax purposes to make the rules clearer  
44 and reduce compliance costs.
- 45 12. Bring gains made by non-residents on property situated in the UK within Capital Gains Tax.

*Applicability: Federal, except 2 (lines 25–27) and 6 (lines 32–33), which are England-only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see ‘speaking at conference’ on page 67.*

*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 under ‘speaking at conference’ on pages 67 and 68.*

# Tuesday 18th

## 11.10 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Sarah Boad  
Aide: Catherine Bearder

### F25 Speech by Norman Lamb MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Health

## 11.30 Policy Motion

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

### F26 Immigration in the 21st Century

*Ten conference representatives*

Mover: Nick Clegg MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary)  
Summation: Simon Hughes MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Leader of the House of Commons)

1 Conference believes that:

2 i) Migration is a worldwide phenomenon that has always been part of human history, and  
3 immigration to Britain has been of enormous benefit to the economy and to society.

4 ii) The benefits of a liberal immigration policy can only be secured if the effort is made to plan for  
5 the impact and consequences of that policy.

6 iii) A practical liberal approach to immigration should therefore focus on:

7 a) Creating a system that works: efficient, fair and effective.

8 b) Planning for the effects of managed inward migration.

9 c) Promoting integration as well as immigration.

10 iv) Asylum policy is based on UK obligations under international conventions, and should be  
11 considered separately from policy on immigration.

12 Conference notes:

13 A) The dramatic increase in global migration over the last 20 years, with 191 million people now  
14 living in a country other than the one in which they were born.

15 B) That 7.5% of the British population were born abroad, and that net immigration has been  
16 rising since the mid-1990s to reach 185,000 in 2005, the equivalent of 500 more people a day.

17 C) That over 600,000 workers from the European Union accession states have travelled to the UK  
18 for work, and many have stayed.

19 D) That 5.5 million British nationals live overseas permanently, equivalent to 9.2 per cent of the  
20 UK's population.

21 E) That 32.3 million overseas visitors came to Britain in the year to April 2007, twice as many as  
22 20 years ago, and that there are around 300,000 international students at UK institutions who  
23 contribute around £3.6bn to the economy.

# Tuesday 18th

- 24 F) The population of illegal workers is growing across the EU, creating a new underclass of people  
25 who lack any employment rights, citizen rights, or access to public or mainstream private  
26 services including healthcare and banking – the Home Office estimates there are between  
27 310,000 and 570,000 irregular migrants in the UK.
- 28 G) The establishment of the Border and Immigration Agency, and the signing by the UK of the  
29 Council of Europe convention on human trafficking after Liberal Democrat pressure.

30 Conference calls for:

- 31 1. A National Border Force, bringing together the present border control functions of HM  
32 Revenue & Customs, the Immigration & Nationality Directorate and police guarding ports and  
33 airports.
- 34 2. The reintroduction of exit checks at all ports.
- 35 3. The Government to work closely with the European Union on immigration, especially in  
36 tackling people-trafficking and immigration crime, and shared asylum policy.
- 37 4. The Foreign Office to prioritise the improvement of visa services at UK consulates around the  
38 world, introduce a full complaints procedure and review the restrictions on rights of appeal for  
39 visa nationals.
- 40 5. The development of an earned route to citizenship, beginning with a two-year work permit, for  
41 irregular migrants who have been in the UK for 10 years, subject to:
- 42 a) A public interest test.  
43 b) A long-term commitment to the UK.  
44 c) A clean criminal record.  
45 d) The payment of a charge, waived for those who have completed a set number of hours of  
46 service in the community or volunteering.  
47 e) An English language and civics test, or proof that the applicant is undergoing a course of  
48 education in these subjects.
- 49 6. A full review of social housing allocations policies to establish best practice, so that those who  
50 have waited a long time for a home or home transfer are treated fairly, and a major programme  
51 of building social housing to tackle housing shortages for all those in need.
- 52 7. Increased fees to businesses for work permits, charged as a percentage of starting salary  
53 for those receiving the permit, with additional revenue used to fund skills training for the  
54 domestic workforce in shortage areas.
- 55 8. Extension of language lessons especially for asylum seekers, refugees and recent migrants,  
56 with out-reach programmes in some communities to identify those who would benefit.
- 57 9. Reform of the Life in the UK test to empower new arrivals to engage fully in society at every  
58 level, with a less detailed version of the test for those applying for long-term visas, and for  
59 Indefinite Leave to Remain, and 'welcome packs' with information about life, and culture, in the  
60 UK, for all long-stay arrivals.

# Tuesday 18th

- 61 10. Twinning arrangements between schools with different ethnic or social mixes of pupils, so  
62 children can mix across ethnic and religious boundaries in some classes.
- 63 11. Full ratification of the Council of Europe convention on people trafficking.
- 64 12. Transfer of responsibility for migration statistics to the Office of National Statistics, which will  
65 itself be reformed under current legislation to make it more independent of government.

*Applicability: Federal, except 6 (lines 49–51) and 10 (lines 61–62), which are England-only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 62. Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet.*

*For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see page 67.*

## 12.40 Lunch

## 14.20 Party Business

Chair: Sal Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)  
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

### F27 Urgent Issue

*This slot has been reserved for discussion of an important current political issue. Suggestions for issues may be submitted by any conference representative. See page 68 for further information.*

*The deadline for suggestions for urgent issues is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 68 for further information. The topic selected for the discussion will be notified through the Advance Notice and Daily Announcements.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

## 14.50 Party Business

Chair: Gary Lawson  
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

### F28 Speech by Michael Moore MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Foreign Secretary

# The Environment

## 15.10 Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Alan Sherwell  
Aide: Tessa Munt

### F29 ***Freedom from Poverty, Opportunity for All (Poverty and Inequality Policy Paper)***

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Baroness Barker (Chair of the Policy Working Group)  
Summation: David Laws MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families)

- 1 Conference believes that:
- 2 A. Poverty and lack of opportunity restrict freedom.  
3 B. Creating a fair society, in which everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential, free from  
4 the barriers imposed by poverty and inequality, is a core Liberal Democrat principle.  
5 C. The state should encourage opportunity and independence for all.
- 6 Conference further believes that our priorities in tackling poverty and inequality should be:
- 7 I. Removing up to 5 million people from relative poverty by 2020 – including signing up to the  
8 2020 targets of ending child poverty.  
9 II. Reducing means-testing for over 5 million people by 2020.  
10 III. Supporting 2 million more people into employment by 2020.  
11 IV. Delivering a million more affordable homes by 2020.  
12 V. Targeting resources to improve education for up to 1.5 million disadvantaged children.
- 13 Conference therefore endorses Policy Paper 80, *Freedom from Poverty, Opportunity for All*, as a  
14 statement of the Party's key policies for reducing poverty and inequality, providing equal access to  
15 opportunity and improving social mobility. Conference particularly welcomes:
- 16 1. Proposals to improve opportunity in education including:
- 17 a) Extending access to early years education to children living in workless households.  
18 b) Allocating additional funds to invest in the training of early years teachers and staff.  
19 c) Introducing an extra £1.5 billion for a Pupil Premium to raise significantly funding for  
20 pupils from deprived backgrounds.
- 21 2. Proposals to provide better access to high-quality housing and end the geographical  
22 concentration of deprivation, including:
- 23 a) Giving local communities greater freedom and incentives to allow housing development  
24 by freeing up the planning system and devolving control to local government.  
25 b) Enabling public authorities to make suitable surplus land available for development for  
26 affordable housing.  
27 c) Requiring local authorities to maintain an accessible housing register to improve access  
28 to appropriate housing for disabled people.

# Tuesday 18th

- 29 d) Facilitating the selling off of housing on large estates, with the proceeds being reinvested  
30 in new social housing in diversified areas where this has the support of the local council  
31 and residents affected.  
32 e) Supporting councils who wish to exercise the fourth option of retaining council housing  
33 under direct management.  
34 f) Encouraging the use of introductory tenancies for all social housing to combat anti-social  
35 behaviour.  
36 g) Encouraging reinvestment in the existing housing stock by cutting VAT on renovation  
37 and repair.  
38 h) Abolishing the Single Room Rent, which means that many younger people have to live in  
39 unsuitable accommodation or face large rent shortfalls.

40 3. Proposals to tackle rural poverty including:

- 41 a) Rural-proofing all anti-poverty policies.  
42 b) Requiring service providers to extend the provision of outreach services.  
43 c) Encouraging and supporting action to sustain rural services, particularly the post office  
44 network.

45 4. Proposals to improve opportunities to work and remove barriers to employment, including:

- 46 a) Establishing a new 'First Steps' agency as a one-stop shop for all benefits claims and in  
47 order to identify the help needed to get people into work.  
48 b) Building on the existing role of the third sector by engaging the private and voluntary  
49 sector to provide high-quality, tailored, back-to-work support.  
50 c) Introducing a new single Working Age Benefit to replace Job Seekers Allowance and  
51 Incapacity Benefit.  
52 d) Allowing spend-to-save funding of welfare-to-work, including targeting extra help to  
53 those with mental health conditions.  
54 e) Allowing benefits to run on for two weeks after entering employment to support people  
55 back into work.  
56 f) Ensuring that work pays for those on lower incomes by:

**either option A:**

- 57 uprating the minimum wage each year in line with the recommendations of the Low Pay  
58 Commission, including accepting their existing recommendation that the Adult Rate of  
59 the minimum wage be extended to those aged 21 and over.

**or option B:**

- 60 uprating the minimum wage each year in line with the recommendations of the Low Pay  
61 Commission, and extending the Adult Rate of the minimum wage to all those aged 16  
62 and above.

63 5. Proposals to simplify the benefits system, and improve support for families, pensioners and the  
64 disabled, including:

- 65 a) Raising the level of Child Benefit by up to £5 for every family.

- 66 b) Reforming the Child Support Agency to ensure maintenance payments reach low-income  
67 families.
- 68 c) Reforming tax credits by:
- 69 i) Better targeting of tax credits to those on low incomes, by increasing the taper rate.  
70 ii) Stopping the penalising of couples through the tax credit system.  
71 iii) Returning to stable, six-monthly, awards.  
72 iv) Simplifying the awards notice.  
73 v) Reversing the burden of proof in cases of overpayment, and introducing a right of  
74 appeal to an independent tribunal.
- 75 d) Reviewing the level of Carer's Allowance.
- 76 e) Extending the Winter Heating Allowance to individuals in receipt of higher rate Disability  
77 Living Allowance.
- 78 f) Immediately restoring the link between the basic state pension and earnings.
- 79 g) Aiming to introduce the Citizen's Pension within two parliaments.
- 80 h) Establishing a benefits commission to simplify radically the benefits system.
- 81 i) Establishing an independent commission to review public sector pensions, with any  
82 savings being reinvested in a higher state pension.
- 83 6. Proposals to cut the 'Poverty Premium' and tackle debt, including:
- 84 a) Preventing energy utility companies from penalising the poor by ending differential pricing.  
85 b) Improving household energy efficiency by offering a subsidy towards the cost of installing  
86 'WarmHomes' packages, with priority given to those on low incomes.
- 87 c) Ensuring that financial services providers help to fund the deliver of free, generic  
88 independent financial advice to those on low incomes.
- 89 d) Strengthening consumer protection against institutions that aggressively sell or mis-sell  
90 financial products, and taking action to clamp down on irresponsible lending practices.  
91 e) Working to develop access to financial services through the post office network.

## Amendment One

*Women Liberal Democrats*

Mover: Lorely Burt MP

Summation: To be announced

1 *After 4 f) (line 62), insert:*

2 g) Extending the right to request flexible working to all employees.

*Applicability: Federal, except 1 and 2 (lines 16–39), 3 b) (line 42) and 6 b) (lines 85–86), which are England-only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

*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 under 'speaking at conference' on pages 67 and 68.*

# Tuesday 18th

## 16.40 Party Business

Chair: Nick Clegg MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary)  
Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

## F30 Citizenship and Identity

*A panel discussion on the question 'Immigration and community cohesion: can you have both?'*

*Panellists will include:*

Nick Clegg MP	Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary (Chair)
Andrew Stunell MP	Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Saj Karim MEP	Liberal Democrat MEP for the North West Region
Rachel Briggs	Demos
Anthony Browne	Journalist and author

*Presentations by the panellists will be followed by a chance for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor. See under 'speaking at conference' on pages 67 and 68.*

## 18.00 Close of Session

### Stewarding at conference



The stewards team consists of around 70 volunteers who carry out numerous tasks, from security to helping in the auditorium, working with VIPs, guests and party staff.

If you want to see another side of conference, or if this is your first time and you're a little unsure of what to expect, then the stewards team may be for you, and it can be a rewarding experience. We offer a daily allowance, help with accommodation costs and free registration. You can help for a few hours a day or the whole week.

Why not give it a go? To find out more contact Adrian Beavis, Deputy Chief Steward, [adrianbeavis@talktalk.net](mailto:adrianbeavis@talktalk.net) or call the Conference Office and leave a message.

# Wednesday 19th

## 09.00 Policy Motion

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

### F31 Taking Action to Tackle Excess Packaging

*10 conference representatives and East Dunbartonshire*

Mover: Jo Swinson MP

Summation: Jane Brophy

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 i) Total domestic waste produced in Britain has increased 21% since 1997, to over 26 million  
3 tonnes.
- 4 ii) Household recycling in the UK has increased from 6% to 23%, but this has only managed to  
5 keep pace with the total increase.
- 6 iii) A large proportion of this waste, around 5 million tonnes, is made up of packaging.
- 7 iv) Packaging accounts for around 17% of the average household food budget.
- 8 v) A Liberal Democrat survey of UK supermarkets found that more than 17 billion plastic bags are  
9 given away each year.
- 10 vi) The Government has failed to meet the targets for packaging reduction set by EU Directive  
11 94/62/EC, adopted in the UK through the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging  
12 Waste) Regulations 1997.
- 13 vii) DEFRA's current policy of issuing Packaging Waste Recovery Notes (PRNs) to producers, to  
14 show compliance with recycling regulations, has failed to halt rising levels of packaging.
- 15 viii) The Government's Waste Strategy for England, published in May 2007, falls short of presenting  
16 effective proposals to tackle excess packaging, particularly over enforcement of current  
17 Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations.
- 18 Conference notes with concern the need to reduce excess packaging, and welcomes the campaigns  
19 of the Women's Institute and *The Independent* newspaper which have illustrated the broad public  
20 consensus that exists over the need to take action.
- 21 Conference recognises that:
- 22 a) Current Government policies fail to address with sufficient rigour the need to cut the amount  
23 of packaging used by both suppliers and sales outlets, including supermarkets.
- 24 b) The current Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations do not provide an effective basis  
25 for Trading Standards Offices to pursue legal proceedings in cases of excessive packaging.

# Wednesday 19th

- 26 c) The Courtauld Commitments to reduce excess packaging made by 92% of the UK grocery  
27 sector are ineffective, due to their voluntary nature and also because of the lack of a protocol  
28 for reporting progress on meeting the targets.
- 29 d) Actions taken to date by government and supermarkets have failed to achieve significant  
30 levels of reduction in disposable plastic bag use.
- 31 Conference therefore calls for:
- 32 1. New legislation requiring supermarkets over 250 m<sup>2</sup> in size to provide waste points in store,  
33 allowing customers to remove and deposit unwanted packaging before leaving the store.
- 34 2. Enforcement of excess packaging regulations by Trading Standards Offices to be improved  
35 through amendments to strengthen the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations.
- 36 3. The creation of a new national body with powers of prosecution to tackle large-scale producers  
37 of excess packaging in conjunction with local Trading Standards Offices.
- 38 4. Government action to secure commitments from supermarkets to participate in a deposit  
39 scheme for plastic carrier bags, charging consumers for bags and refunding them when bags  
40 are returned.
- 41 5. Encouragement to community initiatives such as the voluntary moratorium on plastic bags by  
42 local retailers in the town of Modbury and other schemes to improve their local environment.
- 43 6. The introduction of binding packaging reduction targets to be met by producers and retailers,  
44 in place of the current voluntary Courtauld Commitments.
- 45 7. Effective fiscal incentives to reduce excessive packaging and disposable products, introduced  
46 as part of the Liberal Democrat Environmental Incentive Programme.

*Applicability: Federal, except 4 (lines 38–40), which is England-only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 62. Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet.*

*For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see page 67.*

## 09.30 Party Business

Chair: Baroness Hamwee  
Aide: Justine McGuinness

# Wednesday 19th

## F32 Presentation by the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

*The presentation will be led by David Ford MLA, Leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland, and will also include Anna Lo MLA.*

## 09.50 Policy Motion

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

## F33 *For the People, By the People* (Better Governance Policy Paper)

*Federal Policy Committee*

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

Summation: David Heath MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor)

1 Conference regrets:

- 2 i) The failure of successive Conservative and Labour governments to address the growing crisis  
3 in British democracy.  
4 ii) That New Labour has used the spectre of terrorism to erode and undermine fundamental  
5 rights and freedoms.

6 Conference notes:

- 7 A. That there is a serious crisis in British democracy, marked by low – and declining – turnout  
8 in elections, widespread disillusionment with politics and politicians, a sense among the  
9 electorate of powerlessness to achieve change and public alienation from the political process,  
10 particularly among the young and ethnic minorities.  
11 B. The welcome but inadequate recent Green Paper from the Government, *The Governance of*  
12 *Britain*.  
13 C. The poverty of ambition in recent reports from the Conservative Party's Democracy Task Force  
14 on 'sofa government' and rebuilding Parliament.  
15 D. That major changes both to the structure and personnel of government took place in June  
16 2007 with no recourse whatsoever either to Parliament or to the people.

17 Conference believes that:

- 18 a) The UK now requires a comprehensive new constitutional settlement, embodied in a written  
19 constitution, whose ownership will be with the people, which enshrines and entrenches the  
20 fundamental principles and values of democracy and freedom, and in which the power of the  
21 state is clearly defined and limited.
- 22 b) The present electoral system for general elections cheats voters and is in urgent need of reform,  
23 as it enables a minority of votes to secure a large overall majority in Parliament, renders ineffective  
24 the votes of millions of electors in 'safe' constituencies and fails both to provide a mandate for  
25 strong government and genuine representation of the range of political views in the UK.

# Wednesday 19th

- 26 c) Completing the reform of the House of Lords is now urgent.
- 27 d) The funding of the democratic process needs to be reinvigorated and reformed so that  
28 individuals are put in control of politics instead of the wealthy, large businesses and the  
29 unions.
- 30 e) Political institutions need to be modernised to make them more responsive and to provide  
31 more opportunity for active citizenship.
- 32 f) Government's dependence on Parliament (and specifically the confidence of the House of  
33 Commons) for its authority and legitimacy should be strengthened.
- 34 g) The outdated concept of the sovereignty of the Crown in Parliament should be replaced with  
35 that of the People in Parliament.

36 Conference therefore endorses the comprehensive package of radical measures to resolve the crisis  
37 in British politics outlined in Policy Paper 83, *For the People, By the People*, and specifically welcomes  
38 the following policies:

- 39 1. Establishing a constitutional convention, involving members of the public along with  
40 parliamentarians, of all parties and none, to draw up a written constitution, embodying a fresh  
41 and comprehensive constitutional settlement for the UK.
- 42 2. Entrenching in the written constitution a Bill of Rights, which will guarantee for the people  
43 of the UK their fundamental rights and freedoms and which will enable courts to rule that  
44 legislation that is incompatible with this is unconstitutional and therefore invalid.
- 45 3. A referendum in the first year of a Liberal Democrat government seeking endorsement for the  
46 principle of a written constitution and the establishment of the Constitutional Convention  
47 to produce this, as well as a referendum at the end of the process to approve the new  
48 constitutional settlement.
- 49 4. Urgent legislation to establish the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system for elections to the  
50 House of Commons in the first year of a Liberal Democrat Government.
- 51 5. Lowering the voting age to 16 and introducing fixed parliamentary terms of four years.
- 52 6. Greater use of participatory methods of consultation e.g. citizens' juries (which could examine  
53 particular areas of public policy) and citizens' initiatives (which would be able to insist that  
54 parliament examines particular issues when a petition for it has secured the support of more  
55 than 2% of the registered electorate).
- 56 7. Ensuring decisions are taken as close as possible to the people they affect, with removal of  
57 powers from Westminster and quangos to accountable, decentralised government across the  
58 UK.
- 59 8. Replacing the House of Lords with a wholly-elected Senate, with all members elected by STV in  
60 thirds every four years, for a single non-renewable term of twelve years.

# Wednesday 19th

- 61 9. Placing clear limits on political donations and on spending by political parties outside elections,  
62 introducing limited public financing of political parties to encourage local campaigning and  
63 making contributions by trade union members subject to a clear and transparent process  
64 linking the intention of the member to the destination of the donation.
- 65 10. Insisting that a new government, following a general election, only takes office when the  
66 House of Commons approves its programme.
- 67 11. Giving select committees greater involvement in the delineation of departmental  
68 responsibilities and priorities, with cross-examination of new Secretaries of State by  
69 departmental select committees before they take office.
- 70 12. Vesting in Parliament powers currently exercised by the government under the Royal  
71 Prerogative, such as the power to make war.
- 72 13. Ensuring genuine transparent and open government by removing unnecessary exemptions  
73 from the Freedom of Information Act and resisting further exemptions.
- 74 14. Strengthening the protection of individuals against the misuse of personal information held  
75 about them by government.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

*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 under 'speaking at conference' on pages 67 and 68*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 62. Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet.*

*For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see page 67.*

## 11.10 Party Business

Chair: Tessa Munt  
Aide: Cllr James Gurling

**F34 Speech by David Laws MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families.**

# Wednesday 19th

## 11.30 Policy Motion

Chair: Gareth Epps  
Aide: Cllr Debra Storr

### F35 Emergency Motion

*The deadline for emergency motions is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 64. 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.*

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

## 12.00 Party Business

Chair: Lynne Featherstone MP  
Aide: Arnie Gibbons

### F36 Party Awards

The Harriet Smith Awards  
The President's Awards  
The Penhaligon Awards  
The Patsy Calton Award  
The Albert Ingham Award  
The Andy Lawson Award

### F37 Speech by Simon Hughes MP, President of the Liberal Democrats

## 12.40 Lunch

## 14.20 Policy Motion

Chair: Chris Gurney  
Aide: Gareth Epps

### F38 Accounting for the Environment

*Solihull & Meriden*

Mover: Lorely Burt MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for Small Business)  
Summation: Lembit Öpik MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform)

# Wednesday 19th

1 Conference notes that:

2 i) While the UK domestic economy is currently estimated to contribute just 2% of global  
3 emissions, UK companies are responsible for between 12%–15% of emissions globally when  
4 international operations are taken into account.

5 ii) The Labour Government restricted the Operating and Financial Review (OFR) in the Company  
6 Law Reform Bill to require only the 1,300 firms publicly quoted on the London Stock Exchange  
7 to submit environmental and social strategies.

8 iii) Even for London Stock Exchange companies the OFR requirement is only enforceable by  
9 company shareholders, and legal action can only be taken if a director's failure to consider  
10 these issues leads to financial loss.

11 iv) The absence of a standardised reporting format can hinder meaningful comparison between  
12 companies of their relative environmental performance, even in the same industrial sector.

13 Conference believes that:

14 A) Liberal Democrats must take a lead in calling for effective, standardised and simple  
15 environmental reporting for business.

16 B) Environmental reporting should be extended to a wider list of organisations than are included  
17 in the London Stock Exchange.

18 C) In the medium term, the Liberal Democrats should explore potential ways to improve  
19 environmental reporting through incentives instead of through punitive regulations but, to  
20 achieve this, a robust and simple reporting system is required.

21 Conference proposes that:

22 1. Large and medium-sized organisations and all government departments are encouraged to  
23 include a one-page report, based on a standard and simple template, covering:

24 a) Level of carbon emissions for current and the prior year, with commentary.

25 b) Use of raw materials and sustainable sourcing.

26 c) Environmental policy, including recycling.

27 2. As an incentive for compliance, organisations which fulfil the reporting requirements may  
28 apply for filing extensions for submission of accounts to Companies House and for tax returns.

29 3. All small organisations on the accepted definition are entitled to assistance in setting  
30 environmental objectives through the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory  
31 Reform.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

# Wednesday 19th

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 62. Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet.*

*For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see page 67.*

## 14.50 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball  
Aide: Gareth Epps

### F39 Speech by Lynne Featherstone MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for International Development

## 15.10 Party Business

Chair: Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer (Lords Spokesperson on Environment and Rural Affairs)  
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

### F40 Question and Answer Session on Climate Change

*Panellists will include:*

Chris Huhne MP	Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Cllr Paula Baker	Local Government Association Environment Board
Tom Burke	Environmental Policy Adviser to Rio Tinto plc and a Visiting Professor at Imperial and University Colleges, London University
Chris Rapley	Director of the Science Museum
James Cameron	Climate Change Capital

*Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Wednesday 19th September. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See page 66.*

## 16.10 Party Business

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

### F41 Speech by Susan Kramer MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Transport

# Wednesday 19th

## 16.30 Policy Motion

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

Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### F42 Israel and the Palestinian Territories

*10 conference representatives*

Mover: Michael Moore MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Foreign Secretary)

Summation: Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Lords Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs)

- 1 Conference notes the long-standing Liberal Democrat commitment to a peaceful resolution to the  
2 Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- 3 Conference reaffirms its belief that a sustainable solution will only be reached in the context of two  
4 separate Israeli and Palestinian states, mutually recognised and internationally accepted, which are  
5 viable, peaceful, democratic and exist within borders which are secure and based on the situation  
6 before the 1967 conflict.
- 7 Conference condemns the significant levels of violence between Israelis and Palestinians, and  
8 amongst Palestinians, notes the humanitarian and economic impact of the conflicts on all the  
9 people of the region and calls on all parties to seek a resolution through peaceful means.
- 10 Conference believes that the existing 'Road Map' is discredited, along with the current workings of  
11 the 'Quartet' international grouping which has responsibility for implementing it.
- 12 Conference calls for international acceptance of the primacy of the United Nations in these matters  
13 and further calls for the creation by the UN of an international conference to establish a new  
14 approach to the peace process.
- 15 Conference believes that the UN should seek to replace the 'Road Map' with a new 'International  
16 Compact for Israel Palestine', based on a series of principles and measures aimed at security  
17 stabilisation, humanitarian and economic relief and sustainable peace, to be implemented by a  
18 standing 'Israel Palestine Congress', to include an appropriate cross-section of all elected Israeli and  
19 Palestinian legislators.
- 20 Conference believes that the 'Congress' should be supervised in drawing up and implementing the  
21 'Compact' by a new international 'Quintet', chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General and  
22 including the United States of America, Russia, the European Union, and the Arab League.
- 23 Conference agrees that the key elements of security stabilisation should include:
- 24 i) Both sides to release from imprisonment any soldiers, legislators or others held without trial or  
25 not in accordance with international obligations.
- 26 ii) Acceptance by the Palestinian Authority and other groups, with oversight by the Arab League,  
27 of the need to recognise Israel, to secure and to enforce an end to attacks on Israel and to  
28 endorse previous peace agreements between the parties.
- 29 iii) Acceptance by Israel of the need to end security incursions and to halt further construction of  
30 the security barrier, as a precursor to its dismantling or re-routing in due course.

# Wednesday 19th

- 31 iv) Agreement by the 'Quintet' to review arms supplies and military funding to both the Israelis  
32 and the Palestinians and to make recommendations for their progressive reduction.  
33 v) The establishment of benchmarks and milestones, with a contingency for sanctions where  
34 appropriate, for all security measures, to be reviewed regularly by the 'Quintet'.

35 Conference further agrees that priority humanitarian and economic measures should include:

- 36 a) Israel putting a halt to the development of existing settlements, and the construction of new  
37 settlements, and to release any tax revenues due to the Palestinian Authority.  
38 b) The Palestinian Authority establishing transparent and secure accounting and anti-corruption  
39 procedures as a means to enabling the resumption of direct international humanitarian  
40 funding.  
41 c) The European Union acknowledging the failings of the 'Temporary International Mechanism'  
42 and ensuring the earliest possible resumption of direct aid to all Palestinians in the West Bank  
43 and Gaza.  
44 d) The Arab League reviewing and upholding existing pledges of support to the Palestinian  
45 Authority.  
46 e) The 'Quintet' monitoring and ensuring full implementation of the November 2005 Agreement  
47 on Movement and Access, including Israel's obligations to ensure freedom of access to border  
48 crossings in Gaza and the right of the European Union to monitor access to these crossings.  
49 f) All international bodies, including the European Union, which can do much to encourage  
50 prosperity through trade, reviewing existing trade and other agreements for all parties in the  
51 region, to ensure appropriate compliance and to take appropriate action where necessary.  
52 g) The establishment of benchmarks and milestones for all humanitarian and economic measures  
53 to be reviewed regularly by the 'Quintet'.

54 Conference also agrees that sustainable peace will require the parties and the Quintet to address  
55 the following issues:

- 56 1. Fulfilment of the requirements of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions by  
57 the Israelis and Palestinians.  
58 2. Achievement of agreed security, humanitarian and economic development benchmarks.  
59 3. Financial and other support for necessary institution building for the future Palestinian state.  
60 4. Options for a final settlement, which address the ending of the occupation by Israel, the status  
61 of Jerusalem, agreement of mutual borders, the rights of refugees, and the future of Israeli  
62 settlements.  
63 5. Normalised relations between Arab states and Israel, including mutual recognition.  
64 6. A comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace agreement to provide security for all the states of the  
65 region, with appropriate priority for peace between Israel-Lebanon and Israel-Syria.

66 In seeking to achieve these objectives, conference reasserts that at all times the party must remain  
67 true to the internationalist and other principles set out in the preamble to our Constitution.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

# Wednesday 19th

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 62. Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet.

For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see page 67.

## 17.30 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Sarah Boad  
Aide: Dee Doocey AM (London)

### F43 Urgent Issue

This slot has been reserved for discussion of an important current political issue. Suggestions for issues may be submitted by any conference representative. See page 68 for further information.

The deadline for suggestions for urgent issues is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 68 for further information. The topic selected for the discussion will be notified through the Advance Notice and Daily Announcements.

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.

## 18.00 Close of Session

### Conference timetable 2008

#### Spring Conference: Friday 7th – Sunday 9th March

Deadline: constitutional amendments / amendments to standing orders	Wednesday 21st Nov. 2007
Conference Committee	Saturday 1st Dec. 2007
Deadline: draft motions for drafting advice	Wednesday 19th Dec. 2007
Deadline: policy and business motions	Wednesday 9th Jan. 2008
Conference Committee	Saturday 19th Jan. 2008
Deadline: amendments / emergency motions / questions to reports	Tuesday 4th March 2008

#### Autumn Conference: Saturday 13th – Thursday 18th September

Deadline: drafting advice	Wednesday 7th May 2008
Deadline: motions, constitutional amendments etc	Wednesday 21st May 2008
Conference Committee	Saturday 31st May 2008
Deadline: topical motions / amendments	Wednesday 9th July 2008
Conference Committee	Saturday 19th July 2008
Deadline: emergency motions	Tuesday 9th Sept. 2008

# Thursday 20th

## 09.00 Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Chris Maines  
Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### F44 Emergency Motion

*The deadline for emergency motions is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 64. 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.*

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

## 09.35 Policy Motion

Chair: Dee Doocey AM (London)  
Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

### F45 Managing the Impact and Risk of Flooding

*Ten conference representatives and Huntingdon*

Mover: Martin Horwood MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

Summation: Ronald Heinrich

- 1 Conference notes with concern:
- 2 A. The extensive damage caused by floods from flash rainfall and overflowing rivers in England in  
3 June and July 2007 which caused a number of deaths, as well as many billion pounds' worth of  
4 damage to homes, businesses and agriculture.
- 5 B. That much of Yorkshire, including Doncaster and Sheffield, was particularly hard hit, with  
6 nearly one in five households and 90 of the city's 105 schools affected by flooding in the city of  
7 Kingston-upon-Hull.
- 8 C. The events in the Severn and Thames Valleys, which included the inundation of a water  
9 treatment plant in Gloucestershire, leaving 350,000 people without water due to the failure to  
10 protect adequately critical utility infrastructure.
- 11 D. That the main damage caused in these flood events were examples of a type of flooding  
12 that the Environment Agency had not planned for, or warned about, caused by massive flash  
13 rainfall overwhelming drainage and raising the water table.
- 14 E. That the Stern and Foresight reports state that major urban flooding is inevitable, with costs  
15 rising to more than £21bn p.a. later this century.
- 16 F. That the Association of British Insurers estimates that with no change in government policies  
17 or spending, climate change could increase the number of properties at risk of flooding to 3.5  
18 million.

# Thursday 20th

19 Conference notes that:

- 20 i) Annual flood damage now averages £2.3 billion per year, and this total is rising as climate  
21 change increases the variability of weather patterns.
- 22 ii) Over two million homes are currently at risk from flooding, and this may underestimate homes  
23 at risk from inadequate drainage and extreme rainfall.
- 24 iii) One-third of designated development sites (up to 108,000 homes) in the Government's South  
25 East growth areas are located in a flood plain, and 10,000 properties may be built in areas with  
26 significant flood risk.
- 27 iv) Only 61% of defences have been maintained to their target conditions, and the flood budget  
28 was cut by £14m in 2006–07.
- 29 v) Flood risk has increased over recent decades from increased urbanisation, deforestation and  
30 the draining of 60% of flood plain water meadows, which once acted as a natural safety valve.
- 31 vi) Climate change is likely to increase the incidence of severe weather events, including periods  
32 of intense rainfall and therefore potential flooding.
- 33 vii) Though the Government is committed to increasing the flood defence budget to £800 million  
34 by 2010–11, no commitment has been made for the intervening years, meaning a four-year  
35 delay in additional funding.

36 Conference further notes that the existing Bellwin scheme to help flood-hit areas with  
37 compensation is:

- 38 a) Complicated and over-bureaucratic.
- 39 b) Based on estimates in the first few months rather than long-term impacts.
- 40 c) Only normally provides support for current spending rather than capital expenditure, even  
41 though in some cases complete reconstruction, of a road section for example, would be more  
42 cost-effective than patching up.

43 Conference therefore calls for:

- 44 1. Additional special support for areas hard-hit by the recent flooding, so that repairs can be  
45 undertaken quickly to key public buildings and social housing.
- 46 2. An ongoing assessment of the physical capacity of the construction industry in flooded areas  
47 to respond to the exceptional demand, and a recognition that extra payments may be needed  
48 to draft in out-of-area building teams.
- 49 3. Generous and speedy grants and interest-free loans to be given by government to allow  
50 people in hardship to replace furniture and rebuild their lives in the worst-hit and poorest  
51 areas.
- 52 4. An early increase in the flood defence budget to ensure adequate maintenance of existing  
53 defences and construction of new ones.
- 54 5. A review of critical utility infrastructure to assess its vulnerability to flooding with the aim of  
55 improving defences where appropriate, and ensuring Flood Risk Maps are kept fully up-to-  
56 date.
- 57 6. A statutory duty on the private water companies to review and upgrade drainage in line with  
58 the increased needs due to climate change, as well as to maintain drainage systems properly  
59 and make pumping stations proof against flooding.
- 60 7. The Environment Agency to take strategic responsibility for flood defence management  
61 and planning, working with local authorities and water companies to deliver an accountable  
62 strategic, long-term approach to flood defence and an early warning system for all types of

# Thursday 20th

- 63 flooding, and ensure residential, retail, commercial or industrial premises are not built on flood  
64 plains or areas of high flooding risk, unless substantial flood management schemes are in  
65 place.
- 66 8. The strengthening of existing legislation concerning developments on flood plains to protect  
67 against unsustainable developments, avoiding siting vulnerable development in flood plains  
68 and ensuring that all new developments incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) to  
69 reduce urban run-off water.
- 70 9. Councils to be encouraged to seek contributions from developers under Section 106 of the  
71 Town and Country Planning Act of 1990 to improve the wider drainage system.
- 72 10. The development of shoreline management plans in coastal areas, making a presumption in  
73 favour of managed retreat.
- 74 11. Wetland and woodland restoration to be a priority as a means of flood management, tied  
75 with our support of agri-environment schemes such as hedgerows to slow water run-off from  
76 farmland.
- 77 12. The establishment of English National Task Forces to create integrated flood management  
78 plans, and introduce a rolling 50-year planning horizon for climate change adaptation.

*Applicability: England.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 62. Those selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet.*

*For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see page 67.*

## 10.00 Party Business

Chair: Tessa Munt  
Aide: Justine McGuinness

### F46 Presentation by the Liberal Democrat Group on Stockport Borough Council

*The presentation will be led by Cllr David Goddard, the Leader of the Council.*

## 10.45 Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr James Gurling  
Aide: Arnie Gibbons

## F47 The Surveillance Society

*14 conference representatives*

Mover: Nick Clegg MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary)

Summation: David Heath MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for the Department of Justice and Lord Chancellor)

1 Conference notes:

- 2 i) The statement of the Information Commissioner Richard Thomas in November 2006 that ‘we  
3 are waking up to a surveillance society’.
- 4 ii) That an increasing amount of personal information is being held on individuals by public  
5 bodies, businesses and third-sector organisations.
- 6 iii) Concerns raised over the Passenger Name Records agreement between the EU and US.
- 7 iv) Widespread breaches in public and private sector database security in the UK and abroad.
- 8 v) The Identity Cards Act 2006, the creation of a National Identity Register, and proposals for wide  
9 ranging data-sharing powers within government.
- 10 vi) That the cost of the ID cards project continues to increase and that independent estimates  
11 show that the likely total cost could be as high as £19bn.
- 12 vii) The existence of the UK’s National DNA database, the largest in the world, which includes  
13 data on over 140,000 innocent people, a disproportionate number of whom are from ethnic  
14 minorities.
- 15 viii) That thousands of schools are collecting biometric information such as fingerprints from  
16 pupils, often without parental consent.
- 17 ix) That CCTV is inadequately regulated, even though British people are currently the most  
18 watched on the planet, with a CCTV camera for approximately every 16 people.
- 19 x) That between 1 January 2005 and 31 March 2006, 439,000 requests for communications traffic  
20 data were made and 2,243 intercept warrants were issued and that the UK is alone amongst  
21 democratic countries in having warrants issued by ministers.
- 22 xi) That the Information Commissioner has no power to restrict data-mining and data-processing  
23 requests from government, reports to ministers rather than parliament, has fewer powers than  
24 his European counterparts and has inadequate resources for investigation.

25 Conference believes that:

- 26 A. Appropriately regulated databases bring many benefits to modern society, including providing  
27 quicker personalised services, quicker crime detection, and elimination of bureaucracy.
- 28 B. Emerging technologies can, and should, be used to enhance rather than compromise personal  
29 privacy both in the public and private sector.
- 30 C. The National DNA database is a powerful tool for combating crime but that only those guilty  
31 of a criminal offence should have their DNA permanently recorded on it.
- 32 D. Government data should be stored in decentralised databases that can communicate with  
33 each other on a need-to-know basis, not in shared data warehouses.
- 34 E. Citizens should have access to all data held about them, and see a complete log of access to  
35 that data by public servants, except where this would compromise national security or criminal  
36 investigations.
- 37 F. Citizens should be able to opt out of data-sharing schemes such as the NHS ‘spine’ IT system.
- 38 G. Informed consent, from parents in the case of children, should be given before biometric data  
39 is taken outside the context of the immigration and criminal justice systems.

# Thursday 20th

40 Conference therefore calls for:

- 41 1. Immediate repeal of the Identity Cards Act 2006.
- 42 2. Destruction of all DNA samples taken from those not charged or convicted of an offence.
- 43 3. The Data Protection Act to be updated and amended to reflect the nature of the modern  
44 surveillance society:
  - 45 a) To ensure that all CCTV is subject to appropriate regulation.
  - 46 b) To allow individuals to see any information held on them by public and private sector  
47 bodies and correct any errors they find.
  - 48 c) To require public and private bodies promptly to inform individuals and the Information  
49 Commissioner's Office when personal information is either lost or unlawfully disclosed to  
50 third parties and to explain to the Information Commissioner what steps they are taking  
51 to prevent a reoccurrence, and to give the Information Commissioner the power to levy  
52 financial penalties if there are repeated breaches of database security.
  - 53 d) To require government to give the Information Commissioner's Office notification in  
54 advance of data-processing and data-mining procedures, to give clear justifications for  
55 such processes and to give the Information Commissioner's Office the power to block  
56 such processes in exceptional circumstances.
- 57 4. A review of the funding of the Information Commissioner's Office, with increased powers of  
58 audit, the ability to 'name and shame' data controllers who breach the Act and in serious cases  
59 to fine data controllers.
- 60 5. The Information Commissioner to report to a newly created Joint Privacy Committee of both  
61 Houses of Parliament, based on the model of the National Audit Office and the Public Accounts  
62 Committee, which should also have the power to issue reports on the impact on privacy of all  
63 new bills.
- 64 6. Intercept warrants to be granted only after independent judicial authorisation.
- 65 7. Privacy impact statements to accompany all new bills and all changes to government data  
66 collection practices and IT systems.
- 67 8. The government to guarantee that any information it shares with other countries will be held  
68 in accordance with the law in the United Kingdom.

## Amendment One

*Streatham*

Mover: Cllr Roger Giess

Summation: Chris Nicholson

1 *After xi) (line 24), insert:*

- 2 xii) The Government's intention to develop an electronic 'Children's Index' which will contain  
3 entries for all young people under 18 regardless of parental consent.

# Thursday 20th

4 *After 8. (line 68), insert:*

- 5 9. A review of the intended scope of the proposed Children's Index to ensure that it remains a  
6 tool to enhance service provision rather than an inappropriate means to monitor family life.

## **Amendment Two**

*Edinburgh South*

Mover: Fred Mackintosh

Summation: To be announced

1 *After xi) (line 24), insert:*

- 2 xii) The wider installation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition Systems (ANPR Systems) by the  
3 police, other public authorities and private companies.

4 *After G. (line 39), insert:*

- 5 H. That general surveillance systems such as CCTV and ANPR are powerful tools to combat crime  
6 and manage public space, but that proper regulation of the use of these systems is necessary  
7 to protect traditional civil liberties.

8 *After 3 d) (line 56), insert:*

- 9 e) To introduce a regulatory regime for ANPR systems operated by the police, other public  
10 authorities, and those acting on their behalf, that ensures that ANPR systems are not used  
11 for general surveillance of persons not suspected of a crime and that access to the data  
12 held on these systems for non-road traffic offences is subject to appropriate regulatory  
13 oversight.

*Applicability: Federal, except 2 (line 42), which is England-only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 67.*

## **11.45 Party Business**

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

Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F48 Speech by the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Menzies Campbell MP**

## **12.45 Close of Conference (approx)**