

Agenda and Directory

Liberal Democrat Autumn Conference

15th - 20th September 2007

Brighton



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Introduction

By Duncan Brack

Welcome to the *Agenda and Directory* for the Liberal Democrat autumn 2007 Federal Conference.

This year we have rearranged the way in which we're organising conference information. This *Agenda and Directory* contains the details you need for what happens at conference in the Brighton Centre during the day – the agenda, including all the motions selected for debate, the exhibition listing, and general information; it also contains a number of feature articles.

The accompanying *Fringe Guide* contains the details you need for what happens outside the Brighton Centre, at lunchtime and in the evening – information on the huge range of fringe meetings, together with a map of their locations.

I hope you find this new way of arranging information helpful – let us know what you think on the feedback form at the end of conference.

And remember – September 12th is the deadline for amendments to topical motions, and for emergency motions, urgent issue nominations and questions to reports.

See you in Brighton!



Duncan Brack is Chair of Federal Conference Committee

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See the separate *Fringe Guide* for details of fringe meetings, pullout diary and a map of Brighton city centre.

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

Copies of this Agenda and Directory and other conference papers are available in electronic formats, including as pdf files. Email emma.harris@libdems.org.uk, telephone 020 7227 1350 or go to www.libdems.org.uk/conference.



The Federal Conference Committee is here to serve you!

If you need to find any of the members of the FCC throughout the week, you should be able easily to identify them by the larger white background photo pass holder with the turquoise FCC badge inside.

Here are the 2007 members of the Federal Conference Committee.



Duncan Brack, Chair,
directly elected



Ruth Polling, Vice
Chair Communications,
directly elected



Andrew Wiseman,
Vice Chair Finance,
English rep

Directly elected:



Robert Adamson



Jon Ball



Catherine Bearder



Sal Brinton



Dee Doocey



Gareth Epps



Sue Garden



Arnie Gibbons



Chris Maines



Justine McGuinness



James Gurling
FE rep



Tessa Munt
FE & FFAC rep



Jeremy Hargreaves
FPC rep



Geoff Payne
FPC rep



Debra Storr
Scottish rep



Ian Walton
Welsh Rep



Gordon Seekings
Staff rep



Chris Jennings,
Chief Steward,
co-opted

Ex officio:

Paul Burstow MP, Chief Whip.
Ed Davey MP, CCC Chair (co-opted).
Simon Hughes MP, Party President.
Chris Rennard, Chief Executive.

Moving forward

By **Menzies Campbell MP**

I am delighted to welcome you all to the 2007 Autumn Conference. This could prove a very important conference indeed. The next General Election could be a matter of months – or even weeks – away, and it is vital that we use this occasion to present our people and our policies.

We are well-placed to meet the challenge of that election, whenever it is called. Over the past few months we have seen a concerted effort by our rivals to return to the old politics – Labour versus the Conservatives – but we have proved that three-party politics is here to stay.

There has been no better indicator of our strength than our performance in the recent by-elections in Ealing Southall and Sedgefield. In both of those contests our determination and our vision ensured that we emerged as the principal challengers in two of Labour's safest seats, and David Cameron's Conservatives finished a derisory third in both.

My challenge to you is that you seize the chance to build on the momentum of our recent successes. Our party is unique in the degree to which party members set policy and direct campaigns.

This week we will take decisions on a wide range of policy matters: tax, the environment, poverty, and many others. These will form the foundation of our election platform. They are a clear demonstration of our determination to change British politics and break with the conservative consensus that we have witnessed in recent years.

After a decade in power Labour is vulnerable. Gordon Brown cannot disown a decade of decision-making in which he has enjoyed unparalleled input, and David Cameron cannot persuade his party to look forward rather than back.

The opportunity for our party to make progress is real. People are seeking a political alternative that is radical and progressive – and we are that alternative.

So please use this week as an opportunity to socialise, meet new people, and enjoy yourself: that is exactly what conference should be about, but please also take this chance to prepare for the challenge ahead.



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



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My challenge to you is that you seize the chance to build on the momentum of our recent successes.

Action Now

Come to Liverpool in 2008

By Warren Bradley

I'm delighted that conference will be coming to Liverpool, to the brand new Arena and Conference Centre Liverpool in March 2008 – European Capital of Culture Year.

Liverpool is a vibrant and eclectic city, with everything a conference-goer and city visitor could want.

It is a historic and architecturally beautiful city. As one of the world's most important World Heritage sites the Waterfront plays a key part in Liverpool's history as well as holding the key to its future.

During your stay at the conference I hope that you will make time to visit the rest of the city. Liverpool is enjoying a renaissance. After decades of neglect, investment in the city is at its best. You only have to look at the skyline full of cranes to appreciate the amount of regeneration that's under way.

Liverpool is about more than just the Albert Dock and the Beatles. From Italian, Japanese and Russian to Greek, Vietnamese and Argentinean, there is a restaurant for every palate. If you're a culture vulture Liverpool is definitely the place to be in 2008. You can enjoy the special exhibitions at the Tate and the Walker gallery, soak up the history of the newly restored St George's Hall or take some time to visit the various pieces of public art like Richard Wilson's 'Turning Over the Place'.

Join us to see the very best that Liverpool has to offer, whether it's a ferry across the Mersey or a trip around

Cains Brewery – all in the name of research, of course!

The ACC Liverpool, where you will no doubt be spending a lot of your time, is a brand new and much-needed facility for the city. The centre opens in January 2008, so you will be amongst the first to see what Liverpool has to offer as a conference destination.

The Conference Centre will be *the* greenest of its kind in Europe. With wind turbines and solar panels it will make the most of its position on the banks of the Mersey. What better location for a Lib Dem conference?

2008 will be a busy year, with thousands of visitors expected to visit us from across the UK and across the globe, to enjoy the city's celebrations. Liverpool is popular for weekend trips, *so it is essential that you book your accommodation early* to ensure that you are in the best possible location to enjoy the conference and to make the most of your visit. You can already book accommodation via the Party website.

Liverpool has a good Liberal tradition. It is, after all, the home town of the likes of Chris Rennard, Ann McTegart, Sarah Morris and Dr Evan Harris MP. And I look forward to formally welcoming them back home.

I hope that you will take this opportunity to visit us, and that you will tell your friends what a fabulous time you've had and of course visit us again.

I look forward to welcoming you to Liverpool and to my home town. 🌿



Warren Bradley is Leader of Liverpool City Council

Join us to see the very best that Liverpool has to offer.

The Environment

Carbon markets are not the answer

By Tom Burke

We face a shared dilemma. All of us need to secure reliable access to energy for our economies to grow. Without that growth we cannot maintain social cohesion and political stability.

For China, India and the United States, as well as Europe, that means using more fossil fuels, especially coal. If we do so with present technologies then it is certain the climate will change, threatening the very social cohesion and political stability we are burning the fossil fuels to maintain.

The point of a dilemma is that neither of the choices is attractive. We do not want to give up either the use of fossil fuels or a stable climate. The problem with a dilemma is that you will be gored by both of its horns if you take too long to decide what to do.

Conventional economic thinking says: get the price of carbon right, internalise the externality, and all will be well. Technology will be deployed, behaviour will be changed, emissions will be reduced, even eliminated, and this discomfiting dilemma will disappear in a puff of rhetorical smoke and oratorical mirrors.

Climate change is a problem like no other humanity has ever faced. A stable climate is not simply another good thing to have if we can get it. Without it we cannot have any of the other good things we need or desire. Keeping the climate stable is an imperative, not an option.

Climate change is different in other ways. It will adversely affect the security and prosperity of literally every single person on the planet. More importantly, climate change has a ticking clock – the two parts per million increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere each year. And that clock is ticking faster.

There is no rewind button on the climate. We cannot go back and correct mistakes. Once the extra carbon is in the atmosphere we must live, or die, with whatever climate it produces. This means we cannot afford policy failure.

Securing a stable climate means making the global energy system carbon-neutral by the middle of the century. The earth's natural buffers absorb some of our carbon emissions. But that buffering capacity is all taken up by agriculture, deforestation and land-use changes. >



Tom Burke is a Visiting Professor at Imperial and University Colleges, London and a Co-Founder of E3G, Third Generation Environmentalism. He fought Surbiton in the 1987 election.

Liverpool 2008

We are delighted to be heading to Liverpool for spring conference 2008!

Liverpool is the capital of culture for 2008 and the Liberal Democrats are the first political party to hold a conference in the new venue there. We are looking forward to an exciting weekend in March.

As an urban destination, organising reasonably priced accommodation presents a bit of a challenge. By working with our accommodation partners, we have secured a good

allocation of rooms for representatives, but the number of budget rooms in walking distance of the venue is limited.

The link to the reservation services is on our website www.libdems.org.uk/conference. And our accommodation partners will be in the exhibition at Brighton ready to take your bookings.

Take the opportunity to get the best choice of places to stay by getting your booking in nice and early!



Carbon markets are not the answer continued

That is why stabilising carbon concentrations, and thus temperatures, means all our electricity generation and transport must be emission-free in just over forty years. We can do this by improving energy efficiency, using zero-carbon coal, wind and solar and other renewables for electricity and hybrids and eventually hydrogen for transport.

Getting there from here means making very rapid step changes in technology. At best, a carbon price will make a difference at the margins. Price signals are helpful if you are making incremental decisions. However, incremental decisions will not stabilise the climate in the time available.

Economic models are useful tools to help you think about the world. They are very dangerous alternatives to doing that thinking. Markets work much better in economic models than they do in the real world. In the models, investors behave as you assume they will. In the real world, they are much more inventive. Generally, they try hard to find new ways to carry on doing exactly what they were doing before.

Nothing illustrates the incoherence in market-distorted thinking about climate change better than the deep contradiction in this government's policy.

Such is its belief in the power of markets that in the same Energy White Paper we are told that we must liberalise energy markets as quickly as possible to drive energy prices down for competitiveness reasons, and that we must drive the price of carbon up aggressively for climate reasons.

Nowhere are we told how the left hand pushing energy prices down at the same time as the right hand is pushing them up leads you to anywhere other than the land of the deeply confused.

The widely held belief that building carbon markets is the best policy for tackling climate change is the triumph – and tragedy – of theory. Of course they have a role to play but it is currently much smaller than is believed and much too small to solve the problem.

In practice, three other policy tools are much more important and reliable. The first is to set the right technical standards to drive the technology deployments we need. The European Union has already shown the way by beginning the legislative process to require all fossil-fuelled electricity generation to be carbon-neutral by 2020.

The second is to structure the regulation of energy markets so as to allow utilities to pass through the additional capital costs of making the low-carbon transition to the whole of the rate base. This would spread the costs so thinly as to make them much more bearable than the oil price rise we have absorbed with little difficulty.

The third is to spend public money on buying the public good of a stable climate by paying to accelerate the rate at which low-carbon technologies are deployed, thus driving down their costs more rapidly than markets alone could ever accomplish. 🌿



Climate change is a problem like no other humanity has ever faced. Keeping the climate stable is an imperative not an option.

The Environment

Blueprint for a low-carbon economy

By Chris Huhne MP

This week in Brighton we will debate the Party's flagship new climate change plans. These are the most comprehensive proposals to tackle climate change ever put forward by any party.

Our radical ideas will build on the green-tax switch, shifting the burden of taxation away from people towards carbon emissions. We want fairer, greener taxes to tackle climate change, not higher taxes.

We have plans to double investment in our rail system to make it fit for the twenty-first century – and we have a

way to pay for it through road freight tolling that will encourage a shift from road to rail.

Our plans will cut energy waste in our homes, where we spend £385 a year more on energy than the average Swedish home despite their harder winters. We may as well burn £50 notes.

We have developed a proposal to reduce carbon emissions from electricity by 94% by 2050. We will support wave, wind, tidal and solar power. We reject the need for new nuclear power stations, instead using carbon capture and storage as a safe staging post to a renewable future.



Chris Huhne is MP for Eastleigh and Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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Blueprint for a low-carbon economy continued

The floods that hit many parts of Britain earlier this summer were a potent warning of the extreme weather events that threaten us under climate change. We really can have years of drought – followed by months of floods.

Environmental issues are no longer the preserve of concerned individuals or scientists. Even career politicians like Australia's John Howard or David Cameron have woken up to the importance of being seen to be green.

Yet while the Conservatives may talk green, their record is different. The Scottish Tories scored nought out of ten for their environmental record this year, according to Friends of the Earth. (We scored eight out of ten, and will try harder!) When FoE and Greenpeace looked at the European Parliament voting record of all European parties, the British Conservatives were the dirtiest party not just in the UK, but in the whole of Europe.

As for Labour, Gordon Brown does not do 'green'. He allowed green taxes to fall year on year from 3.6% of GDP in 2000 to 2.9% in 2005. Carbon emissions are up. The government cut flood defence spending, doing a U-turn only after June's floods. Labour refuses to give the Climate Change Bill real teeth with annual targets.

It is the Liberal Democrats who deliver for the environment, pioneering green policies across the country. Our councils are almost four times as likely to be 'green leaders' than Conservative councils, and twice as likely as Labour councils, according to *The Guardian*.

Liberal Democrat councils are putting our principles into practice, pushing up recycling rates and supporting greener, cleaner and safer communities.

Climate change can only be tackled if government works together with individuals, NGOs and businesses to create change. That is why on Wednesday we will be discussing motions to tackle excess packaging and to ensure that all government and large and medium-sized organisations report annually on their carbon emissions and environmental impact.

On Wednesday afternoon, a panel of experts will discuss climate change, and on Thursday we will debate our proposals for curbing the impact and risks of flooding.

While the other politicians talk hot air about the environment, I am proud that the Liberal Democrats get on with it. We need to tax pollution, not people. We need action on warm homes and low carbon transport, not warm words.

Join us on Monday and debate our radical blueprint for a low carbon economy. The time for rhetoric on climate change has passed. It is the Liberal Democrats who have the track-record, ideas and ambition to deliver. 🦋

These are the most comprehensive proposals to tackle climate change ever put forward by any party.



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-12.15	Europe; Further and Higher Education; Housing; Private Finance Initiative		09.40	F24 <i>Reducing the Burden</i> (Tax Reform Policy Paper)
14.20	F1 Formal Opening of the Federal Conference by Lord Dholakia	11	11.10	F25 Speech: Norman Lamb MP
	F2 Report: Federal Conference Committee	11	11.30	F26 Immigration in the 21st Century
	F3 Report: Federal Policy Committee	11	14.20	F27 Urgent Issue
14.50	F4 Academic Boycott of Israel	11	14.50	F28 Speech: Michael Moore MP
15.20	F5 Q&A Session on Second Chances in Education and Training	13	15.10	F29 <i>Freedom from Poverty, Opportunity for All</i> (Poverty and Inequality Policy Paper)
16.05	F6 <i>The Power to be Different</i> (Local and Regional Governance Policy Paper)	13	16.40	F30 Citizenship and Identity
17.05	F7 Report: Federal Executive	15	Wednesday 19th September	
	F8 Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	15	09.00	F31 Taking Action to Tackle Excess Packaging
	F9 Federal Appeals Panel	15	09.30	F32 Presentation: Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
Monday 17th September			09.50	F33 <i>For the People, By the People</i> (Better Governance Policy Paper)
09.00	F10 Dentistry	16	11.10	F34 Speech: David Laws MP
09.35	F11 Speech: Dr Vincent Cable MP	17	11.30	F35 Emergency Motion
09.55	F12 <i>Zero-Carbon Britain – Taking a Global Lead</i> (Climate Change Policy Paper)	17	12.00	F36 Party Awards
11.25	F13 Women in Prison	20		F37 Speech: Simon Hughes MP
11.55	F14 Presentation: Steve Webb MP	21	14.20	F38 Accounting for the Environment
14.20	F15 Tourism	21	14.50	F39 Speech by Lynne Featherstone MP
14.50	F16 Speech: José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission	23	15.10	F40 Q&A Session on Climate Change
15.15	F17 Q&A Session: Menzies Campbell MP	23	16.10	F41 Speech: Susan Kramer MP
16.00	F18 Action on Bullying	23	16.30	F42 Israel and the Palestinian Territories
16.30	F19 Speech: Danny Alexander MP and Julia Goldsworthy MP	25	17.30	F43 Urgent Issue
16.50	F20 Report: Federal Finance and Administration Committee	25	Thursday 20th September	
	F21 Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy	25	09.00	F44 Emergency Motion
17.15	F22 Reports: Parliamentary Parties	26	09.35	F45 Managing the Impact and Risk of Flooding
			10.00	F46 Presentation: Stockport Lib Dems
			10.45	F47 The Surveillance Society
			11.45	F48 Speech: Menzies Campbell MP

Sunday 16th

10.00 Consultative Sessions -12.15

Europe

Charlotte Room
The Grand Hotel

Chair: Sir Colin Budd
Rapporteur: Laura Richards-Gray

Further and Higher Education

Empress Room
The Grand Hotel

Chair: Stephen Williams MP
Rapporteur: Ruthe Isden

Housing

Alexandra Room
The Grand Hotel

Chair: Andrew Stunell MP
Rapporteur: Mark Norris

Private Finance Initiative

Albert Room
The Grand Hotel

Chair: Dr Vincent Cable MP
Rapporteur: Will de Peyer

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

The sessions will be organised by the relevant Policy Working Group or Parliamentary Team. Where appropriate, the conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final policy papers. Consultative papers for the Europe and Further and Higher Education sessions are included with the Final Agenda mailing – papers for the other two sessions will be made available at Brighton.

Brighton 2007 Members' training programme

Free training for party members

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

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

Full details of the training courses are listed in the training brochure available online at www.libdems.org.uk/conference



The Environment

14.20 Party Business

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

F1 Formal Opening of the Federal Conference by Lord Dholakia

F2 Report of the Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

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

F3 Report of the Federal Policy Committee

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

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

14.50 Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball
Aide: Geoff Payne

F4 Academic Boycott of Israel

Finchley & Golders Green

Mover: Monroe Palmer
Summation: Jonathan Davies

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

Sunday 16th

- 8 iii) It is wrong to boycott individuals on account of their nationality, whatever policies their
9 country's government pursues.
- 10 iv) Israeli academics can no more be held accountable for Israeli government policy than British
11 academics can be held accountable for British government policy.
- 12 v) It is perverse for academics to boycott only Israel, if other countries with far worse records of
13 academic freedom are not also to be boycotted.
- 14 vi) Israeli universities are centres of free debate and discussion including Jews, Christians and
15 Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians.
- 16 vii) A British academic boycott does nothing to bring a negotiated solution to the problems of
17 Israel and Palestine closer, and is in fact actively counter-productive, as it discourages dialogue
18 between the very people who should most be talking.
- 19 Conference further notes that the boycott has been condemned by the Palestinian president of Al
20 Quds University in East Jerusalem, Sari Nusseibeh, in a joint statement with Menachem Magidor, the
21 Israeli president of the Hebrew University in West Jerusalem.
- 22 Conference therefore:
- 23 1. Condemns the UCU's decision to call for an academic boycott of Israel.
- 24 2. Urges the UCU's general secretary, Sally Hunt, to fulfil her manifesto pledge to put any pro-
25 boycott resolution to a referendum of the union's full membership.
- 26 3. Urges all UCU members to vote to reject the boycott proposal.
- 27 4. Urges academics to continue to engage in the fullest possible dialogue with their Israeli and
28 Palestinian counterparts.
- 29 5. Condemns academic boycotts in general.

Applicability: Federal.

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

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

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

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

15.20 Party Business

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

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

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

16.05 Policy Motion

Chair: Arnie Gibbons
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

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

Federal Policy Committee

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

Summation: Judith Jolly (Chair, Policy Working Group)

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

5 Conference believes that:

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

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

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

Sunday 16th

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

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

- 28 1. A new relationship between central and local government based on an agreement, or
29 covenant, incorporating the provisions of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and
30 which scraps nationally-set targets for local government.
- 31 2. The greater involvement of residents in local decision-making and in the running of local
32 services by:
- 33 a) The devolution of greater powers to parish, town and community councils so they are
34 making decisions about local services, rather than bureaucrats in Whitehall.
35 b) The creation of a single principal tier of local government across the country, subject to
36 community approval.
37 c) The establishment of local governing boards to run local services, made up of people who
38 use local services, working with their councils to make decisions over the management of
39 those services.
40 d) The introduction of a fair voting system for local elections, using the single transferable
41 vote.
- 42 3. Setting councils free by giving them greater financial independence and autonomy, to be
43 achieved by increasing the amount of money councils spend which is raised locally; in the
44 longer term 75% (rather than the current 25%) of total revenue should be raised locally.
- 45 4. Allowing the future shape and scope of unelected quangos to be determined by elected local
46 authorities, who should have the power to scrap quangos, change quangos' remits, and reduce
47 or transfer their powers and functions.
- 48 5. The promotion of stronger and better local leadership by removing the requirement
49 on councils to have an executive-scrutiny split in decision-making, and by restoring the
50 requirement to hold a referendum before creating the post of directly-elected mayor.
- 51 6. Reducing the barriers that dissuade people from standing as councillors to encourage more
52 good-quality local representatives.
- 53 7. The establishment of directly-elected regional government in those regions that want it,
54 taking powers and functions from central government; outside those areas the existing
55 regional chambers should be reformed, making them more democratic and accountable to
56 the people they serve.

Applicability: England.

Sunday 16th

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

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See under 'speaking at conference' on pages 67 and 68.

17.05 Party Business

Chair: Geoff Payne
Aide: Cllr Debra Storr

F7 Federal Executive Report

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

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

F8 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance

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

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

F9 Federal Appeals Panel

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

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

18.00 Close of Session

Monday 17th

09.00 Policy Motion

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

F10 Dentistry

North Norfolk

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

Summation: To be announced

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

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

Applicability: England.

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

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

09.35 Party Business

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

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

09.55 Policy Motion

Chair: Baroness Barker
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

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

Federal Policy Committee

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

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

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

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

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

15 Conference in particular welcomes specific proposals to:

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

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

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

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

36 3. Bring forward environmentally sustainable technologies by:

- 37 a) Setting a target for 30 per cent of the UK's electricity to come from clean, non-carbon
38 emitting sources by 2020, rising to 100 per cent by 2050, providing new incentives for
39 renewable energy sources and small-scale micro-generation through guaranteed prices
40 ('feed-in tariffs').
41 b) Providing new incentives for renewable heat technologies.
42 c) Promoting transitional technologies such as carbon capture and storage.
43 d) Rejecting a new generation of nuclear power stations.
44 e) Working to introduce mandatory UK/EU average vehicle emissions targets of 120g
45 CO₂ /km by 2015, 95g/km by 2020, and zero carbon for all new cars by 2040.
46 f) Increasing the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation to require at least 10 per cent of all
47 fuel sold on UK forecourts to come from renewable sources by 2015.

48 4. Encourage behavioural changes by:

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

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

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

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See under 'speaking at conference' on pages 67 and 68.

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

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

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11.25 Policy Motion

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

F13 Women in Prison

Women Liberal Democrats

Mover: Debbie Enever
Summation: Anne-Marie Bunting

1 Conference notes with concern that:

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

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

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

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

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Applicability: England.

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

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

11.55 Party Business

Chair: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Tessa Munt

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

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

12.40 Lunch

14.20 Policy Motion

Chair: Iain Smith MSP
Aide: Gareth Epps

F15 Tourism

Ten conference representatives

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

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

1 Conference notes:

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

8 Conference regrets:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 3. Improving the quality of tourism by:

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

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

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

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

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

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14.50 Party Business

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

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

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

15.15 Party Business

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

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

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

16.00 Policy Motion

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

F18 Action on Bullying

Ten conference representatives

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

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

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

Applicability: England.

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

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

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

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

16.30 Party Business

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

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

16.50 Party Business

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

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

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

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

F21 **Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy**

Federal Executive

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

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

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16 Conference resolves that:

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

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

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

Applicability: Federal.

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

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

17.15 Party Business

Chair: Jane Smithard
Aide: Arnie Gibbons

F22 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats

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

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

18.00 Close of Session

09.00 Policy Motion

Chair: Catherine Bearder

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

F23 Making Planning Local, Rewarding Community Housing

Ten conference representatives

Mover: To be announced

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Applicability: England.

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

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

09.40 Policy Motion

Chair: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Justine McGuinness

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

Federal Policy Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See under ‘speaking at conference’ on pages 67 and 68.

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11.10 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Sarah Boad
Aide: Catherine Bearder

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

11.30 Policy Motion

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

F26 Immigration in the 21st Century

Ten conference representatives

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

- 1 Conference believes that:
- 2 i) Migration is a worldwide phenomenon that has always been part of human history, and
3 immigration to Britain has been of enormous benefit to the economy and to society.
- 4 ii) The benefits of a liberal immigration policy can only be secured if the effort is made to plan for
5 the impact and consequences of that policy.
- 6 iii) A practical liberal approach to immigration should therefore focus on:
- 7 a) Creating a system that works: efficient, fair and effective.
8 b) Planning for the effects of managed inward migration.
9 c) Promoting integration as well as immigration.
- 10 iv) Asylum policy is based on UK obligations under international conventions, and should be
11 considered separately from policy on immigration.
- 12 Conference notes:
- 13 A) The dramatic increase in global migration over the last 20 years, with 191 million people now
14 living in a country other than the one in which they were born.
15 B) That 7.5% of the British population were born abroad, and that net immigration has been
16 rising since the mid-1990s to reach 185,000 in 2005, the equivalent of 500 more people a day.
17 C) That over 600,000 workers from the European Union accession states have travelled to the UK
18 for work, and many have stayed.
19 D) That 5.5 million British nationals live overseas permanently, equivalent to 9.2 per cent of the
20 UK's population.
21 E) That 32.3 million overseas visitors came to Britain in the year to April 2007, twice as many as
22 20 years ago, and that there are around 300,000 international students at UK institutions who
23 contribute around £3.6bn to the economy.

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

30 Conference calls for:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12.40 Lunch

14.20 Party Business

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

F27 Urgent Issue

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

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

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

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

14.50 Party Business

Chair: Gary Lawson
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

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

15.10 Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Alan Sherwell
Aide: Tessa Munt

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

Federal Policy Committee

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

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

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

40 3. Proposals to tackle rural poverty including:

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

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

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

either option A:

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

or option B:

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

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

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

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

Amendment One

Women Liberal Democrats

Mover: Lorely Burt MP

Summation: To be announced

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

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

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

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

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See under 'speaking at conference' on pages 67 and 68.

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16.40 Party Business

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

F30 Citizenship and Identity

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

Panellists will include:

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

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

18.00 Close of Session

Stewarding at conference



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

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

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

09.00 Policy Motion

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

F31 Taking Action to Tackle Excess Packaging

10 conference representatives and East Dunbartonshire

Mover: Jo Swinson MP

Summation: Jane Brophy

1 Conference notes that:

2 i) Total domestic waste produced in Britain has increased 21% since 1997, to over 26 million
3 tonnes.

4 ii) Household recycling in the UK has increased from 6% to 23%, but this has only managed to
5 keep pace with the total increase.

6 iii) A large proportion of this waste, around 5 million tonnes, is made up of packaging.

7 iv) Packaging accounts for around 17% of the average household food budget.

8 v) A Liberal Democrat survey of UK supermarkets found that more than 17 billion plastic bags are
9 given away each year.

10 vi) The Government has failed to meet the targets for packaging reduction set by EU Directive
11 94/62/EC, adopted in the UK through the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging
12 Waste) Regulations 1997.

13 vii) DEFRA's current policy of issuing Packaging Waste Recovery Notes (PRNs) to producers, to
14 show compliance with recycling regulations, has failed to halt rising levels of packaging.

15 viii) The Government's Waste Strategy for England, published in May 2007, falls short of presenting
16 effective proposals to tackle excess packaging, particularly over enforcement of current
17 Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations.

18 Conference notes with concern the need to reduce excess packaging, and welcomes the campaigns
19 of the Women's Institute and *The Independent* newspaper which have illustrated the broad public
20 consensus that exists over the need to take action.

21 Conference recognises that:

22 a) Current Government policies fail to address with sufficient rigour the need to cut the amount
23 of packaging used by both suppliers and sales outlets, including supermarkets.

24 b) The current Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations do not provide an effective basis
25 for Trading Standards Offices to pursue legal proceedings in cases of excessive packaging.

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- 26 c) The Courtauld Commitments to reduce excess packaging made by 92% of the UK grocery
27 sector are ineffective, due to their voluntary nature and also because of the lack of a protocol
28 for reporting progress on meeting the targets.
- 29 d) Actions taken to date by government and supermarkets have failed to achieve significant
30 levels of reduction in disposable plastic bag use.
- 31 Conference therefore calls for:
- 32 1. New legislation requiring supermarkets over 250 m² in size to provide waste points in store,
33 allowing customers to remove and deposit unwanted packaging before leaving the store.
- 34 2. Enforcement of excess packaging regulations by Trading Standards Offices to be improved
35 through amendments to strengthen the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations.
- 36 3. The creation of a new national body with powers of prosecution to tackle large-scale producers
37 of excess packaging in conjunction with local Trading Standards Offices.
- 38 4. Government action to secure commitments from supermarkets to participate in a deposit
39 scheme for plastic carrier bags, charging consumers for bags and refunding them when bags
40 are returned.
- 41 5. Encouragement to community initiatives such as the voluntary moratorium on plastic bags by
42 local retailers in the town of Modbury and other schemes to improve their local environment.
- 43 6. The introduction of binding packaging reduction targets to be met by producers and retailers,
44 in place of the current voluntary Courtauld Commitments.
- 45 7. Effective fiscal incentives to reduce excessive packaging and disposable products, introduced
46 as part of the Liberal Democrat Environmental Incentive Programme.

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

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

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

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

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

09.30 Party Business

Chair: Baroness Hamwee
Aide: Justine McGuinness

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F32 Presentation by the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

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

09.50 Policy Motion

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

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

Federal Policy Committee

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

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

1 Conference regrets:

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

6 Conference notes:

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

17 Conference believes that:

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

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

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

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

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

Applicability: Federal.

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

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See under 'speaking at conference' on pages 67 and 68

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

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

11.10 Party Business

Chair: Tessa Munt
Aide: Cllr James Gurling

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

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11.30 Policy Motion

Chair: Gareth Epps
Aide: Cllr Debra Storr

F35 Emergency Motion

The deadline for emergency motions is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 64. Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet.

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

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

12.00 Party Business

Chair: Lynne Featherstone MP
Aide: Arnie Gibbons

F36 Party Awards

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

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

12.40 Lunch

14.20 Policy Motion

Chair: Chris Gurney
Aide: Gareth Epps

F38 Accounting for the Environment

Solihull & Meriden

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

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1 Conference notes that:

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

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

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

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

13 Conference believes that:

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

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

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

21 Conference proposes that:

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

- 24 a) Level of carbon emissions for current and the prior year, with commentary.
25 b) Use of raw materials and sustainable sourcing.
26 c) Environmental policy, including recycling.

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

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

Applicability: Federal.

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

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

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

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

14.50 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball
Aide: Gareth Epps

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

15.10 Party Business

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

F40 Question and Answer Session on Climate Change

Panellists will include:

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

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

16.10 Party Business

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

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

16.30 Policy Motion

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

Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F42 Israel and the Palestinian Territories

10 conference representatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Applicability: Federal.

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

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

Wednesday 19th

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

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

17.30 Party Business

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

F43 Urgent Issue

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

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

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

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

18.00 Close of Session

Conference timetable 2008

Spring Conference: Friday 7th – Sunday 9th March

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

Autumn Conference: Saturday 13th – Thursday 18th September

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

Thursday 20th

09.00 Policy Motion

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

F44 Emergency Motion

The deadline for emergency motions is 12.00, Wednesday 12th September, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 64. Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet.

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

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

09.35 Policy Motion

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

F45 Managing the Impact and Risk of Flooding

Ten conference representatives and Huntingdon

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

Summation: Ronald Heinrich

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

Thursday 20th

19 Conference notes that:

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

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

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

43 Conference therefore calls for:

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

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

Applicability: England.

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

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

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

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

10.00 Party Business

Chair: Tessa Munt
Aide: Justine McGuinness

F46 Presentation by the Liberal Democrat Group on Stockport Borough Council

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

10.45 Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr James Gurling
Aide: Arnie Gibbons

F47 The Surveillance Society

14 conference representatives

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

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

1 Conference notes:

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

25 Conference believes that:

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

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40 Conference therefore calls for:

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

Amendment One

Streatham

Mover: Cllr Roger Giess

Summation: Chris Nicholson

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

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

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

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

Amendment Two

Edinburgh South

Mover: Fred Mackintosh

Summation: To be announced

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11.45 Party Business

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

Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

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

12.45 Close of Conference (approx)

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Climate Clinic: visit us on the East Landing to learn about easy steps you can take to be more energy-efficient. See our listing in the **directory of exhibitors** on page 56. Attend our fringe events in The Grand, and Quality Hotels and The Friends Meeting House during conference week.



The Health Hotel  aims to put health at the top of the Party Conference agenda by hosting a three-day schedule of health debates, receptions, sporting events and a Health Zone offering free health tests and healthy giveaways. Your Health Hotel programme should be attached to the inside front cover of the **Fringe Guide**.

The Independent newspaper's mission, to take the broader view, remains as it stood when the paper launched in 1986; beholden to no one political party and economically and socially liberal.



The **Local Government Association** has its exhibition /workshop in the Renaissance Foyer of the Thistle Hotel, in conjunction with fringe events in the Thistle and Quality hotels. LGA Liberal Democrat Group will be on stand 136 in the Hewison Hall of the Brighton Centre.



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To find out more about ATL's campaign for curriculum change, come and meet us on stand 180 in the Hewison Hall, and test your own skills to win a fantastic prize!

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www.atl.org.uk
Association of Teachers and Lecturers



The Environment

The exhibition

The exhibition is located in the Brighton Centre, in the **Entrance Hall** and **Rainbow Room** on the ground floor and the **Hewison Hall** and **landings** on the first floor (see plan on **page 61**).

Exhibition opening times:

Sunday	16th September	11.00 – 17.30
Monday	17th September	08.30 – 18.30
Tuesday	18th September	08.30 – 18.30
Wednesday	19th September	08.30 – 18.30
Thursday	20th September	08.30 – 13.30

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Directory of exhibitors

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We support Liberal Democrat agents and organisers with training and information services. We publish the popular Agents Manual. Accreditation after our training helps agents demonstrate their status within the Party.

Stand 64

ALDE / LDEPP

Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament The Alliance of Liberal and Democrats for Europe. The Liberal Democrat European Parliamentary Party is a part of ALDE, the Parliament's third largest grouping.



Stand P136

ALDES – Engineers & Scientists

ALDES is building a network of engineers, scientists and medics to support the Party's policy making in technical matters and ensure the voice of engineers and scientists is heard.



Stand P148

ALTER

Liberal Democrats for Land Value Taxation and Economic Reform.



Stand 174

Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and IDEa

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Stand P12

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Stand 162/164

BBC

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Directory of exhibitors

Stand 160

British Humanist Association

The British Humanist Association is the national charity supporting and representing non-religious people seeking to live good lives based on reason, experience and shared human values.



Stand PS 32

The British Library

Leaf through Da Vinci's notebooks, Mozart's musical diary and the local treasures that won our public libraries competition. The British Library is displaying 'virtual texts' using turning-the-pages technology.



Stand 156

The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection

The BUAV vision is to create a world where nobody wants or believes we need to experiment on animals. Why not visit our new cruelty-free website at www.gocrueltyfree.org?



Stand PS 34

Campaign for Crossrail

The Campaign for Crossrail's supporters include business; CBI; IOD; London First; London Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Trade Unions; Greater London Authority; Transport for London; London Boroughs and the City.



Stand P130

Campaign for Gender Balance

For everyone who wants to see more Liberal Democrat women in Parliament. Thinking of standing? Or can you help women gain the skills they need? Come and let us know!



Stand P76

CentreForum

The CentreForum is an independent, free-thinking forum for new ideas and progressive debate.



Stand P88

Chard Group (1992)

Interesting literature; quiz; amusing gimmicks to try ... and a meeting place.

Stand 152

Citizens Advice

The Citizens Advice service is a network of charities that helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing information and advice and by influencing policymakers. Information and advice: www.adviceguide.org.uk. Volunteer hotline: 08451 264 264.



East Landing

Climate Clinic Sustainable Lifestyle Exhibition

Visit us on the East Landing to learn about easy steps you can take to be more energy-efficient (Energy Saving Trust); understand the science of climate change and get advice from the science experts (MET Office); ask an architect – get advice from some of Britain's best green architects on creating new, environmentally friendly buildings or improving the energy performance of existing buildings (RNIB).



Stand 154

Counsel and Care

A national charity getting the best care and support for older people, their families and carers. Provides advice, information, financial services and funding. www.counselandcare.org.uk 0845 300 7585.



Stand 166

Countryside Alliance

The Countryside Alliance works for everyone who loves the countryside. Through campaigning, lobbying, publicity and education, we influence legislation and public policy which impacts on the countryside and rural people.



Stand P139

DAGGER

Liberal Democrats Action Group for Gaining Electoral Reform in multi-member constituencies by means of the single transferable vote.

Stand P128

DELGA

The party organisation committed to promoting the policies of the party to gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people, and to ensure that the party's policies address their needs.

Stand 172

Digital UK

Digital TV Switchover will start this October in Whitehaven, Cumbria and continue across the UK, region by region, until 2012. Digital UK is the independent, not-for-profit company set up in April 2005 to implement this Government policy. We are responsible for co-ordinating the programme and communicating with the public. Please come to our stand to find out more. David.Mortimer@digitaluk.co.uk; Tel 08450 724025 (office); 08456 50 50 50 (call centre).

Directory of Exhibitors continued

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Stand PS22

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Stand 84

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Stand P86

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Stand 182

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GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY



Stand P94

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Stand 60

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Stand 146

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Stand PS4

The Independent

The Independent newspaper's mission, to take the broader view, remains as it stood when the paper launched in 1986; beholden to no one political party and economically and socially liberal.



Stand 136

LGA (Lib Dem Group)

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Stand P134

Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

Open to Liberal Democrats of all denominations. We hold fringe meetings and services during Party Conferences, attend Regional Conferences and publish a quarterly newsletter. Meet us at our stand.



Stand P104

Liberal Democrat Christmas Draw

Visit us at stand 32 to see how we can help you pay for those extra campaign tools.



Stand P112

Liberal Democrat Disability Association

Come and see how we can help you campaign on disability issues. Come and join us and spread the word on disability and the issues facing people with disabilities.

Stand P147

Liberal Democrat Education Association

Publications and information available. Staff will be on hand to answer questions on Liberal Democrat education issues.

Directory of Exhibitors continued

Stand P74

Liberal Democrat European Group

Budget rebate. CAP Reform. MEPs. Constitution. We have the briefings and the campaign materials: everything you need to know about Europe and how to campaign on it. www.lddeg.org

Stand P145

Liberal Democrat Forum for the Countryside

The LDFC is dedicated to the countryside and its traditional way of life now being threatened by climate change, globalisation and urban domination – visit stand 33.

Stand P102

Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel

All welcome to visit our stand and our fringe meeting in the Thistle Hotel on Tuesday 18 September 6.15pm.

Stand P106

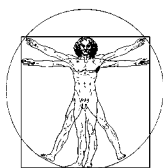
Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine

LDFP advocates a peace settlement for Israel and Palestine that is in line with international and humanitarian law. Learn more at our stand. www.ldfp.eu Fringe meeting: Monday 6.15pm, Old Ship Hotel.

Stand 148

Liberal Democrat History Group

We promote the discussion and research of historical topics relating to The Liberal Democrats and its predecessors. Subscribe to the *Journal of Liberal History*, buy the *Dictionary of Liberal Thought*, vote for the greatest British Liberal ever! www.liberalhistory.org.uk



Stand P132

Liberal Democrat Humanist & Secularist Group

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Stand P14

Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association

Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association is the link between the Party and those in, or interested in, the justice system and justice for all. New members welcome. www.libdemlawyers.org.uk

Stand P114

Liberal Democrat Youth and Students

Pick up campaign ideas, learn about our fringes and learn how you can support us and how we can help you. www.ldys.org.uk



Stand P118

Liberal Democrats Online (LDO)

Use email and websites to gain supporters and win votes! Pick up your free guides to using the internet for campaigning at our stand or visit our website: www.online.libdems.org.



Stand P126

Liberal International (British Group)

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Stand P142

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Stand 176

National Union of Teachers

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Stand PS 36

Ordnance Survey

Ordnance Survey is Great Britain's national mapping agency, providing the most accurate and up-to-date geographic data. Relied on by government, business and the public. As official advisers to government on geographic information, we raise awareness of its huge potential to support and link policy making, service delivery and good governance.



Directory of Exhibitors continued

Stand P144

Parliamentary Candidates Association (PCA)



Find out more about the Parliamentary Candidates Association and how it can help you with your campaigning. Whether you are a new member or a familiar face, come along and visit the stand.

Stand PS2

Passenger Transport Executive Group



pteg represents the seven passenger transport executives in the UK. It works with government and national stakeholders to make the case for funding and powers to improve public transport.

Stand 158

Prater Raines Web Sites

The leading supplier of Lib Dem web sites. Instant set-up: sites just £20 per month. Surgeries for current and potential users. User training and demonstrations bespoke development proposals and quotations.

Stand 144

Radio Centre Ltd



RadioCentre represents the majority of UK Commercial Radio stations and is charged with building and maintaining a strong and successful Commercial Radio industry. RadioCentre works with advertisers, government, Ofcom, Copyright societies and stations themselves.

Stand 66

Riso UK Ltd



Riso UK will be offering latest printer options for document production in one, two and full colour, all at high speed and at lowest possible costs available. A free folder inserter will be on offer for a complete solution to all your printed communication needs. For more information call Riso UK Ltd on 0800 917 20 20.

Stand 10

RNIB Transcription Service



Royal National Institute of Blind People's Transcription Unit are providing info, advice and a free on-site transcription service for conference or exhibition material into large print, audio or braille. Contact Helen.dearman@rnib.org.uk; Fax 020 7391 2395.

Stand 54

RNID



Changing the world for deaf and hard of hearing people

The RNID and Unum stand demonstrates the devastating effects of tinnitus at work and home. Tinnitus is experienced by almost 7 million people in the UK with 500,000 severely affected.



Stand 168/170

Royal Mail Group

Royal Mail Group stand in the Hewison Hall offers a range of post office services including a daily collected postbox, Monday to Thursday, and a free-to-use cash machine.

Stand PS24

Royal National Institute of Blind People



Put your wits against 'The Thinker'. Is your information accessible to over two million customers or voters with sight loss? Find out more, win prizes, enter our daily champagne draw. Contact Helen.dearman@rnib.org.uk; Fax 020 7391 2395.

Stand P120

South Central and South East Regions

South Central and South East Regions start the South East European Campaign with a bang in Brighton. Visit the stand for information, publications, auction, raffle and much more.

Stand 178

Standards Board for England



The local government ethical framework is changing. We are leading the way with a move towards more strategic regulation and a lighter touch. Visit our stand to find out more.

Stand 150

Trades Union Congress



The TUC is the voice of Britain at work with 59 unions representing almost 6.5 million working people from all walks of life. We work in partnership with all parties.

Stand 58

Westminster Bookshop / Lib Dem Books



Essential books on the Liberal Democrats past and present. Every book bought at Conference will see at least 20% of the profits going to Party funds.

Directory of Exhibitors continued

Stand P146

West Sussex Liberal Democrats

Mid Sussex, a 'moving forward' seat close to Brighton, has some surprises in store. Come and visit us on stand P146.

Stand 25

Women Liberal Democrats

Celebrating 120 years of Liberal thinking and action.

Stand PS30

YWCA

More than one rung campaign: making work work for the most disadvantaged girls and young women so they can climb off the bottom rung of the career ladder.



Promote your organisation at conference

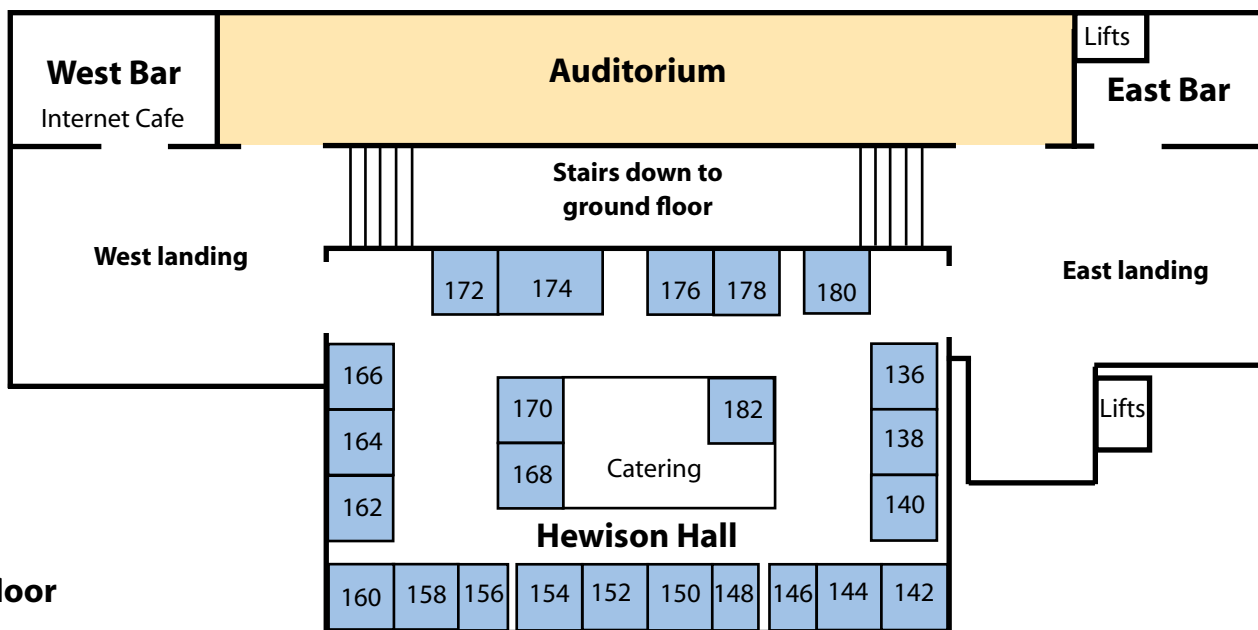
You can promote your organisation, event or message to thousands of conference-goers, by taking advertising space in the conference *Agenda and Directory* and *Fringe Guide*, and in the *Advance Notice* and *Daily Announcements* sheets, issued each day at conference.

For information about advertising and rates, contact Carol Caruana on 020 7227 1323 or email c.caruana@libdems.org.uk (or via a conference steward at Brighton).

Exhibitors listed by stand number

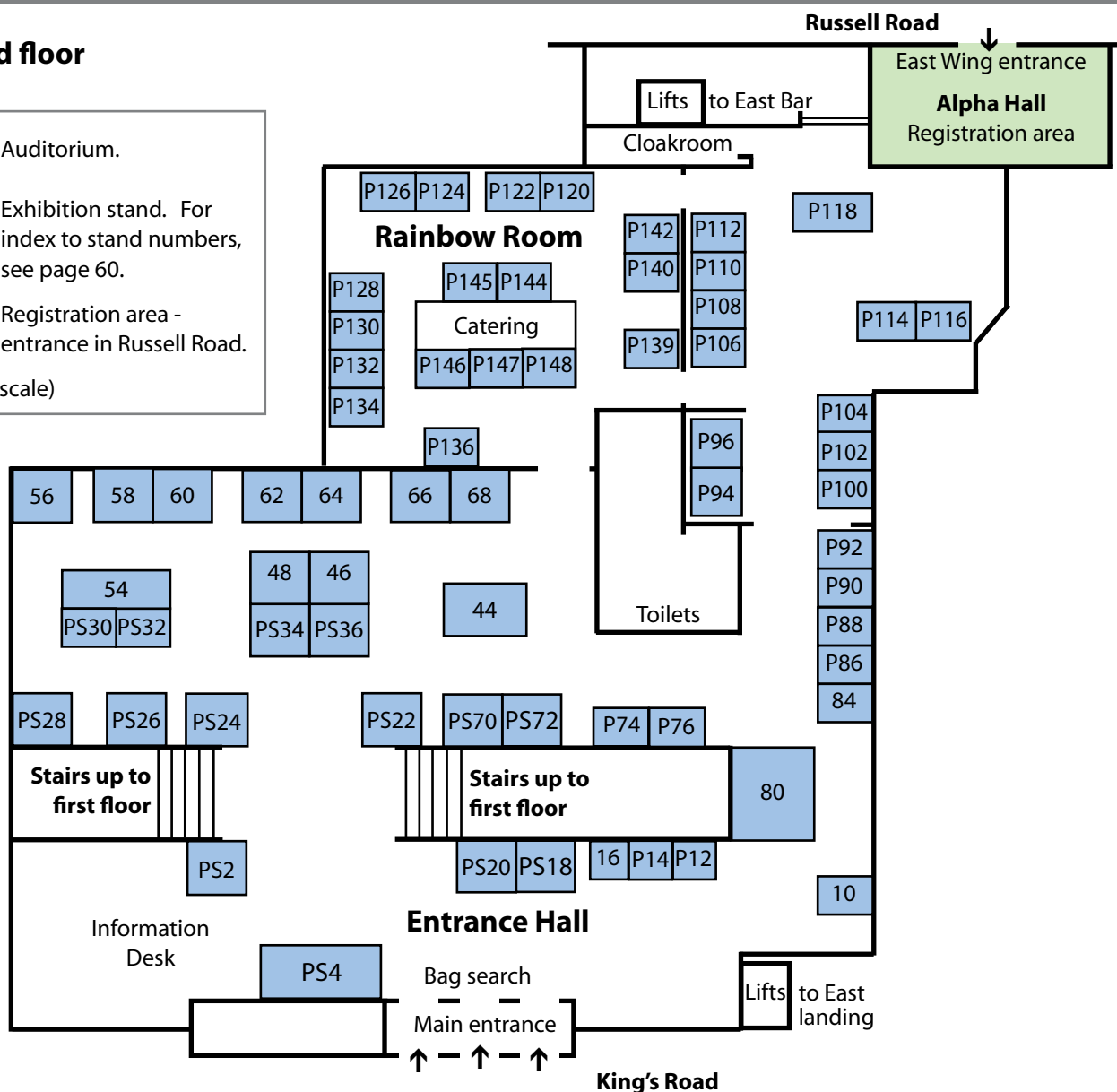
East landing	Climate Clinic Sustainable Lifestyle Exhibition	P74	Liberal Democrat European Group
10	RNIB Transcription Service	P76	CentreForum
14	Passenger Transport Executive Group	P80	Liberal Democrat Image
25	Women Liberal Democrats	P86	English Liberal Democrats State Party
44	Big Lottery Fund	P88	Chard Group (1992)
46	Marine Clinic	P90	EARS
54	RNID	P94	Green Liberal Democrats
58	Westminster Bookshop / Lib Dem Books	P100	Agents & Organisers Association
60	Harmsworth Printing	P102	Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel
64	ALDE / LDEPP	P104	Liberal Democrat Christmas Draw
66	Riso UK Ltd	P106	Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine
84	Electoral Reform	P112	Liberal Democrat Disability Association
136	LGA (Liberal Democrat Group)	P114	Liberal Democrat Youth and Students
144	Radio Centre Ltd	P118	Liberal Democrats Online (LDO)
146	John Stuart Mill Institute	P120	South Central and South East Regions
148	Liberal Democrat History Group	P126	Liberal International (British Group)
150	Trades Union Congress	P128	DELGA
152	Citizens Advice	P130	Campaign for Gender Balance
154	Counsel and Care	P132	Liberal Democrat Humanist & Secularist Group
156	The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection	P134	Liberal Democrat Christian Forum
158	Prater Raines Web Sites	P136	ALDES – Engineers & Scientists
160	British Humanist Association	P139	DAGGER
166	Countryside Alliance	P142	<i>Liberator</i>
172	Digital UK	P144	Parliamentary Candidates Association (PCA)
174	Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and IDEa	P145	Liberal Democrat Forum for the Countryside
176	National Union of Teachers	P146	West Sussex Liberal Democrats
178	Standards Board for England	P147	Liberal Democrat Education Association
180	Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)	P148	ALTER
182	Greater London Authority	PS4	<i>The Independent</i>
162/164	BBC	PS22	Electoral Commission
168/170	Royal Mail Group	PS24	Royal National Institute of Blind People
P12	Association of Liberal Democrat Trade Unionists	PS30	YWCA
P14	Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association	PS32	The British Library
		PS34	Campaign for Crossrail
		PS36	Ordnance Survey

Plan of Brighton Centre and exhibition



Ground floor

Auditorium.
 Exhibition stand. For index to stand numbers, see page 60.
 Registration area - entrance in Russell Road.
 (Not to scale)



Exhibition Information

Conference information

Everything you need to know about this year's autumn conference is listed below in alphabetical order. If you have any questions, please ask a conference steward or go to the conference Information Desk in the Brighton Centre reception.

Access

Access to all areas of the **Brighton Centre** is possible **only with a valid, visible conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard**. You will be asked to show your pass when you enter the **Brighton Centre** or **The Grand Hotel** and you are required to wear the pass with the lanyard visible at all times within these buildings.

If you are attending a training or fringe session in the Old Ship, Thistle, Quality or Holiday Inn Brighton Seafront Hotels you may be asked to show a valid conference photo pass or Party membership card.

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

Accommodation

Bedrooms in the conference hotel, The Grand, are now fully booked.

If you have not yet booked your 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.conferencebookings.co.uk/delegate/BTNLIBDEMS07

Amendments to motions

Motions F4, F12, F18, F26, F31, F33, F38, F42 and F45 are still open to amendment.

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

The deadline for amendments is **12.00 Wednesday 12th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to



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motions@libdems.org.uk, or by fax to 020 7799 2170 or post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

A standard form is included with the Final Agenda mailing; if faxing or posting, please use this or a photocopy. Those submitting amendments are encouraged to include a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment.

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

Appeals

Appeals against non-acceptance of motions should:

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

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

The deadline for appeals is **12.00 Wednesday 12th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to **motions@libdems.org.uk**, or by fax to 020 7799 2170 or post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

Applicability of motions

The Federal Conference makes policy for the Federal Party. However, the English Party has 'passed up'

Conference information continued

responsibility for policy-making to the Federal Party in all areas and the Welsh Party for some areas. The applicability of each motion is shown in the Agenda.

Banking facilities

The Royal Mail Group are kindly providing a free ATM for the convenience of conference attendees, next to their stand, **Stand 168**, in the Hewison Hall of the Brighton Centre. Outside the Brighton Centre, the nearest free cash points are Lloyds TSB in West Street and the National Westminster Bank in Churchill Square.

Car parks

See parking under **transport and travel** on **page 72**.

Cloakroom

Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the Brighton Centre.

There is a cloakroom at the rear of the **ground floor** of the **Brighton Centre**. A charge per item applies.

On the morning of Thursday 20th September, suitcases may be deposited at The Grand Hotel and must be collected by no later than 17.00. There will be a small luggage charge for non-residents of The Grand.

Conference bags

Your biodegradable, environmentally friendly conference bag will be available for collection in the **foyer area** of the **Brighton Centre** on production of your photo pass covering letter which, if you register before 1st August, you will receive before conference.

Consultative sessions

Consultative sessions take place on Sunday 16th September between 10.00 and 12.15 in **The Grand Hotel**. See **page 10** for details.

Crèche

The crèche is located in **The Grand Hotel** and will be open at the following times:

Sunday	16th September	13.00 – 20.00
Monday	17th September	08.30 – 18.30
Tuesday	19th September	08.30 – 18.30
Wednesday	19th September	08.30 – 18.30
Thursday	20th September	08.30 – 13.30

Lunch must be ordered and paid for daily. There will be a registration fee of £25 per child. For unwaged parents the fee is £10 per child. This covers the whole week from Sunday until the end of conference.

The Children Act 1991 strictly controls the ratio of staff to children in crèches, so the crèche staff are not allowed to accept children who are not pre-registered. (The deadline for this conference is **17th August 2007**).

If you would like to receive information on the crèche for future conferences please call the Conference Office on 020 7227 1350 and ask to be put on our mailing list. Forms are also available for download from the Party website: **www.libdems.org.uk**

Daily Announcements and Advance Notice

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

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

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

Disabled access and parking

Please see **access and facilities for disabled people** on **page 70**.

Distribution of literature

Distribution of literature **will not be allowed** inside the Brighton Centre. Literature may be distributed outside the main entrance, subject to the discretion of the

Conference registration

Please note that the conference registration area is in the Alpha Hall of the Brighton Centre, accessed via the East Wing entrance, in Russell Road at the rear of the Centre.

If you need to register, collect your photo pass or query your registration, please go to the Alpha Hall.

Conference information continued

Chief Steward, the Brighton Centre management and the Police. Exhibitors may only distribute material, sell raffle tickets etc., directly from their stands. Gangways, stairways, entrances and catering areas must not be used for this purpose.

Flyposting is prohibited inside the Brighton Centre.

Documents for conference

If you pre-register before 1st August, conference documentation will be enclosed in the Final Agenda mailing in mid-August. If you pre-register during August, your papers will be available for collection in the **foyer area** of the **Brighton Centre** on production of your photo pass covering letter. If you pre-register in September, you will be treated as an on-site registration.

If you register on-site at conference you will be able to collect all documents at **registration** in the **Alpha Hall** of the **Brighton Centre** (see **registration** on **page 66**).

Extra copies of the *Agenda and Directory* and *Fringe Guide* are available for sale from the **Information Desk** for £5.00 each. You can also purchase a complete pack of policy papers from the **Information Desk** for £25.00.

Emergency motions

There are two slots at F35 and F44 reserved for **emergency motion** debates as described in standing orders: i.e. debates with a vote which make formal party policy like any other policy motion, but which refer to a development since the 11th July deadline for motions.

Emergency motions must be signed by 10 voting representatives, or submitted by local parties, State

Parties, Regional Parties in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisations or Federal Party Committees.

The deadline for emergency motions is **12.00 Wednesday 12th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to **motions@libdems.org.uk**, or by fax to 020 7799 2170 or post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. A standard form is included in the Final Agenda mailing; if faxing or posting, please use this or a photocopy.

Emergency motions may be the subject of priority ballots among representatives. Ballot papers and the ballot box will be available at the **Speakers' Table** in the **Auditorium**. The poll will be held, if necessary, between **09.30 and 13.00 on Monday 17th September**. In the event that there is a simple choice between two motions, a card vote will be held in the **Auditorium** at **11.55 on Monday 17th September**.

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

Exhibition

The exhibition is located in the **entrance hall** and **Rainbow Room** on the ground floor of the Brighton Centre, and the **Hewison Hall** and **landings** on the first floor. See **pages 55–61** for opening times and exhibitor details.

First Aid

The First Aid suite is located off the **East Bar** on the first floor of the **Brighton Centre**.

Flash photography

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

Fringe

For details of fringe meetings, see the separate **Fringe Guide**.

The official fringe meeting venues are **The Grand, Holiday Inn Brighton Seafront, Old Ship, Quality and Thistle Hotels**. See the map on **page 28** of the **Fringe Guide** for locations of these and other fringe venues. A valid conference photo pass or Party membership card is required for access to fringe events in these venues.

Daily Announcements and Advance Notice

Make sure you collect your *Advance Notice* and *Daily Announcements* sheets and check out the information, updates and changes vital to your understanding of the day's business.

Advance Notice will be available on Sunday morning and *Daily Announcements* each morning, Monday to Thursday.

Collect your copy from the Information Desk as you enter the conference centre.

Conference information continued

HQ fringe events:

Rally

Sunday, 16th September, 18.30 – 19.30
The Auditorium, Brighton Centre

Glee Club

Wednesday, 19th September, 21.45 – late
The Empress Suite, The Grand

Information Desk

The **Information Desk** is located in the **conference reception area** in the **entrance hall** on the ground floor of the **Brighton Centre**. Members of the Conference Team can answer your questions, and there is a photocopier service available.

Telephone: 01273 720105
email: conferenceinformation@libdems.org.uk

The Information Desk is open at the following times:

Sunday	16th September	11.00 – 17.30
Monday	17th September	08.30 – 18.30
Tuesday	18th September	08.30 – 18.30
Wednesday	19th September	08.30 – 18.30
Thursday	20th September	08.30 – 13.30

Internet café

There will be an internet cafe in the **West Bar** on the first floor of the **Brighton Centre**. There will be a fee of £1 per half hour, tickets available at the **Information Desk**.

Interventions

See *speaking at conference* on **page 67**.

Lost passes

A replacement fee of £25.00 applies and photo passes are reissued at the discretion of the Chief Steward.

Lost property

All items of lost property should be handed in to, and reclaimed from, the **Information Desk** on the ground floor of the Brighton Centre.

Mobile phones and pagers

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

Newspapers

The Independent will be distributed free of charge at the entrance to the Brighton Centre.

Photo passes

All conference photo passes are mailed prior to conference if registration details are received before 31st August. We will endeavour to mail out photo passes for registrations received during August. If you have not received your pass, please come to the **Registration Desk** in the **Alpha Hall** of the Brighton Centre (enter via Russell Road at the rear of the Centre).

Photo passes are grouped by colour. All categories within a group will have a separate identifying code, but will have the same coloured pass, as follows:

- Party members – White/Yellow
 - Voting
 - Non-voting
 - Day Visitor
- Party members – Black/Yellow
 - Parliamentarians
 - Party Officers
- Non-members – White/Grey
 - Observers
 - Diplomats
 - Exhibitors
 - Contractors
- Media – White/Pink
- Staff – White/Orange
- Conference Management
 - Federal Conference Committee – Turquoise
 - Stewards – Green/Yellow
 - Conference organisers – White/Green



Conference information continued

Postal and telephone facilities

Royal Mail Group's stand, **Stand 168**, in the **Hewison Hall** on the first floor of the Brighton Centre, offers a range of Post Office® services including a postbox with a daily collection Monday 18th to Thursday 20th September.

There are pay telephones located by the Russell Road entrance at the rear of the Brighton Centre.

Press Office

The **Press Office** is located in the **Beta Hall** of the **Brighton Centre**. The Press Office telephone number is 01273 720251. It is open at the following times:

Sunday	16th September	10.00 – 18.30
Monday	17th September	08.30 – 19.30
Tuesday	18th September	08.30 – 19.30
Wednesday	19th September	08.30 – 19.30
Thursday	20th September	08.30 – 15.00

Question and answer sessions

This year's conference features three Q&A sessions, on education (F5) and on climate change (F44), and with the party leader (F17). Any elected representative may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) to any of these sessions and, if selected by the chair of the session, will be asked to put the question from one of the intervention mikes in the **Auditorium**.

The deadline for the receipt of questions is shortly before each session. A form for submitting questions should be collected from and returned to the **Speakers' Table** in the **Auditorium** in the **Brighton Centre**.

Questions to reports

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

The deadline for receipt of questions is **12.00 Wednesday 12th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to **questions@libdems.org.uk**, or by fax to 020 7799 2170 or post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. A standard form is included in the Final Agenda mailing; if faxing or posting, please use this or a photocopy. Questions to reports will be detailed in Sunday's *Advance Notice* sheet.

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

Recycling facilities

Recycling facilities for paper, plastic and cans will be provided in the Brighton Centre. Please make use of the collection bins.

Refreshments

Hot and cold meals and soft drinks are available in the **Rainbow Room** on the ground floor and the **Hewison Hall** on the first floor of the **Brighton Centre** (from 11.00 on Sunday). Alcoholic beverages, tea and coffee will be on sale in the **East** and **West Bars**.

With more fringe hotels this year, there is a greater choice of places where you can get snacks during conference breaks. **The Grand** and **Thistle** hotels in particular will be offering a range of hot and cold snacks in their lobby areas during the lunch period.

Registration onsite

The **registration area** is located in the **Alpha Hall** of the **Brighton Centre**, accessed via the East Wing entrance in Russell Road, at the rear of the Centre.

Please complete the relevant registration form which is available at the **Registration Desk**. You do not need to bring a photograph, as one will be taken at registration.

You can register on-site at the following times:

Saturday	15th September	13.00 – 19.00
Sunday	16th September	09.00 – 19.30
Monday	17th September	08.30 – 18.00
Tuesday	18th September	08.30 – 18.00
Wednesday	19th September	08.30 – 18.00
Thursday	20th September	08.30 – 11.45

Paperless conference

To try to make conference more environmentally friendly, you can choose a paperless option to receive online versions of consultation and policy papers rather than hard copy – tick the paperless registration box when you next register.

To receive conference emails, send an email to **conferences@libdems.org.uk** with 'Email Address' in the subject. We will not release your details to third parties.

Conference information continued

Tip: save time on-site by downloading and completing a registration form before you arrive from www.libdems.org.uk/conference.

Party members: full registration

All Party members are entitled to attend all sessions of the conference once registered. **Only elected representatives may vote.** Non-voting members who have paid the full registration fee are eligible to submit a speaker's card.

Cost: £112 for whole of conference; claimants: £31.

To register on-site as a voting, substitute, or non-voting member, you will need to bring:

- Party membership card
- Proof of personal identity
- Completed registration form (available onsite or download from www.libdems.org.uk)
- Proof of claimant status if appropriate

Tip: you can register online at www.libdems.org.uk right up to midnight 9th September.

Registration: first-time attendees

As an incentive to encourage new conference-goers, a special rate of £58 is now available to Party members 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.

Party members: day visitors

Cost: £28; claimant: £12

Proof of current Party membership, and of claimant status if appropriate, is required.

Day visitors are not allowed to speak (except in consultative sessions) or vote at conference.

Security and safety

All security measures are taken in consultation with the police and the Brighton Centre management.

Conference photo passes **must be worn visibly at all times within the Brighton Centre and the Grand Hotel.** Anyone found in the secure area without a valid pass will be escorted from the building.

All bags will be searched at the main entrance to the Brighton Centre. Under no circumstances will any large

bags or suitcases be allowed into the Centre. Any bag left unattended will be brought to the attention of the police and may be removed and/or destroyed.

Separate votes

Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by voting representatives to the **Speakers' Table** at any time up to the commencement of closing speeches, but they will have a higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by **12.00 noon, Wednesday 12th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to motions@libdems.org.uk, or by fax to 020 7799 2170 or post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

Smoking

All areas of the Brighton Centre are non-smoking.

Speaking at conference

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

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

No other person may be called to speak in debates.

Anyone who is entitled and wishes to speak must complete a speaker's card to speak in the debate. Cards can be obtained from the steward overseeing the block



Conference information continued

of seats in the **Auditorium** in which you are sitting or from the **Information Desk** from Sunday morning. **You must** complete **all** sections of the card legibly.

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

Lengths of speeches

Lengths of speeches for each debate are shown after each motion. These times may be changed by the conference on a motion put by the Conference Committee or by the Chair of the session.

The speaker's rostrum has three lights. The green light is switched on at the beginning of the speech. The amber light is switched on 60 seconds before the end of the speech. The red light is switched on when all the time is used up, and speeches must stop immediately. Duplicate lights will be visible to the audience on either side of the stage.

Interventions

There will be **interventions** during debates F6, F12, F24, F29, F30 and F33. This procedure offers representatives the opportunity to make concise (one-minute) speeches from the floor during the debate. Eligibility to make an intervention is the same as for those wishing to make a speech (see above).

There are two microphones in the body of the **Auditorium** facing the platform. Those wishing to speak during interventions should sit in the designated seats and complete the form handed to them by the steward overseeing those seats. Three lights will be visible on either side of the platform: the green light is switched on at the start of the intervention; the amber light will show 20 seconds before the end of the intervention; the red light will come on at the end of one minute and the intervention must stop immediately.

Stewards

The security team includes volunteer stewards who act under the direction of the Chief Steward, whose decision is final in any dispute regarding security.

The Chief Steward reserves the right, acting in conjunction with police advice, to search anyone in the Brighton Centre at any time. He also reserves the right to remove anyone from the building.

Training events

Only Party members may attend training events. For entry to training events you must show a valid conference photo pass or Party membership card.

Transport and travel

For information on transport around Brighton and travel to Brighton, see **page 72**.

Urgent issues

The slots at F27 and F43 have been reserved for an **urgent issue** discussion. Unlike other debates at conference, this discussion will not make new party policy, but is intended to allow conference representatives and spokespeople an opportunity to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference, but where it might be premature to move to formal policy-making on that issue.

Suggestions for urgent issues may be submitted by any conference representative. The deadline for suggestions is **12.00 Wednesday 12th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to urgent.issues@libdems.org.uk, or by fax to 020 7799 2170 or post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should not include an expression of opinion. For example, 'The Chaos on the Railways' would be acceptable, 'The Chaos on the Railways can be solved by Renationalisation' would not. Emails should include full contact details of the submitter and may include up to 100 words explanatory background.

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

First-timers' Guide to Conference

All first-time attendees at conference are welcome to come and join this session aimed at helping you to get the most out of your conference week.

Location: Regent Room, The Grand Hotel

Time: 13.00–14.00

Date: Sunday 16th September

Conference information continued

All urgent issues accepted for discussion will be detailed in Sunday's *Advance Notice* sheet.

Venues

The main conference venue is (see plan on **page 61**):

The Brighton Centre
King's Road, Brighton, BN1 2GR
Tel: 01273 290131
www.brightoncentre.co.uk

The main conference sessions will take place in the **Auditorium** of the **Brighton Centre**.

Conference and fringe hotels:

The Grand
King's Road, Brighton, BN1 2FW
Tel: 01273 224300

Holiday Inn Brighton Seafront
Kings Road, Brighton, BN1 2JF
Tel: 01273 828250

Old Ship Hotel
31–38 King's Road, Brighton, BN1 1NR
Tel: 01273 329001

Quality Hotel
West Street, Brighton, BN1 2RQ
Tel: 01273 220033

Thistle Hotel
King's Road, Brighton, BN1 2GS
Tel: 01273 206700

For locations of venues, see the map of Brighton city centre on **page 28** of the **Fringe Guide**.

Voting status and voting / non-voting photo passes

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

- 1) 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) has already received in writing notification from the Returning Officer of your local party that you are a substitute elected by your local party Executive after a voting representative has indicated to them that s/he is unable to attend*; or
- 3) receives at the **Membership Desk** at conference (in the **Alpha Hall** at the rear of the **Brighton Centre**) written notification from the Returning Officer of

your local party that you have been elected as a voting representative or as a substitute.

* For a voting photo pass to be sent out before conference this information must be received by **8th August**. Otherwise you will be sent a non-voting pass.

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

If you have received a non-voting photo pass but are attending conference as a substitute voting representative, you need to get an officer of your local party to write to Membership Services with the name, address and membership number of the representative you are substituting for, as well as your own full details before **12.00, Friday 7th September**, and bring a copy of this letter to the **Membership Desk** at conference.

You may then collect the appropriate pass from the **Membership Desk** in the **Alpha Hall** of the **Brighton Centre** (entrance in Russell Road at the rear of the Centre).

Write to: Membership Services, 4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3NB, Fax to 020 7976 8421 or email to **membership@libdems.org.uk**

Weather forecasts

The Met Office will be supplying the latest daily weather forecasts during conference. These will appear in each edition of *Daily Announcements*. We are most grateful to The Met Office for providing this facility.

Website

For conference details online, please see **www.libdems.org.uk/conference**. 🦋



Information

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Access and facilities for disabled people

All areas of the Brighton Centre and rooms in The Grand, Holiday Inn, Old Ship, Quality and Thistle Hotels that we will be using for fringe meetings are fully accessible by wheelchair.

Brighton

Visitor Information Centre: 0906 711 2255 (50p per minute).

Brighton Disability Advice Centre have a wide range of information and advice for visitors to Brighton with disabilities. They can be contacted at 6 Hove Manor, Hove Street, Hove BN3 2DF, tel/mini-com: 01273 203 016; email: disabilityadvice@bhfederation.org.uk; or go to www.bhfederation.org.uk

The seafront and areas around and between the Brighton Centre and main fringe hotels are flat. The route from the train station to the front, although steep and with some uneven paving stones, is manageable for the wheelchair user.

The Brighton Centre

Access to the Brighton Centre is via the main entrance on King's Road (sea front). Lifts to the right of the main entrance and at the rear of the building give access to the first floor where the Auditorium is located.

In the **Auditorium** the seating area will all be on the flat and an induction loop is fitted to cover all seating areas. Sign language interpretation will be provided during all conference sessions in conjunction with the Sign Language Centre.

There are disabled toilets on the ground and first floors.



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Services for the blind and visually impaired

The Conference Agenda and Directory, Fringe Guide, Training Schedule and policy and consultation papers are all available in electronic formats, including as pdf files.

Please contact Emma Harris at the Conference Office, tel: 020 7227 1350, email: emma.harris@libdems.org.uk, by Wednesday 29th August.

Conference and fringe hotels

The Grand: Enter via the Empress Suite entrance at the front of the hotel. There are disabled toilet facilities and lifts to all floors in the hotel lobby. For those driving to conference, there is a wheelchair accessible entrance via the car park.

Holiday Inn: Access to the Holiday Inn is via a side gate to the left of the hotel as you face it.

Old Ship: Enter via the bar, located at the front of the hotel on the King's Road. The lift at the rear of the hotel is large enough for wheelchairs and provides access to the meeting rooms on the first floor. The lifts at the front are smaller and may not be suitable for some wheelchairs. The hotel will provide smaller manual wheelchairs for those who are able and willing to transfer.

Quality: Wheelchair access is through the main hotel entrance on West Street; there is a disabled toilet in the main lobby.

Thistle: Enter via the front entrance. There is then a lift to the main lobby and reception area of the hotel. From there a further lift at the rear of the reception will take you to all other floors. There is a disabled toilet in the main lobby.

Car parking

There are a limited number of on-street disabled parking bays which are free for blue badge holders. Parking is available in the NCP car park at the rear of

The Environment

Access and facilities for disabled people cont.

Wheelchair users attending conference

In an effort to encourage participation at conference and in recognition of the significant extra costs that are incurred, we are operating a financial assistance scheme for wheelchair users at conference. This scheme aims to offset the extra cost of staying in a specially adapted disabled-friendly room in a larger hotel and to bring it in line with the cost of staying in a cheaper bed and breakfast establishment.

For more information and an application form for Spring 2008, go to www.libdems.org.uk/conference/access

the Hilton Brighton Metropole hotel. Charges apply unless you are a resident in the hotel. For further information on car parking please telephone Brighton and Hove Council on 01273 293225 for parking in Brighton or 01273 292426 for parking in Hove, or telephone National Car Parks on 01273 329145.

For disabled parking at the Brighton Conference Centre, please contact Emma Harris at the Lib Dem Conference Office in advance on 020 7227 1350.

Rail

Brighton Station, Queens Road, is staffed continuously. 24 hours notice is required for assistance. Please phone 0800 138 1016. There is full disabled access to the ticket office, platforms and trains. There are disabled parking bays and RADAR key toilets at the station.

Taxis

See taxi services under **transport and travel** on page 72.

Toilets for disabled users

Unisex toilets with RADAR National Key Scheme (NKS) locks are located on Bond Street, Churchill Square, North Street, Kings Road, Prince Albert St, Old Steine and Madeira Drive.

There are disabled toilets in the Brighton Centre on the ground and first floors.

Electric buggies and wheelchairs

The Shopmobility service at the Churchill Square Shopping Centre (just north of The Brighton Centre)

has a fleet of wheelchairs and electric scooters available for hire at a daily rate of £10 per vehicle. Please contact David Johnson at Brighton Shopmobility on 01273 323239 or email: shopmobility@bhfederation.org.uk.

Other requirements

If you have any specific requirements that are not mentioned, here please contact Emma Harris, email emma.harris@libdems.org.uk before 24th August, and she will endeavour to assist if it is at all possible.

Information and assistance at conference

Anyone who requires assistance should approach a conference steward or one of the staff at the Brighton Centre or hotel.

Robert Littlehales is the disabled access steward at conference. You can contact him both in advance of and during conference on 07712 667702 or at rlittlehales@aol.com, or ask for him at the **Speakers' Table.** 🐾

Waiting for your **first** magazine each Saturday? Want to keep up-to-date with all the news and information on local government?

first magazine is delivered free for councillors and senior officers.

Also included is the monthly FOCUS from your Lib Dem Group in the LGA.



www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk and www.lga.gov.uk

www.lga.gov.uk
first


Local Government Association

Transport and travel

For a map of Brighton city centre, please see the separate *Fringe Guide*, page 28.

Air

London Gatwick Airport is 28 miles from Brighton via the M23/A23, taking an average of 30 minutes by car. Heathrow is around 90 minutes by road. Both have fast coach links to Brighton.

For flight and airport information see www.baa.co.uk.

Bus and coach

National Express Coach Services run to and from Brighton. Further details are available from any National Express Agent. Tel: 08705 808080.

There are regular local bus services with frequent buses to all parts of Brighton and the surrounding area.

Bus information is available on 0870 608 2608 and at www.buses.co.uk.

Car

Reduce congestion and pollution by using public transport or car sharing where possible. For the Liberal Democrats Conference car-share scheme, see www.libdems.org/conference.

Brighton is around 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.

Driving around central Brighton is not easy; it can be very congested and there are many access restrictions and one-way streets.

Parking

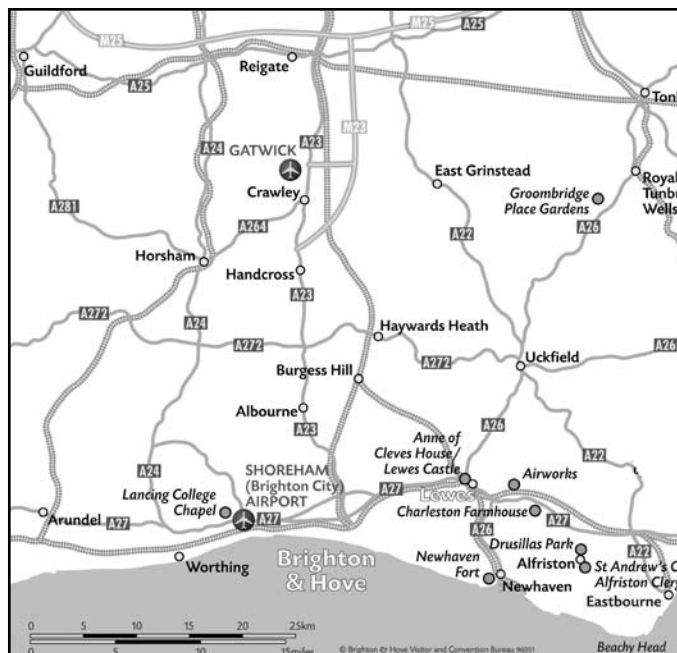
Parking in Brighton is not cheap. There are a number of multi-storey car parks in the city centre. The nearest car parks are Churchill I, Churchill II and Russell Road behind the Brighton Centre – see www.ncp.co.uk.

For disabled parking, see car parking under **access and facilities for disabled** people on **page 70**.

Taxi services

The following companies provide a local taxi service:


Brighton Streamline	01273 747474
Hove Streamline	01273 202020



Train

Brighton is just under an hour from London Victoria station with at least two services per hour. There are regular services to Brighton from East Croydon, Gatwick Airport, Bedford, London Kings Cross and London Bridge, and from Portsmouth and Ashford (Eurostar). There are direct rail services from Scotland, the North West, Midlands, South West and Wales.

Contact National Rail enquiries on 08457 484950 (local rate call, 24 hours) or www.nationalrail.co.uk. Trains can be booked through the Party's affinity scheme at www.libdems.org/conference.

Brighton's rail station is at the top of Queen's Road, only a 10 minute walk from the Brighton Centre. 



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The Environment

Standing orders for Federal Conference

Glossary of terms

Business motion

A proposal to conduct the affairs of the Party in a particular way or to express an opinion on the way affairs have been conducted.

Business amendment

A proposal to change a business motion. *Any such proposal should be significant, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.*

Committee

Throughout these standing orders, Committee means the Federal Conference Committee unless otherwise qualified.

Constitutional amendment

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

Secondary constitutional amendment

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

Consultative session

A meeting where selected areas of policy or strategy are considered in greater depth than is possible in full debates.

Day visitor

Someone who has paid the appropriate day visitor fee. Day visitors are not entitled to speak or vote in full sessions of conference.

Elected representative

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

Emergency motion

A proposal which relates to a *specific recent development which occurred after the deadline for submission of amendments.*

Emergency motions must be brief.

Emergency amendment

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

Full session

Any part of the conference agenda during which debates, urgent issue discussions or discussion of business, including formal reports, takes place. This specifically excludes formal speeches such as those by the Leader or Party Officers.

Non-voting member

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

Point of order

A suggestion to the chair of a debate that the conduct of the debate, as laid down in the standing orders, has not been followed correctly.

Policy motion

A proposal to adopt a new policy or reaffirm an existing one. This includes motions accompanying policy papers and pre-manifesto papers.

Policy amendment

A proposal to change a policy motion. *Any proposal should be of significant importance, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.*

Policy paper

A paper prepared by the Federal Policy Committee and submitted to conference for debate under the terms of Article 5.4 of the Federal Party constitution.

Pre-manifesto paper

A paper prepared by the Federal Policy Committee in the year before a Westminster or European Parliamentary election as an indication of the themes and policies likely to be included in the manifesto, and submitted to conference for debate. A pre-manifesto paper will not contain substantive new development of policy.

Procedural motion

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

Move to next business

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

Reference back

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

Request for a count

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

Separate vote

A request to the chair of a debate that a part or parts of a motion or amendment should be voted on separately.

Suspension of standing orders

A proposal to relax specific standing orders for a stated purpose.

Special conference

An additional meeting of the conference requisitioned by the Federal Executive, Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 200 conference representatives under the provisions of Article 6.6 of the Federal constitution.

Standing orders continued

Standing orders amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

Secondary standing orders amendment

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

Topical motion

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

Topical Motions (except for those announced in the Final Agenda but not published until the meeting of the conference)

may have amendments submitted to them in the same way as policy or business motions. *Any such amendment should be of significant importance, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.*

Urgent issue discussion

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

Voting member

A person who is entitled to vote at conference. This term includes substitutes replacing conference representatives for a particular meeting of conference. It does not include conference representatives who have not paid any registration fee that may be in force nor does it include day visitors or observers who are not conference representatives.

Standing orders

1. The conference agenda

1.1 What is on the agenda

The agenda for each meeting of conference, other than a special conference, shall include time for:

- a) One or more consultative sessions; save that the Committee may decide not to hold any consultative sessions at a spring conference.
- b) A business session or sessions for the consideration of reports from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords, the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament, the Federal Executive, the Federal Policy Committee and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, accounts, the annual report, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments.
- c) Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers and pre-manifesto papers) and topical motions.
- d) Emergency motions.
- e) Urgent issue discussions.
- f) Any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate.

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

1.2 Conference or council of state parties

In addition, time before or after any meeting may be agreed with the relevant state party for a meeting of the conference or council of that party.

1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the relevant Federal Committee.
- b) Business motions (including amendments, topical business motions and emergency business motions and amendments), constitutional amendments and

secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal Executive, Federal Policy committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives. Business motions, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.

- c) Motions accompanying policy papers and pre-manifesto papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, topical policy motions, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives.
- e) Proposals for urgent issue discussions may be submitted by any voting member.

1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

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

1.5 The deadlines by which motions and amendments and questions to reports must be submitted

The Committee shall specify:

- a) The closing date for the receipt of constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders and policy motions accompanying policy papers. This shall be at least 15 weeks before the start of conference.
- b) The closing date for the receipt of policy and business

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Standing orders continued

motions. For the autumn conference, this shall be at least 15 weeks before the start of conference. For the spring conference, this shall be at least 8 weeks before the start of conference.

- c) The due date for the publication of the Preliminary Agenda.
- d) The closing date for receipt of amendments to the items published in the Preliminary Agenda and for the receipt of topical motions (autumn conference only) and policy motions accompanying pre-manifesto papers. This shall be at least 8 weeks before the start of conference.
- e) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the Final Agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- f) Notwithstanding 1.5(e), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the Final Agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(e). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- g) The closing date for the submission of emergency motions and amendments and amendments to topical motions and policy motions accompanying pre-manifesto papers published in the Final Agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- h) The closing date for proposals for urgent issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.

1.6 Notification of deadlines

All dates specified under standing order 1.5 shall be notified to conference representatives and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper may be treated as notice for this purpose.

1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances

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

2. Consultative Sessions

2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions

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

2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

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

2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

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

3. The Preliminary Agenda

3.1 The shortlisting of motions

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

3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

Save as detailed below in standing order 4.3, all proposed amendments to the constitution or standing orders must be either selected for debate or included in a ballot to allow conference representatives to determine an order of priority for allocating time.

3.3 Circulation of the Preliminary Agenda

The Preliminary Agenda, including the text of all motions selected for debate or included in a ballot, shall be circulated to those entitled to submit motions. Copies of motions not selected shall be available for inspection and will be supplied to any conference representative on payment of a copying charge and postage.

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

4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

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

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

4.2 Selection of amendments

No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is insubstantial, outside the scope of the motion, or tantamount to a direct negative of the motion.

4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

The Committee may refuse to select a motion for amendment of the constitution or standing orders if, in their opinion, it is:

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

Standing orders continued

- c) In the case of amendments to the constitution, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of the constitution which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- d) In the case of amendments to standing orders, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of standing orders which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- e) Ambiguous.

4.4 *Topical motions*

The Committee may include any topical motion on the agenda. The Committee may announce, in the Preliminary and/or Final Agenda, that it has reserved time for a topical motion on a particular subject and invite submissions on that subject by the dates for the submission of topical motions and emergency motions, respectively, as specified in standing order 1.5 prior to the start of conference.

4.5 *Emergency motions*

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

- a) It is similar in effect to another motion that has been selected for debate or ballot.
- b) It is similar in effect to a subject chosen for an urgent issue discussion.
- c) It is unclear as to its meaning or intent or, in the opinion of the Committee, too poorly drafted to provide a sensible basis for debate.
- d) It falls outside the definition of emergency motions.

No amendment shall be taken to any motion selected under this standing order.

4.6 *Ballots for emergency motions*

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

4.7 *Emergency amendments*

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

4.8 *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.

4.9 *Holding motions*

A policy or business motion which contains no substantive text at the time of its submission (a 'holding motion') may

be submitted by the Federal Executive or Federal Policy Committee for consideration by the Committee. This includes policy motions intended to accompany policy papers yet to be published. The Committee may accept no more than two such motions from each committee on to the agenda for any autumn conference, and one such motion from each committee for any spring conference. In unusual circumstances, such as the conference immediately following a general election, the Committee shall have discretion to accept a higher number of holding motions. A full account of the reasons for the submission of all holding motions shall be included in the report to conference of the relevant committee.

5. *The Final Agenda*

5.1 *Drawing up the Final Agenda*

The Committee may, in drawing up the Final Agenda:

- a) Transfer any constitutional or standing order amendment from the ballot to the agenda for debate.
 - b) Remove a motion which was on the Preliminary Agenda.
- The Final Agenda shall be circulated to voting conference members as soon as practicable.

5.2 *Balance between State and Federal policy debates*

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

6. *Special meetings*

6.1 *Timetabling of special meetings*

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

6.2 *Preferred timescales for special meetings*

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

7. *Appeals*

7.1 *Appeals against rejection of motions*

The Committee shall provide written reasoning to the nominee of the proposers for the rejection of any motion or amendment or the removal of any motion from the Preliminary Agenda.

Standing orders continued

The proposers may appeal, in writing, to the next meeting of the Committee. Any such appeal shall provide reasons why, in the opinion of the proposers, the expressed reasons for rejection are not valid. If the appeal is allowed, the motion or amendment shall be treated as a topical or emergency motion or amendment according to the stage of the agenda-setting process at which the appeal has been allowed.

7.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference

Any person excluded from conference by a decision of the Chief Steward shall have the right of appeal to the Committee at the next of its regular meetings. The exclusion shall remain in force pending the appeal. If the person who is excluded is a voting member of conference, their local party or SAO shall be contacted immediately and invited to appoint a substitute for the remainder of the conference.

8. The chair

8.1 Who chairs conference

The President, if present, shall normally take the chair at the formal opening and closing of conference and when the Party Leader is making a formal speech from the platform. At all other sessions the chair shall be appointed by the Committee. Normally no person shall chair more than one session at any meeting.

8.2 The chair's aide

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

9. Conduct of debate

9.1 Variation in the order of business

The Committee may propose to the conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the Final Agenda. Such variation shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.

9.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

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

9.3 The order of debate

The Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments and options will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments and options (or their nominees) shall have the right of reply in the same order, after which the mover of the motion (or the mover's nominee) shall have the right of reply. Votes shall then be taken on the amendments and options in the order in which they have been moved and, finally, on the substantive motion. The Committee may direct that part of any motion or amendment or groups or amendments may be the subject of a separate debate.

9.4 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.

9.5 Who may speak

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

- As a member of the Federal Policy Committee representing that committee in a policy debate.
- As a member of the Federal Conference Committee representing that committee in debates on standing orders and matters of conference procedure.
- As a member of the Federal Executive representing that committee on matters of party business.
- If called by the chair of the session, after the Committee has given permission. Such permission shall only be given exceptionally.

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

9.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees

Provided that the Federal Policy Committee is not proposing the motion or any of the amendments to be taken in a debate on a policy motion or on motions relating to the policy-making processes of the Party it shall have the right to nominate a person to report its views on the subject before the conference. The Federal Executive shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution, as shall the Federal Conference Committee on motions relating to the proceeding and procedures of the conference and to amend standing orders. Such a person shall be called to speak for the same length of time as the person replying on behalf of the mover of the motion.

9.7 The selection of speakers

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

9.8 The length of speeches

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

9.9 Where to speak from

All speeches shall be made from the rostrum, save that speeches by the President or Leader of the Party, except when participating in debate, or by a guest invited by the Committee,

Standing orders continued

or on the occasion of the opening or the closing of the meeting, may be made from the platform.

10. Voting at conference

10.1 The method of voting

Voting cards shall be issued at each meeting to voting members. (The Committee may direct that voting on any issue be by ballot.) Subject thereto all votes at full sessions shall be taken by show of voting cards.

10.2 Counting of votes

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

- a) If the Committee has so directed.
- b) If the chair so directs.
- c) As the result of a procedural motion under standing order 12.5 below.

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

10.3 Separate votes

A separate vote may be taken on a part of a motion or amendment:

- a) On the direction of the Committee.
- b) At the discretion of the chair.
- c) As a result of a procedural motion under standing order 12.4 below.

11. Points of order

11.1 Making a point of order

Any voting member may rise on a point of order which shall be taken immediately except that, during a vote, no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the conduct of the vote. The chair's decision on all points of order shall be final.

12. Procedural motions

12.1 Next business

- a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.
- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.
- d) The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item

shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

12.2 Reference back (moved by a representative)

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

12.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

- a) The Federal Policy Committee may, at any time before the beginning of the debate on a motion, submit, in writing, a request to refer that motion to the next meeting of the conference. The chair shall announce the existence of such a request at the start of the debate.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. A nominee of the Federal Policy Committee will speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair shall have discretion whether to allow other speakers on the request.
- c) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item

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shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

- d) If passed, the Federal Policy Committee shall, before the next meeting of the conference, circulate its reasons for acting under this section and its comments on the motion and any amendments thereto accepted for debate.

12.4 Separate vote

A voting member of conference may request that the chair take a separate vote on a part of a motion or amendment provided that such a request is in writing and received before the commencement of the speeches in reply to the debate. The chair shall have complete discretion whether to take a separate vote.

12.5 Counted vote

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

12.6 Suspension of standing orders

- a) A voting conference member may, during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of standing orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 75 words, to the chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.
- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the constitution, nor any part of these standing orders which govern:
- i) The rights of, or timetable for, submission of motions and amendments.
 - ii) Consultative sessions.
 - iii) Procedural motions for next business or suspension of standing orders.
- c) No motion to suspend standing orders to introduce a motion or amendment on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.
- d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.
- e) A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of the conference members voting. If the procedural motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

12.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

13. Reports

13.1 Which reports are tabled

The business session or sessions of the conference must include consideration of reports from the bodies listed in standing order 1.1(b). It may also include consideration of any other reports submitted by any Federal Party committee or sub-committee.

13.2 Submission and selection of questions

A voting member may submit questions to any report tabled for consideration, by the deadlines set under standing orders 1.5 (e) and (f). The Committee shall publish in advance of the report session all the questions submitted under standing order 1.5 (e) which are in order, compositing similar questions where appropriate.

13.3 Whether questions are in order or not

A question shall be ruled out of order if it asks the body submitting the report about issues which are outside its duties and responsibilities. If the question could be answered by another body reporting to the same conference, the Committee may transfer the question to that body.

13.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered

After the report is moved, the mover, or their nominee, shall answer the questions in turn. After each question has been answered, the voting member who submitted the question will be given the opportunity to put a supplementary question, speaking for a maximum of two minutes, and the mover, or their nominee, will be given an opportunity to respond. The chair shall determine the time given to the mover in moving the report and replying to questions. The chair shall also determine how many of the published questions, and how many of the questions submitted under standing order 1.5 (f), can be taken. After the conference the Committee shall publish the answers to all questions submitted under standing orders 1.5 (e) and (f) which are in order, and to all supplementary questions asked.

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

Any report tabled by a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for approval by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move the rejection of any part of the report or of the report as a whole. A voting member wishing to move a rejection shall submit a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report, stating the section(s) which they wish to have rejected. All moves to reject a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between moves to reject the same part of the report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and

Standing orders continued

shall determine the time given to all speakers.

13.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies

Any report tabled by a body other than a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for receipt by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move not to receive the report, by submitting a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report. A move not to receive a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between more than one move not to receive the same report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

14. Amendment of standing orders

14.1 Amendment of standing orders

These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of conference voting on a motion duly submitted and selected in accordance with standing orders. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from meeting to meeting.

15. The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

15.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

At its first meeting after a new election the Committee shall elect a Chair, who must be a member of the Committee directly elected by conference, and at least one Vice Chair, who must be a member of the Committee either directly elected by conference or elected by one of the State Parties.

The Federal Party

Officers of the Federal Party

Leader	Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell MP
President	Simon Hughes MP
Chair of FFAC	Cllr Duncan Greenland
Treasurer	Lord Clement-Jones
Vice President (England)	Brian Orrell
Vice President (Scotland)	Judy Hayman
Vice President (Wales)	Lembit Öpik MP
Chief Executive	Chris Rennard CBE

Federal Executive

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

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

Federal Finance and Administration Committee

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

The FFAC has 14 voting members: the Chair (Cllr Duncan Greenland), Party Treasurer and five other members (elected by the FE); the Party President; three state party reps; and the

Chief Executive and two other members of Federal (HQ and Parliamentary) staff.

Federal Policy Committee

The FPC is responsible for researching and developing policy and overseeing the Federal Party's policy-making process. This includes producing policy papers for debate at conference, and drawing up (in consultation with the relevant parliamentary party) the Federal election manifestos for Westminster and European elections.

The FPC has 29 voting members: the Party Leader and four other MPs; the Party President; one peer; one MEP; three councillors; three state party reps; and fifteen members directly elected by conference reps. It must be chaired by one of the five MP members, and is currently chaired by the Leader.

Federal Conference Committee

The FCC is responsible for organising the two Federal conferences each year. This includes choosing the agenda from the policy and business motions submitted by conference reps, local, regional and state parties, specified associated organisations and Federal committees, and taking decisions on topics such as venues, registration rates and other administrative and organisational matters. It works within a budget set by the FFAC.

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

The members of the FCC are shown on page 2.

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The Liberal Democrat Ball
2007
Thursday 29th November
7.30pm - 2.00am
The Park Lane Hotel
Piccadilly, London W1J 7BX

Champagne Reception
Silhouette Cutter
Dinner
Casino
Musicalist
Heads & Tails
Dancing
Auction
Raffle

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

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