

Preliminary Agenda

Liberal Democrat Autumn Conference

16th - 21st September 2006

Brighton



Liberty Network was established to bring together like-minded and prominent supporters of the Liberal Democrats.

The Network exists to enable our senior professionals and high profile supporters to meet at a series of quality political and social events, to engage with one another and with our front bench team and to help in our crucial fundraising challenge.

For more information about our aims and objectives, programme of events and how to join please contact us on 020 7340 4914 or email info@liberty-network.org.uk



LIBERTY NETWORK
Forward Thinking

www.libertynetwork.org.uk >>

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**LIBERAL
DEMOCRAT
BUSINESS
FORUM**

*"The Liberal Democrat Business Forum -
taking the message of the
Liberal Democrats
into Corporate Britain and providing
a vital sounding board for the
views of business."*

For further information about Corporate or Individual Membership of the Liberal Democrat Business Forum, please contact:

The Liberal Democrat Business Forum

4 Cowley Street
London SW1P 3NB

T: 020 7340 4914
F: 020 7799 2170

businessforum@libdems.org.uk
www.libdemsinbusiness.org.uk

The Liberal Democrat Business Forum is the Party's focus on the Business Community. It provides the mechanism for a two-way exchange between industry and business and Liberal Democrats in Parliament, the DTI, Treasury and those Parliamentary teams that are responsible for policy as it impacts on Business Britain.

The purpose of this exchange is for the Party to hear the concerns of business, to take account of them in policy development and to inform the business community of the Party's views.

At the Liberal Democrat Annual Autumn Conference, the Business Forum hosts Corporate Day - a day-long series of seminars and debate on topical issues. Contributors include external speakers from amongst others the CBI and TUC, senior Parliamentarians, Peers and MEPs.

Corporate Day 2006 will be held on Monday 18th September in the Clarence Room at the Hilton Metropole, Brighton.

The Annual Gala Dinner will be held on the evening of Sunday 17th September, and this year's event will be held in the spectacular Banqueting Room at the Brighton Pavillion.

The Liberal Democrat Ball

2006

Thursday 23rd November

*The Park Lane Hotel
Piccadilly, London W1J 7BA*



Champagne Reception

Dinner

*Dancing to
'The Gershwin Gang'*

Raffle

*For more information and to book tickets,
please contact the Ball Secretary
Tel. 020 7340 4914 Email. ball@libdems.org.uk*

Silent Auction

Heads & Tails

Casino

Magicians

Auction

Introduction

Welcome to the new-look Preliminary Agenda for our Federal Conference in Brighton in September. Alongside the normal contents, we have included information on getting to Brighton, booking accommodation, the crèche, and disability access that we hope you will find useful in planning your stay.



**Duncan Brack is
Chair of the Federal
Conference Committee**

This promises to be an exciting conference, with major debates on policy papers on local government, children and families, international law and taxation – together, of course, with the outcome of the ‘Meeting the Challenge’ exercise, which will set the party’s policy-making and campaigning agenda for the next few years. The first two of these policy papers are now available, and the remaining three will be published along with the Final Agenda in late August.

Alongside these policy papers, Conference Committee has selected a wide range of policy and business motions. All the motions listed here are open to amendment; the deadline is 12 July. This date is also the deadline for topical motions and also for motions on the subjects listed on page 3, where we would particularly welcome submissions.

I hope you’ll be able to contribute to the party’s democratic policy-making process by submitting motions and amendments, and, of course, by turning up to Brighton.



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
www.libdems.org.uk

Front cover photograph © Brighton and Hove Visitor and Convention Bureau.

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Enclosures

If you are already registered for the Brighton 2006 Conference you will be sent two policy papers with this agenda:

- *Stronger Families, Brighter Futures* (Children and families policy paper)
- *Your Community, Your Choice* (English local government policy paper)

Copies can be accessed on: www.libdems.org.uk/conference, and will be available in Brighton for representatives yet to register.

Copies of the Preliminary Agenda and policy papers are available from the Conference Office in large print and pdf format: email j.stainer@libdems.org.uk or write to Conference Office, 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

For conference details and registration online, please see www.libdems.org.uk/conference.

Come to Brighton!

By Menzies Campbell MP

For MPs, and especially the Leader, Conference can be a whirlwind. As the week unfolds increasingly bleary-eyed parliamentarians rush from studio to fringe to platform getting their messages across and staying alive the best way they can.

The truth is that Liberal Democrat Conferences can be exciting and important for all who attend. But Conferences are important not just for MPs, nor even just for the lucky few who manage to find the time to become elected representatives. Conferences are important for the entire membership.

We are now unique among the major parties in that we depend on our conference for our core policy-making. It is to Conference that policy working groups and the pool of key people who serve on the main party committees report.

Conference requires party spokespersons to account for their actions not just by the Reports that are presented in open session but for everything that they do in the party's name.

I would not have it otherwise. It may well be considered by some in this fast-moving media age an inconvenience that slows down the creation of policy, but for me it is a vital part of being a Liberal Democrat.

That does not mean our policy-making process needs to be inflexible as if set in stone. We should investigate methods of

consultation that bring the entire party and the public into the conference debate, and if possible speed up the process. But our Constitution sets out a different style and approach to politics – one that is inclusive and democratic – that I am determined to build on and develop.

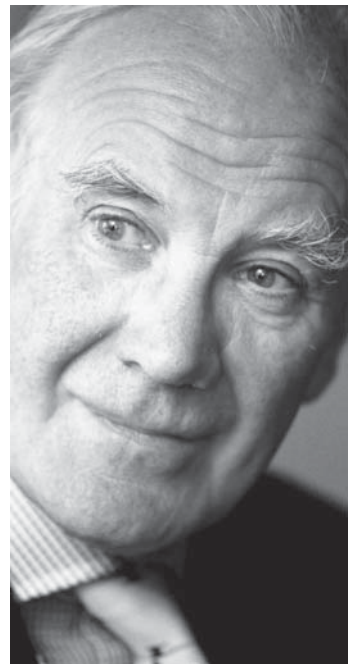
I am also clear in my own mind that clarity of purpose is more important than a stultifying obsession with unanimity. We are a democratic party. We need to think of conference debates as arriving at decisions, rather than triumphs or defeats for the platform or the floor.

I am willing to take my chances and try to win arguments for policies that I believe in. It is in everyone's interests that the issues taken to conference are widely canvassed and understood within and across the whole party. It is therefore essential that every constituency party does more than elect its representatives and ignore everything else.

This year's conference will be particularly important in terms of shaping the Lib Dem agenda for the rest of this Parliament. I want it to be qualitatively different, not just in how it looks but in the experience it provides for ordinary members.

It is extremely important that every local party ensures that they send a full complement of reps this year. It is three years since we were last in Brighton. It is not one to miss.

I look forward to seeing you there.



The Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell CBE QC is MP for Fife North East and Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Diary

Diary of Operations: key deadlines

Draft motions and amendments for drafting advice (see page 8.)	Monday 3rd July
Amendments and topical motions, reserved subjects motions, appeals against non-acceptance of motions	Wednesday 12th July (noon)
Fringe and exhibition listings, advertising in Conference Directory	Wednesday 26th July
Conference registration to ensure mailing of Conference papers	Thursday 10th August
Dispatch of Final Agenda	Wednesday 18th August
Notification of substitutes	Monday 4th September
Nomination of subjects for 'urgent issues' debates	Friday 8th September
Amendments to topical motions, emergency motions, appeals against non-acceptance of amendments/topical motions, questions to reports	Wednesday 13th September (noon)

Outline Conference timetable

Saturday 16th September	Consultative sessions	15.00 - 17.30
Sunday 17th September	Consultative sessions Full conference session	10.00 - 12.30 14.15 - 18.00
Monday 18th September	Full conference session	10.30 - 18.00
Tuesday 19th September	Full conference session	09.00 - 18.00
Wednesday 20th September	Full conference session	09.00 - 18.00
Thursday 21st September	Full conference session	09.00 - 13.00 (approx.)

**This Preliminary Agenda lists the motions from which the Final Agenda will be selected.
Not all of the motions listed will necessarily be included in the Final Agenda.**

Reserved subjects

To widen the opportunity to submit motions, Federal Conference Committee has decided to use its powers under Standing Orders to specify certain subjects on which it will be possible to submit motions by the July 12th deadline, **in addition to normal topical motions on any subject.** (See page 8 for information on submission of motions.)

The FCC will in general prefer motions on specific items within these broad headings, rather than wide-ranging attempts to cover every issue within them.

These subjects are:

- Civil liberties / human rights
- Economy / employment
- Health
- Inequality / 'fairness'
- Quality of life, including issues such as culture, sport, local environment
- Rural issues
- Transport
- Urban issues

Venues, accommodation and getting there

Venues

Conference Centre

The Brighton Centre
Kings Road, Brighton, BN1 2GR.
Tel: 01273 290131.

Conference fringe hotels

Hilton Brighton Metropole
Kings Road, Brighton, BN1 2FU.
Tel: 01273 775432, fax: 01273 207764.

The Quality Hotel
West Street, Brighton, BN1 2RQ.
Tel: 01273 220033, fax: 01273 778000.

The Holiday Inn Brighton
Kings Road, Brighton, BN1 2JF.
Tel: 01273 828250, fax: 01273 775877.

Accommodation

The Party's Conference Office is responsible for organising accommodation in the conference hotel, the Hilton Brighton Metropole.

Rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis by sending in the accommodation form in the centre pages of this Preliminary Agenda. Additional forms are available at: www.libdems.org.uk/conference/booking/accommodation.html.

At the time of printing there are plenty of spare rooms available, from £145 per night for a standard room double or single occupancy.

For help with all other accommodation, contact:

The Brighton and Hove City Council
Conference Delegate Accommodation Bureau,
1st Floor, Brighton Town Hall, Brighton, BN1 1JA.
Tel: 01273 292626, fax: 01273 292617,
email: accom.bureau@brighton-hove.gov.uk
www.visitbrighton.com.

See map of Brighton city centre on back cover.

How to get to Brighton

By train

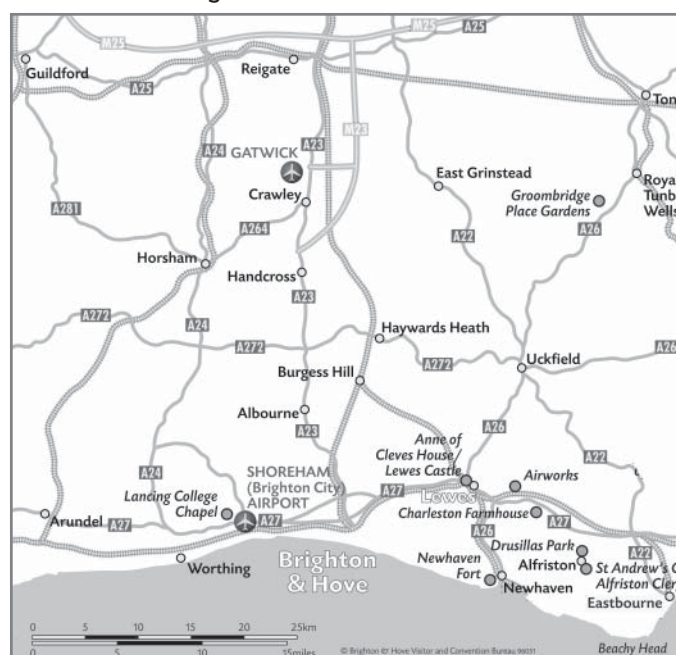
Brighton is just under an hour from London Victoria station with two services per hour. There are regular services to Brighton from Bedford, London Kings Cross and London Bridge, and direct services from Scotland, North West, Midlands, South West, Wales and Ashford (Eurostar). Contact National Rail enquiries on 08457 484950 (local rate call, 24 hour service) or at www.nationalrail.co.uk.

By car

45 minutes from the M25 London orbital motorway. From the M25, take the M23/A23 to Brighton. The Coastal route A27 links the city east and west.

By air

30 minutes by road or rail from London Gatwick International Airport. 90 minutes by road from London Heathrow International Airport. For all flight and airport information see: www.baa.co.uk. There are fast coach links between Heathrow, Gatwick and Brighton.



Registration

Registration fees for the Brighton conference, **for both voting representatives and non-voting members**, are:

	<i>Waged</i>	<i>Claimants etc.</i>
Registration fee paid on or before 30th June	£69	£16
Registration fee paid on or before 1st August	£80	£16
Late registration after 1st August and at Conference	£106	£29

A registration form is provided in the centre pages of this Preliminary Agenda. Additional copies can be obtained from http://www.libdems.org.uk/media/conference_forms/membersformBRIG06.pdf

Registrations can also be made online at <https://www.libdems.org.uk/conference/conference-registration.html>

All claimants etc. (i.e. those who are unemployed, the dependent spouse of an unemployed person, a student or a school student, or those whose only income is the state pension) may register at the reduced rates. Current proof of status should be

included with the registration form (e.g. photocopy of ES40, student ID card, letter from a school/college or other relevant documentation).

We aim to acknowledge all registrations received before August 10th within one week of receiving them. Registration must be sent in **before 10th August** to ensure that the final conference agenda papers can be mailed out on 18th August.

Registrations received after 10th August will have to pick up their papers at Conference. We will try to send out photopasses for all registrations received before **1st September**, but otherwise they will be available at the Registration Desk at Conference.

Please try to avoid the last-minute rush by registering early!

First-time attendees

As an incentive to encourage new conference-goers, a special rate of £54 is now available to those attending Brighton as their first Liberal Democrat conference. This is not cumulative with any other discount and the special rate is subject to confirmation of first-timer status.

You will only be able to register as a voting representative if:

- 1) The Membership Department has already received **in writing** notification from the Returning Officer of your Local Party that you have been elected as a voting representative*; or
- 2) You are a substitute elected by your Local Party Executive after a voting representative has indicated to them that s/he is unable to attend, and the Membership Department has received **in writing** notification of your election from the Local Party*; or
- 3) The Membership Department receives at the Conference **written** notification from the Returning Officer of your Local Party that you have been elected as a voting representative or as a substitute.

* To ensure that a voting badge is sent out before conference this information must be received by 10th August. Otherwise a non-voting badge will be sent to

Advertise in Advance Notice and Daily Announcements

Advance Notice, issued to attendees on the Sunday of Conference, and *Daily Announcements*, issued Monday to Thursday, are the ideal vehicles for circulating up-to-the minute information to Conference-goers.

Advertising rates are:

10cm deep x 9 cm wide £110 or 18 cm wide £150
5 cm deep x 9 cm wide £65 or 18 cm wide £110

Artwork should be supplied by email or on disk as a pdf or as a simple layout as a Word file (20% surcharge)

Advance Notice: artwork should be emailed to c.caruana@libdems.org.uk to arrive no later than 11th September.

Daily Announcements: artwork should be emailed to c.caruana@libdems.org.uk or deposited in the *Daily Announcements* pigeon hole at the Information Desk or by 10.00 am of the day **before** distribution.

For information, contact Carol Caruana on c.caruana@libdems.org.uk or in the Exhibitors' Office or via a Conference steward at Brighton.

Registration continued

you if you are registered, which you will be able to change at the Conference Registration Desk, providing information has been subsequently sent in or is available at Conference, as in 3 above.

Please note that names of representatives and substitutes **cannot** be accepted by telephone.

Representation

Local party and Youth and Student representation is as follows (Article 6.2 of the constitution):

Membership	Representatives
30-50	2
51-75	3
76-100	4
101-150	5
151-200	6
201-250	7
251-300	8
301-350	9
351-400	10
401-450	11

together with a further representative for every 100 members (or part thereof) in excess of 450.

Non-voting members


Party members who are not elected representatives are entitled to attend all sessions of conference as non-voting members.

Non-voting members who have paid the full registration fee are eligible to submit a speaker's card (but not vote).

Non-voting members can attend conference sessions as day visitors, for a fee of £22 per day. Day visitors are not entitled to speak in conference sessions, other than consultative sessions.

Deadline for postage of Final Agenda

To ensure receipt of the Final Agenda prior to Conference, which will be sent out on 18th August, please send your registration form (see centre pages of this Preliminary Agenda) payment and photograph (if necessary) to arrive in Cowley Street **no later than 10th August**.

Registrations received after that date will be treated as registrations received at conference and relevant papers will be available for collection in Brighton. 

Crèche

A crèche, run by qualified staff, will be available in the Hilton Brighton Metropole during the following times:

Sunday	17th September	09:00 – 19:30*
Monday	18th September	08:30 – 19:30*
Tuesday	19th September	08:30 – 19:30*
Wednesday	20th September	08:30 – 19:30*
Thursday	21st September	08:30 – 13:00*

* Closing times to be confirmed on booking.

Lunch if required, must be ordered and paid for daily. There will be a registration fee of £25 for the first child per family, and a fee of £10 for each additional child thereafter. This covers the whole week from Sunday until the end of conference.

Claimants do not pay the registration fee, but must pay a refundable deposit of £10 per child.

Registrations must reach the Conference Office **no later than Wednesday 6th September**. Please apply for a place in the crèche by phoning the Conference Office for a crèche registration form or returning the form in the centre pages of this Preliminary Agenda **as soon as possible**.

As we are required, by law, to ensure that there are sufficient people to staff the crèche, late registration will be difficult to accommodate.

For further information contact:

The Conference Office, Liberal Democrat Headquarters, 4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3NB. Tel: 020 7222 7999, email: j.stainer@libdems.org.uk .
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Disability access

Using a wheelchair or a scooter is no barrier to coming to conference and participating fully in its activities. That's the message from the Conference Access Group (CAG) - and from the fact that at every conference there are several people who use wheelchairs or have other mobility impairments or disabilities, and many come back time after time.

In the main conference auditorium, there is always full access for anyone in a scooter or wheelchair. There is wheelchair access to the stage, and there is an alternative podium for anyone for whom the main speaker's podium is not suitable.

All debates and speeches are simultaneously translated into sign language, there is an induction loop system, and for blind conference reps, papers can be made available in different formats including on tape, or, increasingly usefully, in electronic format. They can also be made available on different coloured paper for those who find that easier to use.

Promote your organisation at Conference

You can promote your organisation and message to thousands of conference attendees, by placing an advert, taking an exhibition stand, organising a fringe event, or through sponsorship.

Advertising: Place an advertisement in one of the conference publications, including the Daily Announcements.

Exhibition: The diverse and vibrant exhibition at Conference gives stand-holders an opportunity to display their products and services and to talk to a broad cross-section of visitors.

Fringe: Our conference fringe programme offers a dynamic line-up of events. We have a wide selection of rooms to choose from, with capacities between 15 and over 400.

Sponsorship: Conference features a wide range of opportunities to promote your organisation and we can tailor a package to meet your specific needs.

For further information about advertising, exhibition and sponsorship, contact Carol Caruana on 020 7227 1323 or email c.caruana@libdems.org.uk. For conference fringe, contact Jane Stainer on 020 7227 1348 or email j.stainer@libdems.org.uk.

Outside the conference hall, all fringe meetings booked through the Conference Office are now in fully wheelchair-accessible rooms – and from this year we are insisting that any organisation booking a room independently confirms it is fully accessible.

For those who have carers, conference registration for carers is free. We are increasingly offering help to conference attendees in finding suitable accommodation – the Conference Office can provide details of a range of suitable hotels which have disabled-friendly rooms.

Brighton Disability Advice Centre provides a range of advice on getting to and from Brighton, and getting around while there, and a factsheet from them with plenty of other information is available.

More information

For more information please contact:

The Conference Office, 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. Tel: 020 7227 1348 or email: j.stainer@libdems.org.uk.

Robert Littlehales, the conference steward in charge of disability access. Tel: 07712 667702 or email: rlittlehales@aol.com.

For information on the work of the Conference Access Group, contact Jeremy Hargreaves, email: jeremy@jeremyhargreaves.org.

Brighton Disability Advice Centre, 6 Hove Manor, Hove Street, Hove BN3 2DF. Tel/Minicom: 01273 203016, email: disabilityadvice@bhfederation.co.uk, www.bhfederation.co.uk.

The Federal Conference Committee (FCC) wants to encourage as many party members as possible to come – whether they have a disability or not. Coming to conference is not only every party member's opportunity to play a part in making our party's policy, it is also a great week of fringe meetings, training and networking. Deciding whether to come to conference or not is a decision for every party member – but no one should think they can't come to conference because of a disability.



Submission of motions

Submission of motions and amendments

The following are entitled, under the constitution, to submit policy motions, business motions, and secondary amendments to constitutional and standing order amendment:

- Local parties
- Regional parties in England
- State parties
- Federal SAOs
- Ten conference representatives
- Federal Policy Committee

The deadline for amendments, topical motions and reserved subjects motions (see page 3) is **12 noon Wednesday 12th July**. (See page 3 for all deadlines.)

The deadline for motions and business motions was 24th May. **Topical motions must refer to some development since that date.**

A standard form for submission of amendments and motions is enclosed.

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

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

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

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

Submission of motions by ten conference representatives

If you are submitting a motion in the name of ten+ conference representatives, the following procedure applies:

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

If you have any questions please email motions@libdems.org.uk or call 020 7227 1379.

Appeals

Appeals against non-acceptance of motions should be written on one side of A4, giving a contact address, telephone number and email if available, and should include the text of the original motion amendment submitted together with the justification for appealing.

Appeals should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to motions@libdems.org.uk, **by 12 noon on Wednesday 12th July**.

Drafting advice

All submitters of motions and amendments are encouraged to use the drafting advisory service, through which the Policy Projects Team will provide comments on draft motions and amendments, as long as they are submitted no later than **Monday 3rd July**; drafts should be sent to **motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk**.

Accepting the advice does not guarantee that Federal Conference Committee will accept the final version for the agenda, but previous experience shows that it will improve your chances.



Policy motions

FP1 Clean and ethical investment and purchasing

Ten conference representatives

Conference notes the growth of 'clean' or ethical investment and purchasing policies in recent years, notably:

- A. The increased use by charities of ethical investment policies, either of 'avoidance' or 'positive investment'.
- B. The growth of ethical consumerism involving 'fair trade' products and ethical investment policies for individuals.
- C. The setting up of co-operatives to support growers and producers and plough back profits in order to create better work conditions and pay decent wages through the monitorable standards of the Fairtrade Foundation.
- D. Strong public support for wider ethical investment policies.

Conference further notes that:

- i) Many public bodies such as local authority pension funds are seeking to invest 'cleanly', avoiding industries such as tobacco or arms, but Treasury rules currently inhibit this.
- ii) An increasing number of pension funds are engaging with companies, considering this to be socially responsible investment; however, such engagement is currently deemed inappropriate where the product is the problem, such as with arms and tobacco.
- iii) Under Freedom of Information legislation, information is now available about local government and other public and voluntary sector pension funds, including information on whether funds are invested in tobacco or arms corporations.

Conference recognises that over 170 local authorities have already declared themselves Fairtrade Councils, many in initiatives led by Liberal Democrats.

Conference welcomes these and other Liberal Democrats leading by example on ethical investment.

Conference believes that socially responsible investment is one of the marks of a civilised society, that consumer choice can be a powerful tool to implement this, and calls on the Government to:

- a) Extend the Charity Commission definition so that ethical investment policies can be entirely consistent with 'the duty to maximise return on investment'.
- b) Widen the power of general competence so that investment falls within the 'duty to promote economic, social and environmental well-being'.

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

Conference also urges:

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

Policy motions

Applicability: Federal, except b) which is England only.

*Drafting contact: Gareth Epps, tel 07950 035 836, email garethpeps@cix.co.uk
9 Boulton Street, Reading, RG1 4RD*

*FCC contact: Jon Ball, tel 0208 810 1078, email jonball@cix.co.uk
Flat 3, Pimento Court, Olive Road, Ealing, London W5 4JQ*

FP2 Ending modern slavery and trafficking

13 conference representatives

Conference notes with concern that:

- i) 200 years after William Wilberforce succeeded in outlawing the Slave Trade, it is estimated that 12 million people live in slavery, at least half of them children.
- ii) Human trafficking is the fastest growing means by which people are forced into slavery and the third largest source of illegal income after drugs and arms.
- iii) There has been an enormous increase of trafficking in Europe, particularly in Britain and especially related to prostitution and the black economy.
- iv) It is estimated that over 1000 women, girls and boys, some as young as 14, are trafficked into Britain alone every year for sexual exploitation, but those who are discovered have in too many instances been treated as criminals or illegal immigrants instead of being given help as victims of crime.

Conference believes that:

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

Conference calls for:

1. Britain and all other Council of Europe members to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings and to consider further measures aimed at improved transnational cooperation.
2. The UK Government and European Commission should provide assistance to future EU candidate countries to ensure they have anti-trafficking policies that respect human rights and reach the standards set by the Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking.
3. A network of safe havens to be set up across Britain and the rest of Europe, which will treat trafficked people as victims, providing medical care, counselling and legal aid, in particular the possibility of helping to prosecute traffickers.
4. The UK and other EU member states to comply with Council Directive 2004/81/EC on residence permits for victims of trafficking and for coordinated schemes to assist victims who choose to go back to their home country.
5. The British Government, other EU member states and the European Commission to launch awareness campaigns targeted at potential victims, warning of the dangers, with advice on their rights and obligations and where to get help.
6. Support for campaigns such as Business Travellers Against Trafficking, which aims to improve reporting of trafficking-related crime.

Policy motions

7. Police forces around Britain to follow the lead of the West Midlands and Metropolitan Police in mounting major intelligence-led operations to liberate victims forced into prostitution in 'brothel prisons' and to arrest the criminals responsible.
8. Employers, trade unions and councils to be encouraged to work together in uncovering and supporting the victims of trafficking, with multi-agency monitoring of vulnerable employment sectors.

Applicability: Federal.

*Drafting contact: Ben Jephcott, tel 07966 514982, email bjephcott@yahoo.co.uk
4 Camross Drive, Shrewsbury, SY1 3XH*

*FCC contact: Dee Doocey, tel 020 7983 4921, email deedoocey@blueyonder.co.uk
21 Percy Road, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2HW*

FP3 Hospital nutrition

16 conference representatives

Conference notes:

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

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

Conference calls for:

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

Applicability: England.

*Drafting contact: Jacquie Bell, tel 07721 585474, email sbell@easynet.co.uk
2 High Street, Dunbar, East Lothian, EH42 1NP*

*FCC contact: Ruth Polling, tel 0794 965 1669, email ruth.polling@islington.gov.uk
26 Rahere House, King Square Estate, London EC1V 8DE*

Policy motions

FP4 Independent living

Ten conference representatives

Conference notes that:

- i) There are an estimated 10 million disabled people in Britain protected under the Disability Discrimination Act.
- ii) While the Disability Discrimination Act and Equality Act have given vital protection to the rights of disabled people, lack of disability awareness by many service providers remains a significant barrier to disabled people enjoying these rights.
- iii) Many existing Centres for Independent Living are threatened with the loss of all or part of their funding and are being excessively driven by funding demands and tendering process requirements, rather than pursuing objectives focused on the needs, desires and wishes of their disabled members.
- iv) Disabled people face fragmented provision of education services, health services, housing provision and other services, along with a lack of statutory duties on local authorities to meet minimum standards and respond to individual choices for disabled adults and families with disabled children; this results in unmet support needs, inefficient resource use and a lack of opportunities for disabled people to take control of their lives.
- v) The Department for Work and Pensions concluded in a working paper on the cost of disability in 2005 that extra support benefits for disabled people (Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance) are not sufficient to meet the higher living costs disabled people face.
- vi) At least 1 million disabled people who are not employed say they want to work, but are being denied the independence and freedom work can bring to their lives due to barriers such as lack of support for employers to take on disabled people, lack of flexible employment opportunities, work disincentives in the benefits system and poor access to high-quality work-focussed activity and training.

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

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

Conference calls for:

1. A user-led Centre for Independent Living to be in every local authority area by 2010.
2. Stronger minimum statutory requirements for the delivery of services to disabled people, ensuring minimum standards of provision for services such as those related to education, housing, care provision and leisure.
3. Individual budgets to replace the plethora of existing funds and 'one-size-fits-all' provision of services, based on a single comprehensive assessment of individual needs to allow disabled people to make their own choices, using high-quality advocates if necessary, on the support requirements

Policy motions

to meet their personal aspirations.

4. The removal of barriers to employment for disabled people, in particular through the benefits system with changes to income disregards and permitted earnings; greater support for employers to take on disabled staff; effective promotion of Access to Work funds; and provision of high-quality work-focused training and support .
5. When decisions are made on the reallocation of resources resulting from greater economic activity of disabled people, closing the gap between extra support provided to disabled people and the extra costs faced by disabled people should be made a priority.

Applicability: Federal, except 1 which is England only.

Drafting contact: Tim Nichols, tel 020 7219 2300, email nicholst@parliament.uk

c/o Danny Alexander MP, House of Commons, London SW1P 3NB

FCC contact: Robert Adamson, tel 0184 550 1058, email Robert@robertadam.info

Asgard, Sessay, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, YO7 3BE.

FP5 International law

Federal Policy Committee

Conference endorses policy paper 74, *International Law*, as a statement of party policy on international law.

Note: this is a holding motion. A full motion will appear on the Final Agenda, and the deadline for amendments will be Wednesday 13th September. The policy paper will be circulated with the Final Agenda.

FP6 Making the climate change switch: a micro solution to a macro problem

Ten conference representatives

Conference notes that climate change is the greatest threat facing the planet.

Conference notes the failure of Labour's climate change strategy which is not now likely to meet their target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 20% by 2010, with carbon dioxide emissions now actually rising.

Conference condemns the Labour Government for its approach to reducing emissions from the electricity generation sector, and rejects the need for a new generation of nuclear power generators.

Conference re-affirms the conclusions reached in the 2005 policy motion, *Tackling carbon emissions: a strategy for clean and sustainable energy*, particularly that:

- i) International agreement is more likely to be achieved if developed countries such as the UK set an example by creating a successful low-carbon economy.
- ii) The UK must put itself on course to reduce overall UK CO₂ emissions by a minimum of 60% by 2050, with the development of annual targets up to this date which will be subject to Parliamentary scrutiny.
- iii) 20% of UK electricity is generated from a range of renewable sources by 2020 by, for example, strengthening the Renewables Obligation and developing a similar obligation to promote renewable heat.
- iv) The UK must adopt a sustainable energy strategy based on rejection of new-build nuclear power stations, energy demand reduction, greater energy efficiency, the use of economic instruments, combined heat and power, microgeneration and community-based forms of generation and a mix of renewable energy sources that includes biomass, wind, wave, tidal, and solar.

Conference acknowledges that the best environmental and economic answer to reducing carbon emissions

Policy motions

from the electricity generation sector is to make a real commitment to decentralise energy supply, alongside this radical shift to energy conservation and renewable technologies.

Conference notes the findings of the Energy Saving Trust, which concluded that by 2050 microgeneration could potentially provide up to 30-40% of the UK's total electricity needs and help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 15% per year.

Conference believes that OFGEM should introduce measures which facilitate the development of micro-generation, including:

- a) Removal of current limits on the development of private wires and raising the limits on the export of power.
- b) Making it a requirement for all electricity suppliers to purchase surplus electricity from domestic power generators at rates that encourage take-off of domestic generation, with a default option of negative metering if suppliers will not fund two-way smart metering.
- c) Reform of standard supply contracts to encourage investment in microgeneration, dynamic demand equipment and the distribution network.

Conference resolves, in addition, that:

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

Applicability: Federal.

*Drafting contact: Dr Steve Toole, tel 020 7219 5671, email tooles@parliament.uk
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*FCC contact: Duncan Brack, tel 020 8674 0612, email duncan@dbrack.org.uk
38 Salford Road, Streatham Hill, London SW2 4BQ*

FP7 Meeting the Challenge

Federal Policy Committee

Conference endorses policy paper 76, *Meeting the Challenge*, as a statement of party's analysis of the challenges facing Britain and the world and the party's priorities for policy development.

Note: this is a holding motion. A full motion will appear on the Final Agenda, and the deadline for amendments will be Wednesday 13th September. The policy paper will be circulated with the Final Agenda.

FP8 Rape convictions

Women Liberal Democrats, Cardiff Central, Cardiff South & Penarth

Conference notes with concern that:

Policy motions

- i) The rate for rape convictions is currently around 5% which is lower than anywhere else in Europe, the United States, Canada or Australia.
- ii) The number of reported rapes is rising every year, but the rate of successful prosecutions resulting in a conviction is falling.
- iii) The number of rapists given a caution and freed has almost doubled in the last decade.
- iv) The health-related costs of rape are estimated to be £73,487 per case.
- v) The Sentencing Guidelines Council proposes allowing the perpetrators of rape to avoid jail if they show remorse.
- vi) The report published by Amnesty International in November 2005, Sexual Assault Research, highlighting the differences between public perceptions of rape and reality.

Conference believes that:

- a) There is a common cultural myth prevailing in our society that assumes rape victims are somehow to blame for what happens to them.
- b) The Government's failure to take seriously the issue of rape has put many people at risk from attackers who effectively get away with this most disturbing of crimes.
- c) There are no accurate figures available on male rape, but that thousands of men each year are believed to be victims.

Conference therefore calls for:

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

Applicability: England and Wales.

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21a Huntingdon Street, London N1 1BS.*

FP9 School head teachers

Ten conference representatives

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

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

Policy motions

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

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

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

Applicability: England.

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c/o Liberal Democrat Whips, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA*

*FCC contact: Sue Garden, tel 020 7435 2796 email sue.garden@blueyonder.co.uk
14 Alvanley Court, 250 Finchley Road, London NW3 6DL*

FP10 Setting small business free *Solihull & Meriden*

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

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

Conference notes with concern that:

- a) A disproportionate burden of regulation falls on small businesses, which have to contend with up to nine separate inspection agencies.
- b) The competitiveness and success of small businesses is impaired by the failure of the government to tackle business crime, open up public sector procurement, and address the financing needs of small businesses.
- c) Businesses face an increase in the rateable value of their property if they install crime prevention measures such as CCTV, and the current business rate structure is disproportionately costly to the small businesses.

Continued on page 21



Liberal Democrat Federal Conferences 2006

Brighton: 16th - 21st September 2006

Members registration form

To enable the Party to offer the most effective registration service,
please complete *all* parts of this 4 page pullout form.

Postal application forms need to be received before 1st September to be processed and have photopasses sent out. After this date, passes will have to be collected at conference.

Registration Details

(This section is essential and registration cannot be completed without it)

TITLE: Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Cllr / Dr / Other _____ (*delete as applicable*)

FORENAME: _____ **SURNAME:** _____

SUFFIX: AM / GLA / MP / MEP / MSP (*delete as applicable*)

ADDRESS: _____

_____ **POSTCODE:** _____

MEMBERSHIP No: _____ **LOCAL PARTY:** _____

EMAIL: _____

If you provide your email address the Liberal Democrats will use it to provide you with information regarding conferences and other news.

Tick here also to receive electronic, and not printed, copies of consultation and policy papers.

DAYTIME TELEPHONE: _____

CRECHE: If you would like to receive a creche booking form please tick here and one will be emailed to you.

Payment method: Cheque attached / Credit or Debit card (Delete as applicable.)
please complete in full the details on the third page

Please attach a colour passport-style photo here if you have not attended a Lib Dem Conference in the past 2 years. Please print your name clearly on the reverse of the photograph

About You

(This section will enable us to forward invitation and details of specific fringe events /receptions that are of interest to you.)

You only need to complete this section if you did not register for conference in 2005/ Spring 2006 or wish to add new information

IF YOU DO NOT WISH YOUR INFORMATION TO BE FORWARDED TO ORGANISING / OTHER BODIES PLEASE TICK THIS BOX

Are you an elected council member? Yes No

Please state the authority level: County Unitary District City Region Borough

On your council are we:

- In control Minority control Lib-Lab partnership Lib-Con partnership
 Other (*specify*) _____

Do you have any specific responsibilities?

If you are a Cabinet Member, what is your portolio? _____

If you are a Chair or Vice Chair of any committee, which committee? _____

Are you a member of any of the following committees:

- Policy & Resources Education Transport Strategic Development
 Leisure / Tourism Highways Environment Community Services
 Social Services Libraries Police Fire
 Licencing Planning Sport

Do you have any of the following party affinity products?

- Party Visa card Phone Co-op

Would you be interested in receiving information about future affinity schemes that assist the Party financially? yes no

What other areas interest you:

- Agriculture Equal Opportunities
 Communications Europe
 Constitutional Affairs Foreign Affairs
 Defence Health
 The Economy IT
 Education Justice / Law
 Elections Rural Affairs
 Electoral Reform Social Justice
 Environment Third World Development

Your involvement in the party:

- English Council Rep
 Local Party officer
 Regional Party officer
 Approved Candidate/Agent
 Other *please specify*: _____

Do you read *Lib Dem News*?

- yes no

Have you attended conference before?

- Yes No

(Please note First Time attendees/ Previous day visitors may qualify for a discounted registration fee.)

What is your main purpose for attending ?

(Please tick as many boxes as appropriate)

- Policy making in the auditorium
 The Fringe
 The Exhibition
 Training
 Networking

Are You:

- Visually impaired
 Hearing impaired
 Mobility impaired
 Vegetarian

Please note:

It is our intention to notify each venue of the percentage of vegetarians so that they can cater accordingly

Registration Fees

Autumn Conference only Registration Fees

Up to 30th June £69 (claimants £16)
Up to 1st August £80 (claimants £16)
After 1st August £106 (claimants £29)

As an incentive to encourage new conference-goers, a special maximum rate is available to those attending their first Liberal Democrat Conference:

For Autumn 2006 £54

This is not cumulative with any other discount and the special rate is subject to confirmation of first-timer status.

Liberal Democrat Business Forum Annual Corporate Day

(9.30am - 4.30pm. Monday 18th September)

I enclose payment of £400 to attend Corporate Day.

Liberal Democrat annual Conference gala dinner

(8pm, Sunday 17th September)

I enclose payment of £100 to attend the Gala Dinner.

For further information, please contact Helen Jardine-Brown: Helen.Jardine-Brown@libdems.org.uk
tel: 020 7340 4914.

Payment Details

- I am registering as a claimant and **enclose proof of my status.**
- I am registering as a first-time representative.
- Please find enclosed a cheque payable to **'Liberal Democrats'**.
- Please debit my Mastercard/Visa/Switch card:

For the amount of: £ _____

(please state the amount or we may be unable to process your registration)

Number:

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Expiry:

Valid From or Issue Number:

CVC number:

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(the CVC is the 3 digit number on the signature strip on the reverse of the card)

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cardholder address if different from above:

Fee Deadlines

To take advantage of the lowest rates, please return your form as early as possible. Forms which are postmarked on or before the stated deadline will be accepted at the lower rate. **If your form is postmarked after the deadline, your registration cannot be processed until the proper fee has been paid.**

ACCOMMODATION BOOKING FORM

THE HILTON METROPOLE – CONFERENCE HOTEL

Please note that bookings are only available through the Liberal Democrat Conference & Events Office. Rooms will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis and the minimum booking is 4 nights - Sunday 17th to Wednesday 20th September. A limited number of rooms will be available on Saturday 16th September.

Room Type

Please indicate order of preference by entering a number in the relevant box. (1 = most preferred to 3 = least preferred)

Standard Single or double occupancy: £145

For 2 person room, please tick:

Deluxe Single or double occupancy: £195

Twin Double

Deluxe Plus Single or double occupancy: £215

Please tick if you would like to book the

Suite Single or double occupancy: £265

room for Saturday night :

Nightly rate quoted includes VAT and one full English breakfast. Additional breakfasts are charged at £11.75 to be paid on individual hotel bills. Note that only Members already registered to attend the conference are eligible for the Party discount. Other applications will be held pending registration and only then will availability be checked.

Arrival Date: ___ / 09 / 06 Time _____

Departure Date: ___ / 09 / 06 Time _____

Information

Fee Deadlines

The deadlines for the different early booking discounts have to be adhered to. We base all decisions on the postmark on your envelope. If it is postmarked on or before the stated deadline it will be accepted at the lower rate.

Final Agenda

To receive your final agenda papers by post when they are mailed on 18th August you will need to register before 10th August. Individual copies of the final Agenda cannot be sent out subsequently but copies will be available at Conference for those who register after the deadline. All Conference documents are put onto the Conference Internet site (www.libdems.org.uk/conference) as soon as they are mailed.

Photopasses

If we receive your registration after 6th September 2006, we cannot guarantee to send out your photopass before conference. You will be able to collect it from Registration on your arrival at Conference if we are unable to send it to you.

Note to Voting Representatives

Irrespective of the date of their election all representatives serve for **one calendar year** starting from 1st January, which means that they are eligible to attend both the Spring and Autumn Conferences in that year.

The Constitution does not allow local parties to opt to elect voting representatives for two Conferences in different years. For representatives to be entitled to vote at Conference they **must** be elected in accordance with the rules laid down in the Federal Constitution.

Your right to voting status can only be recorded on receipt of **written** information from one of your local party officers. If you are in any doubt, contact your Local Party Secretary first.

Shortly before Conference, a letter and badge will be sent to representatives who have paid a registration fee but who are recorded as non-voting. If you receive a non-voting letter and believe that you are a voting representative you must take action **within your local party** to ensure that Membership Services is informed **in writing** of your status.

Remember that your Local Party Secretary should have informed **Membership Services** (*not* the Conference Office) of your status as a voter by 15th December 2005. Failure to do so may result in delays in Registration on your arrival at Conference. If you are in any doubt, ask your Local Party Secretary to confirm your voting status in writing (not by phone) with Membership Services (membership@libdems.org.uk) or to provide you with a written letter of confirmation of your voting status for you to change your card at the Conference.

Speaking at Conference

Remember that you may only speak if you are a member (voting or non-voting) who has registered for the whole of the Conference (i.e. not a day visitor).

Claimant status

All claimants etc. (i.e. those who are unemployed, the dependent spouse of an unemployed person, a student or a school student, or those whose only income is the state pension) may register at the reduced rates. Current proof of status should be included with the registration form (e.g. photocopy of ES40, student ID card, letter from a school/college or other relevant documentation).

Cancellations

After registration, if you wish to cancel, it will be subject to a £15 administration fee (£7.50 if claimant.) There will be no refunds for cancellations after 10th August, as badges and papers will have been printed by then.

Please detach and return your completed 4-page form to:

**The Conference & Events Office
Liberal Democrats
4 Cowley Street
Westminster
SW1P 3NB**

Tel: 020 7227 1349

fax: 020 7799 2170

email: d.stoneham@libdems.org.uk

Policy motions

Continued from page 16

- d) Many small businesses suffer at the hands of 'serial liquidators' who cynically liquidate their companies to avoid paying for goods and services.
- e) The Government's flagship Business Link advice service is failing with only 4% of small businesses utilising the service.

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

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

Conference believes these goals will best be achieved if:

1. The Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act is repealed and replaced by an annual Deregulation Act providing parliamentary assent to the deregulation agenda.
2. Departmental targets for deregulation are set, and a Cabinet Minister appointed to oversee and take responsibility for the programme of reform.
3. Government makes greater use of sunset clauses, a one-in one-out approach to new regulations, and brings an end to the practice of 'gold-plating' European legislation.
4. With particular reference to SMEs, costed independent impact assessments and post-implementation reviews are carried out to ensure regulations do not levy unwarranted costs and are 'fit for purpose'.
5. A single rationalised Small Business Inspectorate is introduced to act as a gateway to inspect and advise small businesses on compliance.
6. Business crime prevention equipment is disaggregated from the rateable value of a property and does not penalise the company through higher business rates.
7. Business rates are reformed to provide an annual allowance of £1,500 for small businesses with a rateable value of less than £25,000.
8. The Office of Fair Trading direct greater resources to investigation and enforcement action against serial liquidators who should be 'named and shamed' as a matter of course.
9. Business Link and the plethora of business advice agencies are unified and streamlined to provide consistent and warranted advice to small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Applicability: Federal.

*Drafting contact: Lorely Burt MP, tel 020 7219 8269, email burtl@parliament.uk
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA*

*FCC contact: Jon Ball, tel 020 8810 1078, email jonball@cix.co.uk
Flat 3, Pimento Court, Olive Road, Ealing, London W5 4JQ*

FP11 *Stronger Families, Brighter Futures* (Children and families policy paper) *Federal Policy Committee*

Conference believes that the rights, well-being and development of Britain's children are vitally important, and that the well-being of children cannot be separated from that of their families.

Conference upholds the Liberal Democrat principles that families should be as independent and self-determining as possible; that individual parents should be free to raise their children as they see fit, within a framework that puts children's interests at the centre; and that the role of the state is to support

Policy motions

families through local communities built by and for the people they aim to help.

Conference therefore endorses policy paper 72, *Stronger Families, Brighter Futures*, as a statement of party policies on children and families, replacing all previous policy papers and motions on these subjects, and welcomes its focus on the three themes of:

- A. Help to prepare people for the responsibilities of parenthood.
- B. Support for families in maintaining financial and emotional stability.
- C. Support for families in crisis, including through family breakdown and fostering.

To help to prepare people for the responsibilities of parenthood, Conference calls for:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Applicability: England only, except a) and b) which are Federal, and 1 to 3 which are England and Wales.

Note: amendments should be written to the text of the motion, not the policy paper. Amendments can refer to proposals in the paper not explicitly covered in the motion.

Policy motions

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Liberal Democrat Whips' Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.*

*FCC contact: Sue Garden, tel 020 7435 2796 email sue.garden@blueyonder.co.uk
14 Alvanley Court, 250 Finchley Road, London NW3 6DL.*

FP12 Tax Reform

Federal Policy Committee

Conference endorses policy paper 75, *Tax Reform*, as a statement of party policy on taxation.

Note: this is a holding motion. A full motion will appear on the Final Agenda, and the deadline for amendments will be Wednesday 13th September. The policy paper will be circulated with the Final Agenda.

FP13 Transportation of radioactive waste through population centres

Hackney Borough

Conference notes with serious concern that high-grade radioactive waste from nuclear power plants is transported across Britain by rail to the reprocessing plants in Sellafield, and that transportation occurs through London and other population centres on a weekly basis.

Conference further notes that:

- a) While there is an excellent safety record for trains carrying radioactive waste, current security threats from international terrorism have increased the risk of sabotage.
- b) Trains transporting radioactive waste are often held on the tracks for extended periods of time in built-up areas, allowing greater opportunity for terrorist attacks.
- c) The release of radioactive material following an accident or terrorist attack during rail transportation may result in high casualties and a major pollution incident, resulting in the long-term evacuation and loss of economic activity of a large populated area.

Conference believes that the risk of an accident or sabotage associated with transportation of radioactive waste through population centres is too high to justify its continuation.

Conference condemns the Government for its failure after five years to implement the recommendation of the European Parliament's 2001 Report of the Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism, which called on member states to avoid transit of radioactive waste through densely populated areas, despite widespread concern about transportation in many of the affected areas.

Conference calls on the Government to:

1. Conduct an urgent assessment of how the risk to populations can be reduced through measures such as increased trackside security and the use of alternative routes that do not pass through population centres.
2. Grant a power to locally elected authorities allowing them to refuse transit of radioactive waste from nuclear reactors through populated areas within an authority.
3. Reject a new generation of nuclear power stations in favour of energy efficiency and a range of renewable energy options, allowing an end to all transportation of radioactive waste from nuclear reactors when the current generation of reactors are decommissioned.

Applicability: Federal.

Policy motions

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FP14 Young runaways

Sutton

Conference notes with concern that:

- i) 100,000 children and young people under 16 run away or are forced to leave home each year.
- ii) There is no statutory provision of services to ensure that children who run away are safeguarded.
- iii) Despite the need, there are just ten beds in refuges (places of confidential, emergency accommodation) across the United Kingdom, as defined by Section 51 of the 1989 Children's Act, all of which are reliant on short-term grants and charitable income to remain open.
- iv) One in six of the children who run or are thrown out are currently forced to sleep rough and one in 12 are hurt or harmed.
- v) The recommendations of the 2002 Social Exclusion Report on Young Runaways have not been prioritised.
- vi) The Department of Health 2002 guidance for Local Authorities on Children Missing from Care and from Home have not been comprehensively implemented or monitored.
- vii) No government department collects or monitors information relating to missing children.

Conference believes that:

- A. Safe emergency accommodation including Section 51 Refuges should be available to every young person who requires it
- B. The recommendations and guidance produced in 2002 by the Social Exclusion Unit and Department of Health should be fully implemented and monitored.
- C. Every child who runs away or is thrown out of home should have immediate access to the services that they require to be safeguarded.

Conference therefore calls for the Government to address this situation by:

1. Making the safety of children who run away or who are missing a priority.
2. Formulating a coherent national strategy and system to safeguard runaway and missing children, stipulating that local authorities should:
 - a) Establish protocols to co-ordinate joint working across all agencies, including police, social services and health, for children who go missing.
 - b) Have a senior manager with responsibility to oversee these protocols and administration.
 - c) Produce an annual strategic monitoring report on the situation for children missing from home or care and the progress made in responding to their needs.
3. Reviewing its position on funding for services for runaway children and young people.
4. Collecting centrally information about missing children for dissemination across police forces and young persons welfare services.

Applicability: England.

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Policy motions

FP15 *Your Community, Your Choice* (English local government policy paper)

Federal Policy Committee

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

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

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

Conference therefore welcomes the proposals outlined in policy paper 73, *Your Community, Your Choice*. In particular, Conference supports the key themes of the paper:

- i) Strong community government as the foundation of decision-making.
- ii) The devolution of power from Whitehall so that it is as close to those affected by decisions as is practically and efficiently possible.
- iii) Community and local decision-making should be answerable to residents rather than Whitehall ministers.
- iv) Active citizenship and community involvement should be actively encouraged.
- v) A diversity of structures will be used for exercising powers with no one-size-fits-all approach.

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

- 1. Community government:** we would ensure all communities have the right to set up their own decision-making structures, with communities encouraged to adopt models that could include the following:
 - a) A community council having the right to take on functions from the principal local government tier, with the opportunity for councils to work together on joint commissioning.
 - b) Area committees, made up of members of the principal tier of local government for a particular community, which would handle local government functions for that community.
 - c) Local management of libraries, parks, sports facilities and other local government service buildings, where local people want it, operating in a similar way to school governing bodies responsible for day-to-day management with a devolved budget but within the strategic control of the principal local authority.

- 2. Freeing local government:** we would reverse the Government's centralising culture and get rid of the straitjacket of centralised control through:
 - a) Introducing a concordat for local government in England that defines the rights and responsibilities of local government and limits the power of central government to interfere in local decision-making.
 - b) Supporting for most areas a single principal tier of government, but ensuring any changes to the current system are approved first by local referenda which would present residents with a range of options on local council structures.

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- c) Requiring any creation of an elected city region to be approved first in a local referendum.
- d) Giving councils enhanced powers so that they can address the real needs of their residents.
- e) Allowing councils to draw up their own internal structures rather than impose a limited number of models from the centre but requiring them to be open, democratically accountable and have clear lines of responsibility.
- f) Shifting the balance of revenue-raising from central to local government.

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

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

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

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

Applicability: England.

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FP16 Water and development

Inverness East, Nairn & Lochaber

Conference notes:

- i) The Millennium Development Goal to halve the proportion of people without secure access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015.
- ii) That achieving this goal is estimated by the UN to mean providing 1.6 billion additional people with a clean water supply, and 2.1 billion people with basic sanitation, between 2006 and 2015.
- iii) That private investment is estimated by the World Development Movement to have resulted in the connection of just 600,000 homes, or 3 million people, over the past 15 years across sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and East Asia where 80% of those without connections live.
- iv) That progress in the areas of greatest need has been especially slow, with rural areas falling further behind through lack of investment, and the poorest households in urban areas facing disconnection even where water infrastructure is in place.
- v) That water privatisation has been supported by UK aid money, through the Department for International Development and the World Bank.
- vi) That support for such schemes has been accompanied by a decline in the percentage of bilateral aid spent on water projects.

Conference believes that:

Policy motions

- a) Conditions imposed by donor countries frequently deprive developing world governments of a genuine choice when taking decisions over public service provision.
- b) Interference of this sort is undemocratic, and not conducive to good governance of services, whether financed by the public or private sectors.
- c) Water privatisation schemes have failed to deliver in the areas of greatest need - most notably in sub-Saharan Africa, and particularly in rural areas.
- d) DFID should take a strong role in assisting developing world governments to ensure that all investment represents good value for money, especially in terms of poverty reduction.
- e) That making urgent progress with clean water supplies and sanitation is crucial to achieving many of the other Millennium Development Goals, spanning public health, economic growth and gender equality.

Conference calls for:

1. DFID to make clear that it will support investment in water infrastructure whether or not the private sector is involved, and to work to ensure that multilateral aid organisations which receive UK support do the same.
2. DFID to direct additional resources to supporting water and sanitation improvements for rural communities, and to advising on achieving efficiency through the public sector where that is the preferred option of developing world governments.
3. The Secretary of State for International Development to deliver his commitment to doubling water aid to sub-Saharan Africa to £95 million by 2008, and to commit to further increases in spending between 2008 and 2015.

Applicability: Federal.

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Business motions

FB1 Membership subscription & Federal levy

Federal Executive

Conference notes that:

- i) The Liberal Democrats receives a higher proportion of its income from its members' subscriptions than any other major UK party.
- ii) In the English Party, which applies the subscription levels set by Federal Conference, the annual cost of servicing members and supporting the basic membership structure of the party is £806,345 or £13.12 per member (2006 English Party budget).
- iii) The current minimum subscription set by Federal Conference is £6.
- iv) There are people who could be excluded from membership of the Party if they had to pay a subscription higher than the current minimum.

Conference resolves that for the year 2007:

1. Membership subscription
 - a) The recommended subscription rate shall be £45.
 - b) The minimum subscription rate shall be £9.

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- c) A new concessionary subscription rate of £6 shall apply to those who are, or are entitled to be, in receipt of state benefits other than child benefit or state pension.
 - d) Those paying their subscription through the Youth and Student SAO shall pay a minimum of £6 or, where a new member joins at a Freshers Fair event, a special introductory rate of £1.
 - e) Nothing in this motion prevents a State Party from setting a recommended rate or rates of subscription by its internal procedures which is higher than that agreed by the Federal Conference.
2. Federal levy
- a) The Federal levy on new members shall be 0% of the subscription paid and the Federal levy on renewal subscriptions shall be 42%.

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FB2 Diversity and equality

Ten conference representatives

Conference notes the recent report of the party's Diversity and Equality Review Group and requests a further report to the next Federal Executive

Note: this is a holding motion. A full motion will appear on the Final Agenda, and the deadline for amendments will be Wednesday 13th September.

FB3 Leadership election regulations

Federal Executive

*Delete regulation three and replace with either **Option 1:***

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

*Or **Option 2:***

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

Insert new regulation 4 and renumber accordingly:

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

(b) The Acting Returning Officer will co-ordinate arrangements for party member hustings events via the state and English regional parties with a view to balancing the competing demands for media

Business motions

coverage of the campaign, parliamentary and other duties. Other party bodies may only hold events inviting candidates (or their representatives) for hustings-type events with the prior agreement of the Acting Returning Officer. Official party communications channels may only be used to promote hustings events approved by the Acting Returning Officer. Responsibility for organising and paying for any hustings event shall lie with the hosting organisation, but the Acting Returning Officer will assist in publicising official hustings events via the party's web-site, email communications, *Liberal Democrat News* etc.

Insert new regulation 6 and renumber accordingly:

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

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

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

Delete regulation 10 (a) and renumber accordingly.

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

Add new regulation 10 (d):

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

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

In regulation 14, line 4, delete: '14th day ... papers' and insert: '35th day after the declaration of the election result', and in line 6 change the word 'containing' to 'contain'.

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

The current Leadership elections regulations are as follows:

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

Business motions

as possible, to give equal opportunities and fair balance to all candidates.

7. The provision of food, drink or entertainment by or on behalf of the candidates, and any other form of treating, will not be allowed.
8. The election expenses shall be limited to £15,000 for each leadership candidate. No candidate, or his agent, shall exceed this limit in the production of publicity material and all other expenditures connected with the campaign. All donations above £200 must comply with the provisions of Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.
9. All publicity material produced for or on behalf of a candidate shall bear his or her agent's imprint including a full postal address. Any email messages sent out for or on behalf of a candidate for the purposes of publicising their candidacy shall also include a standard form of words provided by the Returning Officer specifying how the recipient of the message may opt out of future messages.
10. Ballot Papers & Election Address:
 - (a) Ballot papers shall be dispatched to all members within 14 days of the close of nominations.
 - (b) Each candidate shall be entitled to include in the mailing of ballot papers a personal election address covering up to two sides of A4 paper, or A5 in the event of there being more than three candidates, printed by and at the expense of the Federal Party. Election address artwork in camera ready form must reach the Acting Returning Officer at an address and by a date to be notified.
 - (c) The published personal election address may be reproduced in whatever format is decided by the Returning Officer so long as the coverage provided in regulation 10(b) is met.
11. No material published or circulated under regulations 8, 9 or 10 shall defame by name or implication any other candidate and no candidate shall so defame any other candidate in the course of personal canvassing.
12. Any party publication whether in paper or electronic form shall give, as far as possible, equal coverage and a fair balance to all candidates.
13. The election shall be conducted by secret ballot and the single transferable vote. Counts shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of the Electoral Reform Society's publication 'How to conduct an election by the single transferable vote'. The election count may be scrutinised by the candidate, their agents and one other personal representative and shall be open to any party member, subject to capacity of the venue.
14. Each candidate and their agent shall complete and lodge with the Acting Returning Officer an election expenses return form. The form must have attached receipts or invoices for all expenditure and must be lodged with the Acting Returning Officer by midday on the 14th day after the closing date for return of ballot papers. The Acting Returning Officer will hold the expenses returns of each candidate on file and these may be examined by any party member. The expenses form shall also contain the necessary information to prove compliance with schedule 7 of the PPERA 2000.
15. At the Completion of the Election any candidate who needs to make a report to the Electoral Commission shall do so in consultation with the Party's PPERA Compliance Officer.
16. The Returning Officer shall have the power to disqualify before declaration of the result, or unseat if declared elected, any candidate who:
 - (a) has brought the party into disrepute during the campaign or where the Returning Officer has clear evidence (e.g. from bankruptcy or financial embarrassment) of this happening in the near future; or
 - (b) is found to be in breach of regulations 3, 7, 8, 11 or 14.
17. Any party member may lodge, in writing, a formal complaint of infringement of election regulations at any time up to 21 days after the declaration. The written complaint should be addressed to the Acting Returning Officer and specify in detail the nature of the infringement. The Returning Officer shall then decide, in full consultation with the Acting Returning Officer, whether there is sufficient evidence and grounds to uphold the complaint.
18. Appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer must be referred to the Federal Appeals Panel within 14 days of the decision. For the purposes of Appeals under these regulations the Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall not act as a member of the Federal Appeals Panel, and the other Panel members shall appoint one of their number as Acting Chair.
19. These regulations will be reviewed by the Federal Executive no later than six months after any Leadership Election.

Business motions

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FB4 Presidential election regulations

Federal Executive

Insert new regulation 4 and renumber accordingly:

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

In regulation 8, line 1, delete: 'The election ... £2,500' and insert : 'The Federal Executive shall agree a spending limit for election expenses, not including travel or subsistence expenses, when setting the timetable for the election'.

Renumber old regulation 9 as 9(a,) and in line 1, between the words 'produced' and 'for' insert: 'in paper or electronic form'.

Insert new regulation 9 (b):

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

In regulation 10, delete: 'ballot papers and election address' and all of 10 (a), and renumber 10 (b) and (c) as 9 (c) and (d).

In regulation 10(c), line 2, between 'the' and 'coverage', insert: 'minimum'.

Insert new regulation 9 (e):

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

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

In regulation 14, line 4, delete: '14th day after ... papers', and insert: '35th day after the declaration of the election result.'

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

The current Presidential elections regulations are as follows:

1. The Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall be the Returning Officer. The Chief Executive shall be Acting Returning Officer.
2. The electorate for the purpose of the election shall be those members with current membership of the Liberal Democrats on the closing date for nominations, including those members whose subscriptions were due not more than three months before the closing date.
3. The membership registers, locally and nationally, are confidential and will not be released for the purposes of

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the election.

4. After acquiring the necessary nominations for candidacy, each candidate may nominate an agent for his or her campaign. A candidate who fails to nominate an agent will be deemed his or her own agent.
5. Federal Party employees shall maintain strict neutrality from the opening date for declaration of candidacy. It is recommended that employees of state parties, SAOs and any other relevant employing bodies shall also maintain such neutrality.
6. Party Officers, acting in their capacity as officers at federal, state, regional and local level, are expected, as far as possible, to give equal opportunities and fair balance to all candidates.
7. The provision of food, drink or entertainment by or on behalf of the candidates, and any other form of treating, will not be allowed.
8. The election expenses shall be limited to £2,500 for each presidential candidate. No candidate, or his agent, shall exceed this limit in the production of publicity material and all other expenditures connected with the campaign. All donations above £200 must comply with the provisions of Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.
9. All publicity material produced for or on behalf of a candidate shall bear his or her agent's imprint including a full postal address. Any email messages sent out for or on behalf of a candidate for the purposes of publicising their candidacy shall also include a standard form of words provided by the Returning Officer specifying how the recipient of the message may opt out of future messages.
10. Ballot Papers and Election Address:
 - (a) Ballot papers shall be dispatched to all members within 14 days of the close of nominations.
 - (b) Each candidate shall be entitled to include in the mailing of ballot papers a personal election address covering up to two sides of A4 paper, or A5 in the event of there being more than three candidates, printed by and at the expense of the Federal Party. Election address artwork in camera ready form must reach the Acting Returning Officer at an address and by a date to be notified.
 - (c) The published personal election address may be reproduced in whatever format is decided by the Returning Officer so long as the coverage provided in regulation 10(b) is met.
11. No material published or circulated under regulations 8, 9 or 10 shall defame by name or implication any other candidate and no candidate shall so defame any other candidate in the course of personal canvassing.
12. Any party publication whether in paper or electronic form shall give, as far as possible, equal coverage and a fair balance to all candidates.
13. The election shall be conducted by secret ballot and the single transferable vote. Counts shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of the Electoral Reform Society's publication 'How to conduct an election by the single transferable vote'. The election count may be scrutinised by the candidate, their agents and one other personal representative and shall be open to any party member, subject to capacity of the venue.
14. Each candidate and their agent shall complete and lodge with the Acting Returning Officer an election expenses return form. The form must have attached receipts or invoices for all expenditure and must be lodged with the Acting Returning Officer by midday on the 14th day after the closing date for return of ballot papers. The Acting Returning Officer will hold the expenses returns of each candidate on file and these may be examined by any party member. The expenses form shall also containing the necessary information to prove compliance with schedule 7 of the PPERA 2000.
15. At the Completion of the Election any candidate who needs to make a report to the Electoral Commission shall do so in consultation with the Party's PPERA Compliance Officer.
16. The Returning Officer shall have the power to disqualify before declaration of the result, or unseat if declared elected, any candidate who:
 - (a) has brought the party into disrepute during the campaign or where the Returning Officer has clear evidence (e.g. from bankruptcy or financial embarrassment) of this happening in the near future; or
 - (b) is found to be in breach of regulations 3, 7, 8, 11 or 14.
17. Any party member may lodge, in writing, a formal complaint of infringement of election regulations at any time up to 21 days after the declaration. The written complaint should be addressed to the Acting Returning Officer and specify in detail the nature of the infringement. The Returning Officer shall then decide, in full consultation with the Acting Returning Officer, whether there is sufficient evidence and grounds to uphold the complaint.

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18. Appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer must be referred to the Federal Appeals Panel within 14 days of the decision. For the purposes of Appeals under these regulations the Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall not act as a member of the Federal Appeals Panel, and the other Panel members shall appoint one of their number as Acting Chair.
19. These regulations will be reviewed by the Federal Executive no later than six months after any Presidential Election.

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FB5 Specified Associated Organisation recognition *Federal Executive*

Conference notes that the Federal Executive has completed the review of SAOs required by clause 13.3 of the Constitution and reported its findings to Conference.

Conference agrees that:

1. As a result of this review the Federal Executive recommends that the following organisations have their status as SAOs renewed until 2010:
 - Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors
 - Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats
 - Liberal Democrat Agents & Organisers Association
 - Liberal Democrat Youth and Students
 - Parliamentary Candidates' Association
 - Women Liberal Democrats
2. As a result of the review the Federal Executive recommends that the status of the following organisations is not renewed and that they are removed from the list of SAOs in the Constitution:
 - Association of Liberal Democrat Trade Unions
 - Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists
 - DELGA

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FB6 Senior citizens at conference *Berwick-upon-Tweed*

Conference notes that some of the party's senior citizen members, although they do not qualify for the Pension Credit, live on only a few pence above the ceiling for qualification.

Conference believes that:

1. Senior citizens should be encouraged to attend conferences.
2. A special rate of registration for senior citizens would demonstrate our party's commitment to an inclusive society.

Constitutional amendments

Conference resolves that senior citizens be entitled to register for Federal Conference at 50% of the full rate.

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FC1 Campaigns Committee

English Liberal Democrats

In Article 8.2, before 'a Finance and Administration Committee ("FAC")' insert: '(1)' and in the penultimate paragraph after 'Federal Conference' insert:

; and

- (2) a Campaigns Committee, whose members shall serve for a term of two years, which will be responsible to the Federal Executive for publicity and broadcasting, campaigning and elections and shall consist of:
- (a) the Chair of the Campaigns Committee;
 - (b) the President;
 - (c) two representatives of each State elected by their internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the Campaigns Committee);
 - (e) the Federal Chief Executive and a representative of the staff employed by the Party at federal level or by the Parliamentary Parties elected by such staff (neither of whom shall be entitled to vote); and
 - (f) five persons elected by the Federal Executive (casual vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the standing orders of the Federal Executive).

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

In the final paragraph of 8.2 delete: 'publicity and broadcasting, campaigning and elections, and'

In Article 12 (Officers), add new 12.5 and renumber accordingly :

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

Amend 8.1 (ii) (b) to read: 'the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, the Treasurer and the Chair of the Campaigns Committee in accordance with Articles 12.4 to 12.6.'

The current Articles 8.1 and 8.2 are as follows:

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

...

(ii) non voting members:

...

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

...

Constitutional amendments

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

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

...

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

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Standing order amendments

FS1 Emergency motions

Federal Conference Committee

Option 1

At end of 4.5 b), add: 'or is, in the opinion of the Committee, too poorly drafted to provide a sensible basis for debate.'

Option 2

Delete all of 4.5 and insert: 'The Committee may include any emergency motion on the agenda. No amendment shall be taken to any motion selected under this Standing Order.' And in 4.6, delete first sentence.

The existing standing orders dealing with emergency motions are as follows:

4.5 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

- a) It is similar in effect to another motion that has been selected for debate or ballot.
- b) It is unclear as to its meaning or intent.
- c) It falls outside the definition of emergency motions.

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

4.6 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.5, must be placed either on the agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection by Conference. The Committee may hold separate ballots to select which of a range of emergency policy motions and which of a range of emergency business motions to debate. If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the Representatives attending Conference as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall decide how many motions shall be debated in the time available.

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FS2 Urgent issues

Federal Conference Committee

In Glossary of terms, under 'Full session', after 'debates', add: ', urgent issue discussions'.

Standing order amendments

In Glossary of terms, add:

Urgent issue discussion

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

In 1.1, 'What is on the agenda', insert: '(e) Urgent issue discussions.' and renumber.

In 1.3, 'Right to submit agenda items', add at end: '(e) Proposals for urgent issue discussions may be submitted by any voting member.'

In 1.5, 'The deadlines by which motions and amendments and questions to reports must be submitted', add at end: '(h) The closing date for proposals for urgent issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.'

In Section 4, 'Selection of Motions and Amendments for both the Preliminary and Final Agendas':

In 4.5 'Emergency Motions', insert: '(b) It is similar in effect to a subject chosen for an urgent issue discussion.' and renumber.

Insert new 4.8 and renumber:

4.8 Urgent issue discussions

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

In Section 9, 'Conduct of debate', insert new 9.4 and renumber:

9.4 Urgent issue discussions

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

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Consultative sessions

Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than full-scale Conference debates for Conference representatives and other Party members to participate in the Party's policy-making process. Each session examines a particular topic, and may hear contributions from invited outside speakers and Party members. The consultative sessions will take place on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning of Conference. It is intended that the background consultation papers for the sessions will be circulated with the Final Agenda.

It is currently planned to hold Consultative Sessions on the subjects of:

- Climate change.
- Crime in the community: prevention, justice and victims.
- Liberal Democrat crime policy: no soft options (organised by the Parliamentary Home Affairs Team).
- The POWER Report proposals.
- Tackling inequality and poverty and promoting opportunity.
- The Future of the Trident System.

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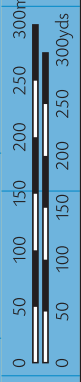
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Email: Matthew.Wherry@libdems.org.uk

Map of Brighton city centre



- Main Conference venues**
- 1 Brighton Centre
 - 2 Hilton Brighton Metropole
 - 3 Grand Hotel
 - 4 Holiday Inn Hotel
 - 5 Quality Hotel



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