

2022



ONLINE  
**AUTUMN  
CONFERENCE**  
17-20 SEPTEMBER

**UPDATED  
AGENDA**

**CONFERENCE  
DAILY  
MONDAY**



Welcome to the Liberal Democrat Online Autumn 2021 *Conference Agenda*.

This sixth edition of the *Conference Agenda – Conference Daily Monday* – contains the agenda for the auditorium sessions at conference and information about the conduct of the sessions, plus updates from the Conference Committee. It is available online only.

*Conference Daily* updates are published on pages headed ‘Conference Daily’. Purple text indicates new updates that have not been published previously; green text indicates updates that have been in a previous agenda update.

Further updated editions of the *Conference Agenda – Conference Daily* – will be published on the eve of each day of conference, online at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

Further information, registration and conference publications (including plain text and clear print versions) are available at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference)



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## Conference information

Conference will take place through our virtual conference venue Hopin. Access to all conference events requires a valid conference registration and registered attendees will be emailed details of how to log on to the Hopin platform at the time of registration and again a few days before conference.

This **Conference Agenda** covers the sessions held in the virtual auditorium at Autumn conference.

General conference information can be found in the **Conference Directory**, available online from mid August at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference)

If you have any questions prior to or during conference please email:

[conferences@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferences@libdems.org.uk)

If you have any tech queries during the live dates, please go to the tech helpdesk in the exhibition area of the online conference on Hopin (see page 5).

If you wish to communicate with the chair, submit a procedural motion or ask for a separate vote, please use the following link:

[www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions)

If you want to comment about the session you are in, please use the chat function; do not use chat to communicate with the chair of a session. See guidance on page 4.

## Hopin: our virtual conference venue

Registered attendees will be emailed details of how to log onto the Hopin platform at the time of their registration. A reminder will be emailed to you a few days prior to the start of the conference.

For the best experience of conference when using a computer or laptop, Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox web browsers are recommended. To access Hopin via an iOS mobile device, Safari is the best mobile browser to use; and for an Android device, please use Google Chrome.

Ensure you turn off your ad blockers and don't have any other programs open. If something goes wrong, try refreshing your browser!

## Conference information

There is a short video on how Hopin works on our website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EmnaN3lj5c>

After the conference the auditorium sessions will be available on YouTube.

## Hopin navigation

On the Hopin platform, the menu bar appears on the left.

### Home

Scroll down to view the agenda, fringe & training events and exhibition stands (one for each entity in the exhibition area).

### Auditorium

Watch the debates and speeches. Members can vote on motions via polls (within Hopin).

There will be BSL signers during auditorium sessions.

### Fringe & Training

Fringe is available for all to view. Fringe events happen outside auditorium hours.

Training is only for party members to view and is run simultaneously alongside the auditorium sessions.

See the *Conference Directory* for details.

### Exhibition

You can enter this area to view the exhibition stands throughout conference, view exhibitors' videos, ask questions in the chat function and connect to their websites. See the *Conference Directory* for details.

There are also specified live times each day when you can chat with someone live from each organisation.

## Conference information

### Networking

Chat with a randomly selected participant and share common interests.

If you wish to contact a particular individual to chat with them or have a live video link, please click on 'people' next to the 'chat' function on the top right and find the person you wish to connect with.

### Voting

Only registered members can vote at conference. Voting will be available through Hopin and the polling function in the auditorium.

For the emergency motions ballot, mi-voice voting will be used and registered members will be emailed a link prior to conference to vote in the ballot.

### Conference Chat

In each auditorium session there will be a chat feature enabled, which allows attendees to post their views and comments about events in the auditorium.

The chat is public and visible to everybody: bear this in mind when posting. All comments in the chat must be respectful, lawful, and in keeping with the Members' Code of Conduct, accessible here:

[www.libdems.org.uk/code-of-conduct](http://www.libdems.org.uk/code-of-conduct)

The chat will be moderated, and if your post does not meet the required standards of behaviour, sanctions start with post deletion, and more serious breaches may lead to you having your conference access revoked and/or disciplinary action within the party.

Please do not use the chat to attempt to communicate with members of the Federal Conference Committee (FCC) or the chairs and aides of debates. To raise a query with the chairs and aides use this link:

[www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions)

### Q&A

Please post your questions under the Q&A tab.

Questions to reports should be submitted as described under 'reports' on page 9; in addition, questions may be submitted using the Q&A tab during the session

## Conference information

and they may be selected by the chair, but that is not guaranteed.

The chat / Q&A is there to facilitate interactivity in our virtual conference, but it can only do this if everyone in it behaves responsibly and with courtesy and respect towards each other and the moderators.

### ***Conference Extra and Conference Daily***

An update to this *Conference Agenda* incorporating *Conference Extra* will be published online ahead of conference, and further updates incorporating *Conference Daily* will be published each day of conference.

They will contain updates to the agenda including information from the Federal Conference Committee (FCC), changes to session timings, amendments, topical issues, emergency motions and questions to reports.

You will be able to find *Conference Agenda* updates online at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/a21-agenda](http://www.libdems.org.uk/a21-agenda)

### **Tech helpdesk**

If you have any tech issues during the conference, we have a tech helpdesk located in the exhibition area (first stand) that will be open at the following times:

Friday	17 September	12.00 – 19.00
Saturday	18 September	08.45 – 17.45
Sunday	19 September	08.45 – 17.45
Monday	20 September	09.45 – 14.15

### **Federal Board and Federal Conference Committee helpdesk**

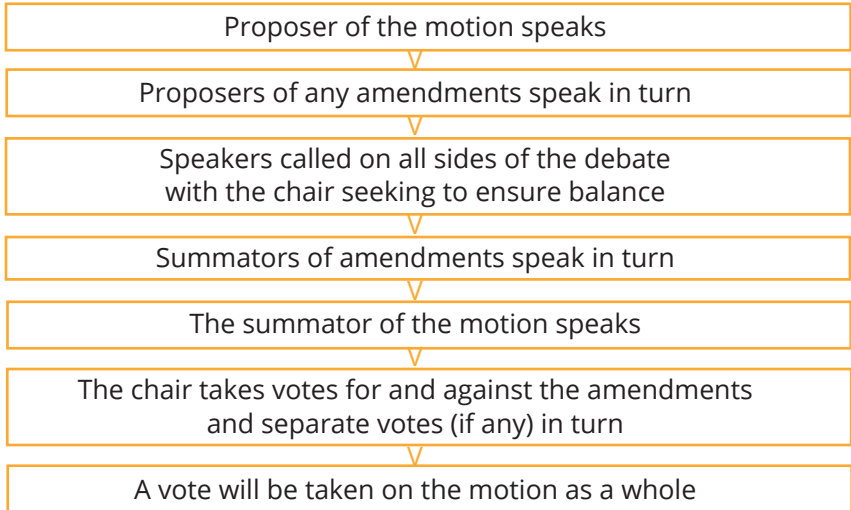
Members of the Federal Board (FB) and the FCC will be available to give advice at their stands in the virtual exhibition at the following times:

Friday	17 September	15.45 – 17.45
Saturday	18 September	12.30 – 14.00 and 15.45 – 17.45
Sunday	19 September	12.30 – 14.00 and 15.45 – 17.45
Monday	20 September	12.30 – 14.00 and 16.45 – 18.30

## Debates and votes at conference

Debates on policy and business motions are at the heart of federal conference. It is through them that the party sets its policy and future direction. Unlike in other parties, Liberal Democrat members are sovereign, and what they decide really matters.

The structure of debate on policy and business motions:



**Amendments:** all motions except emergency motions are open to amendment; amendments accepted will be published in the *Conference Daily* updates to the *Conference Agenda*.

**Communications with the chair and aide:** At the virtual conference you can contact the chair and aide team using the link:

[www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions)

Please note that this link is solely for formal communication with the chair and the aide on procedural motions and points of order.

**Voting:** decisions on most motions and all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting. To vote, registered members must use the polls function on Hopin. That is found by selecting the tab in the top right-hand corner when in the virtual auditorium. Vote by selecting the relevant button on the screen.

## Debates and votes at conference

**Separate votes:** a vote to delete or retain the specified words or section. A request for a separate vote may be submitted by any party member. For agenda items on Friday the request must be submitted by the emergency motions deadline and for other days by the start of conference on the previous day, using the link:

[www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions)

**Counted vote:** all votes taking place at this conference will be counted by Hopin and the result will be announced by the chair.

## Speaking and voting at conference

### Eligibility to speak and vote

All party members are entitled to speak and vote in conference debates, providing they are attending conference as a party member (and not for example an exhibitor or observer). Party members fulfilling these criteria are known as 'voting members'.

### Length of speeches

The length of speeches is shown against each motion in the *Agenda*.

A set of traffic lights will appear on the screen to show the speaker and the audience how long the speaker has left. Green means that the end of the time is at least one minute away. The amber light comes on when there is one minute to go. The red light comes on when time is up and you should stop speaking immediately.

### Applying to speak

To make a speech in a debate you must submit an electronic speaker's card online at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card)

Applications open on Monday 13 September and close at 17.00 on the day BEFORE the debate.

Speakers selected for a debate (plus a couple of reserves) will be sent an email by 21.00 on the day before the debate. If it is your first time speaking at this conference, you will be asked to log into a Debate Test meeting for our technical team to check your sound and vision. You will be required to



## Speaking and voting at conference

download the Zoom app (or equivalent) prior to the test – a link will be in the email.

Our technical team will register you before the debate commences. 10 minutes before the start of the debate you will be asked to log out of Hopin and into a Motion meeting, which will have the same title as the agenda item. You will be able to follow the debate while waiting. The chair will ask you to stand by one speech before yours and then call you to speak when required.

Once you have finished speaking you must log out of the Motion meeting and return to Hopin. The email should answer any questions and will give you contact details to seek further help.

### Completing a speaker's card

Please remember to:

- Submit your card no later than 17.00 on the day before the debate. There is no guarantee late cards will be considered.
- Complete the card fully so that the chair knows all about you and what you want to say, and can balance the debate.

## Other conference sessions

### Emergency motions

Emergency motions are debated and voted on and make formal party policy like other motions, but refer to a substantial development since the deadline for submission of motions.

There is a slot for emergency motions at F37 on Monday 20 September. Registered members will vote on which of the emergency motions that have been submitted they want to debate. An email will be sent shortly before conference to enable you to vote; the closing time for votes will be 12.00 noon on Saturday 18 September.

### Topical issue discussions

The FCC may decide to use part of this slot for topical issue discussions. This will allow members and spokespeople to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference; they do not make party policy.

Party members may submit suggested topics for a discussion, which will

## Other conference sessions

be considered by officers of the FCC and FPC. If a topical issue discussion is selected, it will be published in the relevant *Conference Daily* update to the *Conference Agenda*.

### Question & answer sessions

Any voting member may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) on any subject for the Leader's Q&A (F18). Questions will be selected by the chair and the questioner will be able to ask their question via video.

Questions may be submitted by 17.00 on the day before the session using the online form at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_submissions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions)

The chair may also decide to put questions raised in the chat function during the session.

### Reports

The reports of Federal Committees and Parliamentary Parties are printed in the separate reports document. Any voting member may submit concise questions on these reports. Questions may be submitted by 13.00 on 6 September using the online form at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_submissions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions)

Questions received by the deadline above will be published in the *Conference Extra* update to the *Conference Agenda* and are guaranteed a reply, in the session or in writing thereafter. Questions may also be submitted using the same online form until 17.00 on the day before the session, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the chair of the session.

## Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals

### Amendments and emergency motions

Amendments and emergency motions must be:

- signed by 10 party members; **OR**
- submitted by one or more of: a local party, state party, regional party in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisation or Federal Party Committee.

## Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals

And must be submitted by 13.00 on 6 September online at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_submissions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions)

Submitters should include:

- For amendments – a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment.
- For emergency motions – a short explanation of its emergency nature.

### Topical issues

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any party member by 13.00 on 6 September online at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_submissions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions)

The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should not include an expression of opinion; please include full contact details of the submitter and up to 100 words explanatory background.

### Drafting advice

Submitters are encouraged to use our drafting advice service: draft amendments and emergency motions should be submitted by 13.00 on 23 August online at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_submissions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions)

### Appeals

If you wish to appeal the FCC's decision not to select your emergency motion or amendment, follow these instructions.

The appeal should come from the email address of the original contact for the motion and should be no longer than one side of A4.

It should explain why you are appealing and any new information the FCC was unaware of when it made its decision.

The email should also contain a contact name and telephone number.

Appeals should be emailed by 12.00 noon on 16 September to:

[appeals@libdems.org.uk](mailto:appeals@libdems.org.uk)

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# Friday 17 September

F1

14.00 Party business

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

## **F1 Opening of Conference by Dr Mark Pack, President of the Liberal Democrats**



@markpack, #LDConf

14.05 Party business

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

## **F2 Federal Conference Committee Report: questions and accountability**

Mover: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

*See notes to F3.*

## **F3 Federal Policy Committee Report: questions and accountability**

Mover: Cllr Lucy Nethsingha (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee).

*The deadline for questions for F2 and F3 is 13.00 on 6 September. Questions selected will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter.*

*Questions may also be submitted online until 17.00 on Thursday 16 September, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but they will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the Chair.*

*See page 7 for further information.*



## Friday 17 September

F2

### F2 Federal Conference Committee Report: questions and accountability

#### Q1. Submitted by Cllr Oliver Jones-Lyons

Given the FCC vote was “very tight”, why was there no wider consultation or a conference vote when deciding to get rid of name-blind submissions?

#### Q2. Submitted by Laurence Cox

FCC's process for motions is still opaque. Will you:

- 1) Publish all motions on receipt and allow Party members to express their support?
- 2) Publish the reasons for rejection of motions?
- 3) Roll over motions to the next conference where the only reason for rejection is lack of debating time?

#### Q3. Submitted by Suzanne Fletcher

When the agenda is published could the PDF be sent out to those who ask for it? Some members have difficulty in following the weblinks.

### F3 Federal Policy Committee Report: questions and accountability

#### Q1. Submitted by Adam Robertson

How do the Federal Policy Committee propose to attract those who feel ‘left behind’ because of circumstances out of their control to vote for us, without coming across as ‘noblesse oblige’ towards them?

#### Q2. Submitted by Adam Robertson

The FPC are looking at the long-term aim of the UK rejoining the European Union understandably. However, have they considered the following:

- 1) Has the FPC done a deep discourse onto the very reason why people voted to Leave, the EU, in the first place? Have we done focus groups such in coastal areas such as Lowestoft, Sunderland and Grimsby?
- 2) The UK will be considered as a new applicant under the ‘Copenhagen Criteria’.

## Friday 17 September

F3

This includes adhering to the aims of 'political, economic and monetary union'. Would the FPC considering looking at the tests set out by Gordon Brown in the late 1990's before us joining the Euro?

Secondly, there will be Remainers, who voted for the 'Status Quo', who liked the semi-detached relationship. Therefore, making the Referendum more likely to be weighted such as 60/40 towards Leave, how do the FPC going to convince these people in the long-term?

## Friday 17 September

F4

14.30 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aides: John Bridges and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

### F4 Ban Conversion Therapy

*12 members*

Mover: Adrian Hyrylainen-Trett.

Summation: Em Dean.

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
  - 2 i) Conversion therapy, an abhorrent and harmful practice which seeks  
3 to suppress or change a sexual orientation and/or gender identity, or  
4 to induce or compel a person to do so, is still practiced throughout  
5 the UK.
  - 6 ii) Despite repeated commitments, government has not proposed any  
7 legislation or other action to end conversion therapy.
  - 8 iii) According to a 2017 Government survey of LGBT+ people, nearly  
9 1 in 13 LGBT+ people have been offered, or compelled to receive  
10 conversion therapy, rising to 1 in 7 among transgender people, with  
11 transgender men being the most at-risk.
  - 12 iv) According to that same survey, 51% of conversion therapy practices  
13 are conducted by faith organisations, with a further 19% being  
14 conducted by healthcare and medical professionals.
  - 15 v) According to the annual review by ILGA-Europe, the UK is no longer  
16 the leading country for LGBT+ rights in Europe, and has been steadily  
17 declining in the rankings since 2015.
  - 18 vi) The ongoing pathologisation and social exclusion of LGBT+ people  
19 puts pressure on LGBT+ people to conceal or conform their  
20 orientation and/or identity, which further exposes LGBT+ people to  
21 predatory practices, such as conversion therapy.
- 22 Conference reaffirm
  - 23 A. That Liberal Democrats champion the autonomy of the individual,  
24 the fostering of diversity, and the right to privacy, including the right

**Friday 17 September**

F4

- 25 to medical autonomy. These principles are crucial to the protection  
26 of LGBT+ orientations and identities.
- 27 B. Our commitment to ensure that the withdrawal of medical  
28 conversion therapy by NHS England is effectively extended to  
29 transgender, non-binary, and intersex people.
- 30 C. Our alignment with the position of NHS England, NHS Scotland,  
31 Public Health Wales, and other leading health, social care, and aid  
32 organisations, as noted in the Memorandum of Understanding  
33 on Conversion Therapy (2017), that conversion therapy has “no  
34 medical or therapeutic value” and that a conversion therapy ban  
35 is not intended to exclude LGBT+ people from accessing “qualified  
36 and appropriate” therapists and support. Practices which seek to  
37 affirm or support an LGBT+ orientation or identity are not conversion  
38 therapy.
- 39 Conference calls for:
- 40 1. The banning of conversion practices in all forms – this should include  
41 the following:
- 42 a) A criminal ban on all forms of conversion therapy; including  
43 those claiming to be psychiatric, psychological, therapeutic, or  
44 consultative; or a religious practice such as a prayer or exorcism;  
45 or any other medical, scientific, or cultural activity seeking to  
46 suppress or change a person’s sexual orientation or gender  
47 identity.
- 48 b) A criminal ban on referrals, transportation of minors overseas,  
49 and advertising and promotion, for any of the above.
- 50 c) No exemption for religious and faith-based organisations for  
51 any of the above.
- 52 2. A campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of conversion therapy  
53 among vulnerable people and in social environments where  
54 conversion therapy is most likely to be promoted.
- 55 3. Our elected representatives to work to ensure that all LGBT+ people  
56 are able to live in freedom, authenticity, and safety.

*Applicability: England and Wales.*

## Friday 17 September

F4

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see pages 9–10 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 7 – is 13.00 on 6 September. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

### **Background briefing**

This motion creates new policy with regards to conversion therapy.

## Friday 17 September

F5

15.15 Speech

Chair: Bex Scott.

**F5 Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP, Spokesperson for Home Affairs and Political and Constitutional Reform**



@amcarmichaelmp, #LDConf

15.30 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Maines. Aides: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC) and Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

**F6 Boosting Small Businesses and Jobs in the Post-Pandemic Economy**

*12 members*

Mover: Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson for Business and Trade). Summation: Lord Purvis (Lords Spokesperson for Trade).

- 1 Conference believes that:
  - 2 I. The economic recovery from Covid-19 starts with small business:
  - 3 small businesses are the backbone of our economy, the heart of our
  - 4 local communities, and they create the jobs we all rely on.
  - 5 II. Everyone should have access to good, decent-paying jobs.
  - 6 III. To cope with the unpredictable nature of the pandemic, people and
  - 7 businesses need certainty and long-term support – not last-minute
  - 8 announcements and knee-jerk reactions.
  - 9 IV. We must rebuild a post-pandemic economy that is fair, creates new
  - 10 opportunities for people and tackles the climate emergency.
- 11 Conference notes with concern that:
  - 12 a) The UK's economy is 4% smaller than before the pandemic, and
  - 13 according to the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), it won't reach
  - 14 its pre-covid size until the end of 2022.
  - 15 b) 1.6 million people are out of a job, and there are 553,000 fewer

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- 16 people on payroll than pre-pandemic; according to the OBR, by the  
17 end of the year another 600,000 people will lose their job.
- 18 c) Unemployment is disproportionately impacting the young and  
19 people from ethnic minorities, as people aged 16-24 are the likeliest  
20 to be out of a job, and young black people experienced the highest  
21 unemployment rate in 2020, reaching 42%.
- 22 d) The Government is failing to create new jobs, with the failed Kickstart  
23 Scheme having thus far placed just 16,500 people in new roles out of  
24 a target of 250,000.
- 25 e) Failing to support employment threatens the UK's economic recovery  
26 and takes away peoples' opportunities.
- 27 f) Small businesses have suffered during the pandemic, taking on more  
28 than £104 billion in debt to stay afloat
- 29 g) The pandemic has damaged the UK's town centres and high streets,  
30 taking a toll on entrepreneurship opportunities, local services,  
31 local employment opportunities and face-to-face contact for those  
32 experiencing loneliness.
- 33 h) Small businesses are in a rent-arrears crisis, with unpaid commercial  
34 rent estimated at £6 billion, affecting the hospitality and retail  
35 sectors the worst.
- 36 i) The Government has threatened a wave of small business  
37 closures and job losses, by refusing to accompany the month-long  
38 continuation of trading restrictions with an extension of the full  
39 furlough scheme and the business rates holiday.
- 40 j) The Federation of Small Businesses has warned that at least 250,000  
41 businesses could close by the end of the year, while the number of  
42 companies in financial distress has risen at the fastest pace in seven  
43 years.
- 44 k) Compounding the struggles of small business in the pandemic is the  
45 Government's terrible EU trade deal, which has led to a 25% drop in  
46 trade with Europe compared to 2019, and a staff shortage crisis that  
47 has brought many businesses to their knees.
- 48 l) The Government has ignored the three million people excluded from  
49 all Covid-19 support schemes.

50 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitments to:

- 51 A. Develop a long-term economic strategy, setting out how the UK will  
52 invest in new industries, jobs and training, that will create a fairer,

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- 53 greener, more regionally balanced economy after the pandemic.
- 54 B. Establish dedicated support schemes for the worst-affected sectors
- 55 such as hospitality, tourism, charities and the creative industries.
- 56 C. Ensure that a large proportion of new jobs created are green jobs,
- 57 encouraging innovation in industry to adapt to a green economy,
- 58 carry out an audit of the skills which will be required, and ensure
- 59 those who are unemployed due to Covid-19 are helped to reskill to
- 60 fill them.
- 61 D. Expand higher vocational training such as foundation degrees,
- 62 Higher National Diplomas, Higher National Certificates and
- 63 Higher Apprenticeships, including by transforming the broken
- 64 Apprenticeship Levy into a wider 'Skills and Training Levy'.
- 65 E. Fix the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme by extending it to
- 66 cover the self-employed people who are currently excluded.
- 67 F. The closest possible alignment between the UK and the EU towards
- 68 customs union, single market and freedom of movement, including
- 69 minimising tariff and non-tariff trade barriers and the non-lowering
- 70 of environmental, food and animal welfare standards.

71 Conference further calls on the Government to:

- 72 1. Extend the fully government-backed version of the Coronavirus Job
- 73 Retention Scheme, and the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme,
- 74 at least until the end of 2021.
- 75 2. Provide financial assistance to small businesses that experience loss
- 76 of revenue due to Coronavirus restrictions on their trading capacity
- 77 or ability to stay open.
- 78 3. Give all small businesses a cash injection and empower them to
- 79 create new jobs, by quadrupling the annual Employment Allowance
- 80 to £16,000 for two years, allowing them to pay zero employers'
- 81 National Insurance Contributions on their first five employees – and
- 82 consult on whether to increase the Employment Allowance long-
- 83 term.
- 84 4. Avert a wave of insolvencies and job losses by implementing
- 85 innovative debt restructuring solutions for viable small businesses
- 86 struggling due to coronavirus.
- 87 5. Maintain the 5% reduced rate of VAT for hospitality and tourism until
- 88 the end of the 2021–22 financial year
- 89 6. Give struggling businesses in the retail, hospitality and live events



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- 90 sectors relief on their deferred VAT payments, so that cash is  
91 available as working capital as they open back up.
- 92 7. Fix the broken Kickstart scheme and develop a strategy to tackle  
93 unemployment among young people from a black and ethnic  
94 minority background.
- 95 8. Support small businesses struggling to trade with Europe by:  
96 a) Doing more to listen to their concerns and seek technical  
97 solutions.
- 98 b) Significantly increasing the £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund  
99 and broadening its eligibility criteria.
- 100 c) Ensuring that all information SMEs need on UK-EU trade is  
101 readily available in a single platform.
- 102 d) Appointing a new Minister for SME Trade, tasked with  
103 implementing the above measures and boosting small business  
104 trade.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9–10 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 7 – is 13.00 on 6 September. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

# Friday 17 September

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## F6 Boosting Small Businesses and Jobs in the Post-Pandemic Economy

Mover: Cllr Paula Widdowson.

Summation: Cllr Bridget Smith.

### Amendment One

ALDC

Mover: to be announced.

Summation: to be announced.

1 *After F. (line 70), insert:*

- 2 G. Conference recognises the crucial role local government can play in  
3 supporting businesses in their area during the pandemic and helping  
4 them re-build such as the 294 businesses saved from closure by  
5 the City of York's micro-grant scheme in 2020. Conference calls on  
6 central government to ensure local councils to have a leading role  
7 in Local Enterprise Partnerships as part of their work in supporting  
8 local economies.

### Background briefing

This motion updates and develops economic policy, specifically dealing with how to recover from the economic impact of COVID-19 on small businesses and jobs.

It builds on previous policy in the policy motion *Supporting Business, Workers and the Self-Employed during the COVID-19 Pandemic* (March 2021), the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019) and policy paper 133, *Good Jobs, Better Businesses, Stronger Communities: Proposals for a new economy that really works for everyone* (2018).

# Friday 17 September consultation session

## Federal Policy Committee Work Programme on Europe

*Consultation session, Friday 17 September, 16.20–17.30*

The spring 2021 conference instructed the FPC to 'carry out a programme of work, including consulting widely within the party, to determine the best possible future framework for the UK-EU relationship across all policy areas, with the aims of: (a) demonstrating the benefits to UK citizens and businesses of a much closer relationship compared to the government's inadequate measures; (b) recommending roadmaps for the UK to rejoin the Customs Union, Single Market and other EU agencies and programmes as appropriate; and (c) maximising public support for eventual UK membership of the EU.'

The FPC has appointed a small group, chaired by Duncan Brack and including representatives of the parliamentary party, the Federal International Relations Committee and the Liberal Democrat European Group, to implement the conference instruction. We have decided to approach our task through a series of conference motions and papers rather than one big one. Since we cannot realistically cover every possible relevant topic through conference motions, we are also encouraging our parliamentary spokespeople to put forward proposals for closer and stronger relationships with the EU in their spokespersonship areas.

This consultation session is designed to give conference participants a chance to tell us what they think are the priority policy areas we should address, what the possible solutions within each area are, and the messages the party should use in promoting closer cooperation between the UK and EU. This is our initial list of key topics –

### **Cultural, artistic and educational ties**

We thought this was a good topic to begin with, so the FPC has submitted motion F44, to be debated on Monday afternoon. The motion calls, among other things, for the UK to rejoin the Erasmus Plus scheme, to establish a European cultural fund and to improve the Youth Mobility Scheme.

### **Trade**

The key topic is obviously the trading relationship between the UK and EU. For next year's spring conference we are planning a motion on Single Market and Customs Union membership. This is such a complex area, covering, among other things, freedom of movement, social, health and environmental standards

## Friday 17 September consultation session

and the Northern Ireland Protocol, that we'll be accompanying it with a short paper, to be published alongside the conference agenda. There is no doubt about the party's commitment to rejoining the Single Market and Customs Union – that was made clear at spring conference this year – but there are many issues to consider about the practicalities, the phasing and the impacts. Among other things, this should provide at least partial solutions to the recent supply-chain problems, including shortages of HGV drivers and staff in the transport, farming, food and catering and care sectors.

### Climate change and energy

The FPC's policy paper on carbon pricing (F12, to be debated on Saturday morning) includes the proposal to link the UK Emissions Trading Scheme with the EU ETS, thus increasing the effectiveness of emissions trading; and rejoining the EU ETS would be a requirement of UK entry to the EU in any case. Other potential areas for cooperation include working together with the EU in international climate negotiations; meeting emissions reduction targets jointly with the EU (in the same way as EEA countries do); and promoting greater interconnection with EU energy networks.

### Natural environment

Potential areas for collaboration include re-adopting EU standards in areas such as pollution control, water, air, chemicals, biodiversity, waste, genetically modified organisms and environmental impact assessment (most of this would be required under Single Market membership in any case, but this approach could be adopted in advance); working with the EU on its new measures to require businesses to protect the environment, and human and labour rights, in their supply chains; and working together with the EU in international biodiversity negotiations.

### Rights of EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU

This topic covers guaranteeing EU citizens' rights in law, including physical proof of settled status; automatic upgrading for those with pre-settled status; strengthening the Independent Monitoring Authority; and reiterating our commitment to the European Social Charter. We could also urge the UK government to ensure that EU member state governments are upholding the rights of UK citizens.

### Crime

Issues under this heading include police and security cooperation, including access to the Schengen Information System (information-sharing for security

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and border management); rejoining Europol and Eurojust and the European Arrest Warrant; and arrangements for the reciprocal nature of judgements, for example under the Lugano Convention, which clarifies which national courts have jurisdiction in cross-border civil and commercial disputes and ensures that judgments taken in such disputes can be enforced across borders.

### Science

Key aspects include alignment and co-operation as far as possible with EU science programmes such as Horizon Europe; participation in satellite systems including Galileo, EGNOS (the pan-European satellite navigation system) and Copernicus (the EU's Earth observation programme); participation in Euratom; and measures to improve access for EU nationals to UK academic institutions.

### Health

Topics include workforce issues such as recognition of professional qualifications, scrapping the Immigration Health Surcharge, improving visa routes; agreement on health insurance cards (EHIC/GHIC) with EEA member states; cooperation with the European Medicines Agency; and the possibility of joint pandemic preparedness exercises between UK and EU in the future.

### Foreign affairs, security and development

This heading covers a wide range of issues, including cooperation over security challenges such as those posed by Russia or China; the impacts and possible strategies towards unstable regions such as Afghanistan or the Middle East; and cooperation over development challenges, including Covid vaccination and climate finance. Other possibilities include coordinated use of 'Magnitsky sanctions' targeted on individuals responsible for human rights violations or corruption; and the creation of a shared forum for European states to address foreign and defence policy issues.

*The FPC is cooperating with the Liberal Democrat European Group to organise a conference on the future of Europe on Saturday 30 October, preceded by regional events throughout October. This will give party members another chance to contribute their thoughts on the evolving Liberal Democrat strategy on the UK-EU relationship. For more information see <https://ldeg.org/en/>.*

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16.15 Auditorium break

*Please see the **Conference Directory** for our fringe and exhibition programme.*

18.45 Policy motion

Chair: Duncan Brack. Aides: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

**F7 Towards a Fair Global Corporation Tax System**

*12 members*

Mover: Christine Jardine MP (Spokesperson for the Treasury).

Summation: to be confirmed

- 1 Conference celebrates the historic agreement at the G7, championed
- 2 by the Biden administration, to create an international corporation tax
- 3 system, aiming to tackle tax avoidance by large multinationals.
  
- 4 Conference believes that:
  - 5 i) The G7 agreement is a long overdue step towards making the
  - 6 international economy fairer and ensuring that some of the largest
  - 7 and most profitable corporations in the world pay their fair share of
  - 8 tax.
  - 9 ii) The agreement's benefits can be maximised through improvements
  - 10 that will address certain weaknesses.
  - 11 iii) Business tax shouldn't be punitive or stifle innovation, but large
  - 12 profitable corporations operating in the UK should pay their fair
  - 13 share of tax.
  - 14 iv) Multinational corporations and tech giants should contribute to the
  - 15 economic rebuilding from Coronavirus.
  
- 16 Conference notes that:
  - 17 i. Under 'pillar one' of the agreement, all multinational companies
  - 18 making profit margins over 10% will have 20% of their global profit
  - 19 beyond that threshold reallocated on the basis of where their

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- 20 customers are, to be taxed in those countries at the local corporation  
21 tax rate.
- 22 II. Under 'pillar two', multinationals must pay a minimum corporation  
23 tax of 15%, and if the rate in a jurisdiction is less than 15%, then the  
24 difference between the effective rate in that jurisdiction and 15% will  
25 be taxed in the country where the company is headquartered.
- 26 III. As part of the deal, the UK Government agreed to withdraw the  
27 Digital Services Tax (DST), which is levied at 2% of the revenues  
28 of search engines, social media services and online marketplaces  
29 operating in the UK.
- 30 IV. The G7 deal is subject to further negotiations via the G20, and  
31 ratification by national legislatures

32 Conference notes with concern that:

- 33 A. The UK Government failed to back the Biden administration's original  
34 proposal for a global minimum rate of 21%, instead pushing for it to  
35 be lowered to 15% – despite having raised UK corporation tax to 25%  
36 (effective in 2023)
- 37 B. According to the think tank IPPR, the UK exchequer would have  
38 gained an additional £6.8 billion a year under a minimum rate of  
39 21%.
- 40 C. The UK Government has not published an analysis of how much it  
41 expects to raise from this proposed system, and hasn't disclosed  
42 when it will withdraw the DST.
- 43 D. The UK Government pressed for big banks to be exempt from the  
44 agreement, and seeks to create eight tax-free freeports in England.
- 45 E. Analysis suggests that the replacement of the DST with the current  
46 version of 'pillar one' in the UK will result in a combined tax cut of  
47 £232.5 million for Amazon, Facebook, Google and eBay.
- 48 F. Experts have warned that if UK Corporation tax payments count  
49 towards liabilities under 'pillar one', Amazon, Facebook, Google and  
50 eBay will not see any significant change in their corporation tax bill in  
51 the UK.
- 52 G. Unless the deal is improved, Amazon could be exempt from paying  
53 tax in the UK under 'pillar one', as its overall profit margin does not  
54 exceed 10%.
- 55 H. The proposed minimum rate of 15% is significantly lower than the  
56 average OECD rate of 23.5% and similar to the corporation tax rates

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- 57 of Lichtenstein (12.5%), Ireland (12.5%) and Switzerland (14%).
- 58 I. According to Oxfam, the 15% minimum rate fails to benefit the
- 59 finances of developing countries, as they will continue to face unfair
- 60 competition from tax havens.
- 61 J. The UK Government failed to implement a Windfall Tax to recoup
- 62 some of the record profits large corporations and tech giants
- 63 enjoyed due to public health restrictions.

64 Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat commitments to

- 65 a) Ensure that all businesses operating in the UK pay tax in the UK on
- 66 those operations, restricting the ability of multinationals to unfairly
- 67 shift profits out of the UK to low tax jurisdictions
- 68 b) A business tax system that encourages investment, with simplified
- 69 capital allowances, an increase in the Annual Investment Allowance
- 70 ensuring that businesses obtain tax relief for productive investment,
- 71 and higher Writing Down Allowances to encourage more investment
- 72 by the largest businesses.
- 73 c) Introducing a General Anti-Avoidance Rule, setting a target for HM
- 74 Revenue and Customs to reduce the tax gap and investing in more
- 75 staff to enable them to meet it

76 Conference further calls on the Government to:

- 77 1. Back President Biden's proposal for a global minimum rate of
- 78 corporation tax at 21%, and persuade other countries to do the
- 79 same.
- 80 2. Listen to developing countries' concerns and ensure that they will
- 81 benefit from the new system
- 82 3. Work for the broadest possible adoption of these measures via the
- 83 G20, the OECD and other international organisations.
- 84 4. Resist international pressure to remove the DST before the new
- 85 system is fully operational.
- 86 5. Ensure that the implementation of 'pillar one' in the UK does not lead
- 87 to a tax cut for some of the largest and most profitable tech companies
- 88 in the world such as Amazon, Facebook, Google and eBay.
- 89 6. Ensure that profitable subsidiaries of large business groups pay tax
- 90 in their own right as necessary, so that tech giants such as Amazon
- 91 aren't exempt from new rules due to the 10% profit-margin threshold.



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- 92 7. Ensure that current UK Corporation Tax payments don't count  
93 towards liabilities arising under 'pillar one', which would lead to a tax  
94 break for large multinationals.
- 95 8. Publish its official financial analysis setting out the agreement's  
96 expected impact on the UK Exchequer.
- 97 9. Develop a strategy to boost UK startups and growth-stage  
98 companies that create high-skill, high-wage jobs, with a particular  
99 focus on companies that can help tackle the climate emergency.
- 100 10. Publish a report analysing the effect on the UK Exchequer and  
101 on competition of a Windfall Tax on the super-profits of large  
102 corporations that benefited from public health restrictions during  
103 the pandemic.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9–10 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 7 – is 13.00 on 6 September. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

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F7

## F7 Towards a Fair Global Corporation Tax system

### Amendment One

*10 members*

Mover: Olly Craven.

Summation: James Baillie.

1 *After iv) (line15), insert:*

2 v) Businesses of the future should be better constituted to contribute  
3 to the good of society both in the UK and around the world, as well  
4 as being better regulated and effectively taxed

5 *In 9. (line 99), after 'emergency', insert: ', cooperatives, mutual, and social*  
6 *enterprises'.*

### Background briefin

This motion updates and develops economic policy, specifically the UK government's response to US President Biden's global minimum corporation tax plan.

It builds on previous policy in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019) and policy motion *Business Tax Reform: Fair for Business and Fair for Society* (September 2019).

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19.35 Party business

Chair: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Jennie Rigg and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

**F8 Presidential Election Regulations***Federal Board*

Mover: Isabelle Parasram (Vice President of the Liberal Democrats).

Summation: Dr Mark Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats).

- 1 Conference ratifies the following changes to the Presidential Election
- 2 regulations:
- 3 a) *Delete the title and insert: 'PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT*
- 4 *(RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKING WITH ETHNIC MINORITY*
- 5 *COMMUNITIES) ELECTION REGULATIONS'.*
- 6 b) *In Regulation 2, insert 'se' and 's' to read: 'The electorate for the*
- 7 *purposes of these elections shall ...'.*
- 8 c) *In Regulation 4 A, delete 'The timetable for the election' and insert 'The*
- 9 *timetables for these elections'.*
- 10 d) *Delete Regulation 6 A and insert EITHER:*
- 11 i. 'A candidate for the office of President or Vice Preside
- 12 responsible for working with ethnic minority communities shall
- 13 require the nomination of not less than 200 members in not less
- 14 than 20 Local Parties (including, for this purpose, the Specific
- 15 Associated Organisations representing youth and/or students).'
- 16 OR:
- 17 ii. 'A candidate for the office of President shall require the
- 18 nomination of not less than 200 members in not less than
- 19 20 Local Parties (including, for this purpose, the Specified
- 20 Associated Organisations representing youth and/or students).
- 21 A candidate for the office of Vice President responsible for

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- 22 working with ethnic minority communities shall require the  
23 nomination of any Local Party, any Regional Party, any State  
24 Party, any Specified Associated Organisations, or nominations  
25 may be submitted by any ten party members.'
- 26 e) *Replace Regulation 10 with EITHER:*
- 27 i. The Federal Board shall agree a spending limit for election  
28 expenses, not including travel or subsistence expenses, when  
29 setting the timetable for an election. The limit for President and  
30 Vice President may be different. No candidate, or their agent  
31 shall exceed this limit in the production of publicity material  
32 and all other expenditures connected with the campaign. This  
33 shall include any expenditure (or the relevant proportion of any  
34 expenditure) incurred before an individual becomes a candidate  
35 if the property, services or facilities are used for the purposes  
36 of the candidate's election. All donations above £500 must  
37 comply with the provisions of Schedule 7 of the Political Parties,  
38 Elections and Referendums Act 2000.
- 39 *OR:*
- 40 ii. The Federal Board shall agree a spending limit for election  
41 expenses, not including travel or subsistence expenses, when  
42 setting the timetable for the election for President. The limit for  
43 elections for Vice President shall be zero, not including travel or  
44 subsistence expenses. No candidate, or their agent, shall exceed  
45 this limit in the production of publicity material and all other  
46 expenditures connected with the campaign. This shall include  
47 any expenditure (or the relevant proportion of any expenditure)  
48 incurred before an individual becomes a candidate if the  
49 property, services or facilities are used for the purposes of the  
50 candidate's election. All donations above £500 must comply with  
51 the provisions of Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections  
52 and Referendums Act 2000.
- 53 f) *If option e) ii) above on election expenses is selected: in Regulation 16,*  
54 *after 'each candidate' insert 'for President'.*

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- 55 g) *In Regulation 21, delete 'Executive' and insert 'Board' in both instances.*
- 56 h) *In Regulation 21, delete 'the elections' and insert 'an election for*  
57 *President or Vice President'.*

*The current Presidential Election Regulations can be found on the party website at [www.libdems.org.uk/constitution](http://www.libdems.org.uk/constitution)*

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*Conference has the power to ratify but not amend election regulations proposed by the Federal Board. There will be votes on the options in the motion but the motion is not otherwise open to amendments or separate votes.*

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F9

## 20.05 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Bex Scott and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

**F9 *Democracy and Public Debate (Nature of Public Debate Policy Paper)****Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Jamie Stone MP (Spokesperson for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport).  
Summation: Martin Dickson (Chair of the Policy Working Group).

- 1 Conference notes the importance of high-quality public debate:
- 2 a) In enriching democracy, delivering better political, social and
- 3 economic outcomes for all.
- 4 b) In delivering the Liberal Democrats' aim of safeguarding a fair, free
- 5 and open society in which no one shall be enslaved by poverty,
- 6 ignorance or conformity.
- 7 Conference believes that:
- 8 I. The current state of public debate is damaging to our democracy
- 9 with growing political polarisation, hostility and misinformation
- 10 alongside declining trust in politics.
- 11 II. Whilst online communications have been positive for society overall,
- 12 they have helped facilitate these changes, by providing a platform for
- 13 them to spread.
- 14 III. Addressing the global challenges to public debate will require an
- 15 international effort
- 16 Conference calls for concerted reform of human rights law, education,
- 17 digital and media regulation, and our electoral processes in order to:
- 18 A. Enhance the quality of public debate.
- 19 B. Ameliorate the impact of misinformation.
- 20 C. Safeguard democracy, both at home and abroad.
- 21 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 141, *Democracy and Public*
- 22 *Debate*, and in particular its proposals to:

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- 23 1. Uphold our rights online by:
- 24 a) Passing a Digital Bill of Rights, comparable in scope to the  
25 Human Rights Act for the online age – this will include:  
26 i) The right to knowledge about the online world, including  
27 education in its complexities.  
28 ii) The right to participate in debate online, on the individual's  
29 terms.  
30 iii) The right to access the internet, through Citizens' Wifi in the  
31 public realm.  
32 iv) The right to privacy online.  
33 v) The right to the ownership and control of our personal data.  
34 vi) The right to free expression and participation online without  
35 being subjected to harassment and abuse.
- 36 b) Creating a new regulator and a new specialist court.
- 37 2. End the 'regulatory wild west' of social media by:
- 38 a) Splitting Ofcom into two regulators – the Communications  
39 Standards Authority and the Office for Communications  
40 Infrastructure, with a new Communications Court to provide  
41 judicial oversight.
- 42 b) The Communication Standards Authority's powers will cover:  
43 i) Ofcom's existing powers in respect to broadcast media.  
44 ii) Auditing online platforms in their observance of the Digital  
45 Bill of Rights and compliance with a statutory duty of care to  
46 secure the safety of their users and redress the imbalance of  
47 power between platforms and their individual users.  
48 iii) Monitoring social media companies' activity in responding to  
49 infringement of online harms legislation including the power  
50 to require social media companies to exercise a full range of  
51 sanctions exercised proportionately, depending on the  
52 seriousness and persistence of the abuse or harm suffered;  
53 the sanctions would include deletion of content, restrictions  
54 on sharing, affixing warnings against content and temporary  
55 or permanent suspension of membership; and to require a  
56 robust complaints systems for users who feel their rights

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- 57 have been violated.
- 58 iv) Administering a mandatory 'UK kitemark' scheme for all
- 59 social media companies that want to operate in the UK
- 60 v) Overseeing the content of life-long digital learning materials
- 61 and online transparency.
- 62 vi) Monitoring the digital world for emerging threats and
- 63 publicising these.
  
- 64 c) The Office for Communications Infrastructure's powers will
- 65 cover communications infrastructure, such as broadband
- 66 infrastructure, mobile networks, spectrum licensing and
- 67 regulation, and the Post Office's universal delivery requirement.
  
- 68 d) Introducing a levy on social media companies, to fund policies to
- 69 combat societal harms which occur on their platforms.
  
- 70 3. Improve the quality of our traditional media by:
  
- 71 a) Enacting the recommendations of the Leveson Inquiry and
- 72 commissioning the 'Leveson 2' Inquiry into press and police
- 73 relations.
- 74 b) Requiring social media platforms to pay news providers for their
- 75 content.
- 76 c) Providing financial support for local journalism and fact checking
- 77 websites, funded through a levy on social media companies.
- 78 d) Applying the same rules to online news outlets as print ones.
- 79 e) Reviewing copyright laws to see if they are fit for purpose in the
- 80 digital age.
  
- 81 4. Enhance our education system by:
  
- 82 a) Reforming the school curriculum in England to make critical
- 83 thinking and media studies part of the core curriculum,
- 84 modelled on Finland's reforms.
- 85 b) Introducing lifelong learning in England about the digital public
- 86 square and how to navigate it for every individual, with adult
- 87 education receiving a priority.
- 88 c) Introducing public awareness campaigns about emerging
- 89 threats and misinformation campaigns online.



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- 90 5. Increase competition and reduce the concentration of power in the  
91 social media market by:
- 92 a) Reviewing and re-negotiating the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation  
93 Agreement, with a view to closer cooperation and regulatory  
94 alignment.
- 95 b) Proactively working with the U.S. authorities to find a common  
96 position for global issues.
- 97 c) Enhancing the powers of the Digital Markets Unit within the  
98 Competition and Markets Authority to implement both ex-ante  
99 regulation and ex-post competition law.
- 100 d) Passing legislation to further facilitate data portability, network  
101 interoperability and transparency in social networks.
- 102 6. Ensure higher quality elections and safeguard democracy at home  
103 and abroad by:
- 104 a) Enhancing transparency in our elections, through accessible  
105 information on party manifestos, spending and social media  
106 adverts.
- 107 b) Revising and clarifying the powers of the Electoral Commission  
108 and police, to ensure fairness in our democratic processes and  
109 issue meaningful sanctions when the rules are broken.
- 110 c) Pushing for a global convention or treaty to combat  
111 disinformation and electoral interference, supplemented by an  
112 annual conference and Global Counter-Disinformation Fund, to  
113 safeguard and promote democracy at home as well as abroad.

*Applicability: Federal; except 4. (lines 81–89), which is England only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9–10 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 7 – is 13.00 on 7 September. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*Close of session: 21.00.*

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### F9 *Democracy and Public Debate* (Nature of Public Debate Policy Paper)

*There will be a separate vote on lines 71-73 and a separate vote on lines 74-75 in the motion.*

#### **Background briefin**

This motion and the accompanying policy paper update and develop digital, education, media, public life and electoral policy.

It builds on previous policy in the policy motions *Nature of Public Debate during COVID-19* (September 2020), *Save the BBC* (September 2020), the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019), policy paper 136, *A Fairer Share for All* (2019) and policy paper 130, *Power to the People* (2014).

# Saturday 18 September

F10

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Maines. Aides: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

## F10 Children in Care and Care Leavers

*Young Liberals*

Mover: Brendan Roberts.

Summation: Katharine Macy.

- 1 Conference notes that:
  - 2 A. 99,000 children are considered children in care in the UK.
  - 3 B. Care leavers only have a pathway plan from the age of 16 to 21.
  - 4 C. 16-year-olds who become homeless or estranged cannot easily find  
5 support.
  - 6 D. One in four young care leavers have had to sofa surf, 14% of young  
7 care leavers have slept rough, 40% of care leavers are unable to pay  
8 the required deposit for housing, and 57% of care leavers feel unsafe  
9 in the area they originally lived in.
  - 10 E. The average child in care enters care at age 14, which is a crucial  
11 point academically; young people leaving care are less likely to  
12 be involved in education, training, or employment and are more  
13 vulnerable to social exclusion in later life.
  - 14 F. Children in care are less likely to achieve their academic potential.  
15 Only 12% of care leavers enter higher education by the age of two.
  - 16 G. Care leavers have sometimes lived in up to 20 foster placements  
17 and/or care homes.
  - 18 H. Care leavers often rely on universal credit as their main source of  
19 income.
  - 20 I. Children in care and care leavers have higher rates of mental health  
21 issues, and are more susceptible to trauma, addiction, dependency  
22 issues, depression, and anxiety.
- 23 Conference believes that:
  - 24 I. All children deserve full support in reaching their potential, no matter

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- 25 their circumstances.
- 26 II. Children in care deserve equal access to education and support; care  
27 leavers starting at the age of 16 could be inhibiting their ability to  
28 partake in post-16 education.
- 29 III. Care leavers are vulnerable young adults who need the support of  
30 both their local authority and government.
- 31 IV. Care leavers need more support than the average young adult, in  
32 terms of both health and finances, as they often do not have the  
33 support of family.
- 34 Conference resolves that:
- 35 1. All care leavers should have access to support in the form of advisors  
36 or mentors up until the age of 25.
- 37 2. Moving children in care should only happen when necessary; care  
38 leavers should have support in transferring between local authorities  
39 if they wish, including communication between the two and agreed  
40 funding.
- 41 3. The Government should increase the Care Leaver Bursary from the  
42 current £1,000 to £2,000.
- 43 4. All 16-year-olds should be allowed the opportunity to stay in care  
44 until the age of 25. In particular, 16 and 17-year-olds whose family  
45 relationship deteriorates should have the full support of their local  
46 authority, equal to what they would have had at 15.
- 47 5. Children in care should be supported with exam resits and revision  
48 support by both local authorities and schools.
- 49 6. Children in care and care leavers should be given access to special  
50 meetings to encourage them to explore their future and given full  
51 information on apprenticeships, sixth forms, colleges, universities,  
52 etc. with no bias of pathways provided.
- 53 7. Children in care should be offered tutoring and mentoring from the  
54 age of 13 provided by local authorities and schools.
- 55 8. More care leavers should be encouraged to go to university, with  
56 support from universities through widening access and taking into  
57 consideration alternative qualifications and life experiences when  
58 making offers
- 59 9. A pledge of the level of support that they will provide to the children  
60 in their care should be mandated for all local authorities; the pledge  
61 should be legally enforced, with penalties.

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*Applicability: England only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see page 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.00 Friday 17 September; see page 7.*

### **Background briefing**

This motion updates and develops policy for children in care and care leavers.

It builds on previous policy in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019) and the policy motion *Tackling Child Abuse* (September 2014).

## Saturday 18 September

F11

09.30 Policy motion

Chair: Bex Scott. Aides: Jennie Rigg and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

### F11 The Climate Change Conference and the UK Government

*18 members*

Mover: Wera Hobhouse MP (Spokesperson for Climate Change).

Summation: Duncan Brack.

1 Conference notes that the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the  
2 Parties (CoP26), which will take place in Glasgow in October / November  
3 2021, chaired by the UK government, will offer the first chance since  
4 the Paris Agreement was negotiated in 2015 to review the emissions  
5 reduction targets countries have set themselves under the terms of that  
6 agreement.

7 Conference notes with concern that countries' levels of ambition so far  
8 fall far short of what is required to achieve the targets set out in the Paris  
9 Agreement.

10 Conference further notes that although carbon dioxide emissions fell  
11 during 2020 (as a result mainly of the Coronavirus lockdowns reducing  
12 transport use), this is likely only to be a temporary reduction.

13 Conference recognises the need for the UK government to adopt a more  
14 proactive role, as chair of the conference, in encouraging countries to  
15 adopt more ambitious targets, but that it lacks the credibility to do this  
16 because of Conservative ministers' comprehensive failures to support  
17 policies that will achieve the UK's own net zero target, including failing  
18 to set out a strategy for meeting net zero and, among other decisions,  
19 cutting overseas aid from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNP and scrapping the Green  
20 Homes Grant scheme and putting nothing in its place to support home  
21 insulation.

22 Conference welcomes the leadership shown by other governments,  
23 notably the Biden Administration in the US, in persuading major  
24 economies to adopt more ambitious targets and in increasing climate

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- 25 finance, and applauds the fact that 127 countries have now announced  
26 net zero targets by mid-century at the latest.
- 27 Conference therefore calls on the UK government, as chair of CoP26, to:
- 28 a) Press all governments to raise their short-term targets for  
29 emissions reductions, and to adopt net zero targets, in line with the  
30 commitments they made under the Paris Agreement.
  - 31 b) Ensure that developed countries fulfil their pledge to deliver at least  
32 \$100 billion per year to help developing countries decarbonise their  
33 economies and protect against climate impacts.
  - 34 c) Foster the formation of coalitions of like-minded countries to  
35 advance specific emission-cutting goals, such as phasing out coal or  
36 protecting forests.
  - 37 d) Reach agreement on an international framework to protect poor  
38 nations against climate change impacts and compensate them for  
39 damages.
  - 40 e) Develop mechanisms to shift investment from fossil fuel use into  
41 clean energy.
- 42 Conference also calls on the UK government to take steps urgently to  
43 increase its credibility and effectiveness as chair of the conference by
- 44 1. Announcing a comprehensive strategy to meet the UK's own net  
45 zero target, including in particular urgent action to reduce emissions  
46 from buildings, industry, aviation, surface transport and agriculture,  
47 food and land use, and also a wide-ranging strategy for adaptation to  
48 climate impacts.
  - 49 2. Working together as closely as possible with the UK's neighbours in  
50 the EU, including adopting joint targets for greenhouse gas emissions  
51 reductions and cooperating in policy frameworks such as emissions  
52 trading schemes and border carbon adjustment mechanisms,  
53 thereby increasing the UK's weight in the international negotiations.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

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*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see page 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.00 Friday 17 September; see page 7.*



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## F11 The Climate Change Conference and the UK Government

### Amendment One

*Kingston Borough*

Mover: Kevin Langford.

Summation: Mark Campanale.

1 *In e) (line 41) after 'clean energy', insert:*

2 *;', including by aiming to reach international agreement on:*

- 3 i) Banning new listings of, and bond issuances for, fossil fuel
- 4 companies producing, processing or distributing coal, oil or gas
- 5 whose primary purpose is for energy or transport.
- 6 ii) Requiring such firms already listed to produce within two years
- 7 coherent plans to reach net zero in line with the IEA's Net Zero
- 8 Emissions by 2050 Scenario (NZE, 1.5°C) that notes no new
- 9 investment is needed in any new coal, oil and gas, anywhere, as
- 10 from now.
- 11 iii) Requiring fossil fuel company boards and their bankers to
- 12 report on when they will cease investment in new fossil fuels,
- 13 and for this to be put to an annual vote of shareholders.

14 *and by introducing such measures in the UK.'*

### Amendment Two

*ALDC*

Mover: Cllr Pippa Heylings.

Summation: Cllr Susan Juned.

1 *After line 21, insert:*

- 2 Conference recognises the need for the UK government to adopt a
- 3 proactive role in highlighting the importance of local government in
- 4 achieving net zero across the world. Globally, the Local Governments
- 5 and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency have called for COP26 to

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6 be recognised as the 'Multilevel Action COP' in acknowledgment of the  
7 fact that more than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and  
8 businesses taking up low-carbon solutions – decisions that are made at a  
9 local and individual level.

10 *After a) (line 30), insert:*

11 b) Propose the inclusion of a dedicated chapter for local governments  
12 in the official agreement reached at COP26, recognising the  
13 importance of subnational actors in co-designing and delivering  
14 climate action and seeking to ensure that local government is  
15 politically and financially empowered to meet that ambition.

16 *After 1. (line 48), insert:*

17 2. Committing to empower local governments and municipal  
18 authorities through a shared fiscal and policy framework between  
19 central and local government to meet net zero targets and climate  
20 adaptation priorities.

### Background briefing

This motion updates existing energy and environmental policy, as well as creating new policy specifically responding to the CoP26 conference.

It builds on previous policy in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019) and policy paper 139, *Tackling the Climate Emergency* (2019).

## Saturday 18 September

F12

10.00 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Adams (Vice Chair FCC). Aides: Chris Maines and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

### **F12 *Tackling the Climate Emergency: Proposals for Carbon Pricing (Carbon Pricing Policy Paper)***

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Lord Oates (Lords Spokesperson for Energy and Climate Change).

Summation: Duncan Brack (Chair of the Policy Working Group).

- 1 Conference recognises the accelerating urgency of the need to tackle the
- 2 climate crisis, and the failure of the Conservative government to put in
- 3 place proposals to meet the UK's net zero target.
  
- 4 Conference recalls that in 2019 conference endorsed policy paper
- 5 139, *Tackling the Climate Emergency*, which set out a comprehensive
- 6 programme of emissions reductions, including a sharp cut, to 25 per cent
- 7 of baseline, over ten years, mainly from the power and heating sectors,
- 8 followed by a more gradual reduction from those most sectors more
- 9 difficult to address.
  
- 10 Conference also recognises that the paper did not contain detailed
- 11 proposals for the use of carbon pricing to reduce emissions, and
- 12 accordingly endorses policy paper 139A, *Tackling the Climate Emergency:*
- 13 *Proposals for Carbon Pricing*, as a supplementary set of proposals to
- 14 accompany those in policy paper 139.
  
- 15 Conference believes that increasing the cost of using fossil fuels through
- 16 carbon taxes, emissions trading schemes or other pricing instruments
- 17 must play an important part in decarbonising the British economy as fast
- 18 as possible, but that there are dangers in applying too blunt an approach.
  
- 19 Conference therefore endorses the following principles on which the
- 20 paper's proposals rest:
  - 21 A. Carbon pricing policies which help deliver a just transition, which
  - 22 shares the burdens of decarbonisation equitably.
  - 23 B. Carbon pricing policies to be used to target the biggest polluters and

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- 24 those activities where emissions can most swiftly be reduced, in a  
25 way that is fair to individuals and businesses.
- 26 C. Support and incentives to be offered to smaller emitters, such a  
27 households, to reduce emissions before applying carbon pricing to  
28 their energy bills.
- 29 D. Carbon pricing instruments to be combined with other approaches,  
30 including regulation, information and subsidy, in order to lead to  
31 better and faster outcomes than when used in isolation.
- 32 E. The UK to collaborate closely with the EU, cooperating in carbon  
33 pricing policies to maximise impact and minimise problems for  
34 business trading across the border.

35 Conference welcomes the paper's detailed proposals to:

- 36 1. Accelerate the decarbonisation of power and industry (alongside our  
37 existing proposals to support the development of renewable power  
38 and zero-carbon industrial processes) by:
- 39 a) Raising the price of allowances in the UK Emissions Trading  
40 System (ETS) by reducing their number and increasing the  
41 auction reserve price, thereby strengthening the incentives for  
42 large emitters to cut emissions.
- 43 b) Extending emissions trading to cover suppliers of fossil fuels  
44 currently outside the ETS.
- 45 c) Linking the UK ETS to the EU ETS, creating a larger market for  
46 trading allowances and thereby improving its effectiveness
- 47 d) Introducing, in collaboration with the EU, a carbon border  
48 adjustment mechanism for high-emission products such as  
49 metals or chemicals, protecting UK businesses from competition  
50 from imports not facing similar costs.
- 51 e) Simplifying the existing system of energy taxes by abolishing the  
52 Carbon Support Price and the Climate Change Levy, which will  
53 be no longer needed once the UK ETS is more effective.
- 54 2. Accelerate the decarbonisation of housing (alongside our existing  
55 proposals to provide free home insulation to low-income home-  
56 owners, introduce a zero-carbon standard for new buildings and  
57 require landlords to raise the energy rating of their properties) by:

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- 58 a) Widening the list of energy and emissions-saving products  
59 enjoying the 5 per cent rate of VAT, and extending this lower  
60 rate to all household solar PV and battery systems.
- 61 b) Allowing owners to offset spending on insulation, low-carbon  
62 heat sources, EV charging points and climate adaptation  
63 measures against their income tax bills.
- 64 c) Graduating Stamp Duty Land Tax by the energy rating of the  
65 property being sold, and offering refunds to house purchasers if  
66 they improve the rating within one year of purchase.
- 67 d) Working with mortgage providers to encourage them to  
68 support energy-saving and zero-carbon measures, including  
69 requiring them to report their lending for climate-related home  
70 investments, and requiring buyers and mortgage providers to be  
71 made aware of the extent to which the property falls below the  
72 target energy rating.
- 73 e) Protecting households from sudden price increases by delaying  
74 by ten years the extension of emissions trading to suppliers of  
75 fossil fuels to homes.
- 76 f) Keeping electricity bills stable by transferring some levy funding  
77 for renewables from electricity to gas bills and to general  
78 taxation.
- 79 3. Accelerate the decarbonisation of transport (alongside our existing  
80 proposals to end the sale of new fossil fuel cars and small vans by  
81 2030, promote cycling and walking, and invest in public transport) by:
- 82 a) Reinstating the indexation of road fuel duty, graduating VED by  
83 fuel efficiency and increasing rates for fossil fuel vehicles overall,  
84 reducing company car tax for electric vehicles and increasing it  
85 for fossil fuel vehicles.
- 86 b) Replacing the limited electric vehicle purchase grant with a 5 per  
87 cent VAT rate (up to a ceiling), to be phased out as the market  
88 expands, and introducing a zero-emission-vehicle mandate for  
89 manufacturers.
- 90 c) Limit the growth in demand for flights by ensuring that no  
91 net increase in airport runways across the UK takes place and  
92 banning flights where direct rail transport is available for the  
93 same journey, up to 2.5 hours, unless planes are alternative-  
94 fuelled.

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- 95 d) Limit demand for flying by reforming Air Passenger Duty to
- 96 target the most frequent flyers, and introducing VAT on first-
- 97 class and business travel.
- 98 e) Introducing a charge on airlines for each take-off, and on flights
- 99 by private jets.
- 100 f) Collaborating with the EU in extending the UK ETS to non-EEA
- 101 flights and in placing a specific excise tax on airline fuel.
- 102 g) Including shipping emissions in the UK ETS.
  
- 103 4. Put in place further measures to:
  
- 104 a) Prioritise climate change mitigation in agricultural support
- 105 systems, including measures to increase soil carbon, tree
- 106 planting and woodland creation.
- 107 b) Work with farmers and manufacturers to support the
- 108 development of zero-emissions technologies for agricultural
- 109 machinery, after which red diesel can be included in the UK ETS.
- 110 c) Require a full climate impact assessment of proposed UK free
- 111 trade agreements to be made public before the agreements are
- 112 finalised
- 113 d) Provide incentives for negative emissions strategies, including
- 114 technological and nature-based solutions.

*Applicability: Federal; except 2. c) (lines 64–66) which is England and Wales.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker’s card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September see page 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.00 Friday 17 September; see page 7.*

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F12

## F12 Tackling the Climate Emergency: Proposals for Carbon Pricing

### Amendment One

10 members

Mover: Keith Melton.

Summation: to be announced.

1 *After d) (line 114), add:*

- 2 e) Boost confidence and stimulate private sector investment by
- 3 introducing a government-supported Green Finance Guarantee
- 4 Scheme to offer lenders the assurances they need to provide
- 5 meaningful funding for renewable energy generation, energy
- 6 efficiency and green infrastructure.

*There will be a separate vote on 3 d) and e) (lines 95–99) of the motion.*

### Background briefing

This motion updates existing climate change policy, specifically introducing carbon pricing through measures such as emissions trading and a frequent flyer levy.

It builds on previous policy in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019), the policy motion *Tackling the Climate Emergency* (2019), and policy paper 109, *Green Growth and Green Jobs* (201).

## Saturday 18 September

F13

11.05 Speech

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

### F13 Daisy Cooper MP, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats



@libdemdaisy, #LDConf

11.25 Policy motion

Chair: John Bridges. Aides: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

### F14 The Uyghur Genocide

*Young Liberals*

Mover: Peter Banks.

Summation: Adam Lawless.

- 1 Conference notes that:
  - 2 A. There have been eyewitness reports and footage of the widespread
  - 3 human rights violations against Uyghurs by the People's Republic of
  - 4 China in the province of Xinjiang.
  - 5 B. These violations include forced sterilisation, torture, restrictions on
  - 6 childrens' names, destruction of religious sites, forced separation of
  - 7 families, and detainment in re-education camps.
  - 8 C. The most recent figures from Adrian Zenz, senior fellow in China
  - 9 studies at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, suggest
  - 10 that over 1.5 million Uyghurs have been forcibly detained in
  - 11 internment camps, with a further half a million children indefinitely
  - 12 separated from their parents in re-education 'schools'.
  - 13 D. Disturbing accounts of the aforementioned re-education camps
  - 14 have been released by the International Consortium of Investigative
  - 15 Journalists in the China Cables.
  - 16 E. The Sanctions and anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 includes gross
  - 17 human rights violations as grounds for imposing sanctions on a
  - 18 person or an entity.



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- 19 F. In July 2020, the UK government introduced Magnitsky-style  
20 sanctions under this legislation on specific nationals of Russia, Saudi  
21 Arabia, and Myanmar as well as on two organisations involved with  
22 North Korean gulags.
- 23 G. The Liberal Democrats have a proud history of supporting the rights  
24 of oppressed minority groups around the world.
- 25 Conference notes with great concern the recent atrocities committed in  
26 Xinjiang, namely:
- 27 a) The systemic use of forced sterilisation, forced abortion and  
28 involuntary admission of intrauterine devices on Uyghur women by  
29 the Chinese state in order to lower the birth rate in the Uyghur  
30 population.
- 31 b) The harrowing testimonies of interned Uyghurs recently published in  
32 a report by Amnesty International which documents that:
- 33 i) Detained Uyghurs are physically punished if they speak a  
34 language other than Mandarin.
- 35 ii) Physical and non-physical torture is used against detained  
36 Uyghurs.
- 37 iii) All detained Uyghurs are subject to non-stop surveillance,  
38 depriving them of any privacy.
- 39 iv) Uyghurs outside of re-education camps are subject to intense  
40 surveillance, with the use of facial recognition, the collection of  
41 biometric data and invasive interviews by government officials.
- 42 Conference welcomes:
- 43 I. The work of Alistair Carmichael MP, as Co-Chair of the All-Party  
44 Parliamentary Group on Uyghurs, calling for:
- 45 A. Recognition of the actions taken against the Uyghurs as a  
46 genocide.
- 47 B. Sanctions in response to the persecution of Uyghurs.
- 48 II. Votes taken in Parliament to declare that China is committing a  
49 genocide against the Uyghurs.

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50 III. Layla Moran MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs  
51 explicitly calling actions of the Chinese government in Xinjiang a  
52 genocide.

53 Conference believes that:

- 54 i) The Chinese government's actions in Xinjiang constitute a genocide,  
55 based on the description of genocide as laid out in Article 6 of the  
56 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- 57 ii) The deliberate, systemic persecution of, and violence against, the  
58 Uyghur population of China well surpasses the definition of gross  
59 human rights violations and thus meets the standard for imposing  
60 sanctions on persons or entities under the Sanctions and anti-Money  
61 Laundering Act 2018.
- 62 iii) The UK Government has a moral duty to take actions to oppose  
63 human rights abuses.

64 Conference therefore calls on both the UK Government and the Liberal  
65 Democrat Parliamentary Party to be explicit in their condemnation of the  
66 actions of the Chinese state as being that of a genocide.

67 Conference further calls on the UK Government to:

- 68 1. Introduce Magnitsky-style sanctions on persons and entities involved  
69 with the persecution of Uyghurs under the Sanctions and anti-Money  
70 Laundering Act 2018.
- 71 2. Call upon the Chinese government to cease the systemic mass  
72 incarceration of the Uyghurs.
- 73 3. Grant asylum to Uyghurs fleeing persecution.
- 74 4. Call for the reunification of all families where children have been  
75 forcibly entered in re-education camps.
- 76 5. Boycott the 2022 Olympics in Beijing, unless and until the Chinese  
77 government ceases its crimes against humanity in Xinjiang.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

## Saturday 18 September

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*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see page 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.00 Friday 17 September; see page 7.*

### **Background briefing**

This motion creates new policy in response to the Chinese government's policies towards its Uyghur population.

## Saturday 18 September

F15

12.00 Policy motion

Chair: Jennie Rigg. Aides: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC) and Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

### F15 Dignity, Care and Choice at the End of Life

*11 members*

Mover: Christine Jardine MP.

Summation: Liam McArthur MSP.

- 1 Conference believes that:
  - 2 I. People with a terminal illness deserve to live and die with as much  
3 dignity and control as possible.
  - 4 II. It is vital that high-quality palliative care is available to anyone who  
5 needs it.
  - 6 III. Carers looking after a loved one who is terminally ill deserve more  
7 support.
  - 8 IV. It is wrong that the current law not only robs people who are  
9 terminally ill of dignity and choice at the end of their lives, but also  
10 criminalises family members who support their loved one's final  
11 wish.
- 12 Conference notes that:
  - 13 a) An estimated 300 terminally ill people in England end their lives each  
14 year, and, in 2019, more than 50 people from the UK travelled to  
15 Switzerland for an assisted death at an average cost of £10,000 each.
  - 16 b) Laws have been passed to give terminally ill people the option of  
17 assisted dying in many other parts of the world, including Canada,  
18 New Zealand, ten US states and three Australian states.
  - 19 c) Polling by Populus in 2019 found that 84% of people – including  
20 85% of people with a disability – support changing the law to give  
21 terminally ill adults the option of assisted dying.
  - 22 c) A British Medical Association survey in 2020 found that 50% of  
23 doctors personally support changing the law on prescribing drugs for  
24 eligible patients to self-administer to end their own life, while only  
25 39% oppose it.

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- 26 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitments to:
- 27 1. Champion the freedom, dignity and well-being of individuals, and  
28 respect their right to freedom of conscience.
  - 29 2. Provide more choice at the end of life, and move towards free end-  
30 of-life social care, whether people spend their last days at home or in  
31 a hospice.
  - 32 3. Support unpaid carers, including by guaranteeing a right to respite  
33 care, raising Carer's Allowance, and making it easier to juggle paid  
34 work with caring responsibilities.
- 35 Conference further reaffirms its support for legislation providing  
36 for medical assistance to die to be available to patients in particular  
37 circumstances, subject to rigorous safeguards to prevent abuse.
- 38 Conference welcomes the Assisted Dying Bill introduced by Baroness  
39 Meacher in the House of Lords, which would legalise assisted dying as  
40 a choice for terminally ill, mentally competent adults in England and  
41 Wales, as well as Liam McArthur's plans for a Members Bill in the Scottish  
42 Parliament to do the same in Scotland.
- 43 Conference endorses the safeguards set out in the Assisted Dying Bill to:
- 44 A. Restrict it to terminally ill people who have six months or less to live  
45 and have made and signed a declaration that they have a voluntary,  
46 clear, settled and informed wish to end their life.
  - 47 B. Require two independent doctors to confirm that the person is  
48 terminally ill, has the capacity to make the decision, and has reached  
49 it voluntarily, on an informed basis and without coercion or duress.
  - 50 C. Require an application to be made to and approved by the High  
51 Court.
  - 52 D. Include a mandatory waiting period to give the person time to reflect  
53 on their decision.
  - 54 E. Require the person to self-administer the medicine to end their life,  
55 and prohibit anyone else from administering it to them.
  - 56 F. Enshrine the right of anyone to refuse to participate in assisted dying  
57 if they have a conscientious objection.
- 58 Conference calls on the Government to make time available in this

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59 parliamentary session for both Houses to fully consider the Assisted Dying  
60 Bill.

61 Conference further believes that Liberal Democrat parliamentarians  
62 should have a free vote on the Bill.

*Applicability: England and Wales.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a  
speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see page  
9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and  
Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.00 Friday 17 September; see page  
7.*

### **Background briefing**

This motion updates existing policy on assisted dying as set out in policy motion  
*Medically Assisted Dying* (September 2012).

## Saturday 18 September

F16

13.00 Auditorium break

*Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.*

14.15 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Joe Otten. Aides: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC) and Chris Adams.

### **F16 Protecting Patients' Health Data – Creating a Health Data Charter and Sovereign Health Data Trust**

*15 members*

Mover: Lord Clement-Jones (Lords Spokesperson for Digital).

Summation: Baroness Brinton (Lords Spokesperson for Health, Wellbeing and Care).

- 1 Conference believes that:
  - 2 I. Data collection and sharing are important and have been
  - 3 instrumental in advancing medical capabilities and improving
  - 4 population health.
  - 5 II. Individuals have the right to understand how and why their health
  - 6 data is being used.
  - 7 III. Understanding and transparency is key to public trust and
  - 8 confidence in data sharing initiatives
  - 9 IV. The wealth of data held by the NHS should be used for the benefit of
  - 10 the health service and improving people's health only.
  - 11 V. Health data should never be shared for marketing or insurance
  - 12 purposes.
- 13 Conference calls for the creation of a Health Data Charter that will:
  - 14 i) Set out the fundamental principles and responsibilities for assessing
  - 15 whether a data sharing partnership is in the interest of the public
  - 16 and the NHS.
  - 17 ii) Aim to ensure trust in the Government's handling of health data, by
  - 18 laying out stringent principles that will help protect people's privacy
  - 19 and their data from exploitation.

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- 20   iii)   Lay out ways to retain and protect the value of the nation's health  
21        data.
- 22   Conference further calls for the creation of a Sovereign Health Data Trust  
23   that will:
- 24   a)    Comprise a diverse, independent and balanced board of experts,  
25        clinicians and patient representatives and will be responsible for  
26        overseeing the implementation and observance of the Charter.
- 27   b)    Have continuous oversight of all health data and will not only have  
28        the power to grant access but also the power to recall or restrict an  
29        organisation's access if it has reason to believe that the data is not  
30        being used for public or patient benefit.
- 31   Conference endorses the Liberal Democrats' proposed Health Data  
32   Charter as follows:
- 33   1.    Access to health data must be for public and patient benefit – this  
34        benefit will be defined by the Sovereign Health Data Trust with input  
35        from external experts and the public; the Trust will also determine  
36        whether an organisation can access the data for such purposes and  
37        can rescind access at any time.
- 38   2.    No data shall be shared with an organisation without complete  
39        transparency – all health data contracts entered into by a public  
40        body must be published publicly and in a timely manner, as  
41        should detailed minutes for all meetings, including meetings of the  
42        Sovereign Health Data Trust; details of the organisation requesting  
43        use of the data should also be published, such as its sources of  
44        funding, ownership and intentions.
- 45   3.    All health data collection and sharing initiatives must be preceded  
46        by public consultation, involvement and awareness – public trust is  
47        key to any sharing of health data; this trust must be built through  
48        awareness and consultation with the public, ensuring a solid  
49        understanding of the benefits of sharing health data with external  
50        organisations and bodies.
- 51   4.    The value of all health data must be retained by the NHS – people's  
52        health data belongs to them and any value derived from it should be  
53        for everyone's benefit; when data is used to develop new medicine  
54        or treatments, by research organisations or commercial enterprises,



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- 55 a share of the income generated should be invested back into the  
56 healthcare system and the NHS.
- 57 5. All health data must be held anonymously and accessed through a  
58 Trusted Research Environment – this Environment will be overseen  
59 by the Trust and will ensure that no data is handed over to an  
60 organisation indefinitely and therefore outside the governance of the  
61 Trust; it will also mean that personal data can be retrieved should a  
62 person wish to opt out at any time, and access granted to an external  
63 organisation withdrawn, should it be found they are not using the  
64 data as agreed.

*Applicability: England only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see page 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.00 Friday 17 September; see page 7.*

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## F16 Protecting Patients' Health Data – Creating a Health Data Charter and Sovereign Health Trust

### Amendment One

*Lib Dems in Europe*

Mover: Hannah Bettsworth.

Summation: Rob Harrison.

1 *After b) (line 30), insert:*

- 2 c) Be designed in such a way as to render it interoperable with  
3 the European Health Data Space in technical and in semantic  
4 terms, including through the promotion of Findable, Accessible,  
5 Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR) data principles within the NHS.

6 *After 5. (line 64), add:*

- 7 6. Consent processes must include plain language terms, and formats  
8 accessible to disabled people and people with low literacy.

### Background briefing

This motion creates new policy in regard to personal health data.

## Saturday 18 September

F17

14.50 Party business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Bex Scott and Chris Adams.

### **F17 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties**

Movers: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Chief Whip of the Commons Parliamentary Party) and Lord Newby (Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords).

*The deadline for questions to these reports is 13.00 on 6 September. Questions selected will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter.*

*Questions may also be submitted online until 17.00 on Friday 17 September, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but they will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the Chair.*

*See page 9 for further information.*

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F17

### F17 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties

#### Q1. Submitted by Adam Robertson

The lack of help for individuals who suffer from Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID) to get a diagnosis then proper treatment is woefully inadequate, if not non-existent. Can the Parliamentary Party raise this in Parliament, because this needs to be fixed urgently before more people die from ARFID?

## Saturday 18 September

F18

15.20 Question & answer session

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Jennie Rigg.

### **F18 Rt Hon Sir Edward Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats**

*Members may put questions on any topic to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website until 17.00 on Friday 17 September or using the conference chat whilst the session is in progress. See Page 9.*

16.15 Auditorium break

*Please see the **Conference Directory** for our fringe and exhibition programme.*

18.45 Speech

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

### **F19 Cllr Joe Harris, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group at the Local Government Association and Leader of Cotswold District Council**



@joeharrisark, #LDConf

19.05 Policy motion

Chair: Duncan Brack. Aides: Cllr Joe Otten and Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

### **F20 Building Communities**

*44 members*

Mover: Tom Morrison.

Summation: Fraser Coppin.

1 Conference notes that:

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- 2 i) House prices in the UK continue to rise relative to average incomes.
- 3 ii) Rent or mortgage payments are the largest living cost that most
- 4 households in the UK face.
- 5 iii) 788,000 households in England were living in overcrowded
- 6 conditions from 2016–2019.
- 7 iv) 17% of households in England live in a home that lacks modern
- 8 facilities, has no effective insulation or heating, or is in a state of
- 9 disrepair.
- 10 v) Only 14% of UK towns are currently considered affordable for key
- 11 workers such as nurses, doctors and teachers.
- 12 vi) Polling undertaken by Shelter revealed that 48% of people were
- 13 supportive of more housing being built in their local areas, with 30%
- 14 opposed.

15 Conference believes that:

- 16 A. The UK is currently experiencing a housing crisis, and this crisis
- 17 is impacting people's freedom to start a family, live a healthy and
- 18 dignified life when they get old, and is having an adverse effect on
- 19 social mobility.
- 20 B. The proposed Conservative planning reforms run roughshod over
- 21 local communities and are not the right solution to the housing crisis.
- 22 C. There is a desperate need for an alternative, liberal approach to
- 23 providing more housing.
- 24 D. Everybody deserves the right to a secure roof over their head that
- 25 they can afford, therefore tackling this issue is a moral imperative
- 26 E. The key to solving the housing crisis is providing more affordable
- 27 good quality housing.
- 28 F. The most effective way to achieve house building is with the consent
- 29 and active involvement of our local communities.
- 30 G. New homes should be well designed, of good quality and contribute
- 31 to a sense of pride in the local area.
- 32 H. Providing homes for the next generation is essential in order to
- 33 create sustainable communities, with thriving shops, schools and
- 34 public services.

35 Conference calls for:

- 36 1. The Liberal Democrats to advocate for more house building UK wide
- 37 by:

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- 38 a) Committing to a national target of 380,000 new homes per year.  
39 b) Ensuring that at least 150,000 of these homes are available for  
40 social rent.
- 41 2. Local authorities to take the lead on house building by:
- 42 a) Reforming the 1961 Land Compensation Act to give local  
43 authorities the power to acquire land at its 'current use value', in  
44 order to be used to meet the community's need for housing.  
45 b) Identifying areas for development in consultation with the local  
46 community, then acquiring this land and planning all necessary  
47 infrastructure including roads, utilities and green spaces.  
48 c) Only once all the infrastructure is planned, to allow developers  
49 or housing associations to bid for plots and to start building.
- 50 3. More land to be freed up for housing by:
- 51 a) Reaffirming our party's commitment to a Land Value Tax  
52 collected by local authorities as a replacement for Business  
53 Rates, to disincentivize land banking by developers.  
54 b) Introducing a condition that any plots sold as set out above in 2  
55 c) must be built upon on schedule, and if the developers fail to  
56 do this after a certain amount of time, then they will become  
57 open to bids from other developers who can start building  
58 immediately.
- 59 4. New house building to be combined with our desire to tackle the  
60 climate emergency by:
- 61 a) A net-zero whole-life carbon condition to be imposed on all new  
62 development.  
63 b) Requiring all new developments to be insulated to modern safe  
64 and efficient standard  
65 c) Encouraging development plans to include green space within  
66 walking distance, as well as solar panels and electric car charging  
67 points where possible.  
68 d) Reaffirming our party's commitment to establish a Green  
69 Investment Bank, in order to retrofit millions of existing homes.

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*Applicability: England only; except 1. (lines 36–40), which is Federal (except that Scottish and Welsh Liberal Democrats set their own specific targets for housebuilding).*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

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*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.00 Friday 17 September; see page 7.*

*Close of session: 20.00.*



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## F20 Building Communities

Summation: Laura Gordon.

### Amendment One

*10 members and ALDC*

Mover: Sarah Olney MP.

Summation: Cllr Pippa Heylings.

1 *After vi) (line 14), insert:*

- 2 vii) Following the introduction of restrictions on local authorities that  
3 prevented the building of social housing, since the 1980s there has  
4 been a severe shortfall in the provision of new social housing.  
5 viii) Years of altering national and local planning policy and imposing  
6 national, regional and local housing targets have failed to address  
7 the under provision of social housing.

8 *Delete 1. a) (line 38) and insert:*

- 9 a) Ending the top-down centralised system for determining  
10 housing need and replacing with local or regional based  
11 assessments based on objective criteria and in line with local  
12 authorities' Local and Neighbourhood plans.

13 *Delete 1. b) (lines 39-40) and insert:*

- 14 b) Increasing state funding for social housing for rent, aiming to  
15 increase the number of social homes to 40% of new homes built.  
16 c) Giving local authorities greater powers over the 'right to buy',  
17 including the right to suspend it in their area.  
18 d) Increasing state funding for apprenticeships in the house  
19 building sector, to ensure a suitable workforce is available to the  
20 house building industry.

21 *In 2. a) (line 43) delete 'land' and insert 'landbanked land from housing  
22 developers'.*

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23 *After 2. a) (line 44) insert:*

24       b) Increasing local authority compulsory purchase powers.

25 *After 3. a) (line 53) insert:*

26       b) Introducing penalties for developers who fail to develop land  
27       that has been given full planning permission.

28 *In 4. b) (line 64) after 'standards', insert 'with adequate ventilation and*  
29 *shade to prevent urban heat stress in heatwaves'.*

*The amendment will be voted on in two parts: lines 1–20 and lines 21–29.*

### Background briefing

This motion updates existing housing and planning policy as set out in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019), policy paper 136, *A Fairer Share for All* (2019), policy paper 129, *A Rural Future: Time to Act* (2018), and policy paper 130, *Power for People and Communities* (2018).

# Sunday 19 September

F21

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Bex Scott and Chris Adams.

## **F21 A Framework for England in a Federal UK**

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Cllr Prue Bray.

Summation: Lord Shipley (Chair of the Policy Working Group).

- 1 Conference believes that:
  - 2 1. The UK's constitution is no longer fit for purpose, failing to deliver  
3 appropriate representation, disempowering communities and risking  
4 the break-up of the UK.
  - 5 2. Too much power and control over people's lives is hoarded in  
6 Westminster and Whitehall, especially in England, with regions  
7 and communities excluded from decision making over their areas,  
8 leading to a dangerous sense of powerlessness and alienation from  
9 government.
  - 10 3. Power and decision making should be dispersed as widely as  
11 possible across the UK, which is best delivered through a federal  
12 system of government.
  - 13 4. In England, many of the decisions about areas which are currently  
14 taken in London should be taken instead at the regional level, which  
15 should become powerful centres of decision-making in their own  
16 right, empowering and engaging communities, improving the quality  
17 and efficiency of public services, leading to a sustainable levelling-up  
18 of the UK, and strengthening the union.
- 19 Conference calls for:
  - 20 i) The creation of a UK Constitutional Convention, with the aim of  
21 drafting a new Federal Constitution that sets out the powers of the  
22 government at each tier, founded on the principles of democratic  
23 engagement, liberal values and respect for diverse identities,

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- 24 underpinned by a fair distribution of resources based on respective  
25 needs.
- 26 ii) English Ministries and ministerial functions to be separate from  
27 those of the United Kingdom Federal Government.
- 28 iii) The Convention to establish an inclusive approach for determining  
29 the structure of government in England, including a regional tier of  
30 government and special protections for rural communities where  
31 necessary.
- 32 iv) A new Declaration of Rights, which will ensure human rights are  
33 integrated fully into the new system of government and respected at  
34 all levels.
- 35 v) The replacement of the House of Lords with an elected Senate of the  
36 federal UK Parliament which will represent the federal states of the  
37 UK.
- 38 vi) A target of at least 50% of public spending to be controlled by state,  
39 regional and local government, in line with other successful federal  
40 states. Achieving this will be a prerequisite for successfully and  
41 sustainably levelling up the UK.

42 Conference further calls for:

- 43 i. A federal system in which the UK government primarily has  
44 responsibility over matters affecting the whole of the United  
45 Kingdom, including;
- 46 a) International Aid.  
47 b) Defence and security.  
48 c) Transnational and cross-boundary crime.  
49 d) Foreign policy.  
50 e) Monetary policy.  
51 f) Overall fiscal policy  
52 g) International trade.  
53 h) Employment and the United Kingdom internal market, working  
54 in partnership with the nations and regions.  
55 i) Immigration.  
56 j) Strategic transport.  
57 k) Strategic environmental and decarbonisation policy.  
58 l) Ensuring financial resources are shared fairly across the UK.  
59 m) Pensions and core social security benefits.

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- 60 II. A tier of directly elected regional government throughout England  
61 which will have responsibility for:
- 62 a) Regional economic development.  
63 b) NHS and social care services.  
64 c) Policing.  
65 d) Strategic housing and planning policy.  
66 e) Regional transport.  
67 f) Education, including skills.  
68 g) Agriculture and rural affairs  
69 h) Local environmental and decarbonisation policy.
- 70 III. A smaller range of functions to be exercised at the all-England level,  
71 including the legal system and universities.
- 72 IV. A process based on natural communities and local consent for  
73 determining the boundaries of regions.
- 74 V. The interest of rural communities within England to be given  
75 enhanced protection both within the federal constitution and in the  
76 processes and practices of English regions.
- 77 VI. The powers and standing of local government to be enhanced and  
78 strengthened in the new federal constitutional settlement.
- 79 VII. *EITHER:*
- 80 A. England to be a single federal state, with a constitutional  
81 standing equivalent to that of Scotland, Wales and Northern  
82 Ireland, but the powers outlined above exercised at regional  
83 level.
- 84 *OR:*
- 85 B. Individual regions within England to be federal states, with a  
86 constitutional standing equivalent to that of Scotland, Wales  
87 and Northern Ireland, with England remaining as a single legal  
88 jurisdiction and some common functions being managed at an  
89 all-England level.

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90 VIII. *AND EITHER:*

91 1. An English National Chamber with representatives appointed by  
92 the English Regions.

93 *OR:*

94 2. A directly elected English Assembly/Parliament.

95 *OR:*

96 3. The UK Parliament holding responsibility for England-wide  
97 matters, but in a way that does not conflate the governance of  
98 England with the governance of the United Kingdom.

*Applicability: Federal; except II. to VIII. (lines 60–98), which are England only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

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*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 18 September; see page 7.*

# Sunday 19 September

F21

## F21 A Framework for England in a Federal UK

*This motion contains options.*

*On the two options in VII., there will be a simple vote between option A. (lines 80–83) and option B. (lines 85–89).*

*On the three options in VIII., there will be two votes. First, a vote between option 1. (lines 90–91) and option 2. (line 94); then a vote between the winner of the first vote and option 3. (lines 96–98).*

### Background briefing

This motion updates existing constitutional and devolution policy.

This builds on existing policy as set out in the policy motion *The Creation of a Federal United Kingdom* (September 2020), the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019), policy paper 130, *Power for People and Communities* (2018), and policy paper 117, *Power to the People* (2014).

# Sunday 19 September

F22

## 10.10 Policy motion

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: John Bridges and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

### **F22 *What Liberal Democrats Believe* (Principles and Values Policy Paper)**

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Dr Alyssa Gilbert.

Summation: Dr Christine Cheng.

- 1 Conference endorses policy paper 142, *What Liberal Democrats Believe*, as
- 2 a concise expression of the Liberal Democrats' principles and values – its
- 3 philosophy – which underpin the party's specific policy proposals
  
- 4 Conference recognises the party's core values as:
  - 5 1. Liberty: the right of individuals to make their own decisions about
  - 6 how they live their lives, as long as they do not cause harm to others;
  - 7 our aim is to empower and support individuals to pursue their
  - 8 dreams, to make the most of their talents and to live their lives as
  - 9 they wish.
  - 10 2. Equality, without which true liberty cannot be realised, both in terms
  - 11 of access to education and other public services, and a welfare safety
  - 12 net, and in terms of equality before the law and opposition to all
  - 13 forms of discrimination on the basis of personal characteristic or
  - 14 beliefs.
  - 15 3. Democracy, through which every citizen is empowered to make their
  - 16 voice heard, without being dominated by entrenched interests or the
  - 17 power of money; checks and balances, so that those in power cannot
  - 18 abuse their positions for personal gain or political advantage; and
  - 19 a plurality of views, where no individual or organisation is deterred
  - 20 from speaking truth to power.
  - 21 4. Community: support for a diverse range of organisations that
  - 22 enable individuals to join together in the pursuit of common goals or
  - 23 activities; and the decentralisation of political and economic power
  - 24 to local government and the nations and regions of the UK.
  - 25 5. Internationalism: support for a fairer and more equal, tolerant
  - 26 and connected world and collaboration with the UK's neighbours –



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F22

27 including, ultimately, rejoining the EU – in guaranteeing peace and  
28 security, tackling the climate and nature emergencies, standing up to  
29 corporate power and spreading prosperity around the world.  
30 6. Environmentalism: acting at home and internationally to promote  
31 environmentally sustainable means of production and consumption  
32 and living in harmony with nature.

33 Conference, recognising that no single document can capture the rich  
34 diversity of the Liberal Democrat philosophy, encourages party members  
35 to discuss and debate this paper and to produce their own statements of  
36 philosophy and to disseminate them within the party.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see page 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 18 September; see page 7.*

# Sunday 19 September

F22

## F22 *What Liberal Democrats Believe* (Principles and Values Policy Paper)

### Amendment One

*Copeland and Workington*

Mover: Katharine Pindar.

Summation: Michael Berwick-Gooding.

1 *Delete 2. (lines 10–14) and insert:*

2 2. Equality, without which true liberty cannot be realised, which  
3 requires an active state to: ensure that no one is held back by  
4 poverty, poor health, or discrimination, including on the basis of  
5 personal characteristics or beliefs; provide access to education or  
6 training, and other public services, including a welfare safety net; and  
7 guarantee that everyone enjoys equality before the law.

8 *After 4. (line 24) insert:*

9 5. Human rights: providing, defending and promoting equal legal rights  
10 for everyone to pursue their lives according to their abilities, wishes  
11 and means, with no discrimination on the basis of religion or belief,  
12 gender, sexuality, age, ethnicity, disability, or minority status in their  
13 country of birth or permanent residency.

*The two parts of this amendment will be voted on separately.*

### Background briefing

This motion updates and restates existing policy with regard to what the Liberal Democrats believe.

This updates the party's principles and values as set out in policy paper 50, *It's About Freedom* (2002).

# Sunday 19 September

F23

10.55 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aides: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

## F23 Party Strategy: Our Road to Success

### *Federal Board*

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

Summation: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Board).

- 1 Conference condemns the failure of the Conservative government
- 2 in Westminster which, through incompetence and indifference, has
- 3 caused the death of tens of thousands of COVID victims unnecessarily,
- 4 deliberately sought to create deep divisions in society on issues of culture,
- 5 emboldened those who seek to break up the United Kingdom, pursued
- 6 a deliberate approach of bypassing Parliament on key decisions, and
- 7 further damaged the integrity of our democracy by facilitating cronyism
- 8 and evading accountability.
  
- 9 Conference abhors the rise of nationalism, whether British, English,
- 10 Scottish or Welsh.
  
- 11 Conference re-affirms that the Liberal Democrats' purpose is to ensure
- 12 every individual has control of their own lives, and for society to enable
- 13 them in that aim, balancing liberty, equality and community, and ensuring
- 14 no-one is enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.
  
- 15 To achieve this, Conference re-asserts the central importance of having
- 16 a clear strategy for success in the term of this Parliament, and then
- 17 following it, as required by the party's constitution, and as further
- 18 reinforced by the Thornhill Review of the 2019 General Election campaign.
  
- 19 Conference therefore agrees the following federal strategy for the Liberal
- 20 Democrats:
  - 21 1. Our aims are to:
    - 22 a) Secure the election of as many Liberal Democrats as possible, to

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- 23 promote and deliver our vision of society.
- 24 b) Support the party organisations in Scotland, Wales and England
- 25 in maximising their success in their parliamentary, regional and
- 26 local elections.
- 27 c) Secure the election of as many MPs as possible to Parliament in
- 28 Westminster.
- 29 d) Remove from power a Conservative government that is failing
- 30 the country.
  
- 31 2. We will achieve these aims most effectively by:
- 32 a) Developing a compelling and distinctive political narrative
- 33 about the power of a vote for the Liberal Democrats, with wide
- 34 emotional as well as rational appeal to the electorate as a whole.
- 35 b) Maintaining a rigorous focus on a set of realistic objectives for
- 36 winning seats, and the specific campaigning building blocks
- 37 needed to do so.
- 38 c) Demonstrating electoral success at all levels and in all parts of
- 39 the country.
  
- 40 3. Our top priorities to help us fight and win elections will be:
- 41 a) Continuing to research, develop and communicate a compelling
- 42 liberal narrative with emotional appeal, which engages the
- 43 electorate most effectively with our vision for a country which is
- 44 fairer, greener and more caring.
  
- 45 b) Optimising our support for campaigning excellence, through:
- 46 i) Investing in information technology and data.
- 47 ii) Further developing an outstanding network of campaigns
- 48 staff and campaigners right across the Party.
- 49 iii) Building capacity in local parties and elsewhere.
- 50 iv) Providing an extensive range of training, tools and materials.
- 51 v) Ensuring elections at all levels reinforce one another as
- 52 effectively as possible.
- 53 vi) Becoming more evidence-led, by testing what works.
  
- 54 4. Taking our efforts to promote diversity to a higher level, so that:

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- 55 a) We reflect all parts of society, at all levels and in all parts of our
- 56 party.
- 57 b) Our efforts actively to encourage participation from under-
- 58 represented groups break through to a higher level.
- 59 c) All members and voters feel they have the opportunity to play a
- 60 full role in the party.
  
- 61 5. Ensuring our members and registered supporters have an excellent
- 62 experience of the party, including opportunities to:
  - 63 a) Develop and promote their own personal political priorities,
  - 64 locally and nationally, stand for election both to public bodies,
  - 65 and for roles within the party.
  - 66 b) Use and develop their skills.
  - 67 c) Work with others who share their interests, in party bodies and
  - 68 other groupings.
  - 69 d) Gain satisfaction from achieving their political aims, and from
  - 70 working with others who share the same objectives.
  
- 71 6. Further developing our 'one party' approach and culture through
- 72 which all members, staff, bodies and organisations which are part
- 73 of the Liberal Democrat family respect each other, and focus their
- 74 efforts on working together to achieve our shared objectives of
- 75 political success.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card, go to [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see page 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 18 September; see page 7.*

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## F23 Party Strategy: Our Road to Success

### Amendment One

*Liberal Democrat Campaign for Racial Equality*

Mover: Rod Lynch.

Summation: Dr Mohsin Khan.

- 1 *In 4. (line 54) after 'level', insert 'by implementing the Thornhill and*
- 2 *Alderdice recommendations'.*
  
- 3 *In 4. b) (line 58) after 'level', insert 'by making race and ethnic minorities*
- 4 *top priority, putting resources into a national campaign to encourage and*
- 5 *assist local parties to:*
- 6 *i) reach out to local ethnic minority communities;*
- 7 *ii) include these communities in canvassing targets during elections;*
- 8 *iii) establish their key concerns and campaign on them; and*
- 9 *iv) recruit ethnic minority members;*
- 10 *thereby gaining ethnic minority support, members and votes and making*
- 11 *our party better reflect the diversity of the society we wish to represent."*

### Amendment Two

*Parliamentary Candidates Association*

Mover: Josh Babarinde.

Summation: Toni Brodelle.

- 1 *After 3. b) vi) (line 53), insert:*
  
- 2 *vii) Recognising the central importance of the quality and*
- 3 *commitment of our candidates to our chances of electoral*
- 4 *success and the need for a structured and holistic programme*
- 5 *to identify, train, mentor and support them to lead winning*
- 6 *teams and win political office.*

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## Amendment Three

10 members

Mover: Simon McGrath.

Summation: Callum Robertson.

1 *After 2. c) (line 39), insert:*

- 2           d) Standing a candidate at every seat in England, Scotland and  
3           Wales at the next General Election, with any decision not to  
4           stand having to be ratified by local members, subject to any  
5           rules applied by State Parties. This will not apply to the seat of  
              the Speaker.

## Amendment Four

10 members

Mover: Oliver Jones-Lyons.

Summation: Cllr Pippa Heylings.

1 *After 1. d) (line 30), insert:*

- 2           e) Deliver a strategy for success which is in keeping with core party  
3           values, such as environmentalism and equality.

4 *After 6. (line 75), add:*

- 5 7. Expedite progress on measuring, reducing and offsetting carbon  
6       emissions that arise from party operations towards the aim of  
7       eventually operating at net zero emissions.

## Background briefing

This motion updates existing party strategy policy.

This builds on existing policy as set out in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019) and policy motion *Ambitious for our Country, Ambitious for our Party: Liberal Democrat Party Strategy* (March 2019).

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12.00 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Cllr Joe Otten and Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

### **F24 A Fairer, Greener, More Caring Society (Themes Policy Paper)**

*Federal Policy Committee*

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

Summation: Cllr Lucy Nethsingha (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee).

- 1 Conference notes that Britain is renowned for its:
  - 2 I. Commitment to fairness, a system in which people who work hard
  - 3 can succeed, and where everyone is free to live their lives in the way
  - 4 they choose.
  - 5 II. Caring and mutually supportive society, manifested in institutions
  - 6 such as the NHS.
  - 7 III. Democratic traditions and institutions and deep-seated respect for
  - 8 the rule of law.
  - 9 IV. Educational tradition, creativity and innovation, including in green
  - 10 technologies and medicine.
  - 11 V. Open, trading, entrepreneurial culture and commitment to a fair
  - 12 international system and contributing to key international institutions.
- 13 Conference condemns the Conservative UK government's betrayal of the
- 14 people of Britain, their needs and wishes by their:
  - 15 A. Incompetent handling of the pandemic, which has seen one of the
  - 16 highest rates of Covid infection, serious illness and death of any
  - 17 country in the world.
  - 18 B. Encouragement of a divided and profoundly unfair society, in which
  - 19 one set of rules applies to an extremely wealthy and privileged
  - 20 few with close connections to the government, while NHS and care
  - 21 workers are paid too little.
  - 22 C. Lack of urgency and ambition in tackling the climate and nature
  - 23 emergency.
  - 24 D. Institutionalisation within government of lying and corruption,
  - 25 willingness to break international law, including treaties they



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- 26 themselves negotiated and signed recently, and historic rupture with  
27 Britain's successful trading economy past, leaving the world's largest  
28 and most successful free-trade area.
- 29 E. Mishandling of the United Kingdom as a whole, with the place of  
30 Scotland and Northern Ireland in the UK now in question.
- 31 Conference therefore welcomes policy paper 143, *A Fairer, Greener, More*  
32 *Caring Society*, as a statement of Liberal Democrat policy priorities to make  
33 Britain:
- 34 1. A fair society in which all contribute their fair share, and every person  
35 can have a decent income and a secure home, and can rely on good  
36 public services, by:
- 37 a) Creating a properly funded commitment to free childcare from 9  
38 months until the day a child starts school.
- 39 b) Making the £1000 pa uplift to Universal Credit permanent and  
40 scrapping the sanctions system.
- 41 c) Introducing a 20% higher minimum wage for people on zero-  
42 hour contracts, and a clearer 'dependent contractor' status with  
43 basic protections, between employment and self-employment.
- 44 2. A caring society in which everyone's health and care needs are met  
45 and we give carers the support they deserve, by:
- 46 a) Raising Carer's Allowance by £1,000 a year and funding regular  
47 breaks for every unpaid carer.
- 48 b) Building a broad and cross-party agreement on a long term,  
49 sustainable system of social care that is at least as generous as  
50 that proposed by the Dilnot report.
- 51 c) Raising £7 billion a year in additional revenue by putting 1p on  
52 Income Tax, ringfenced for spending on the NHS (focusing on  
53 mental health services) and social care.
- 54 3. A leader in the fight against the climate and nature emergencies, by
- 55 a) Delivering a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic,  
56 spending £150 billion to kick-start programmes to retrofit all UK  
57 homes, generate 75% of electricity from renewables by 2030,

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- 58 and decarbonise transport.
- 59 b) Protecting the natural environment, including supporting
- 60 nature-friendly farming, ensuring that UK environmental and
- 61 animal welfare standards are maintained, and setting legally
- 62 binding targets for improving the quality of water, air, and soil
- 63 and biodiversity.
- 64 c) Increasing the availability of housing and supporting sustainable
- 65 communities, including opposing the Government's planning
- 66 reforms and backing councils to build 300,000 new homes a
- 67 year, including 100,000 for social rent.
  
- 68 4. A beacon for individual rights, diversity and inclusion, by:
  
- 69 a) Ending violence by men against women and girls, including by
- 70 making misogyny a hate crime, giving police, prosecutors and
- 71 judges better training and more resources, and improving age-
- 72 appropriate sex and relationship education in schools.
- 73 b) Combating racial injustice, including by abolishing the
- 74 Conservatives' Hostile Environment, ending the disproportionate
- 75 use of Stop and Search, and implementing a new Race Equality
- 76 Strategy.
- 77 c) Opposing the Conservatives' dangerous and draconian
- 78 crackdown on protests, and defending the Human Rights Act,
- 79 the European Convention on Human Rights and judicial review
- 80 from Tory attacks.
  
- 81 5. A modern, open, democratic state in which people can have real
- 82 control over decisions which affect them and confidence in the
- 83 integrity of politicians and institutions, by:
  
- 84 a) Making every vote count through reforming the electoral system
- 85 to make it more proportional, using the single transferable vote,
- 86 for all public elections in the UK; and through votes at 16.
- 87 b) Giving power back to the people by strengthening local
- 88 government in England.
- 89 c) Making the Ministerial Code legally enforceable.
  
- 90 6. The best place in the world to start and to grow a business, by:

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- 91 i. Quadrupling the Employment Allowance, massively reducing  
 92 small businesses' national insurance contributions bills, and  
 93 giving small businesses relief on their rent arrears.
- 94 ii. Creating an Entrepreneur's Allowance to help people start new  
 95 businesses.
- 96 7. A model of a truly world class education and skills system, by:
- 97 a) Extending eligibility for Free School Meals to every primary  
 98 school student and child living in poverty, providing food  
 99 vouchers during school holidays and tackling the 'digital divide'  
 100 by making household internet more affordable.
- 101 b) Giving every adult the chance to access education and training  
 102 opportunities throughout life by introducing Skills Wallets.
- 103 c) Delivering an ambitious, long-term plan to support young  
 104 people's educational and emotional recovery from the  
 105 pandemic.
- 106 8. A strong and responsible international partner for peace, democracy  
 107 and prosperity, by:
- 108 a) Reversing cuts to development aid and ensuring the UK keeps  
 109 its word by protecting existing aid projects.
- 110 b) Creating the closest possible alignment between the UK and  
 111 the EU, including rejoining the Customs Union, Single Market  
 112 and other EU agencies and programmes as appropriate, and  
 113 supporting a longer-term objective of UK membership of the EU.

*Applicability: Federal; except 1. a) (lines 37–38), 2. b)–c) (lines 48–53), 3. c) (lines 64–67), 4. a) (lines 69–72), 5. b) (lines 87–88) and 7. (lines 96–105), which are England only.*

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

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## F24 A Fairer, Greener, More Caring Society (Themes Policy Paper)

The FCC has agreed the following drafting amendment to the motion as a consequence of the votes on F20:

- 1 In 3. b): in line 66, delete '300,000' and insert '380,000'; and in line 67, delete
- 2 '100,000' and insert '150,000'.

### Amendment One

*Basingstoke & Deane*

Mover: to be announced.

Summation: to be announced.

- 1 Delete 1. b) (lines 39–40) and insert:
  - 2 b) Making the £1000 pa uplift to Universal Credit permanent and
  - 3 extend it to all legacy benefits.
  - 4 c) Scrapping the sanctions system.
- 5 In 3. a) (line 58), delete 'and', and after 'transport' insert ', and introduce a
- 6 green jobs guarantee, offering a well-paying green job to anyone who
- 7 wants one'.
- 8 In 7. b) (line 102) after 'Skills Wallets' insert 'and providing training courses
- 9 free to those not in work via a training guarantee scheme'.

*The three parts of this amendment will be voted on separately.*

### Amendment Two

*10 members*

Mover: Natasha Chapman.

Summation: James Baillie.

- 1 After 1. c) (line 43), insert:
  - 2 d) Introducing an equitably funded Universal Basic Income that

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- 3 will make household finances more resilient and help empower  
4 people to make their own choices about work and training.

### Amendment Three

*10 members*

Mover: Natasha Chapman.

Summation: James Baillie.

1 *After 4. c) (line 80) insert:*

- 2 d) Strengthening LGBT+ rights at home and abroad, including  
3 by banning conversion therapy, strengthening trans rights  
4 and healthcare services, improving inclusive education on  
5 LGBT+ issues in schools, and ending the current regime of  
6 dehumanising processes and deportations to instead provide  
7 support and welcome for LGBT+ people from around the world  
8 who seek sanctuary in the UK.

### Background briefing

This motion restates existing policy, acting as a mid-term manifesto.

This builds on existing policy as set out in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

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13.00 Auditorium break

*Please see the **Conference Directory** for our fringe and exhibition programme.*

14.15 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: John Bridges and Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

### **F25 Federal Board Report: questions and accountability**

Mover: Dr Mark Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats).

*The Federal Board report is the chance for party members to hear how the party is being run and what is being done to implement the election review, and to put questions direct to the Party President.*

*The Board report is in the Reports to Conference booklet and includes a report to conference on the complaints process rules.*

*Please note that the Reports to Conference have been updated since initial publication. The changes are to the Racial Diversity Campaign's report only. The revised Reports document can be found on the Party website at [www.libdems.org.uk/a21-reports](http://www.libdems.org.uk/a21-reports)*

*The deadline for questions to F25 is 13.00 on 6 September. Questions selected will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter.*

*Questions may also be submitted online until 17.00 on Saturday 18 September, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but they will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the Chair.*

*See page 9 for further information.*

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## F25 Federal Board Report: questions and accountability

*Please note that the reports to Conference have been updated since initial publication. The changes are to the Racial Diversity Campaign's report only. The revised reports document can be found on the Party website at [www.libdems.org.uk/a21-reports](http://www.libdems.org.uk/a21-reports)*

### Q1. Submitted by Prue Bray

I like the disciplinary proposals, but the system still does not deal satisfactorily with complaints about councillors. Will you discuss this with local government representatives?

### Q2. Submitted by Cllr Alan Connett

Why does the disciplinary system allow complaints about London Assembly members to be referred initially to their group but not allow the same for councillors?

### Q3. Submitted by Cllr Joe Harris

How will you deal with the bad feeling about the disciplinary system because of its failure to understand or value council groups or council issues?

### Q4. Adam Robertson

How is the Federal Party engaging with SocialMediaCheck.com regarding the issue of GDPR and Security regarding Social Media Checks on Prospective Parliamentary Candidates?

### Q5. Submitted by Adam Robertson

How do the Federal Board intend on tackling the lack of Disabled Candidates, especially at Parliamentary Level, when Scope are saying that 20% of the population is considered Disabled, and only 0.5% of MPs consider themselves as Disabled?

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### Q6. Submitted by Cllr Oliver Jones-Lyons

Given the advent of the Maraphone, would the Federal Board consider a whole party effort to complete a membership census to improve member engagement?

### Q7. Submitted by Cllr Oliver Jones-Lyons

What progress, if any, has been made towards decarbonising party operations?

### Q8. Submitted by David Grace

The President agreed my question at last conference but the party website remains unfit for members' use. There is no search facility and it is difficult to navigate. Will anything be done?

### Q9. Submitted by Suzanne Fletcher

When press releases are launched, can they be put onto the party website at same time so it is possible for links to them be used on social media?

### Q10. Submitted by Suzanne Fletcher

Will those developing the website ask for views on how it works from party members who haven't been part of its development before launching?

### Q11. Submitted by Suzanne Fletcher

When will work on the party website be completed so that both public and party members can find up-to-date information that they need, with ease?

### Q12. Submitted by Suzanne Fletcher

When consultation was undertaken for the Thornhill Review some made detailed submissions on phone banking. What is the latest progress on this and is there feedback?

*There will be a vote to delete the words 'continuing the steering group pilot in the meantime' from the Federal Board Report at the foot of page 20 of the Reports Document.*



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F26

14.30 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: John Bridges and Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

### **F26 Membership Subscription and Federal Levy**

#### *Federal Board*

Mover: Anthony Harris (Chair, Federal Finance and Resources Committee).  
Summation: Neil Fawcett.

- 1 Conference notes that:
  - 2 1. The existing standard minimum membership rate of £12 has
  - 3 remained constant since 2010.
  - 4 2. Had the standard minimum membership rate tracked the Consumer
  - 5 Price Index since 2010, instead of remaining static, it would now be
  - 6 in excess of £15.
  - 7 3. The COVID pandemic has placed severe financial pressures on those
  - 8 on the lowest levels of income.
  - 9 4. It is important to reward the loyalty of existing members so as to
  - 10 encourage membership retention.
- 11 Conference agrees to the following for 2022:
  - 12 A. For existing members, to freeze the current membership rate of £12
  - 13 (standard minimum).
  - 14 B. For new members, to increase the standard minimum membership
  - 15 rate to £15 (new standard minimum).
  - 16 C. To freeze the £6 minimum for those in receipt of or entitled to state
  - 17 benefits, and the £6 minimum for members paying via Young
  - 18 Liberals.
  - 19 D. To introduce an annual grant of £5,000 for Young Liberals for use in
  - 20 improving the access to politics for young people. Funded by, an
  - 21 increase of the special introductory rate for new members, paying
  - 22 via Young Liberals in their first year of membership, to £3.
  - 23 E. To freeze the membership rate of £72 (recommended).
  - 24 F. That nothing in this motion shall prevent a State Party from setting

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- 25 via their internal procedures higher recommended or minimum  
26 subscription rates or from introducing additional concessionary  
27 rates.  
28 G. That the Federal Levy remains at 55 per cent.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see page 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

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## F26 Membership Subscription and Federal Levy

### Amendment One

*10 members*

Mover: Joe Toovey.

Summation: Oliver Craven.

- 1 *In B. (lines 14–15), delete 'to increase the standard minimum membership*
- 2 *rate to £15 (new standard minimum)' and insert 'to freeze the current*
- 3 *membership rate of £12 (standard minimum)'.*
  
- 4 *Delete E. (line 23) and insert:*
  
- 5 E. For existing members, to freeze the membership rate of £72
- 6 (recommended).
- 7 F. For new members, to increase the membership rate to £80
- 8 (recommended).

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F27

14.50 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: John Bridges and Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

### **F27 Federal Appeals Panel Report: questions and accountability**

Mover: David Graham (Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel).

*The Federal Appeals Panel report is the chance for party members to hear about the work of the Panel and to put questions direct to the Chair.*

*The deadline for questions to F27 is 13.00 on 6 September. Questions selected will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter.*

*Questions may also be submitted online until 17.00 on Saturday 18 September, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but they will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the Chair. See page 9 for further information.*

*Please note that this session will include a vote on the Federal Appeals Panel's proposed updated procedures, per Article 22.6 of the Federal Constitution. The proposed procedures are available in the Federal Appeals Panel report to Conference on the Party website at [www.libdems.org.uk/a21-reports](http://www.libdems.org.uk/a21-reports)*

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F28

15.05 Speech

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

### **F28 Speech by The Leader of the Liberal Democrats, the Rt Hon Sir Edward Davey MP**



@EdwardJDavey, #LDConf

16.15 Auditorium break

*Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.*

18.45 Party business

Chair: Chris Maines. Aides: Duncan Brack and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

### **F29 Party Bodies Reform: constitutional amendment**

*Federal Board*

Mover: Flo Clucas.

Summation: Lee Dargue.

- 1 Conference notes that:
  - 2 i. Following the Party Bodies Review Group report into the Specified
  - 3 Associated Organisations (SAOs) and Associated Organisations (AOs),
  - 4 and how both bodies interact and work together with the wider
  - 5 Party, a consultation process has taken place to determine what
  - 6 changes ought to be made.
  - 7 ii. That consultation has arrived at a set of constitutional
  - 8 recommendations to replace SAOs and AOs with a new category of
  - 9 'Affiliated Organisations'.
  - 10 iii. The Federal Party should support any SAO/AO that wishes to become
  - 11 an 'Affiliated Organisation' and ought to make all best efforts ensure
  - 12 a successful transition.

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13 Conference resolves to amend the Constitution as follows:

14 A. Remove the current Article 21 and insert a new Article 21:

15 **Article 21: Affiliated Organisations**

16 21.1 Any organisation of persons having a common interest which  
17 satisfies the following criteria

18 (a) It has a membership policy which conforms to the principles  
19 in Article 3.1 of the Federal Constitution;

20 (b) Its objects are consistent with the fundamental values and  
21 objectives of the Party;

22 (c) Its internal procedures conform with the democratic  
23 principles in Article 4.6 (c), (d) and (e); and

24 (d) Its internal procedures conform to any rules created under  
25 Article 9.6 (b);

26 may apply to the Federal Board or a State Party by the  
27 internal procedures of that State Party to become an Affiliated  
28 Organisation. The Federal Board, or relevant State Party, may  
29 confer such status by their procedures. A list of Affiliate  
30 Organisations currently recognised by the Federal Party will be  
31 maintained by the Federal People and Development Committee  
32 and published on the party's website. State Parties may make  
33 similar arrangements.

34 21.2 The Federal Board shall from time to time review the operation  
35 of Affiliated Organisations in the light of the principles and  
36 practices established by and pursuant to this Constitution and  
37 shall report to the Conference on such reviews.

38 21.3 Affiliated Organisations shall have the rights granted to the  
39 under the Constitution, and relevant rules made thereunder,  
40 of the body responsible for the granting of their Affiliated  
41 Organisation status. The rights of an Affiliated Organisation  
42 under this, or relevant State Party's, Constitution may be  
43 suspended by the Federal Board, or relevant State Party, in  
44 accordance with internal procedures, if:

45 (a) It is not compliant with any statutory or regulatory provisions  
46 that are relevant to the party's activities, including the  
47 Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act and the  
48 relevant data protection legislation;

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- 49 (b) It is not compliant with this, or its own, Constitution or the
- 50 rules made thereunder; or
- 51 (c) if events have taken place or are about to take place
- 52 which are or may be seriously detrimental to the Affiliated
- 53 Organisation or to the Party as a whole.
  
- 54 21.4 Before suspending the rights of an Affiliated Organisation
- 55 the Federal Board, or relevant State Party, shall draw the
- 56 attention of the Affiliated Organisation to the grounds on which
- 57 it is proposed to take this action, and shall give the Affiliated
- 58 Organisation a reasonable time to answer any allegations and/or
- 59 take any necessary corrective action. An Affiliated Organisation
- 60 which is suspended under Article 21.3 may appeal from that
- 61 decision as provided by Article 22 or, if an Affiliated Organisation
- 62 of a State Party, via that State Party's appeals procedures.
  
- 63 21.5 The suspension of an Affiliated Organisation may be lifted if the
- 64 Federal Board, or relevant State Party, is satisfied that corrective
- 65 action has been taken. During the period of its suspension the
- 66 powers and functions of the Affiliated Organisation and its
- 67 organs shall be exercised subject to and in accordance with the
- 68 directions of the Federal Board, or relevant State Party.
  
- 69 21.6 An Affiliated Organisation will have its status as an Affiliated
- 70 Organisation revoked if one of the following sets of conditions
- 71 are met:
- 72 i. Removal
- 73 (a) The Federal Board, or the relevant State Party, has
- 74 suspended the Affiliated Organisation; and
- 75 (b) The Federal Board's intended removal of Affiliated
- 76 Organisation status has been reported in the Federal
- 77 Board's written report to Conference under Article 8.7
- 78 or the State Party's intention has been reported to its
- 79 members by their own procedures;
- 80 or
- 81 ii. Resignation
- 82 (a) The Affiliated Organisation, through its own procedures
- 83 and notifying the Federal Board, or relevant State Party,
- 84 has resigned its Affiliated status.
  
- 85 21.7 For the purposes of exercising the rights conferred on Affiliated.

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86 Organisations by this Constitution and rules made under it:  
 87 (a) The Affiliated Organisation representing youth and students  
 88 shall have the same rights as a Local Party;  
 89 (b) ALDC shall have the same rights as an Affiliated  
 90 Organisation; and  
 91 (c) An organisation listed in the Annexe to this Constitution shall  
 92 until 31st December 2022 continue to exercise the rights it  
 93 previously enjoyed as a Specified Associated Organisation  
 94 or an Associated Organisation, and be subject to the duties  
 95 and obligations including but not limited to suspension and  
 96 removal, as applied on August 1st 2021. This article shall  
 97 not apply to any organisation that becomes an Affiliated  
 98 Organisation.

99 21.8 The recognition by the Party of Affiliated Organisations shall not  
 100 prejudice the independence of such organisations.

101 B. Delete the Annexe and insert a new Annexe:

102 **1. Specified Associated Organisation**

- 103 Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and Campaigners (ALDC)
- 104 Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists (ALDES)
- 105 Liberal Democrat Campaign for Race Equality (LDCRE)
- 106 LGBT+ Liberal Democrats
- 107 Liberal Democrat Lawyers' Association (LDLA)
- 108 Liberal Democrat Women
- 109 Young Liberals
- 110 Parliamentary Candidates' Association (PCA)
- 111 Liberal Democrat Christian Forum (LDCF)

112 **2. Associated Organisations**

- 113 Association of Liberal Democrat Trades Unionists
- 114 Chinese Liberal Democrats
- 115 Green Liberal Democrats
- 116 Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats
- 117 Liberal Democrat Action for Land Taxation & Economic Reform
- 118 Liberal Democrat Campaign for Racial Equality
- 119 Liberal Democrat Disability Association
- 120 Liberal Democrat Education Association



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- 121 Liberal Democrat European Group  
122 Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel  
123 Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine  
124 Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform  
125 Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary  
126 Liberal International British Group
- 127 Consequently, conference resolves to further amend the Constitution as  
128 follows:
- 129 a. *In Article 3.2 (b), delete 'a Specified Associated Organisation' and insert*  
130 *'an Affiliated Organisation'.*
- 131 b. *In Article 3.2 (d), delete 'Specified Associated Organisation or*  
132 *Associated Organisation' and insert 'Affiliated Organisation'.*
- 133 c. *In Article 5.2, delete 'Specified Associated Organisations' and insert*  
134 *'Affiliated Organisations'.*
- 135 d. *In Article 7.5 (a), delete 'Associated Organisations, Specified Associated*  
136 *Organisations' and insert 'Affiliated Organisations'.*
- 137 e. *In Article 7.5 (b), delete 'Associated Organisations' and insert 'Affiliated*  
138 *Organisations'.*
- 139 f. *In Article 7.6, delete 'Specified Associated Organisations' and insert*  
140 *'Affiliated Organisations'.*
- 141 g. *In Article 9.2 (i) (g), delete 'Specified Associated Organisation' and insert*  
142 *'Affiliated Organisation'.*
- 142 h. *In Article 9.2 (ii) (e), delete 'ALDC' and insert 'the Association of Liberal*  
143 *Democrat Councillors (ALDC)'.*
- 144 i. *In Article 9.6 (b), delete 'Associated Organisation and Specified*  
145 *Associated Organisation' and insert 'Affiliated Organisation'.*
- 146 j. *In Article 12.5, delete 'SAOs' and insert 'As appropriate, Affiliated*  
147 *Organisations'.*
- 148 k. *In Article 13.2 (i) (f), delete 'SAO representing councillors' and insert*  
149 *'Affiliated Organisation representing Councillors'.*
- 150 l. *In Article 14.2 (d), delete 'AOs and SAOs as set out in Article 21' and*  
151 *insert 'Affiliated Organisations'.*
- 152 m. *In Article 14.3 (c), delete 'AOs and SAOs as set out in Article 21 and*  
153 *the Annexe to this Constitution' and insert 'Affiliated Organisations'*  
154 *and delete 'SAO which represents youth and/or students' and insert*  
155 *'Affiliated Organisation which represents youth and/or students'.*
- 156 n. *In Article 15.2 (d), delete 'SAO' and insert 'Affiliated Organisation'.*

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- 157 o. *In Article 18.2 (f), delete 'Specified Associated Organisation or*  
158 *Organisations' and insert 'Affiliated Organisation or Organisations'.*  
159 p. *In Article 18.5, delete 'Specified Associated' and insert 'Affiliated'.*  
160 q. *In Article 20.1, delete 'Specified Associated Organisations' and insert*  
161 *'Affiliated Organisation or Organisations'.*  
162 r. *In Article 22.3 (b), delete 'AO or SAO' and insert 'Affiliated Organisation'.*

*The current Federal Party Constitution can be found on the party website at:  
[www.libdems.org.uk/constitution](http://www.libdems.org.uk/constitution)*

*Applicability: Federal.*

*See notes at the end of F34 on page 93.*

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F29

### F29 Party Bodies Reform: constitutional amendment

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

- 1 *In B. 1. (line 105), delete 'Race' and insert 'Racial'.*
- 2 *In B. 2., delete line 118.*

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F30

### F30 Party Bodies Reform: standing order amendment

*Federal Board*

Mover: Flo Clucas.

Summation: Lee Dargue.

- 1 Conference notes that, subject to the acceptance of the Party Bodies
- 2 Reform constitutional amendment (F29), the conference standing orders
- 3 will require updating in order to properly take account of the new status
- 4 of Affiliated Organisation.
  
- 5 Conference resolves to amend the conference standing orders as follows:
  
- 6 1. In standing order 1.3 (b) delete 'Specified Associated Organisations'
- 7 and insert 'Affiliated Organisations'.
- 8 2. In standing order 1.3 (d) delete 'Specified Associated Organisations'
- 9 and insert 'Affiliated Organisations'.

*The text of the current standing orders is printed at page 121 of this Conference Agenda document.*

*Applicability: Federal.*

*See notes at the end of F34 on page 93.*

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F31

### F31 Party Bodies Reform: rules made under Article 9.6 of the Federal Constitution

#### *Federal Board*

Mover: Flo Clucas.

Summation: Lee Dargue.

- 1 Conference notes that, subject to the acceptance of the Party Bodies
- 2 Reform constitutional amendment (F29), rules will need to be made under
- 3 Article 9.6 of the Federal Constitution in order to properly take account of
- 4 the new status of Affiliated Organisation.
  
- 5 Conference resolves to adopt new rules as follows:
  
- 6 A. Each application for Affiliated Organisation status must:
  - 7 1. Fulfil the conditions of the Party Constitution in Article 21.1 and
  - 8 those defined for local parties in Article 4.6 (C), (D) and (E);
  - 9 2. Have a membership of not less than 30 members of the Liberal
  - 10 Democrats from no fewer than two local parties;
  - 11 3. Have a membership policy which:
    - 12 a. Unless specifically agreed by the Federal Board (“the Board”),
    - 13 is organised such that only party members and party
    - 14 members of sister parties <sup>1</sup> may:
      - 15 i. hold the role of officer, including Chair, Secretary,
      - 16 Treasurer and Membership Officer;
      - 17 ii. sit on Federal Party Committees;
      - 18 iii. access party data;
      - 19 iv. receive financial information, or sensitive political
      - 20 information; or
      - 21 v. vote within the Affiliated Organisation.
    - 22 b. Has, if the Affiliated Organisation chooses to admit
    - 23 non-party members, a specified separate status for
    - 24 those members which makes them subject to the Party
    - 25 Disciplinary Process <sup>2</sup> and eligible to be removed as a
    - 26 member of the Affiliated Organisation by that process. Non-
    - 27 party members of Affiliated Organisations shall otherwise be
    - 28 treated as if they were registered supporters of the party;
    - 29 and

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- 30 c. Requires all Affiliated Organisation members to act in
- 31 accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.
- 32 [1 Sister parties for this purpose shall be defined as the members of
- 33 ALDE (Alliance of Liberal and Democrats for Europe) and / or the Renew
- 34 Europe Group and / or the members and associate organisations of
- 35 Liberal International. The Federal Board reserves the right to exclude
- 36 parties from this definition if it concludes doing so is in the interests of
- 37 protecting the party's reputation.]
- 38 [2 Refusal to take part in the process will be deemed sufficient basis for
- 39 someone being removed as a member of an Affiliated Organisation.
- 40 An Affiliated Organisation which does not suspend such a member, or
- 41 refuses to comply with the requirements of the Complaints Process, will
- 42 itself be subject to suspension or removal.]
- 43 4. Be able to demonstrate a commitment to equality of
- 44 opportunity, including relevant party standards or codes,
- 45 including the Members' Code of Conduct and any recommended
- 46 membership standards approved by the Federal People and
- 47 Development Committee (FPDC);
- 48 5. Maintain full and accurate records of its transactions, including
- 49 financial reports. Have in place the appropriate administrative
- 50 procedures and records to ensure compliance with the
- 51 provisions of any relevant party finance and data protection
- 52 legislation and take all steps necessary to become/be a
- 53 compliant accounting unit of the party. The Federal Party and
- 54 State Parties reserve the right to deny access to services in cases
- 55 of non-compliance and to impose the financial escalation policy
- 56 as if the Affiliated Organisation were a local party;
- 57 6. Provide annual reports on their activities to the Board, or
- 58 relevant State Party, and comply with any reasonable requests
- 59 for further reporting;
- 60 7. Agree to be subject to the standard review procedure in
- 61 Appendix II and the procedure for investigating Affiliated
- 62 Organisation behaviour as set out in Appendix III; and
- 63 8. Provide an explanation that satisfies the FPDC, or relevant State
- 64 Party, as to why becoming an Affiliated Organisation, with all the
- 65 attending regulatory and administrative burden, is in the best
- 66 interests of the applicant and the party. This requirement shall
- 67 not apply to the Young Liberals or the ALDC.
- 68 B. In addition to the rights conferred by the Federal Constitution, an

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- 69 approved Affiliated Organisation will be entitled to:
- 70 1. Nominate a representative, who must be a party member, to  
 71 policy working groups in circumstances where the remit of  
 72 such a working group enters into the areas of interest of the  
 73 organisation, subject to the final decision on composition of  
 74 working groups remaining a matter for the FPC;
- 75 2. A page on the Federal Party’s website and/or a link to its own  
 76 website (the precise format to be determined by the Chief  
 77 Executive in consultation with appropriate staff). The Chief  
 78 Executive must be satisfied that the content is in keeping with  
 79 the party’s aims and objectives, is factually accurate and does  
 80 not defame or libel any individuals or organisations;
- 81 3. Inclusion in any “new members pack” (the precise format to  
 82 be determined by the Chief Executive in consultation with  
 83 appropriate staff and with the organisation concerned)
- 84 4. The ability to use the party’s logo, subject to regulations, in its  
 85 materials; and
- 86 5. Be invited to take part in the Party Body Forum meeting and  
 87 associated activities.
- 88 C. Process of Application to become a Federal Affiliated Organisation
- 89 1. Applications for Affiliated Organisation status at Federal level  
 90 must be made in writing to the Federal Chief Executive <sup>3</sup>.  
 91 Applications to State Parties shall be made using their own  
 92 procedures. Applications will be expected to include the  
 93 following documentation:
- 94 a. A copy of the organisation’s constitution <sup>4</sup>;
- 95 b. Evidence that it meets the relevant membership  
 96 requirement set out in A and, including a membership list <sup>5</sup>;
- 97 c. Written information detailing the applicant organisation’s  
 98 current capabilities in relation to A 5; and
- 99 d. A formal request to HQ for the required assistance to help  
 100 the applicant become fully compliant with A 4 and A 5 and  
 101 for further instruction as to how, in practice, to comply with  
 102 A 6, A 7 and A 8.
- 103 [<sup>3</sup> Or, to the Federal Chief Executive via the Clerk to the Board.]
- 104 [<sup>4</sup> A model constitution shall be published and from time to time  
 105 updated by the FPDC, or relevant State Party per their internal  
 106 procedures.]

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- 107 [5 Groups of members are at liberty to form and create their own  
108 membership lists before becoming Affiliated Organisations, but  
109 will not have the rights, privileges or responsibilities of an Affiliate  
110 Organisation until they complete this process.]
- 111 2. If the Chief Executive, personally or via a delegated body, is  
112 satisfied with an application made per C 1, they shall direct  
113 Federal staff to work with the applicant to support it in meeting  
114 the requirements under A.
- 115 3. Subject to the Chief Executive being satisfied that the application  
116 is in order and on the advice of expert staff with respect to all  
117 requirements being met or being on course to be met, they  
118 shall ensure that the application is placed on an agenda for  
119 consideration by the FPDC at the earliest practical opportunity.
- 120 4. Once an application is provisionally accepted by the FPDC it  
121 shall gain the status of Candidate Affiliate (see Appendix I –  
122 Candidate Affiliates). If a Candidate Affiliate is an existing SAO  
123 or AO, it shall at this stage automatically become an Affiliated  
124 Organisation as long as it is able to meet the criteria set out in  
125 section A. Otherwise it shall automatically become an Affiliated  
126 Organisation as soon it does meet the criteria set out in section  
127 A.
- 128 5. The FPDC shall report, via the Board, on Candidate Affiliates  
129 in its report to the next following conference per Article 8.7 of  
130 the Federal Constitution. The report shall include the following  
131 details for each Candidate Affiliates:
- 132 a. The name of the Candidate Affiliate;
- 133 b. A single point of contact for those interested in learning  
134 more;
- 135 c. A one-page summary, written by the Candidate Affiliate with  
136 wording approved by FPDC, setting out the reason for the  
137 Candidate Affiliate becoming an Affiliated Organisation.
- 138 6. Subject to the approval of conference, the Board shall confirm  
139 whether it wishes to grant the Candidate Affiliate (see Append  
140 I) the status of Affiliated Organisation at its next suitable  
141 meeting. The Board may decide to postpone this decision  
142 if the Candidate Affiliate is still in the process of making  
143 itself compliant with its legal, regulatory, and constitutional  
144 obligations.



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### 145 Appendix I – Candidate Affiliat

116 Candidate Affiliates are organisations wishing to become Affiliated  
117 Organisations of the Liberal Democrats who have been considered and  
118 provisionally approved by the Board or relevant State Party.

119 Candidate Affiliate status ensures the party has sufficient time to engage  
120 with members, such as via conference, before confirming an applicant as  
121 an Affiliated Organisation. It also provides time for the applicant to ensure  
122 that any work required to become fully compliant with A 1–8 is completed  
123 before transition.

124 Candidate Affiliate status does not apply to any existing SAOs or AOs who  
125 fulfil the conditions set out in section A.

### 126 Appendix II – Review procedure

127 In addition to the annual reports of their activity, Affiliated Organisations  
128 will be required, at least once every five years, to take part in a formal  
129 review.

130 In conducting the review, the Board will establish a working group who  
131 will:

- 132 1. Request a written report from the current Executives of the Affiliated  
133 Organisations, proving continued compliance with the base  
134 requirements for being an Affiliated Organisation set out in section  
135 A;
- 136 2. Request an additional report from current Executives of Affiliated  
137 Organisations which shall include any feedback those Executives  
138 wish to provide the Board for the purposes of reviewing the current  
139 Affiliated Organisation arrangements.
- 140 3. Request a report from the Federal Staff responsible for regulatory  
141 and financial compliance summarising issues experienced by the  
142 Affiliated Organisations since the last review;
- 143 4. Interview Affiliated Organisation Chairs and other members of  
144 Affiliated Organisations as the working group deems appropriate,  
145 and meet with the Party Bodies Forum.

146 The working group shall allow Affiliated Organisations at least six weeks to  
147 respond to the review. The working group shall report back to the Board  
148 on its findings and make recommendations as to how improvements  
149 might be made, to the benefit of Affiliated Organisations and the Party.

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150 This report shall be publicised to the party membership.

151 Any Affiliated Organisation which does not take part in this review  
152 process will be considered to have resigned per Article 21.6 of the Federal  
153 Constitution.

### 154 **Appendix III - Investigation procedure**

#### 155 *When an investigation may be launched*

156 The Board, or relevant State Party Executive, may resolve to investigate  
157 an Affiliated Organisation if a voting majority believe there is reasonable  
158 grounds to believe the Affiliated Organisation:

- 159 a. Is not or has not been compliant with any statutory or regulatory  
160 provisions that are relevant to the party's activities, including the  
161 Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act and the relevant  
162 data protection legislation;
- 163 b. Is not or has not been compliant with this, or its own, Constitution or  
164 the rules made thereunder; or
- 165 c. Is or is about to be responsible for events which are or may be  
166 seriously detrimental to the Affiliated Organisation or to the Party as  
167 a whole.

168 Non-compliance or obstruction with an investigation will be deemed to  
169 be a resignation of Affiliate Organisations status. The Board, and Stat  
170 Parties, reserve the right to launch an investigation without suspending  
171 the Affiliated Organisation

172 Wherever possible, the Board or State Parties will aim to resolve any  
173 matter which may lead to, or require, an investigation informally before  
174 launching an investigation.

175 Anyone wishing to bring grounds for an investigation to the attention of  
176 the Board, or relevant State Party, should contact the Party Standards  
177 team ([standards@libdems.org.uk](mailto:standards@libdems.org.uk)) or relevant state standards team.  
178 Specific complaints against a member of the Party shall be addressed via  
179 Article 23 of the Federal Constitution.

#### 180 ***Conduct of an investigation***

181 Once the Board, or State Party, has resolved to conduct an investigation it  
182 shall appoint an investigator.

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183 The investigator must not be a member of the Affiliated Organisation  
184 under investigation and will, unless it is not practical, generally be a  
185 member of the Board, or State Party Executive. The investigator:

- 186 a. Must not vote in any decision-making process resulting from their  
187 investigation;
- 188 b. Must be granted access to see any documents they request from the  
189 Affiliated Organisation;
- 190 c. Must give the Affiliated Organisation an opportunity to mount  
191 defence to any allegations that are made against it – except where  
192 doing so runs counter to the Party safeguarding policy or the  
193 principles of confidentiality laid out in the Party’s disciplinary system.

194 The Board, or State Party, will agree, in writing, a remit for the investigator  
195 on appointment. This remit need not be made available to the Affiliated  
196 Organisation, unless the Affiliated Organisation has been suspended  
197 The remit shall include a timescale for the investigation but this may be  
198 extended. The investigator shall address all the points set in the remit but  
199 is not precluded from addressing additional points should they arise.

### 200 *Interviews*

201 In conducting any interviews, the investigator will take notes and give  
202 the interviewee the opportunity to agree the accuracy of those notes.  
203 Where there are points of disagreement, these should be supplied with  
204 the report, but the investigator should not change their notes unless they  
205 believe them to be inaccurate. All interviewees should be treated fairly  
206 and be given the opportunity to put the points they wish to make.

### 207 *Report*

208 The investigator shall deliver a report to the Board, or State Party, setting  
209 out what they have found, a response to each point in their remit and a  
210 recommendation for further action. The further action could be, but is not  
211 limited to:

- 212 a. Proposing no further action;
- 213 b. Requesting the Board, or State Party, work with the Affiliated  
214 Organisation to improve its workings;
- 215 c. Suspension until corrective action is completed by the Affiliated  
216 Organisation;
- 217 d. Removal of Affiliated Organisation status;
- 218 e. Referral of the Affiliated Organisation, or specific members of the

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F31

- 219 Affiliated Organisation, to the Complaints Process, or if they are not  
220 members of the party, to the FPDC.
- 221 On receipt of the report, the Board, or State Party, shall determine what  
222 action to take. It is not obliged to accept the recommendations and can  
223 take other actions.
- 224 There is no obligation to make the full report available to the Affiliate  
225 Organisation. Content which might later form part of a disciplinary  
226 complaint, or any personal information not already in the public domain  
227 shall be kept confidential
- 228 The Affiliated Organisation Executive shall, subject to the caveats above  
229 receive notice of the recommendations in the report, the basis for those  
230 recommendations and, if the Affiliated Organisation specific direction  
231 of what action to take as necessary. The Affiliated Organisation may be  
232 required to report, at the Board or State Party's discretion, on progress on  
233 directed actions and, if the reporting or reported progress is deemed  
234 unsatisfactory, the Affiliated Organisation may face further sanctions.
- 235 Nothing in this process shall conflict with Article 21 of the Federal  
236 Constitution. Where criminal behaviour is suspected it must be reported  
237 to the police.
- 238 **Appeals**
- 239 An Affiliated Organisation which is suspended under Article 21.1 of the  
240 Federal Constitution or has its status as an Affiliated Organisation revoked  
241 under Article 21.6 may appeal from that decision as provided by Article  
242 22 or, if an Affiliated Organisation of a State Party, via that State Party's  
243 appeals procedures.
- 244 **Postscript**
- 245 Affiliated Organisations are reminded that suspension of Affiliated  
246 Organisation status refers to the removal of their rights, privileges  
247 and responsibilities as affiliates of the Liberal Democrats. Affiliated  
248 Organisations wishing to continue their work, separately to the party, may  
249 do so as non-affiliated group

*The current Federal Party Constitution and regulations are available on the Party website at: [www.libdems.org.uk/constitution](http://www.libdems.org.uk/constitution)*

*Applicability: Federal.*

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F32

*See notes at the end of F34 on page 93.*

### **F32 Party Bodies Reform: Leadership Election Regulations**

*Federal Board*

Mover: Flo Clucas.

Summation: Lee Dargue.

- 1 Conference notes that, subject to the acceptance of the Party Bodies
- 2 Reform constitutional amendment (F29), the Leadership Election
- 3 Regulations will require updating in order to properly take account of the
- 4 new status of Affiliated Organisation
  
- 5 Conference resolves to amend the Leadership Election Regulations as
- 6 follows:
  - 7 1. In Regulation 6 (a) delete 'Specified Associated Organisations' and
  - 8 insert 'Affiliated Organisation or Organisations'.
  - 9 2. In Regulation 7 delete 'SAOs, AOs' and insert 'Affiliated
  - 10 Organisations'.

*The current regulations can be found on the Party website at:  
[www.libdems.org.uk/constitution](http://www.libdems.org.uk/constitution)*

*Applicability: Federal.*

*See notes at the end of F34 on page 93.*

### **F33 Party Bodies Reform: Presidential Election Regulations**

*Federal Board*

Mover: Flo Clucas.

Summation: Lee Dargue.

- 1 Conference notes that subject to the acceptance of the Party Bodies
- 2 Reform constitutional amendment (F29), the Presidential Election
- 3 Regulations will require updating in order to properly take account of the
- 4 new status of Affiliated Organisation.

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F32

5 Conference resolves to amend the Presidential Election Regulations as  
6 follows:

- 7 1. In Regulation 6 (a) delete 'Specified Associated Organisations' and  
8 insert 'Affiliated Organisation or Organisations'.
- 9 2. In Regulation 7 delete 'SAOs, AOs' and insert 'Affiliated  
10 Organisations'.

*The current regulations can be found on the Party website at:  
[www.libdems.org.uk/constitution](http://www.libdems.org.uk/constitution)*

*Applicability: Federal.*

*See notes at the end of F34 on page 93.*

### **F34 Party Bodies Reform: Committee Election Regulations**

*Federal Board*

Mover: Flo Clucas.

Summation: Lee Dargue.

- 1 Conference notes that, subject to the acceptance of the Party Bodies  
2 Review constitutional amendment, the Committee Election Regulations  
3 will require updating in order to properly take account of the new status  
4 of Affiliated Organisation.

5 Conference resolves to amend the Committee Election Regulations as  
6 follows:

- 7 1. In Regulation 3 (d) delete 'Specified Associated Organisations' and  
8 insert 'Affiliated Organisations'.

*The current regulations can be found on the Party website at:  
[www.libdems.org.uk/constitution](http://www.libdems.org.uk/constitution)*

*Applicability: Federal.*

*See notes on page 93.*

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F34

*Notes applicable to F29 to F34:*

*All of items F29 to F34 will be moved and debated together, and there will be a series of votes on all of them at the end of the debate.*

*Constitutional amendments and standing order amendments require a two-thirds majority to pass.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*F29 and F30 are a constitutional amendment and a standing order amendment respectively. They are therefore open to amendment and separate vote.*

*The deadline for amendments to the motions – see page 9–10 – is 13.00 on 6 September. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 19 September; see page 7.*

*F31 to F34 are regulations made by the Federal Board under Article 9.6 of the Federal Constitution and are therefore subject to ratification by conference but cannot be amended.*

## Sunday 19 September

F35

19.20 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Joe Otten. Aides: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC) and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

### F35 International Trade and the DIT

*14 members*

Mover: Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson for Business and Trade).

Summation: Dr Phil Bennion.

- 1 Conference notes that:
  - 2 a) The UK has completed 23 EU replacement 'rollover' trade
  - 3 negotiations since leaving the EU, with a further 13 with temporary
  - 4 arrangements, and with three still under negotiation, many details of
  - 5 which remain unpublished in full.
  - 6 b) The UK has currently negotiated only one new trade agreement
  - 7 which is not a replacement EU agreement, with Australia, and is
  - 8 also reportedly attempting to negotiate similar 'new' deals with New
  - 9 Zealand, USA, GCC, Canada and India.
- 10 Conference believes that:
  - 11 i) The British Government's desperate need to hurriedly 'chalk up'
  - 12 trade deals, has led to a weak negotiating effort, in part facilitated
  - 13 by unsuitable constitutional limitations on Parliament's ability to
  - 14 withhold consent from disadvantageous treaty terms, which thus
  - 15 largely eliminate the UK trade negotiators' fear of treaties being
  - 16 voted down in Parliament if terms are disadvantageous.
  - 17 ii) The government is giving away sensible human rights and anti-
  - 18 conflict conditions in trade agreements and apparently happy to
  - 19 lower public standards dangerously for imports, without achieving
  - 20 significant concessions in return.
  - 21 iii) The current exodus of international expertise and assets from the UK
  - 22 and the City of London represents a further neglect of the economy,
  - 23 with lost tax receipts and reductions of domestic income.



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F35

24 Conference expresses grave concerns at:

- 25 a) The apparent willingness of the UK government to permit private  
26 corporations to sue for any losses incurred as a result of UK policy  
27 changes, in trade agreements, via investor-state dispute settlement  
28 (ISDS) systems.
- 29 b) Reports that major concessions are being agreed or offered by the  
30 UK government via side agreements which are not made public in a  
31 timely way.

32 Conference calls for:

- 33 1. Extension of full parliamentary sovereignty to trade agreements,  
34 such that the old so-called Ponsonby Rule on scrutiny and the later  
35 CraG process in both Houses, end in a parliamentary vote, without  
36 which any trade agreement cannot receive Royal Assent.
- 37 2. Full and timely transparency in both interim and final trade deals  
38 which have been agreed, including timely publication of any side  
39 agreements or significant MoUs, so that there can be proper  
40 parliamentary scrutiny.
- 41 3. Transparent public consultation on proposed trade deals,  
42 throughout the process, including with representatives of small and  
43 medium-sized businesses, and including reports to Parliament at  
44 each stage.
- 45 4. A set of minimum standards for benchmarking future trade  
46 agreements; to include human rights, conflict and oppression,  
47 environmental, labour and safety standards, where they can be  
48 negotiated, based on a UK Trade and Human Rights Policy, and a  
49 Trade and Development Policy; as a UK successor to the Cotonou  
50 agreement.
- 51 5. A multilateral judicial process instead of ISDS, where precedent  
52 and case law transparently play a central part, and where disputes  
53 are resolved openly in a proper manner; rather than via the  
54 government's preferred secretive 'smoke filled room' approach.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

## Sunday 19 September

F35

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see page 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 18 September; see page 7.*

# Sunday 19 September

F35

## F35 International Trade and DIT

### Amendment One

10 members

Mover: Tim Farron MP (Spokesperson for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).  
Summation: to be announced.

1 *After b) (line 31), insert:*

2 c) That the Conservative government has failed to guarantee British  
3 standards on animal welfare and environmental protection in trade  
4 deals, placing British farmers at risk.

5 *In 4. (line 47) after 'environmental,', insert 'animal welfare,'.*

6 *After 5. (line 54), add:*

7 6. The strengthening of the role of the Trade and Agriculture  
8 Commission, to allow it to review the impact of international trade  
9 deals before Parliament approves it.

### Background briefing

This motion updates existing trade and European policy.

This builds on existing policy as set out in the policy motion *The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the Future of the UK-EU Relationship* (March 2021) and the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

20.00 Close of session.

# Monday 20 September

F36

10.00 Party business

Chair: Duncan Brack. Aides: Jennie Rigg and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

## **F36 Campaign for Gender Balance Report: questions and accountability**

Mover: Cllr Julia Cambridge (Vice Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance).

*The deadline for questions to F36 is 13.00 on 6 September. Questions selected will be published in the Conference Extra and Monday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter.*

*Questions may also be submitted online until 17.00 on Sunday 19 September, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but they will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the Chair.*

*See page 9 for further information.*

## Monday 20 September

F37

### 10.10 Emergency motion or topical issues

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Bex Scott and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

### **F37 Emergency Motions or Topical Issue Discussions**

*This slot has been reserved for the debate of emergency motions and / or discussion of topical issues.*

*The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00 on 6 September. See pages 9 and 10.*

*The motions selected for debate or the motions proposed for the ballot will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.*

*Topical issue timing – introducer of issue and spokesperson's response: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.*

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

# Monday 20 September

F37A

## F37A Emergency motion: Solving the Supply Chain Crisis

10 members

Mover: Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson for Business and Trade).

Summation: Tim Farron MP (Spokesperson for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

- 1 Conference notes with concern:
  - 2 i) The empty shelves in supermarkets and shortages reported in a  
3 range of other sectors, which are predominantly the result of Brexit  
4 and government incompetence.
  - 5 ii) That councils have warned of the impact on services such as refuse  
6 collections.
  - 7 iii) The likely increase in food prices resulting from the increase in  
8 wages and other costs required to attract new workers, and from  
9 the additional disruption when new checks on the supply chain of EU  
10 imports are introduced.
  - 11 iv) That these price rises will hit those worst off the hardest, at a time  
12 when the Government plans to remove the £20 per week Universal  
13 Credit uplift.
  - 14 v) The lack of qualified staff in many sectors of the economy, such  
15 as the road haulage business, logistics companies, and the food-  
16 processing industry.
  - 17 vi) The costs, bureaucracy and inflexibility of the Conservative  
18 Government's "skilled worker" visa system.
  - 19 vii) The return of many EU citizens to their home countries due to Brexit  
20 and the pandemic and the difficulty of recruiting from the EU with  
21 loss of free movement.
  - 22 viii) The calls by farmers for seasonal support in the harvest season.
  - 23 ix) The effect that the supply chain crisis is having and is forecast to  
24 have on the post-Covid economic recovery.
  - 25 x) The announcement of a retirement scheme for farmers, without any  
26 guarantees that new entrants will replace them.
  - 27 xi) The phasing out of existing farm payments without the new  
28 Environmental Land Management scheme (ELM) being ready until  
29 2028.
  - 30 xii) That the Conservative government's potential trade deal with

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- 31 Australia, which is likely to establish a precedent for further trade  
32 agreements, fails to guarantee British standards, including on animal  
33 welfare, food safety and environmental protection.
- 34 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitments to:
- 35 a) A long-term economic strategy, including investment in jobs and  
36 training.
- 37 b) Make the £20 per week Universal Credit uplift permanent.
- 38 c) Free movement of people as part of a longer-term objective of UK  
39 membership of the EU, as set out in the September 2020 conference  
40 motion 'The UK and Europe'.
- 41 d) Support for farmers by broadening the remit of the Groceries Code  
42 Adjudicator and supporting them with access to markets.
- 43 e) Introduce a National Food Strategy, including the use of public  
44 procurement policy, to promote the production and consumption  
45 of healthy, sustainable and affordable food and cut down on food  
46 waste.
- 47 Conference calls for the UK Government to:
- 48 1. Abandon the plan to scrap the Universal Credit uplift at the end of  
49 September 2021.
- 50 2. Engage with local authorities to help address the impact on local  
51 services.
- 52 3. Scrap the arbitrary salary threshold for work visas, which prevents  
53 British businesses from recruiting the workers they need.
- 54 4. End the arbitrary categorisation of workers into "skilled" and  
55 "unskilled" for visa purposes.
- 56 5. Abandon their divisive rhetoric on immigration and scrap the  
57 Nationality and Borders Bill.
- 58 6. Increase training places for shortage occupations, such as HGV  
59 drivers, and invest in HGV test facilities.
- 60 7. End the phase out of current farm payments until the new ELMs  
61 scheme is ready.
- 62 8. Encourage new entrants to farming by promoting the sector as  
63 a career choice, increasing funding to agricultural colleges and  
64 reviewing the Kickstart scheme with a view to expanding access to  
65 the scheme among under 25s.

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- 66 9. Commission a review by the Migration Advisory Committee on the  
67 impact of ending free movement on the food and farming sector.  
68 10. Ensure that any future trade deals are signed off by Parliament.  
69 11. Protect British farmers by ensuring that imported food in trade deals  
70 meets UK standards of animal welfare and environmental protection.  
71 12. Strengthen the role of the Trade and Agriculture commission, to  
71 allow it to review the impact of international trade deals before  
72 Parliament approves it.  
73 13. Within the provisions of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement,  
74 agree a veterinary agreement with the EU.  
75 14. Enshrine alignment with EU SPS standards in legislation.

*Applicability: Federal; except d) & e) (lines 41–46), and 6., 7. & 8. (lines 58–65), which are England only.*

### Background Briefing

This motion updates existing trade and European policy in response to the supply chain crisis.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the policy motion *The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the Future of the UK-EU Relationship* (March 2021).

### F37B Emergency motion: Responding to the Crisis in Afghanistan

*Liberal Democrat Women, Liberal Democrat Campaign for Racial Equality and LGBT+ Liberal Democrats*

Mover: Cllr Rabina Khan.

Summation: Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs).

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 i) The Taliban takeover of almost all of Afghanistan by military force  
3 and without legitimacy from its people.  
4 ii) The deeply alarming expansion of extrajudicial killings and  
5 disappearances of government officials, journalists, and civil society  
6 activists, which is plunging the country into a state of terror.  
7 iii) The Taliban's disregard for human rights and persecution of  
8 marginalised groups, including women and girls; LGBT+ people; and



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- 9 religious, ethnic and cultural minority groups.
- 10 iv) The greater levels of violence and abuse to which Afghan women and  
11 girls are subject to, and the risks of the deterioration of their basic  
12 human rights, eg. such as rights in education, work, healthcare, and  
13 basic civil liberties.
- 14 v) The additional barriers, including but not limited to proving their  
15 identities, which are often faced by LGBT+ individuals seeking asylum  
16 in the UK.
- 17 vi) The UK's responsibility to the Afghan people following twenty years'  
18 intervention in the country.
- 19 vii) The UK Government's culpability for a situation which has resulted in  
20 millions of Afghans living in fear.
- 21 viii) The betrayal of Afghan interpreters and many others who supported  
22 the UK's work in Afghanistan.
- 23 ix) The moral negligence and abject complacency of UK Government  
24 ministers, in particular the Foreign Secretary, as the Taliban took  
25 territory across the country, resulting in thousands of those who  
26 supported us being left behind.
- 27 x) The UK's derisory commitment of taking in just 5,000 Afghan  
28 refugees this year under the new settlement scheme.
- 29 xi) The potential for international terrorist groups to re-use Afghanistan  
30 as a safe haven to plan, train and launch acts of terror.

31 Conference believes that:

- 32 a) Standing up for human rights, oppressed minority groups, and those  
33 facing persecution is at the core of liberal values.
- 34 b) It is essential that the international community speaks with one voice  
35 and works together on humanitarian crises and on the fight against  
36 human rights violations.
- 37 c) The UK Government must honour its obligations to the Afghan  
38 people.

39 Conference therefore calls on the UK Government to:

- 40 1. Work with the international community and neighbouring countries  
41 on the provision of safe, legal passages for those who wish to leave  
42 Afghanistan.
- 43 2. Support Afghan refugees, providing humanitarian visas, speeding up

## Monday 20 September

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- 44 the process of asylum claims, revisiting previously rejected asylum  
45 claims, and ensuring that Local Authorities receive sufficient funding  
46 for refugee settlement.
- 47 3. Implement the calls from the Joint Council for the Welfare of  
48 Immigrants to scrap the “resettlement-only” plans in the Nationality  
49 and Borders Bill, grant immediate asylum to Afghan asylum-  
50 seekers already in the UK, release Afghan nationals unfairly held in  
51 immigration detention centres, and expand the family reunion route.
- 52 4. Prioritise vulnerable groups in refugee settlement, working with  
53 women’s organisations, LGBT+ organisations, and journalist  
54 agencies, acknowledging the barriers faced by Afghan women and  
55 girls, who are vulnerable to gender-based violence and often have  
56 caring responsibilities; the Afghan LGBT+ community, who have  
57 difficulty disclosing their identities; and others.
- 58 5. Increase Official Development Assistance to those in need in  
59 Afghanistan and the region as part of a reinstatement of the 0.7%  
60 GNI international development target, and put pressure on the  
61 Taliban to ensure that aid workers who are women can continue  
62 their work.
- 63 6. Support local and international gender-based violence services to  
64 ensure that Afghan women and girls - whether they have been able  
65 to flee Afghanistan or not v- receive help and support.
- 66 7. Expand the Armed Forces Covenant to include Afghan soldiers and  
67 interpreters who have worked with British forces in Afghanistan.
- 68 8. Take urgent action to stop terrorism from spreading its roots in  
69 Afghanistan once again, including by proscribing the Islamic State  
70 Khorasan Province (ISKP) and convening a European Security Summit  
71 to respond to the crisis in Afghanistan.
- 72 9. Launch an urgent, immediate public inquiry into the Government’s  
73 intervention in Afghanistan throughout 2001 to 2021.
- 74 10. Use all diplomatic means to support regional security and good  
75 governance in Afghanistan.
- 76 11. Consider offering any relevant and appropriate diplomatic and  
77 military resources for any United Nations or other multilateral efforts  
78 to provide humanitarian relief in Afghanistan, including the potential  
79 use of peacekeepers.

*Applicability: Federal.*

# Monday 20 September

F37B

## Background briefing

This motion creates new foreign, international development and refugee policy, in response to the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Taliban's takeover of the country.

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11.40 Speech

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

**F38 Jane Dodds MS, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats**



@JaneDodds, #LDConf

12.00 Policy motion

Chair: Duncan Brack. Aides: Cllr Joe Otton and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

**F39 Towards a Lasting Peace in Israel and Palestine**

*13 members*

Mover: Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs).

Summation: Alistair Carmichael MP (Spokesperson on Home Affairs).

- 1 Conference believes wholeheartedly in the universal liberal principles of
- 2 human rights, democracy, international law, and the self-determination of
- 3 peoples.
  
- 4 Conference welcomes the role of Yair Lapid, leader of Liberal International
- 5 partner Yesh Atid, in the formation of the new Israeli government and
- 6 hopes that this moment of change may offer the chance of a fresh
- 7 approach to the peace process.
  
- 8 Conference deeply regrets the deaths of Palestinian and Israeli civilians
- 9 in the escalation in May 2021, unequivocally condemns all acts of
- 10 indiscriminate violence, noting that there is no excuse for the targeting
- 11 of civilians, especially children, and notes that the escalation was caused
- 12 by long-term underlying tensions which must be addressed if we are to
- 13 achieve a lasting peace rather than a short-term truce.
  
- 14 Conference notes the deteriorating human rights situation in Israel and
- 15 Palestine as detailed in reports, notably those published by B'Tselem and
- 16 Human Rights Watch detailing transgressions by the Israeli government.

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- 17 Conference condemns all human rights abuses committed by Hamas  
18 in Gaza and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, as outlined in  
19 reports including notably the 2018 Human Rights Watch publication Two  
20 Authorities, One Way, Zero Dissent.
- 21 Conference regrets that Hamas's attitude to the conflict, including its  
22 rhetoric, its incitement and its refusal to recognise the state of Israel, is  
23 itself a significant barrier to peace
- 24 Conference further regrets the position of the UK Prime Minister when he  
25 opposed the ICC investigation into alleged crimes committed in Palestine,  
26 noting that the ICC has jurisdiction given that Palestine, like the UK, is a  
27 signatory to the Rome Statute.
- 28 Conference affirms that given the 54 year old Israeli occupation an  
29 that, under international law, occupation is meant to be temporary,  
30 the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory is illegal under  
31 international law.
- 32 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrats' commitment to:
- 33 A. A two-state solution in which Israel and Palestine both exist with  
34 secure boundaries based on the 1967 lines with two capitals in  
35 Jerusalem recognised in international law with normal relations  
36 (including diplomatic, security and trade relations) between them  
37 and with their neighbours.
- 38 B. The right of Israel and Palestine to territorial integrity under  
39 international law, and that any peace negotiations must allow the  
40 possibility of negotiations on fair and equal land swaps if replacing  
41 existing boundaries, namely the pre-1967 lines.
- 42 C. Condemnation of all threats and acts of violence and unlawful use  
43 of force such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, or extra-  
44 judicial killing, whoever the perpetrators may be.
- 45 D. The belief that any such threats and acts of violence or force will only  
46 make a just settlement more difficult to achieve
- 47 E. Immediate recognition of Palestine as a sovereign independent state  
48 by the UK Government based on the 1967 lines.
- 49 Conference calls on the UK Government to:

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- 50 1. Work with the international community to facilitate a new peace  
51 process and set out a route map to lasting peace including  
52 confidence-building measures, especially by working with our EU  
53 partners and seeking to use any UK influence with President Biden
- 54 2. Urge those states and actors in the region which have not yet  
55 recognised the State of Israel to do so, as Egypt did in 1979 and as  
56 the Palestine Liberation Organization did in 1988.
- 57 3. Express its regret that Palestinian elections were cancelled and  
58 engage with the international community to press that the  
59 Palestinian Authority reschedules free and fair democratic elections  
60 as soon as possible and that the Israeli government permits free and  
61 full campaigning and voting, notably in East Jerusalem.
- 62 4. Press for the Palestinian Authority to enshrine 'crimes against  
63 humanity' in Palestinian law and to strengthen the independence of  
64 their judiciary.
- 65 5. Apply pressure on the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, where  
66 appropriate, to halt persecution of or discrimination against  
67 marginalised groups, including the LGBT+ community and women,  
68 civil society organisations and democratic opposition.
- 69 6. Call on the Israeli and Palestinian authorities to do more to stop  
70 incitement and hate speech in their media, their respective curricula  
71 and in political discourse.
- 72 7. Recognise the tensions among civilians both between and within  
73 Israel and Palestine and accordingly increase funding for the region,  
74 including by:
- 75 a) Actively supporting humanitarian and civil society efforts within  
76 Israel and Palestine to promote peace, including the creation of  
77 an international fund for peace, such as the fund proposed by  
78 the Alliance for Middle East Peace whose purpose is to create a  
79 climate for peace in which the existing status quo, incitement  
80 and the language of hatred are seen as unacceptable.
- 81 b) Providing increased support for UNRWA.

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- 82 8. Respect the right of the ICC or any other neutral internationally  
83 recognised body to investigate possible international crimes in  
84 Israel and Palestine according to their mandates and remits, and  
85 hold those responsible to account where there are breaches of  
86 international law.
- 87 9. Urge continued adherence to the status quo agreement on the holy  
88 sites in Jerusalem.
- 89 10. Declare that illegal Israeli settlements represent a de facto  
90 annexation of Palestinian territory and that such settlements are a  
91 major but not sole factor in making the search for a lasting peace  
92 ever more difficult to achieve
- 93 11. Ensure that trade is used as a tool for peace and shared prosperity in  
94 all nations by:
- 95 a) Promoting trade links with Israel and Palestine and increasing  
96 cooperation especially in science, technology and medicine.
- 97 b) Ensuring that the UK Government's approach to international  
98 trade promotes human rights and adheres to the international  
99 rule of law.
- 100 c) Acknowledging that illegal settlements represent a breach of  
101 international law and do not form part of the sovereign territory  
102 of Israel, and therefore introducing a legislative requirement  
103 to clearly label goods and services which are produced in the  
104 settlements.
- 105 d) Engaging with the UN database on companies operating in  
106 the illegal settlements, including supplying information and  
107 requesting regular publication of reports from the UN High  
108 Commissioner for Human Rights.
- 109 e) Publishing an assessment of the impact of UK business dealings  
110 and the role of UK-linked supply chains in sustaining the illegal  
111 settlements.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

## Monday 20 September

F39

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see pages 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Sunday 18 September; see page 7.*



# Monday 20 September

F39

## F39 Towards a Lasting Peace in Israel and Palestine

*The FCC has agreed to make the following drafting amendment to the motion:*

- 1 *In line 12, delete 'we are to achieve', and in line 13 after 'truce' insert 'is to be*
- 2 *achieved'.*

### Amendment One

*10 members*

Mover: Jonathan Brown.

Summation: Andrew Whitley.

- 1 *In 11. b) (line 99) after 'rule of law', insert ', and protects the interests of*
- 2 *British businesses trading legitimately with Palestinian businesses in the*
- 3 *occupied territories'.*

4 *After 11. e) (line 111) add:*

- 5           f) Ensuring that there is equality of treatment for Israelis and
- 6           Palestinians in the rules for visa free travel to the UK.

### Amendment Two

*10 members*

Mover: Anne-Marie Simpson.

Summation: Andy Daer.

1 *Delete 11. c) (lines 100-104) and insert:*

- 2           d) Acknowledging that illegal settlements represent a breach of
- 3           international law, and that any UK trade which bolsters such
- 4           activity is sustaining this breach, by legislating to cease trade
- 5           with illegal settlements, unless and until a negotiated peace
- 6           settlement is reached.

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### Background briefing

This motion updates existing foreign policy in response to the recent formation of a new Israeli government.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019), policy motion *The Centenary of the Balfour Declaration* (2017) and policy motion *A Holistic Pathway to Peace in the Middle East* (September 2014).

## Monday 20 September

F40

13.00 Auditorium break

*Please see the **Conference Directory** for our fringe and exhibition programme.*

14.15 Constitutional amendment

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

### **F40 Young Liberals Age Limit Change**

*Federal Board*

Mover: Callum Robertson.

Summation: Tara Copeland.

- 1 Conference resolves to amend the Constitution as follows.
- 2 Delete clause 28.1 and replace with:
  - 3 28.1 A member of an SAO shall not be counted as a member or
  - 4 participate in exercising the rights of the SAO under clauses 18.5 and
  - 5 20.1 of this Constitution:
    - 6 A. if such member is not a member of the Party; in the case of the
    - 7 Youth and/ or Student Organisation;
    - 8 B. if such member has reached the age determined by that
    - 9 Organisation as to make them no longer eligible for full
    - 10 membership and is not a student;
    - 11 C. if such member, having been originally enrolled by an SAO, has
    - 12 elected to exercise the related constitutional rights through a
    - 13 Local Party; or
    - 14 D. if such member, having been originally enrolled by a Local
    - 15 Party, has not elected to exercise the related constitutional
    - 16 rights through an SAO: no person may exercise the related
    - 17 constitutional rights concurrently as a member of more than
    - 18 one SAO or as a member of both an SAO and a Local Party.

*The current text of the Federal Party Constitution can be found at:  
[www.libdems.org.uk/constitution](http://www.libdems.org.uk/constitution).*

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*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see pages 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Sunday 18 September; see page 7.*

*A constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.*

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### F40 Young Liberals Age Limit Change

*The FCC has agreed to make the following drafting amendment to the motion:*

- 1 *In line 2 and line 3, delete '28.1' and insert '21.8'.*

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F41

14.30 Constitutional amendment

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

### **F41 Empowering Liberal Democrat Values: for People and Planet**

*215 members*

Mover: Keith Melton.

Summation: Cllr Pippa Heylings.

1 Conference recognises the occurrence, from time to time, of public and  
2 media questioning as to the values represented by the Liberal Democrats;  
3 whilst these are spelled out in some detail in the Preamble to the  
4 Constitution of the Party, conference believes that, as we emerge from  
5 the coronavirus pandemic to face the twin existential threats of climate  
6 change and loss of biodiversity, this would be a good time to review  
7 the Preamble and restate our priorities with greater clarity. Conference  
8 believes the key value statement relating to the environment currently  
9 languishes as the second sentence of the second paragraph of the  
10 Preamble and is known to be overlooked by commentators on Liberal  
11 Democrat values.

12 Conference believes that our Party's longevity of support for the  
13 primacy of the environment should be strengthened and clarified by the  
14 promotion of that sentence to become the second sentence of the first  
15 paragraph of the Preamble.

16 Conference therefore resolves to move from their current position the  
17 words: 'We believe that each generation is responsible for the fate of our  
18 planet and, by safeguarding the balance of nature and the environment,  
19 for the long-term continuity of life in all its forms', and insert them after  
20 the words: 'poverty, ignorance and conformity'. The first paragraph of the  
21 Preamble would then read as follows:

22 The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and  
23 open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of  
24 liberty, equality and community, and in which no one shall be enslaved  
25 by poverty, ignorance or conformity. We believe that each generation is

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26 responsible for the fate of our planet and, by safeguarding the balance  
27 of nature and the environment, for the long-term continuity of life in all  
28 its forms.

29 Conference also supports a further change which would reinforce the  
30 necessary updating of our approach to global sustainable economic  
31 development needed to ensure our environmental concern is made  
32 manifest with respect to the paradigm of 'Wellbeing', rather than adhering  
33 to the outdated focus on GDP as an economic measure of success.

34 Conference therefore further resolves to delete from the first sentence of  
35 the existing third paragraph the words: 'which encourages the necessary  
36 wealth creating processes, develops and uses the skills of the people and  
37 works', and insert in their place the words: 'which enables people to thrive  
38 in their communities, assessing progress by measuring people's wellbeing.  
39 Such an economy will encourage necessary wealth creating processes,  
40 develop and use the skills of the people and work to the benefit of all, with  
41 a just distribution of the rewards of success'. The third paragraph of the  
42 Preamble would then read as follows:

43 We will foster a strong and sustainable economy which enables people  
44 to thrive in their communities, assessing progress by measuring  
45 people's wellbeing. Such an economy will encourage necessary wealth  
46 creating processes, develop and use the skills of the people and work to  
47 the benefit of all, with a just distribution of the rewards of success.

*The current text of the Federal Party Constitution can be found at:  
[www.libdems.org.uk/constitution](http://www.libdems.org.uk/constitution).*

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a  
speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see  
pages 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference  
Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline  
for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Sunday 18 September; see page 7.*

*A constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.*

## Monday 20 September

F41

### F41 Empowering Liberal Democrats for People and Planet

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

- 1 *In line 20, before 'The first paragraph', insert 'This section of'.*
- 2 *In lines 40-41, delete 'to the benefit of all, with a just distribution of the*
- 3 *rewards of success'.*
- 4 *In line 41, before 'The third paragraph', insert 'This section of'.*



## Monday 20 September

F42

14.50 Constitutional amendment

Chair: Bex Scott. Aides Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC) and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair FCC).

### **F42 Updating the Constitution's Language on Equality and Inclusion**

*17 members*

Mover: George Potter.

Summation: Fraser Graham.

- 1 Conference resolves to amend the Constitution as follows.
- 2 In the Preamble to the Constitution:
  - 3 a) Replace 'race, colour, religion, age, disability, sex or sexual
  - 4 orientation' with 'race, ethnicity, caste, class, religion, age, disability,
  - 5 sex, gender or sexual orientation'.
  - 6 b) Replace 'women and men' with 'people'.
- 7 Throughout the Constitution:
  - 8 1. Where the words 'he or she is' occur, replace with 'they are'.
  - 9 2. Where the words 'his or her' occur, replace with 'their'.

*The current text of the Federal Party Constitution can be found at:  
[www.libdems.org.uk/constitution](http://www.libdems.org.uk/constitution).*

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see page 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Sunday 18 September; see page 7.*

*A constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.*

# Monday 20 September

F42

## F42 Updating the Constitution's Language on Equality and Inclusion

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

- 1 *In 3. a) (line 4), after 'religion', insert 'or belief'.*

### Amendment One

*Kingston Borough*

Mover: Kim Bailey.

Summation: Kevin Langford.

- 1 *In 3. a) (line 4) after 'caste', insert ', heritage'.*

## Monday 20 September

F43

16.10 Speech

Chair: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Chief Whip, House of Commons).

**F43 Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats,  
Alex Cole-Hamilton, MSP.**



15.30 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Joe Otten. Aides: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

**F44 Rebuilding our Cultural, Artistic and Educational Ties with Europe**

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs)

Summation: Dr Robert Harrison.

1 Conference believes that Brexit has created significant barriers to  
2 the cultural, educational and artistic links which British citizens have  
3 enjoyed with their European neighbours and friends over decades, from  
4 programmes such as Creative Europe to the formative opportunities  
5 enjoyed by young people, ranging from the use of Interrail railway passes  
6 to the ability to travel to EU member states on school trips without  
7 needing a passport.

8 Conference notes that this will cause severe economic damage to arts and  
9 culture sectors, with negative impacts to the national and local economies,  
10 exacerbated by the government's domestic policies, which threaten to  
11 damage the UK's world-leading arts and culture sectors, including cutting  
12 funding for arts-based university courses, downgrading arts in the school  
13 curriculum and leaving creative industry businesses woefully under-  
14 supported during the coronavirus pandemic.

15 Conference condemns the creation of obstacles to musicians and actors  
16 performing in the EU, and to EU artists performing in the UK, as well as

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F44

- 17 their staff, and welcomes the calls for paperwork-free travel from artists  
18 such as Elton John.
- 19 Conference further condemns the decision of the Government to leave  
20 the Erasmus Plus scheme; and notes with concern that the replacement  
21 Turing Scheme:
- 22 I. Is less accessible and less well-funded than the Erasmus Plus  
23 scheme, excluding youth and adult education, and so fails to achieve  
24 its stated aim of 'levelling up'.
- 25 II. Has no basis for reciprocity, unlike Erasmus Plus, and therefore  
26 restricts the ability of EU students to study at UK higher and further  
27 education institutions.
- 28 III. Will risk further the shortage of modern foreign language teachers  
29 in UK schools and likely reduce the take-up of modern foreign  
30 languages in the long term.
- 31 Conference further notes that the Government's visa scheme for young  
32 people aged 18–30 (the Youth Mobility Scheme) is not currently applicable  
33 to EU/EEA member states.
- 34 Conference congratulates Kirsty Williams' efforts in Wales to establish an  
35 Erasmus-style scheme to fix the deficiencies of the Turing Scheme; and  
36 notes that the SNP has refused to support such a scheme, despite their  
37 vocal complaints about the UK's departure from Erasmus Plus.
- 38 Conference reaffirm
- 39 A. The Liberal Democrats' commitment, as set out in the Spring 2021  
40 conference motion The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement  
41 and the Future of the UK-EU relationship, to:
- 42 i) Demonstrating the benefits to UK citizens and businesses of  
43 a much closer relationship compared to the government's  
44 inadequate measures.
- 45 ii) Recommending roadmaps for the UK to rejoin the Customs  
46 Union, Single Market and other EU agencies and programmes as  
47 appropriate.
- 48 iii) Maximising public support for eventual UK membership of the  
49 EU.

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- 50 B. The Liberal Democrats' support for a longer-term objective of UK  
51 membership of the EU, as set out in the September 2020 conference  
52 motion 'The UK and Europe'.
- 53 C. The Liberal Democrats' commitment to free movement of people as  
54 part of a longer-term objective of UK membership of the EU and its  
55 institutions.
- 56 Conference therefore calls on the government to begin to restore the UK's  
57 cultural links with EU member states, by:
- 58 1. Rejoining the Erasmus Plus scheme.
- 59 2. Prior to any re-entry of Erasmus Plus, following the steps taken by  
60 Kirsty Williams to improve the Turing Scheme, including by:  
61 a) Establishing reciprocal partnerships between UK and EU  
62 institutions.  
63 b) Improving (and in some cases establishing) the ability of further  
64 and vocational education providers, as well as adult education,  
65 youth work settings and schools to access the scheme.  
66 c) Ensuring that the same level of funding is provided for the  
67 Turing Scheme as would have been provided by the UK for  
68 Erasmus Plus.
- 69 3. Establishing a European cultural fund, to ensure that young  
70 people can access modern foreign language teaching and cultural  
71 opportunities regardless of their backgrounds.
- 72 4. Extending the Youth Mobility Scheme to EEA member states on a  
73 reciprocal basis.
- 74 5. Improving access to the Youth Mobility Scheme by:  
75 a) Increasing the number of visas available to meet demand.  
76 b) Abolishing the fees for these visas, including the Immigration  
77 Health Surcharge.  
78 c) Promoting the scheme to UK citizens.  
79 d) Increasing the age limit from 18 to 30 to 18 to 35.  
80 e) Expanding the length of the visa from two to three years.

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- 81 6. Negotiating passport- and visa-free school visits to EU member  
82 states, on a reciprocal basis.
- 83 7. Simplifying visa arrangements for students attending bona fide  
84 language schools.
- 85 8. Rejoining Creative Europe.
- 86 9. Negotiating paperwork-free and cost-free travel and work short-term  
87 within the EU for UK artists and their support staff, equipment and  
88 hauliers, on a reciprocal basis.
- 89 10. Encouraging town twinning, including cultural, artistic and  
90 educational exchanges, between towns in the UK and EU.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see pages 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Sunday 18 September; see page 7.*

### Background briefing

This motion updates existing European policy in regards to education.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the policy motion *The UK and Europe* (September 2020).

## Monday 20 September

F45

16.05 Policy motion

Chair: John Bridges. Aides: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair FCC) and Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

### F45 Keeping People Safe from Frauds and Scams

*12 members*

Mover: Baroness Ludford.

Summation: Lord Marks (Lords Spokesperson for Justice).

- 1 Conference notes with grave concern that each year, around 3.5 million
- 2 people across England and Wales are victims of fraud.
  
- 3 Conference further notes that:
  - 4 i) Fraud is the most prevalent type of crime, accounting for more than
  - 5 a third of all crimes, but is not getting the focus it deserves from the
  - 6 Government.
  - 7 ii) UK Finance estimates that £1.26 billion was lost to financial fraud and
  - 8 scams in 2020, while a further £1.6 billion in fraud was prevented by
  - 9 banks and card companies.
  - 10 iii) Most fraud happens online. Losses to criminals using stolen card
  - 11 details – usually obtained through hacks or other data breaches – to
  - 12 buy things online have doubled since 2013, to around £380 million
  - 13 in 2020. Internet banking fraud has also risen dramatically in recent
  - 14 years, with the number of cases more than doubling from 2019 to
  - 15 2020, as more and more people are managing their finances online.
  - 16 iv) Criminals are also increasingly defrauding people through
  - 17 ‘authorised push payment’ scams, where they trick their victims into
  - 18 transferring money to them. This includes getting people to pay in
  - 19 advance for goods or services that they never receive, taking their
  - 20 money for fake ‘investments’, pretending to be police officer or bank
  - 21 staff, and using fake profiles to form a ‘relationship’ with their victim
  - 22 to manipulate them into sending money.
  - 23 v) Criminals have exploited the Covid pandemic to dramatically
  - 24 increase certain types of fraud, with the number of online shopping
  - 25 cases reported to Action Fraud up 44% in the year to April 2021, and
  - 26 the number of romance scams up 15%.
  - 27 vi) In May 2019, the banking industry adopted a voluntary code for

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- 28 dealing with authorised push payment fraud, including the principle  
29 that banks should reimburse victims unless they are at fault.  
30 However, of the £312 million of losses assessed under code as of the  
31 end of 2020, just £147 million (47%) was reimbursed.
- 32 vii) A lack of resources for the police prevents most fraud being  
33 investigated properly: only 3% of fraud offences reported in 2019-20  
34 were disseminated to police forces for investigation, and only around  
35 1 in 200 victims see their perpetrator convicted.
- 36 viii) In 2018, the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee conclude  
37 that Action Fraud, the centralised reporting centre for fraud victims,  
38 “has irretrievably lost the confidence of the public, and reasonable  
39 expectations from victims are not being met”.
- 40 ix) In 2020, Google was paid £572,814 by the Financial Conduct  
41 Authority to host adverts warning people about fraud, while also  
42 taking money from criminals to host fraudulent ads.

43 Conference believes that:

- 44 a) Fraud is an appalling crime that particularly preys on vulnerable  
45 people. It can cause severe financial hardship, as well as enormous  
46 distress and fear.
- 47 b) Far too many criminals are getting away with fraud, and far too  
48 many victims are being left without justice or redress.
- 49 c) A far stronger response is needed from the Government, police,  
50 regulators, internet companies and banks, working together to  
51 prevent fraud, support victims and catch the perpetrators.
- 52 d) Local branch closures have forced many people to use online  
53 banking, and banks must therefore do more to keep them safe from  
54 the risks it presents.
- 55 e) Everyone should be helped and empowered to avoid frauds and  
56 scams, but the onus should not be on individuals to prevent them,  
57 nor should people be blamed for falling victim to them.

58 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to create a new  
59 Online Crime Agency to effectively tackle illegal content and activity online,  
60 including fraud.

61 Conference calls on the Government to tackle fraud and scams  
62 aggressively, including by:



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F45

- 63 1. Naming and shaming the banks with the worst records on  
64 preventing fraud and reimbursing victims, to help consumers make  
65 an informed choice and drive improvements across the industry.
- 66 2. Setting minimum standards for all banks on preventing fraud, and  
67 requiring them to report to government on their performance.
- 68 3. Replacing the voluntary industry code on authorised push payments  
69 with a mandatory, statutory code, including an obligation to  
70 reimburse victims unless there is clear evidence that they are at  
71 fault.
- 72 4. Explicitly including a duty on social media companies and search  
73 engines to prevent fraud in the forthcoming Online Safety Bill,  
74 including a requirement to ensure that any adverts for financial  
75 services they host are from genuine, regulated firms.
- 76 5. Establishing a national real-time warning system for scams, where  
77 individuals can check and report suspicious activity.
- 78 6. Launching a high-profile public awareness campaign to help people  
79 spot, avoid and report frauds and scams.

*Applicability: Federal; except vii) & viii) (lines 32–39) and Conference reaffirms... (lines 58–60), which are England and Wales.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see pages 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Sunday 18 September; see page 7.*

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F45

## F45 Keeping People Safe from Frauds and Scams

### Amendment One

ALDC

Mover: Cllr Heather Kidd.

Summation: Cllr Jon Ball.

- 1 *After 4. e) (line 57) insert:*
- 2 Conference recognises that local government is a key partner in working
- 3 with the police and central government to raise public awareness of fraud
- 4 and scams and to ensure close liaison and adequate funding for councils
- 5 to play a full role in supporting local communities in tackling fraudsters.

### Background briefing

This motion updates existing crime and justice policy.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

## Monday 20 September

F46

16.50 Policy motion

Chair: Jennie Rigg. Aides: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC) and Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

### F46 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

*Liberal Democrat Women*

Mover: Caroline Voaden.

Summation: Christine Jardine MP.

- 1 Conference notes that:
  - 2 i) Sexual violence, sexual harassment, and domestic abuse remain  
3 endemic in our society:
    - 4 a) In 2019/20, 4.9 million women were victims of sexual assault in  
5 England and Wales, according to the Office for National Statistics  
6 (ONS).
    - 7 b) A third of 16–18-year-old girls report experiencing unwanted  
8 sexual touching at school, according to End Violence Against  
9 Women.
  - 10 ii) The pandemic has made the situation worse:
    - 11 a) The ONS report into Domestic abuse during the pandemic in  
12 November 2020 found increased demand for victim services and  
13 indicators that severity of abuse has increased.
    - 14 b) Plan International UK found that since lockdown began, 1 in 5  
15 girls aged 14–21 experienced public sexual harassment.
    - 16 c) By 2030, 2 million more girls are now at risk of undergoing  
17 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) due to the pandemic according  
18 to Plan International.
  - 19 iii) The justice system is failing many victims of domestic abuse and  
20 sexual violence:
    - 21 a) Out of 139,000 rapes estimated by the ONS in the year ending  
22 March 2020, only 58,845 were reported to police. Of those, just  
23 2.4% ended in convictions.
    - 24 b) Three in four domestic abuse cases in England and Wales end  
25 without charge, according to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of

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- 26 Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services.
- 27 iv) Those from minority backgrounds experience domestic abuse  
28 disproportionately:
- 29 a) ONS figures for 2019 show that disabled women were more  
30 than twice as likely to experience domestic abuse than non-  
31 disabled women.
- 32 b) LGBT+ people are significantly more likely to experience  
33 domestic abuse, with 13 per cent of bisexual women facing  
34 intimate partner abuse in 2019/20, according to Stonewall.
- 35 c) In 2019, 60 per cent of UK police forces admitted referring  
36 victims of crime to the Home Office for immigration purposes  
37 harming migrant women.
- 38 v) The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, whilst very welcome, still contains  
39 policy gaps, including failure to provide equal protection for migrant  
40 women.
- 41 vi) The funding for domestic abuse services in the 2021 Budget falls  
42 short of the figure that Women's Aid says is needed by over £200  
43 million per year.
- 44 vii) The UK has failed to ratify the Istanbul Convention, a treaty creating  
45 a global framework for protecting women from violence.
- 46 Conference believes that:
- 47 I. Everyone, regardless of identity, has the right to live a life free from  
48 fear and violence.
- 49 II. The Conservative Government is failing to properly tackle continuing  
50 violence against women and girls in our society.
- 51 III. Investing in raising awareness, education, and policies aimed at  
52 prevention is vital and prevents greater costs long-term.
- 53 IV. An intersectional approach to violence against women and girls  
54 is imperative to provide high level care and support to the most  
55 vulnerable victims.
- 56 V. Disclosures of abuse must be made easier and always taken  
57 seriously by authorities who offer a trauma-informed response.
- 58 VI. Ending violence against women and girls must be a top priority for all

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59 levels of government.

60 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitments to:

- 61 A. Improve and reform the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
- 62 curriculum, including age-appropriate education on consent from
- 63 primary school.
- 64 B. Expand the number of refuge and rape crisis centres, including
- 65 specialist provision.
- 66 C. Give Local Authorities the duty and funding to provide appropriate
- 67 accommodation and support for survivors of abuse.
- 68 D. Recognise misogyny as a hate crime.

69 Conference calls on the Government to:

- 70 1. Increase efforts to prevent and detect violence against women and
- 71 girls by:
  - 72 a) Funding an NHS-style public awareness campaign, including on
  - 73 long-lasting trauma impacts.
  - 74 b) Consulting education leaders and the specialist violence against
  - 75 women and girls sector, to take immediate action on sexual
  - 76 harassment in school.
  - 77 c) Implementing guidance to include awareness of public sexual
  - 78 harassment and its consequences in the national curriculum.
  - 79 d) Upskilling all school staff via training to ensure confidence in
  - 80 correctly and sensitively handling disclosures of a sexual or
  - 81 abusive nature.
  - 82 e) Introducing a duty on public authorities to ensure all frontline
  - 83 staff are trained to detect and respond appropriately to
  - 84 domestic abuse.
  - 85 f) Improving cross-government coordination of policies and
  - 86 services for separating families across England and Wales.
  - 87 g) Establishing a plan to tackle the social recovery of vulnerable
  - 88 and at-risk women and girls following the pandemic.
- 89 2. Improve outcomes for victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse
- 90 by:
  - 91 a) Ensuring migrant women have equal access to protection from
  - 92 abuse.
  - 93 b) Introducing training and guidance for organisations on making

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- 94 their services more trans inclusive.
- 95 c) Offering a long-term funding model for specialist services,
- 96 including specialist BAME and LGBT+ services, so they can plan
- 97 strategically and fully focus on providing support.
- 98 d) Introducing mandatory training for police and the Crown
- 99 Prosecution Service in understanding the impact of trauma on
- 100 victims.
- 101 e) Improving access to independent legal support for victims,
- 102 including those with no recourse to public funds.
  
- 103 3. Strengthen the justice system to properly deal with sexual violence
- 104 and domestic abuse by:
- 105 a) Urgently increasing funding to reduce Criminal and Family court
- 106 backlogs.
- 107 b) Extending protections of 16 and 17-year-olds by expanding the
- 108 definition of ‘position of trust’, to include all adults who work/
- 109 volunteer with under-18s.
- 110 c) Legislating to make public sexual harassment a criminal offence
- 111 d) Legislating to make the promotion of Female Genital Mutilation/
- 112 Cutting (FGM/C) a hate crime.
  
- 113 4. Establish the UK as a leader in domestic and global efforts to end
- 114 violence against women and girls by:
- 115 a) Ratifying the Istanbul Convention as soon as possible.
- 116 b) Setting up an independent commission on ‘Ending Violence
- 117 Against Women and Girls’ for ongoing, sustainable accountability
- 118 and progress in domestic and global efforts.

*Applicability: England and Wales; except A., B. and C. (lines 61–67), 1. b) and c) (lines 74–78) and 1. e) (lines 82–84), which are England only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker’s card go to: [www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card).*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 6 September; see pages 9–10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Sunday 18 September; see page 7.*

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F46

## F46 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

### Amendment One

*Wokingham Borough*

Mover: Sarah Kerr.

Summation: Prue Bray.

1 *After 1. g) (line 88), insert:*

- 2           h) Ensuring the child's safety and needs are put first when  
3           decisions are made as to the appropriate level of contact with an  
4           abusive parent.

5 *After 2. e) (line 102), insert:*

- 6           f) Introducing mandatory awareness training for local authority  
7           Children's Services staff to enable them to appropriately  
8           examine and record allegations of domestic abuse which may  
9           present as parental conflict.  
10          g) Ensuring appropriate support is available for those who do not  
11          flee from their abuser.

### Background briefing

This motion builds on existing policy as set out in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019) and policy motion *Continuing the fight for gender equality* (September 2019).

## Monday 20 September

F47

17.35 Party business

Chair: Dr Mark Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats). Aide: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

### **F47 Party Awards**

#### ***The President's Award***

*An award to a Party Member elected to public office and who has demonstrated excellence and commitment.*

#### ***The Harriet Smith Liberal Democrat Distinguished Service Award***

*This award is named for Harriet Smith, who campaigned and worked tirelessly for the Party, notably alongside Paddy Ashdown, with the Federal Conference Committee. It is open to any Party Member never elected to public office.*

#### ***The Belinda Eyre-Brook Award***

*This award is named for legendary campaigner Belinda Eyre-Brook, whose achievements with the Party include being Ed Davey's agent in 1997, overturning 15,000 Tory Majority. It is given to recognise and celebrate the efforts of people working for our elected representatives in their local areas.*

#### ***The Dadabhai Naoroji Award***

*This award is named for Liberal MP, and joint founder of the Indian National Congress, Dadabhai Naoroji. It is presented annually to the local Party that has done most to promote ethnic minority participants to elected office.*

#### ***The Penhaligon Award***

*This award is named for former MP David Penhaligon who took the seat of Truro in 1974. David will always be remembered for his succinct advice to local campaigners: 'stick it on a piece of paper and stuff it through a letterbox'. It is presented to the local party which demonstrates the most impressive increase in membership and exemplary activities to deliver and involve members and supporters.*

#### ***The Patsy Calton Award***

*This award is named for the former MP for Cheadle and is presented (and judged) by Lib Dem Women. It is awarded to exceptional women ranging from Councillors, to members, to Parliamentarians.*

17.45 Close of conference



# Standing orders

## Standing orders – 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 and must 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.

### **Emergency motion**

A proposal which relates to a specific recent development which occurred after the deadline for submission of motions. 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, topical issue discussions or discussion of business, including formal reports, takes place. This specifically excludes formal speeches such as those by the Leader or Party Officer.

### **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.

### **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 7.4 of the Federal Party constitution.

### **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

## Standing orders

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. [*Note: this does not apply to a virtual conference.*]

### 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 order for a stated purpose.

### Special conference

An additional meeting of the conference requisitioned by the Federal Board, Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 2% of party members, in not fewer than 10% of local parties, under the provisions of

Article 6.3 of the Federal constitution.

### Standing order amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

### Secondary standing order amendment

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

### Topical issue discussion

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

### Voting member

A member attending conference who has satisfied the requirements for attendance and has paid the registration fee presently in force for party members as agreed by FCC, and who is not a day visitor [or observer].

## Standing Orders for a conference held remotely

- a) In the event that the Federal Board determines it is impossible to hold a conference under the normal rules, and instead summons a special meeting of the conference to be held remotely, or the Committee otherwise directs that a conference shall be conducted remotely, these Standing Orders shall apply.
- b) A remote conference shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders that apply to a conference not conducted remotely ('the original Standing Orders'), save that:
  - i) All references in the original Standing Orders to votes, whether by ballot, show of hands or show of voting cards, shall instead be conducted via an online poll or alternative secure method of online voting, designated by the Committee; similarly all references to speakers cards shall be taken to mean electronic speakers' cards.
  - ii) Any communications with the chair must be made via an online channel designated by the Committee for that purpose and advertised to voting members prior to the commencement of a debate.
  - iii) In original Standing Order 6.2, the reference to the Chief Steward shall also include lead moderators designated by the Chief Steward.
  - iv) Original Standing Order 8.7 shall apply save that the Committee may set a deadline in respect of any given full session for the receipt

## Standing orders

- of electronic speakers' cards; the chair shall have discretion to accept electronic speakers' cards after the deadline.
- v) Original Standing Orders 9.1, 9.2, 11.5 and Procedural motion 3 (Request for a Count) in the Glossary of Terms, shall not apply; instead, voting members shall, when appropriate, be directed by the chair to vote using the online voting tool made available to them. Standing Order 2.3 shall not apply.
  - vi) In original Standing Order 10.1, any voting member may signal to the Chair via the designated online channel that they are moving a point of order, in lieu of rising in their place.
  - vii) As, by necessity, all votes shall be counted votes, original Standing Order 11.5 shall not apply; instead, the chair shall ensure the result of the counted vote is publicised to members, via the appropriate online channel.

## Standing orders for a conference held physically

### 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 Parties as listed in Article 17 of the Federal Party's Constitution, the Federal Board, the Federal Policy Committee and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, reports from any other body the Committee considers appropriate, accounts, the annual report, a motion accompanying the proposed strategy of the party, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments.
- c) Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers).
- d) Emergency motions.
- e) Topical 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 bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).
- b) Business motions (including amendments 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 Board, Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 party members. Business motions,

## Standing orders

standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.

- c) Motions accompanying policy papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, 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 party members.
- e) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any party member.

### 1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

All motions and amendments must be submitted to the Committee. They must identify a person authorised to agree to their being composited or redrafted. The detail of methods of submission will be notified for each conference via the part website.

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

The Committee shall specify:

- a) The closing date for the receipt of policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers), business motions, constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders, which shall be at least eight weeks before the start of conference.
- b) The closing date for the receipt of amendments to motions published in the agenda and emergency motions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- c) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with

the agenda. Any supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference with the permission of the Committee.

- d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference, except for questions to the reports of the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament, where the closing date shall be at least one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- e) Notwithstanding 1.5(d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(d). 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.
- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.

### 1.6 Notification of deadline

All dates specified under Standing Order 1.5 shall be publicised to party members and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper/magazine and website 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

## Standing orders

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 Board, and published in the agenda. 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. *[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference; voting will be undertaken in a different way if needed.]*

### 3. The agenda

#### 3.1 The shortlisting of motions

The Committee shall draw up the agenda and shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included in it. The Committee may allocate time for one or more policy or business motions to be selected by ballot. Copies of motions not selected shall be available for inspection and will be supplied to any party member on payment of a copying charge and postage.

#### 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 selected for debate.

#### 3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

The Committee shall, in drawing up the 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 solely 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.

### 4. Selection of motions and amendments

#### 4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

In drawing up the 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

The Committee shall decide which of the amendments duly submitted to each motion shall be selected. No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Committee it is insubstantial, outside the

## Standing orders

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.
- 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 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 chose for a topical issue discussion.
- c) It is unclear as to its meaning or intent or is, 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.

### 4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.4, 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 voting members as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall organise the debates on the motions in the order chosen by conference in the ballots.

### 4.6 Emergency amendments

The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to select emergency amendments for debate.

### 4.7 Topical issue discussions

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

## 5. Special meetings

### 5.1 Timetabling of special meetings

The Committee shall, as soon as practicable after the requisitioning of a special meeting of the conference, fix date for the meeting, draw up the agenda and, if appropriate, specify a date for the submission of 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.

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## 5.2 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

## 6. Appeals

### 6.1 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. 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 an emergency motion or amendment according to the stage of the agenda-setting process at which the appeal has been allowed.

### 6.2 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. *[Note: this Standing Order will apply with modifications to a virtual conference: the Chief Steward may designate people to act as lead moderators for the conference chat.]*

## 7. The chair

### 7.1 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.

### 7.2 The chair's aide

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

## 8. Conduct of debate

### 8.1 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 agenda. Such variation shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.

### 8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

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

### 8.3 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 (except that where an amendment or option has not been opposed during the debate, the chair of the session shall have the right to direct that its movers shall not exercise their right of reply), after which the mover of the motion (or the mover's nominee) shall have the right of reply. Votes shall then be taken on



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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 of amendments may be the subject of a separate debate.

### 8.4 Topical issue discussions

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

### 8.5 Who may speak

All voting members may speak at a full session of conference. Additionally, the Committee may invite any person to address the conference as a guest. Neither such provision shall prejudice the right of the chair of a session to select speakers.

### 8.6 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 Board 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.

### 8.7 The selection of speakers

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. *[Note: this Standing Order will apply with modifications to a virtual conference: speaker's cards must be submitted electronically and by no later than 17.00 on the day before the relevant debate, although the chair has a discretion to accept cards submitted after the deadline.]*

### 8.8 The length of speeches

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

## 9. Voting at conference

### 9.1 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.

*[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference if the new set of Standing Orders for a virtual conference is passed; instead a secure online poll or alternative shall be used.]*

### 9.2 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.



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c) As the result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.5 below.  
 A recount will only be held if the chair is not satisfied that the first count was accurate.  
*[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference.]*

## 9.3 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 11.4 below.

## 10 Points of order

### 10.1 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. *Note: this Standing Order will apply with modifications to a virtual conference: the chair must be contacted via [debates@libdems.org.uk](mailto:debates@libdems.org.uk)]*

## 11 Procedural motions

### 11.1 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 being 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.

### 11.2 Reference back (moved by a voting member)

- 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

## Standing orders

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 Board, 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.

### 11.3 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 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.

### 11.4 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 by the commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled. If the debate is scheduled for the first day of conference, the request must be received in writing by the same deadline as that for emergency motions. The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to take a separate vote. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair of the debate shall have discretion to accept a request for a separate vote if it is received in writing after this deadline.

### 11.5 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. *[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference.]*

### 11.6 Suspension of standing orders

- a) A voting conference member may, during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of

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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.

### 11.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

## 12 Reports

### 12.1 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).

### 12.2 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 (d) and (e). The Committee shall publish in advance of the report session all the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (d) which are in order, compositing similar questions where appropriate.

### 12.3 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.

### 12.4 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

## Standing orders

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 (e), can be taken. After the conference the Committee shall publish the answers to all questions submitted under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e) which are in order, and to all supplementary questions asked.

### 12.5 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 shall determine the time given to all speakers.

### 12.6 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.

## 13 Amendment of standing orders

### 13.1 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.

## 14 The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

### 14.1 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 party members, and at least one Vice Chair, who must be members of the Committee either directly elected by party members or elected by one of the State Parties.

# The Federal Party

## Officers of the Federal Par

Leader – Rt Hon Sir Ed Davey MP  
 President – Dr Mark Pack  
 Vice President (England) – Alison Rouse  
 Vice President (Scotland) – Sheila Ritchie  
 Vice President (Wales) – Paula Yates  
 Vice President (BAME) – Isabelle Parasram  
 Chair of FFRC – Anthony Harris  
 Chair of FPDC – Mary Regnier-Wilson  
 Treasurer – Tilly McAuliff  
 Chief Executive – Mike Dixon

## Federal Conference Committee (FCC)

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 representatives, local, regional and state parties, specified associate organisations and federal committees, and taking decisions on venues, registration rates and other organisational matters. It works within a budget set by the FFRC.

The FCC has 22 voting members: the Party President; the party's Chief Whip in the House of Commons; three state party representatives; one representative from the FB, two from the FPC, one from the Federal Communications & Elections Committee (FCEC), one from the Federal People Development Committee (FPDC); and fifteen directly elected members. It elects its own chair, who must be one of the directly elected representatives.

## Federal Policy Committee (FPC)

The FPC is responsible for researching and developing policy and overseeing the Federal Party's policy-making process, including 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 six other parliamentarians, the Party President; two local councillors, three state party representatives, one member of the FCEC and 15 members directly elected by members. It must be chaired by the Leader.

## Federal Board (FB)

The FB is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Party's strategy and the work of the Federal Party. The FB also has responsibility, at least once per Parliament, for preparing a document outlining the Party's Strategy, for submission for debate and agreement by Conference.

The FB has 35 voting members: the Party President (who chairs it), the Party Leader and three other parliamentarians; the chairs of the three state parties; the chairs of each of the Federal Committees including a vice-chair of the FPC; a local councillor; a Young Liberals representative; three state party representatives; and 15 directly elected members.

## Federal Finance and Resources Committee (FFRC)

The FFRC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finance of the Federal Party, overseeing its administration and ensuring compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, as well as overseeing the Party's risk management operations and its Risk Register.

The FFRC has 14 voting members: the Registered Treasurer (who chairs it); the Registered Treasurers of the three state parties; five other members (elected by the FB); the Party Treasurer; the Party President; one representative of the Parliamentary Office of the Liberal Democrats; the Chief Executive; and one member of Federal staff



# The Federal Board



Mark Pack, Party President



Isabelle Parasram, Vice President



Elaine Bagshaw, Vice-Chair



Jeremy Hargreaves, Vice-Chair, FPC rep



Alison Rouse, Chair, English Party



Sheila Ritchie, Scottish Party Convener



Paula Yates, Chair, Welsh NEC



Ed Davey MP, Leader



Christine Jardine MP, Parliamentary Group rep



Lord Paul Strasburger, Parliamentary Group rep



Munira Wilson MP, Parliamentary Group rep



Chris White, Principal Local Authority Councillor



Kevin Lang, Scottish Party rep



Bill Powell, Welsh Party rep



Nicolas da Costa, FCC Chair



Phillip Bennion, FIRC Chair



Lisa Smart, FCEC Chair



Tony Harris, FFRC Chair



Mary Regnier-Wilson,



FPDC Chair Helena Cole, FASC Chair



Tara Copeland, Young Liberals co-Chair



Callum Robertson, Young Liberals co-Chair



Lisa-Maria Bornemann



Luke Cawley-Harrison



Kishan Devani



Neil Fawcett



James Gurling



Jo Hayes



Caron Lindsay



Simon McGrath



Roisin Miller



Joyce Onstad



Candy Piercy



April Preston



Alice Thomas



Gerald Vernon-Jackson

**Federal Board non-voting members:**

Terry Stacy, LGA rep  
 Wendy Chamberlain MP, Chief Whip (Commons)  
 Tilly McAuliffe, Federal Treasurer  
 Mike Dixon, Federal Chief Executive  
 Paul Moat, Staff rep

**Federal Board and Federal Conference Committee helpdesks**

Members of the Federal Board and members of the Federal Conference Committee will be available to chat with conference attendees at their helpdesks in the virtual exhibition at the following times:

Friday	17 September	15.45-17.45
Saturday	18 September	12.30-14.00 and 15.45-17.45
Sunday	19 September	12.30-14.00 and 15.45-17.45
Monday	20 September	12.30-14.00 and 16.45-18.30

**The Federal Conference Committee**



Nicholas da Costa, Chair



Chris Adams, Vice Chair



Jon Ball, Vice Chair



Cara Jenkinson, Vice Chair



Mark Pack, Party President



Duncan Brack



John Bridges



Belinda Brooks-Gordon



Jon Burree



Wendy Chamberlain MP



Baroness Lynne Featherstone



Jenni Lang



Liz Lynne



Chris Maines



Simon McGrath



Keith Melton



Joe Otten



Mary Regnier-Wilson



Jennie Rigg



Bex Scott



Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey



Joseph Toovey

Non-voting members:

Mike Dixon, Federal Chief Executive  
 Esther McGee, Staff Rep

# The Federal Policy Committee



Ed Davey MP,  
Chair



Lucy Nethsingha,  
Vice Chair



Jeremy  
Hargreaves,  
Vice Chair



Mark Pack,  
Party President



Duncan Brack



Belinda  
Brooks-Gordon



Julia Brown



Sally Burnell



Christine Cheng



Richard Cole



Tara Copeland



Adam Corlett



Oliver Craven



Helen Cross



Alec Dauncey



Alyssa Gilbert



Robert Harrison



Wera Hobhouse  
MP



Elizabeth Jewkes



Susan Juned



Mohsin Khan



Sarah Ludford



Mark Platt



Catherine Royce



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