

Conference Daily

Sunday 27 September 2020

Autumn Conference Online



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Sunday 27 September. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda* and *Conference Extra*.

Timetable and contents

Timetable for Sunday 27 September

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| 10.00–10.45 | F17 | Emergency motion: Opposing the Government 'Power Grab' on Planning | 2 |
| 10.50–12.00 | F18 | Policy motion: Racial Justice Cannot Wait | 3 |
| 12.00–14.00 | | Auditorium break and fringe | |
| 14.00–14.45 | F19 | Policy motion: Save the BBC | 4 |
| 14.50–15.00 | F20 | Report: Federal Policy Committee | |
| 15.05–16.00 | F21 | Policy motion: A Green Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic | 4 |
| 16.00–17.00 | | Auditorium break and fringe | |
| 17.00–17.20 | F22 | Interview: Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats | |
| 17.25–18.45 | F23 | Policy motion: The UK and Europe | 5 |

*If no page number is indicated next to a session or item of business, there are no changes or additional information to that in the *Agenda* or *Conference Extra*.*

*The report back for Saturday 26 will be published in Monday's *Conference Daily*.*

*Fringe sessions will also take place outside the times listed above; please see conference *Directory* for details.*

Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated.

Members wishing to speak should submit a speaker's card as soon as possible, and at the latest by 16.00 on the day before the relevant debate.

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F17 Opposing the Government 'Power Grab' on Planning

ALDC

Mover: Cllr Susan Juned.

Summation: Mayor Peter Taylor.

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 A. The Government is consulting on plans to overhaul the planning system.
- 3 B. The reforms to existing planning rules would allow fast track permissions for offices and
4 retail centres to be converted to houses; and extra storeys to be added to existing housing
5 and flats.
- 6 C. The assessment of local housing need and the threshold below which developers are
7 required to contribute to affordable housing will also be changed.
- 8 D. In the future reforms proposed in the Planning for the Future consultation published on
9 the 6 August 2020, land will be categorised into growth, renewal or protection zones;
 - 10 I. 'Growth' areas will allow planning permission in principle if a site is designated a
11 development site in the local plan.
 - 12 II. 'Renewal' areas will be subject to a statutory 'presumption in favour of development'
 - 13 III. 'Protection' areas will be where development will be discouraged.
- 14 E. The Government has already laid new regulations allowing Permitted Developments that
15 do not provide adequate environmental standards to counter Climate Change dangers
- 16 Conference recognises:
 - 17 i) The need to build more housing to prevent homelessness and provide adequate,
18 affordable and suitable accommodation for everyone, and the failure of successive
19 governments to address the issue.
 - 20 ii) That councils currently approve nine in ten applications.
 - 21 iii) That the Local Government Association findings show that over a million homes have
22 planning permission but remain unbuilt.
- 23 Conference believes that:
 - 24 a) The planning system is not the cause of low build-out numbers.
 - 25 b) These proposals reduce democratic accountability and public scrutiny undermining the
26 ability of councils to determine planning applications.
 - 27 c) These proposals significantly reduce the scope for public participation and influence on
28 planning applications within local communities.
 - 29 d) The proposed changes would favour development interests over those of local
30 communities.
 - 31 e) Delegation of detailed planning decisions to planning officers, rather than a democratically
32 elected planning committee fails to recognise the role that public democratic scrutiny has
33 in ensuring decisions are fair, transparent, with any impacts fully considered.
 - 34 f) The reforms restrict a planning authorities' ability to set local planning policies in line with



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- 35 the needs of their area and community aspirations, undermining the plan-led system,
36 disempowering councils and communities.
- 37 g) Replacing the Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 payments with centrally
38 imposed housing targets and a national levy, will likely result in less money for affordable
39 housing, sustainable transport and other critical infrastructure.
- 40 h) The effort to speed up applications risk watering down or removing the requirement
41 altogether for Strategic Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Assessments
42 and similar assessments.
- 43 i) The proposals do not sufficiently take into consideration the Climate Change Act 2008
44 provisions that address carbon dioxide emission standards for future housing stock.
- 45 j) The proposals put at risk archaeology and heritage by undermining pre-commencement
46 archaeological conditions in the development process.

47 Conference reaffirms the commitment of the Liberal Democrats to:

- 48 1. Empower local democracy.
- 49 2. Provide the infrastructure the country needs.
- 50 3. Provide truly affordable good quality housing.
- 51 4. Support housing with high standards of design, amenity, space.
- 52 5. Achieve the smallest possible carbon footprint from housing.

53 Conference strongly objects to these proposals and urges all Liberal Democrats – including
54 the party's councillors, MPs in England and those elected at any other level – to participate
55 in the consultations and to reject the arbitrary housing targets and reduction of local control
56 proposed in the consultation paper.

Applicability: England.

Background Briefing

This motion creates new policy in relation to the Government's recent proposals on planning.

F18 Racial Justice Cannot Wait

Amendment One

Liberal Democrat Campaign For Race Equality

Mover: Christopher Annous.

Summation: Roderick Lynch.

1 *After iv) (line 22), insert:*

- 2 v) BAME people are disproportionately likely to be detained under the Mental Health Act,
3 black people are disproportionately the subjects of the use of force by the police, and
4 people who have died following the use of force are disproportionately from BAME
5 communities.

6 *After 2. c) (line 88), insert:*

- 7 d) Introducing a national framework of regulations on the use of body-worn cameras by
8 police officers and mandating that all arrests are recorded by them.



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Amendment Two

Liberal Democrat Campaign For Race Equality

Mover: Christopher Annous.

Summation: Roderick Lynch.

1 *After 1. f) (line 79), insert:*

- 2 g) Introducing a larger and more specific range of ethnic group options in ethnicity
- 3 monitoring surveys, including the Census, to more accurately record individuals' ethnic
- 4 backgrounds, including people of mixed heritage, and better understand the ethnic
- 5 diversity of the UK.

The FCC has agreed to take a separate vote to delete 3. a) (lines 94–95).

The FCC has also agreed to take a separate vote to delete 4. a) and 4. b) (lines 106–119).

Background Briefing

This motion develops and updates policy on the issue of racial equality. In particular it creates new policy on a new Social and Race Equality Compact, implementation of the McGregor-Smith Review, and supporting local Citizens' Assemblies to consider issues around the portrayal of the British Empire in public monuments and events. Existing policy is set out in policy paper 135, *Eradicating Race Inequality* (2019), and the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

F19 Save the BBC

Mover: Jamie Stone MP (Spokesperson for Culture, Media and Sport).

The FCC has agreed to take a separate vote to delete g) (lines 55–58).

Background Briefing

This motion restates and updates existing policy on support for the BBC as an independent public service broadcaster in light of recent attacks upon it. Existing policy is set out in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

F21 A Green Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic

The FCC has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:

2

- 3 *In ii) (line 17), after 'emissions' insert 'or to achieve an early rapid reduction of UK greenhouse gas emissions'.*

In a) (line 22), after 'Cut' insert 'greenhouse gas'.

Amendment One

16 members

Mover: James Baillie.

Summation: Nick Sandford.



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1 *After C. (line 11), insert:*

2 D. A healthy, biodiverse, accessible natural environment will be vital for facing the climate
3 emergency and has been vital for supporting people's mental and physical health through
4 lockdown, with over half of people reporting increased awareness and appreciation of
5 green space this year in polling.

6 *After 9. (line 60), add:*

7 10. Ensure that biodiversity is at the heart of the green recovery, including ensuring its
8 consideration at all levels of the planning process, building a comprehensive Nature
9 Recovery Network to link habitats, and improving access to national parks and green
10 spaces for all parts of society.

Amendment Two

Sheffield

Mover: Cllr Joe Otten.

Summation: Andrew Sangar.

1 *In iii) (line 19), after 'green jobs' delete 'and' and insert a comma, and after 'emissions' insert 'and*
2 *protecting the environment'.*

3 *In 2. (line 38), after 'jobs' insert 'encouraging innovation in industry to adapt to a green*
4 *economy, carry out an audit of the skills which will be required, '.*

Background Briefing

This motion updates policy on a green recovery and climate change in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the UK's exit from the EU. In particular it makes new policy on continuing UK membership of the EU Emissions Trading System. Existing policy is set out in policy paper 139, *Tackling the Climate Emergency* (2019), and the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

F23 The UK and Europe

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Christine Jardine MP (Spokesperson for Europe).

Summation: Daisy Cooper MP (Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats).

1 Conference notes with deep concern:

- 2 A. The decision by the Conservative Government not to seek an extension to the post-Brexit
3 transition period beyond 31 December 2020 despite the apparently deadlocked 'future
4 relationship' negotiations between the UK and the EU on economic, transport, migration,
5 welfare, fisheries and security arrangements.
- 6 B. That the UK cannot afford to crash out of the EU without a deal in place or to accept a
7 rushed, bad deal at a time when the UK is already facing the biggest crisis in generations
8 as a result of COVID-19 against a background of intensified China-USA-Russia rivalry.
- 9 C. That the rights of UK citizens in the EU and EU citizens in the UK remain at risk, as the
10 Conservative Government attempts to roll back from the commitments it made in the



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- 11 2019 Withdrawal Agreement.
- 12 D. The Conservative Government's Internal Market Bill, which the Secretary of State for
13 Northern Ireland has admitted will breach international law "in a very limited and specific
14 way", trashes the UK's reputation, sets a dangerous precedent and almost certainly
15 precludes any chance of a Free Trade Agreement with either the EU or the USA unless the
16 offending sections are removed.
- 17 Conference believes that:
- 18 i) There is no deal that could be negotiated that could be more beneficial than continued
19 membership of the EU, and the damage caused by Brexit to the UK's economy human
20 rights, security, and standing in the world will be profound and long-lasting.
- 21 ii) The UK and its people share fundamental values of liberalism, democracy and respect
22 for the rule of law with our European neighbours and allies; the European Union is our
23 natural home and the UK's rightful place should be at the heart of the EU.
- 24 Conference affirms the party's immediate priorities to:
- 25 a) Hold the Conservative Government to account unstintingly as it fails to deliver what it
26 promised, and expose the damage of this Government's Brexit to our economy, security,
27 society and national unity.
- 28 b) Campaign vigorously against measures which are prejudicial to British industry,
29 agriculture and democracy, and in so doing point to the benefits of closer relations with
30 the EU.
- 31 c) Continue to work with others in Parliament (including in the House of Lords) to halt or
32 amend damaging legislation such as measures in the United Kingdom Internal Market
33 Bill.
- 34 d) Support international cooperation and a global rules-based system, and oppose
35 isolationism and economic nationalism.
- 36 Conference calls for:
- 37 1. The Conservative Government to honour the commitments it made in the Withdrawal
38 Agreement and the Political Declaration.
- 39 2. The rights of UK citizens in the EU and EU citizens in the UK not to be further eroded
40 – and where possible enhanced – and the provisions of the European Convention on
41 Human Rights and Charter of Fundamental Rights to be respected for all UK citizens.
- 42 3. The closest possible alignment between the UK and the EU towards customs union,
43 single market and freedom of movement, including minimising tariff and non- tariff trade
44 barriers, no lowering of environmental, food and animal welfare standards, and the
45 maintenance of strong diplomatic, developmental, defence, security, judicial, educational
46 and scientific cooperation.
- 47 In the longer term, conference resolves to keep all options open for the UK's future
48 relationship with the EU, including membership at an appropriate future date to be
49 determined by political circumstances, subject to public assent, market and trade conditions
50 and acceptable negotiated terms.

Applicability: Federal.



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Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

Amendment One

16 members

Mover: Fraser Graham.

Summation: George Potter.

- 1 *After ii) (line 23), insert:*
- 2 iii) The UK's national interest is still best served by EU membership.
- 3 iv) Any mandate arising from the Brexit referendum is now discharged, with the UK having
- 4 left the EU.
- 5 *Delete lines 47 to 50, and insert:*
- 6 Conference resolves that Liberal Democrats should continue to make the case for UK
- 7 membership of the EU, and calls on the party to campaign to rejoin the EU after the post-
- 8 Brexit transition period ends.

Amendment Two

26 Members

Mover: Cllr Martin Horwood.

Summation: Duncan Brack.

- 1 *In line 47, delete 'In the longer term, conference resolves to keep all options open for the UK's*
- 2 *future relationship with the EU, including membership' and insert 'Conference resolves to*
- 3 *support a longer term objective of UK membership of the EU'.*

Background Briefing

This motion updates policy on the UK and Europe in light of the fact that the UK is no longer a member state but the Government has also so far failed to negotiate a new relationship with the EU. Existing policy is set out in policy motion *Stop Brexit* (2019) and the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

Consultative sessions

Consultative sessions provide a less formal setting for members to contribute to the development of party policy and strategy.

Utilities

Sunday 18.45-19.35 in the fringe

See the *Directory* for details.

Spokespeople Q&A sessions

Q&A sessions give you the opportunity to ask questions of our spokespeople.

Coronavirus: the health approach and the impact on communities and society

Sunday 16.00-16.50 in the fringe.

See *Conference Extra* for details.

