

# Conference Agenda and Directory



Liberal Democrat Spring Conference  
3rd - 5th March 2006 Harrogate





**Local Government Association**

## the education bill: pass or fail?

### LGA fringe meeting

Saturday 4 March, 6.30-7.30pm  
Bramham Suite 1, Holiday Inn, Harrogate

Will the forthcoming schools bill make two-tier education inevitable? Does more choice necessarily mean higher standards? Will the bill lead to an admissions free-for-all? This fringe meeting seeks to answer these questions and to discuss the role that local councils should play.

**speakers:**

Ed Davey MP, shadow secretary of state, education and skills

Baroness Ros Scott, shadow ODPM spokesperson  
Cllr Richard Harker, cabinet member for education, Leeds City Council

John Ransford, deputy chief executive, LGA

**chair:**

Richard Garner, education editor, *The Independent*

Visit us on stand 23

### LGA breakfast

Saturday 4 March, 8.45-9.45am, Charter 1,  
Holiday Inn, Harrogate

**Building stronger communities through partnership  
with the voluntary sector**

This breakfast seminar will explore the relationship between local councils and the voluntary and community sectors. By invitation only



020 7664 3131  
info@lga.gov.uk

[www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

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## Services to the blind and visually impaired

Copies of the conference Agenda and Directory and consultative and policy papers will be available on tape from RNIB from 21st February. Contact Donna Gordon at RNIB: 01733 375106.

PDF files of all documents are available from the Conference Office: email [s.marritt@libdems.org.uk](mailto:s.marritt@libdems.org.uk).

The Agenda and Directory and other papers can also be produced on coloured paper and in a larger format on request. Write to the Conference Office, 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB, before 24th February.

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**LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

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Front cover photograph © Harrogate International Centre.

Published by The Conference Office,  
Liberal Democrats, 4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3NB.  
Edited by Stuart Marritt.

Design and layout by Mike Cooper, 25 Orchard Road, Sutton, SM1 2QA.  
Printed by Burlington Press, 1 Station Road, Foxton, CB2 6SW.

 Printed on recycled paper

ISBN 1-85187-733-9



# The Federal Conference Committee is here to serve you!

Over the weekend if you need to find any of the members of the FCC, you should be able to easily identify them by the larger white background badge holder with the green FCC badge inside.

Here are the 2006 members of the Federal Conference Committee.



Duncan Brack, Chair,  
directly elected



Andrew Wiseman,  
Vice Chair Finance,  
English rep



Ruth Polling, Vice Chair,  
Communications,  
directly elected

Directly elected:



Jon Ball



Catherine Bearder



Sarah Boad



Sal Brinton



Dee Doocey



Gareth Epps



Sue Garden



Chris Maines



Justine McGuinness



Harriet Smith



Robert Adamson  
FPC rep



Jeremy Hargreaves  
FPC rep



Jock Gallagher  
FE rep



James Gurling  
FE rep



David Bourne  
Welsh Rep



Debra Storr  
Scottish rep



Gordon Seekings  
Staff rep



Chris Jennings,  
Chief Steward,  
co-opted

Ex officio:

Andrew Stunell, Chief Whip.

Chris Rennard, Chief Executive.

Simon Hughes, Party President.

# A welcome return to Harrogate

By Phil Willis MP

**Welcome to Harrogate and what promises to be one of the most exciting and eventful Federal spring conferences for many years. A conference where the Party's new Leader will be unveiled and the problems of the past few months will hopefully be laid to rest as we launch a new and exciting phase in Liberal Democrat history.**

Harrogate has always been a favoured destination for Liberal Democrats and is often associated with quite momentous events. In 1992 Paddy Ashdown had to dramatically re-write his Autumn Conference speech as the UK crashed out of the ERM. Charles Kennedy took centre stage in 1999 as he faced his first conference as Paddy's successor. Now in 2006 we meet in Harrogate to launch our new leader!

Of course it is not surprising that Liberal Democrats love to come to Harrogate. Spa towns have become core territory for us – there must be something in the water.

The location in North Yorkshire, equal in distance from London to Edinburgh, and the east and west coasts, makes travelling to Harrogate by road, rail, or air simple. This, combined with all the qualities Harrogate has to offer, makes it a perfect choice for our conference. Harrogate is a classic English floral town. Once a favourite spa retreat for the Victorians, it is now one of the world's leading conference and exhibition destinations.

Harrogate is, however, more than just a conference town. Harrogate is synonymous with charm, gentility and success and offers the warmest of Yorkshire welcomes. Its majestic architecture and splendid floral settings, which won the prestigious 'Entente Floral – Europe in Bloom Award' in 2004, remind visitors of a more leisurely and refined age. Visitors can relax in the Turkish Baths and Health Spa, recently restored to their vibrant and luxurious Victorian splendour, amble through the Valley Gardens or soak up some culture at the Theatre, Mercer Art Gallery and Royal Pump Room Museum.

Only twenty minutes away the ancient town of Knaresborough beckons with its castle, railway viaduct and stunning views over the River Nidd. The town also boasts a range of traditional pubs for delegates who enjoy a more time-honoured way of relaxing.

The elegant town of Harrogate is a shopper's paradise. Browse through the internationally renowned antique shops, find a special gift in the arts and craft outlets and fashionable boutiques or simply relax in one of the many cafes or bars and, of course, visit Betty's Tea Rooms.

The success of Harrogate as a conference venue is largely due to the influence of a Liberal Democrat-led Council that, in the 1990s, rescued the ailing business and turned it into a multi-million-pound success story. The resurgence of business tourism coincided with an unprecedented growth in economic activity and today Harrogate is cited as one of the UK's economic 'hot spots' with full



**Phil Willis is Member of Parliament for Harrogate and Knaresborough**

**Spa towns have become core territory for us – there must be something in the water**

Continued on page 8

# Meeting the Challenge

By Duncan Brack

**Among the acres of newsprint devoted to the Liberal Democrats in early January, party members may have spotted a number of references to the 'Meeting the Challenge' exercise.**

According to one paper, Charles Kennedy was forced to set it up as a response to the 'disappointment' of the 2005 election. According to another one, *'Although very much Mr Kennedy's initiative, the review will determine priorities for future work on policy development. Unless the new leader gets a grip on it, unrepresentative activists may take it over'*. I think that means conference reps! (or maybe we're 'representative activists'?)

None of this, of course, was particularly accurate. The genesis of the exercise goes back to summer 2004, with a discussion amongst a small group of us on the Federal Policy Committee about various ways to improve the party's policy-making process. We looked back at previous experiences, including the policy review in 1998, which was fairly comprehensive but felt to be not participative enough, and a similar exercise in 1993, which drew in ideas from a series of thinkers and policy analysts outside the party.

The end result was *'Meeting the Challenge'*, approved by the FPC in February 2005. It has two main objectives.

The first is to look forward at the challenges that whoever is in government after the next election

will have to meet – economic, social, environmental, international – and then to test the party's existing set of policies against those challenges. In each area, are party policies still valid, do they need some updating, or will they require wholesale revision? This part of the final paper, due for debate at the Brighton conference in September, will list policy areas for the FPC to work on in detail, and set out the main principles on which these policies will be developed.

The second objective became more important after the 2005 election. It became clear during the campaign that the electorate recognised a series of policies as distinctively Liberal Democrat ones – local income tax, the removal of tuition fees, opposition to the Iraq war, and so on. What we weren't so successful at, however, was to make them all hang together, to communicate what the party stands for in a way which led to people understanding instinctively what our position would be. So we also aim through *'Meeting the Challenge'* to help build the party's political narrative, our story for the electorate.

An extensive consultation exercise throughout the party – including a consultative session at Blackpool last September, many discussions at regional and local party meetings, and hundreds of responses to the consultation paper and to a series of essays placed on the website ([www.meetingthechallenge.net](http://www.meetingthechallenge.net)) – culminated in a special one-day conference in London on 14 January.

Although speeches from the leadership candidates dominated the press coverage of the event, the rest of

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**The Liberal Democrats is not a party which changes its entire policy platform when we change our leader**

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Continued on page 45



# Disabled access at conference

By Jeremy Hargreaves

**Early in 2005, the Federal Conference Committee (FCC) set up a Conference Access Group, to review issues relating to disabled access, and make recommendations for improvements. It met at spring and autumn conference last year, and will be meeting again in Harrogate.**

As a result of its work, Conference Committee has done a number of things to improve access.

Firstly, it has made disabled access a key factor deciding conference venues. The main reason we're going to Brighton this autumn, rather than Torquay, was Torquay's inadequate disabled access.

An advance site visit took place to Harrogate in January, including access group member Ann Morrison, FCC member Catherine Bearder and Harrogate Council's disability officer. Among other things, they used the checklist of items that the Lib Dem Disability Association (LDDA) had drawn up at our request. The visit identified a few issues – not too many, as Harrogate is a good venue from this point of view – and by the time conference representatives get there, they should be solved.

We've re-stated that we will not use any room for a meeting, including a fringe, that is not fully accessible. In fact this year we have gone further: we can't stop outside groups booking their own events in town at the same time as we are there (just as travel to conference and hotel accommodation

while there, are outside Conference Committee's control). But as from Harrogate we are insisting that any outside event that wants to be included in the listings in the Directory confirms to us the room that they are using is fully accessible.

We now make key conference documents available in a variety of formats, including electronically and on different coloured paper, for those who need it for reasons of neuro-diversity. We are asking all official conference venues not to offer nuts at receptions. And one of the stewards, Robert Littlehales, has kindly volunteered to be available to anyone with disabilities who wants assistance.

We asked Gemma Roulston of the LDDA to carry out some research into why exactly people with disabilities don't come to conference. We're looking at the points she identified, and will do some specific work in encouraging those with disabilities to come.

And finally, FCC has looked again at the conference motion in 1991 – neglected in recent years – which instructed it to have at least one member who has a disability, by co-option if necessary. This year, one of the two FPC representatives on FCC, Robert Adamson, is a wheelchair user (as well as also being the current Chair of the LDDA), but FCC has also said that in future if there is no disabled member of it, it will co-opt one.

We're working hard to make conference as accessible as possible. If there's more you think we could do – please let us know! 🦋



**Jeremy Hargreaves is Convenor of the Conference Access Group (CAG).**

**For more information contact him on [jeremy@jeremyhargreaves.org](mailto:jeremy@jeremyhargreaves.org)**

**Disabled access is a key factor deciding conference venues**

# Procedural information

*Please ensure that you read carefully the Conference information starting on page 41 of this Agenda and Directory, which includes registration and security information.*

## Deadlines

### Amendments to motions / emergency motions / questions to reports / appeals

The deadline for:

- amendments to motions F6, F8, F10, F11, F13;
- emergency motions;
- questions to reports; and
- appeals

is 12.00 noon Tuesday 28th February.

Emergency motions may be the subject of priority ballots among conference representatives. Ballot papers and the ballot box will be available at the information desk. The poll will be held, if necessary, between 09.30 and 13.00 on Saturday 4th March.

### Procedure for submission

Appeals against non-acceptance of motions should:

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

Questions to reports may be submitted by any conference representative.

Amendments, emergency motions and appeals must be signed by 10 conference representatives, or submitted by local parties, state parties, regional parties in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisations or Federal Party Committees.

Amendments, emergency motions, appeals and questions to reports should be sent to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to [motions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motions@libdems.org.uk), or by fax to 020 7799 2170 or post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. A standard form is included with this Final Agenda; if faxing or posting, please use this or a photocopy.

All items accepted for debate will be detailed in Saturday's *Advance Notice* sheet.

## Applicability of motions

All motions are Federal in application unless otherwise stated.

## Urgent issues

A slot at F12 has been reserved for discussion of an important current political issue. The topic for the discussion will therefore only be selected in the week before Conference, and notified through the *Advance Notice* and *Daily Announcements*. Unlike other debates at Conference, this discussion will not make new party policy, but is intended to allow conference representatives and spokespeople an opportunity to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of Conference.

Suggestions for issues may be submitted by any conference representative, and should be emailed to [urgent.issues@libdems.org.uk](mailto:urgent.issues@libdems.org.uk) by noon on Friday 24 February. The title of the issue should be no more than ten words long, and should not include an expression of opinion. For example, 'The chaos on the railways' would be acceptable, 'The chaos on the railways can be solved by renationalisation' would not. Emails should also include full contact details of the submitter, and may include up to 100 words of explanatory background.

The person submitting an issue chosen for one of these slots will be expected to speak for five minutes



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to introduce the discussion. The relevant Parliamentary spokesperson will be invited to respond. At the end of the debate, a nominee of the Federal Policy Committee will sum up the main points and suggest any further actions.

## Advance Notice and Daily Announcements

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

A *Daily Announcements* sheet will be published on Sunday and will be available at the start of the morning session from the information desk. It will include last-minute changes to the order of business, movers, emergency motions etc.

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

## Venue

### Auditorium

The main conference sessions will take place in the auditorium of the HIC and attendees must ensure they are wearing their badges everywhere within the conference centre. Certain areas within the auditorium will be reserved for guests and observers. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the HIC.

### Platform seating

Except for the opening ceremony of the conference (Saturday morning), the President's and the Leader's speech, any representative at the conference may sit on the platform, subject to space availability. If you wish to sit on the platform you should approach the Platform Steward at the Stewards' Table before the beginning of the session and he / she will show you where to sit.

## Speaking at conference

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

Conference representatives (or substitutes) who have paid their full registration fee for the conference (i.e. not day visitors).

Non-voting members who have paid their full registration fee for the conference (i.e. not day visitors).

Persons who are ex-officio representatives (e.g. Parliamentary Spokespersons).

Persons who have been given permission to speak by the Conference Committee.

### ***No other person may be called to speak in debates.***

In exceptional circumstances (such as the possession of particular expertise that would not otherwise be represented in the debate), people who are not either conference representatives or non-voting members may be authorised to submit a speaker's card by the Conference Committee, but they must apply to the Conference Committee at least 48 hours in advance.

Anyone who is entitled and wishes to speak must complete a speaker's card to speak in the debate. Cards can be obtained from the Steward overseeing the block of seats in which you are sitting or from the information desk from Friday afternoon. It is important that you supply all the information requested on the card and make sure that you complete all the sections legibly.

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

## Procedural information continued

### Lengths of speeches

Lengths of speeches for each debate are published alongside each motion.


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

### Interventions

There will be interventions during debates F10 and F13. This procedure offers those entitled to speak at conference the opportunity to make concise (one-minute) speeches from the floor during the debate on the motion (see speaking at conference on page 7 for details of eligibility to speak).

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

## Any questions ?

If you have a query during the conference, please contact the information desk, members of the Conference Team or Conference Committee. 

## Harrogate magic continued from page 3


employment and a dynamic and diverse business community. Served by excellent schools, a superb health care service and the UK's leading bus company Harrogate District Travel,



© Harrogate International Centre

Harrogate is one of the nation's top business and residential locations.

It was largely as a result of the success of the Liberal Democrats locally that I was privileged to become the MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough in 1997 and to have retained the seat for a third time in 2005 with a 56% share of the vote. A reminder to all of us, as we assemble for the Spring Conference, of the importance of building success from the grass roots and gaining trust locally.

As Liberal Democrats meet to celebrate the election of our new Leader and to debate the future direction of our Party I hope we remember and celebrate the enormous contribution Charles Kennedy has made since 1999. I hope too that your stay will be so memorable that you will return to taste more of the delights of Harrogate and Knaresborough - but not until after the local elections in May! 

**Harrogate is one of the nation's top business and residential locations**



## 15.00 Consultative sessions -17.30

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

*The sessions will be organised by the relevant policy working group. The conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final policy papers.*

### Community regeneration

Room 2, Queen's Suite  
Harrogate International Centre

Chair: Cllr Chris White  
Rapporteur: Dr Jonathan Wallace

### International law

Room 3, Queen's Suite  
Harrogate International Centre

Chair: Lord Wallace of Saltaire  
Rapporteur: Helen Banks

## Harrogate 2006 Members training programme

### *Free training for party members*

An extensive programme of training courses is again taking place at this conference.

Training courses are listed in the fringe guide on pages 26 to 30 and take place in the Queen's Suite of the HIC on:  
Friday 13.30-17.00;  
Saturday 09.15-10.45, 11.00-12.30, 14.30-15.45 and 16.00-17.30;  
and on Sunday between 09.00 and 15.45.

These training courses are open to all party members.

***If you are not a registered conference representative, you will need to obtain a free pass from the registration area to attend - see page 44.***

For details of training sessions, see fringe pullout, pages 25 to 30.  
PLEASE NOTE NEW START TIME FOR FIRST SESSIONS.



# Saturday 4th

## 09.00 Formal opening of Federal Conference

Chair: President of the Liberal Democrats  
Aide: Dee Doocey AM (London)

### F1 Introduction of newly-elected Leader of the Liberal Democrats

### F2 The Worshipful the Mayor of Harrogate, Cllr Caroline Bayliss

### F3 Reply by Phil Willis MP

## 09.20 Party business

Chair: Cllr Alan Sherwell  
Aide: Sal Brinton

### F4 Report of the Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### F5 Report of the Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

## 09.40 Policy motion

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

### F6 Securing Royal Mail and the Post Office

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Norman Lamb MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry)  
Summation: Cllr Richard Kemp

- 1 Conference notes with concern:
- 2 A. The failure of both the current Labour and previous Conservative Governments to support
- 3 and invest in the Post Office network and the closure of over 7000 branches.
- 4 B. The likelihood of significant further closures of rural sub-post offices, as a result of a failure
- 5 by the Labour Government to take any effective action to breathe new life into sub-post
- 6 offices.
- 7 C. That Royal Mail's delivery operation has been starved of investment by the Government for
- 8 more than 20 years with serious consequences for its ability to compete effectively.
- 9 D. That this failure to invest could put at risk the long-term ability of Royal Mail to meet the
- 10 Universal Service Obligation (USO) under which mail is delivered to every household and
- 11 business at uniform prices.



12 Conference further notes that:

13 I. The Royal Mail monopoly on the delivery of mail ended on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2006, with the  
14 company now facing competition in a fully liberalised market.

15 II. Investment in modernisation totalling £1.2 billion is now to be paid for by significant price  
16 increases for consumers announced by the Regulator, Postcomm.

17 III. Royal Mail has a pension fund deficit of approximately £4.25 billion.

18 IV. The freedoms available to competitors to raise funds for investment capital are not available  
19 to Royal Mail because it needs permission from the Treasury and the DTI to borrow, with such  
20 borrowings counting against the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, and competing with  
21 other public sector priorities.

22 V. Business mail, which makes up approximately 90% of mail carried by Royal Mail, subsidises  
23 the universal service obligation (USO).

24 VI. Royal Mail's competitors are seeking to win a substantial share of business mail.

25 VII. Any significant loss of market share by Royal Mail could endanger its ability to meet the USO.

26 VIII. There are serious conflicts of interest inherent in the new arrangements for the mail delivery  
27 system because the Department for Trade and Industry:

- 28 a) Has an obligation to promote the overall health of the mail market.  
29 b) Owns the main operator.  
30 c) Is responsible for setting the regulatory framework.  
31 d) Appoints the regulator.

32 IX. Royal Mail has no incentive to maintain unprofitable but socially important sub-post offices  
33 and has a positive interest in preventing them from winning new business from other mail  
34 delivery companies.

35 Conference believes that reforms are needed so that:

- 36 i) Royal Mail can have the freedom to make investment decisions to give it the best chance of  
37 succeeding in the new liberalised market.  
38 ii) The USO is guaranteed as a vital public service.  
39 iii) The staff of Royal Mail can share in the success of the company.  
40 iv) The decline in the Post Office network is reversed and branches are improved and enhanced.

41 Conference believes therefore that these outcomes can best be achieved through:

- 42 a) Separating Post Office Ltd from Royal Mail Group and retaining Post Office Ltd in the public  
43 sector, giving post offices the opportunity to develop new business.  
44 b) Establishing a shared ownership model for Royal Mail with a 51% majority of shares divided  
45 equally between the government and a Trust for Royal Mail staff, with half of the remaining  
46 49% of shares sold directly to staff and small investors and the remaining shares being  
47 offered for sale to the market.

# Saturday 4th

- 48 c) Ensuring that Royal Mail staff have a full opportunity to participate in the running of the  
49 company as part-owners and through a staff council.  
50 d) A statutory guarantee to protect the USO.  
51 e) Giving Postcomm, the Regulator, the power to place a levy on other operators who do not  
52 undertake the USO to pay towards its cost.

53 Conference further believes that the establishment of Post Office Ltd as a separate, publicly  
54 owned company will create the opportunity to protect and enhance the existing Post Office  
55 network. To ensure the network is able to prosper, conference calls for:

- 56 1. A statutory requirement on the Government to maintain the Post Office network.  
57 2. The establishment of an investment fund, likely to be up to £2 billion, from the proceeds of  
58 the sale of shares, for the purposes of:

- 59 a) Branch modernisation.  
60 b) Providing start-up and investment capital to assist sub-postmasters and -mistresses in  
61 building profitable businesses.  
62 c) The provision of training.  
63 d) The promotion of services which sub-post offices could provide on behalf of local  
64 authorities and central government.  
65 e) Supporting the opening of new Post Office branches where there are serious gaps in the  
66 existing network.

67 3. Sub-post offices to be used as shop fronts for a variety of public bodies such as local  
68 councils, the police and central government.

69 4. Freedom for post offices to win new business as the collection and deposit point for both  
70 Royal Mail and other delivery companies, taking advantage of opportunities from increasing  
71 internet shopping and trading.

72 5. Individual sub-post offices to be given the freedom to enter agreements with private sector  
73 companies for bill payment and other services.

74 Conference calls on Liberal Democrats to campaign against the dismal failure of both Labour and  
75 the Conservatives to protect the Post Office network and ensure Royal Mail is able to compete  
76 effectively.

*Applicability: Federal*

*Note: The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 28 February; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 6). Those selected for debate will be printed in the Advance Notice sheet.*

*Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by conference representatives to the chair of the debate at any time up to the commencement of the closing speeches, but they will have a much higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by 12.00 noon, Tuesday 28 February; to the Policy Unit, as above.*

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



## 10.40 Party business

Chair: Sue Garden  
Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

### F7 Speech by Dr Vincent Cable MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer

## 11.00 Party business

Chair: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)  
Aide: Ruth Polling (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### F8 Campaign for ethnic minority Liberal Democrat MPs

*London Region*

Mover: Mark Valladares  
Summation: To be announced

1 Conference welcomes the election of more Liberal Democrat women MPs at the 2005 general  
2 election, increasing the proportion of female MPs in the Parliamentary Party to 14.5%. However,  
3 Conference regrets that the Parliamentary Party of the Liberal Democrats contains no member  
4 from a black or minority ethnic background.

5 Conference notes:

- 6 i) That the Gender Balance Task Force had a significant effect in improving the number of  
7 women PPCs and the proportion of our new MPs that are women, although we recognise  
8 that there is much still to do.  
9 ii) That the Racial Equality Advisory Group report *Diversity, Racial Equality and the Party*  
10 published in 2004 made several recommendations to help speed up the election of ethnic  
11 minority MPs.

12 Conference believes:

- 13 a) That the under-representation of black and minority ethnic citizens is unhealthy for  
14 democracy, projecting an image which deters them and suggests that the party is failing to  
15 make the best use of all available skills and abilities.  
16 b) It is the responsibility of the Party and individuals at all levels to ensure that the situation is  
17 improved.  
18 c) The approach of training, mentoring and support developed by the Gender Balance Task  
19 Force (now known as the Campaign for Gender Balance) has proven to be an effective  
20 vehicle for tackling the problem of gender imbalance and would serve as a viable template  
21 for an effective campaign to improve the position of black and minority ethnic members  
22 within the Party.

23 Conference calls for:

- 24 1. The Party to work towards a goal of ensuring proportional representation of black and  
25 minority ethnic citizens at all levels of representative government in the United Kingdom.

# Saturday 4th

- 26 2. The Party to commit to considering the ethnicity of the selected candidate when assigning  
27 target status to any particular constituency.
- 28 3. A properly structured Ethnic Minority Election Task Force (EMETF) to be accorded formal  
29 status within the Federal Party with sufficient resources to find, train and develop black and  
30 minority ethnic candidates.
- 31 4. The Party to set a target of at least 75 black and minority ethnic candidates on the approved  
32 candidates list by the next General Election.
- 33 5. EMETF be mandated to report back to every Federal Conference and every meeting of the  
34 Federal Executive until this goal has been reached.
- 35 6. The Federal Executive of the Party to commission a structure that can address the broader  
36 issues of equality and diversity under one umbrella at the earliest opportunity.

*Applicability: Federal*

*Note: The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 28 February; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 6). Those selected for debate will be printed in the Advance Notice sheet.*

*Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by conference representatives to the chair of the debate at any time up to the commencement of the closing speeches, but they will have a much higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by 12.00 noon, Tuesday 28 February; to the Policy Unit, as above.*

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

## 11.45 Party business

Chair: Cllr James Gurling  
Aide: Dee Doocey AM (London)

### **F9 Speech by David Laws MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions**

## 12.05 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Gareth Epps  
Aide: Ruth Polling (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F10 NHS Trust deficits and threats to local services**

*Romsey and Liverpool Garston*

Mover: Sandra Gidley MP (Shadow Minister for Older People)  
Summation: Steve Webb MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Health)

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
- 2 a) The Secretary of State has predicted a high deficit in the NHS budget for 2005-6.
- 3 b) Deficits in NHS Trust budgets have been caused by Trusts trying to fulfil objectives set not by
- 4 them but by the Government.

- 5 c) Deficits in NHS Trust budgets mean that dozens of Community Hospitals across the country  
6 face cuts or even closure.  
7 d) There is an absence of local democratic accountability over major decisions affecting local  
8 health services.  
9 e) The Government's incoherent reform programme in the NHS makes it impossible for NHS  
10 Trusts to plan effectively.  
11 f) There may be increased calls on local authority services as a result of these deficits.

12 Conference believes that:

- 13 i) Community Hospitals offer a vital local service to patients and their families.  
14 ii) Provision of good quality care close to home is particularly important for elderly or  
15 vulnerable patients.  
16 iii) The value which people place on Community Hospitals is demonstrated by the degree of  
17 voluntary support and funding which they attract.  
18 iv) Community Hospitals treating less serious cases relieve the pressure of work on acute  
19 hospitals.

20 Conference calls for:

- 21 1. Urgent Government action to address the consequences of NHS Trust deficits.  
22 2. The Government to re-evaluate its target-driven approach, to allow clinicians to make  
23 judgements based on clinical need and to ensure that patients being treated in the  
24 community do not lose out.  
25 3. Development of Community Hospitals and other local health units to allow for an increasing  
26 range of treatments, such as diagnostic and rehabilitation services, traditionally available  
27 only in large hospitals to be delivered in the community.  
28 4. Any necessary reconfiguration of local services to be subject to full local consultation with  
29 patient and community groups.  
30 5. Long-term reform of the NHS to be based on the principle of greater local democratic  
31 accountability.

*Applicability: England*

*Note: The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 28 February; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 6). Those selected for debate will be printed in the Advance Notice sheet.*

*Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by conference representatives to the chair of the debate at any time up to the commencement of the closing speeches, but they will have a much higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by 12.00 noon, Tuesday 28 February; to the Policy Unit, as above.*

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

*In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion (see page 8). The chair will explain the procedure for making interventions at the beginning of the session.*

## 12.45 Lunch



# Saturday 4th

## 14.15 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball  
Aide: Cllr Debra Storr

### F11 Closed-circuit television

*Islington Borough*

Mover: Cllr Marisha Ray  
Summation: Cllr Bridget Fox

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 A. The United Kingdom now has the highest number of CCTV cameras per head of any country  
3 in the world, and more than most of the rest of the European Union put together.  
4 B. Well-run CCTV schemes can significantly help the police in catching criminals, increasing  
5 detection rates especially for violent crimes; however the evidence indicates that except in  
6 very limited circumstances they do not reduce crime through deterrence.  
7 C. The law is currently unclear about the way in which data collected by CCTV must be handled,  
8 and the safeguards which must be observed.  
9 D. There is now a widespread and unquestioning assumption that the expansion of CCTV usage  
10 is always desirable, and that its use does not pose any risks.  
11 E. In recent years there has in particular been a significant increase in the number of private  
12 CCTV schemes, where safeguards are often applied either ineffectively or not at all.  
13 F. Most CCTV schemes run by public sector organisations do conform to a high standard of  
14 management of the data collected.

15 Conference believes that:

- 16 i) As an aid to catching criminals, well-run CCTV schemes with effective safeguards make  
17 society safer and contribute to a liberal society.  
18 ii) However, the existence and enforcement of strict safeguards to protect the large amount  
19 of personal data which they collect is essential to prevent their abuse and a significant  
20 extension of the power of the state or of private corporations, at the expense of individual  
21 citizens.

22 Conference therefore calls for:

- 23 1. All information collected by CCTV schemes to be held and used only according to the  
24 following principles:
- 25 a) Information must be collected only for a specific and valid purpose.  
26 b) All information must be held securely.  
27 c) Information collected must be released to official bodies only, for a specific purpose  
28 and under clearly-defined protocols.
- 29 2. Images and data collected by CCTV should be brought clearly within the scope of existing  
30 data protection legislation.

- 31 3. The current code of practice for managing CCTV schemes, which is voluntary and not  
32 observed by most privately-run CCTV schemes, to be put on a statutory and compulsory  
33 footing.
- 34 4. New publicly-funded CCTV schemes to be introduced only where an evaluation of the specific  
35 case has shown that it is likely to be effective in bringing criminals to court.

*Applicability: England and Wales.*

*Note: The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 28 February; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 6). Those selected for debate will be printed in the Advance Notice sheet.*

*Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by conference representatives to the chair of the debate at any time up to the commencement of the closing speeches, but they will have a much higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by 12.00 noon, Tuesday 28 February; to the Policy Unit, as above.*

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

## 15.00 Party business

Chair: Harriet Smith  
Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

### F12 Urgent issue

*This slot has been reserved for discussion of an important current political issue. The topic for the discussion will therefore only be selected in the week before conference, and notified through the Advance Notice and Daily Announcements. Unlike other debates at conference, this discussion will not make new party policy, but is intended to allow conference representatives and spokespeople an opportunity to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of Conference.*

*Suggestions for issues may be submitted by any conference representative, and should be emailed to [urgent.issues@libdems.org.uk](mailto:urgent.issues@libdems.org.uk) by 12.00 noon on Friday 24 February. The title of the issue should be no more than ten words long, and should not include an expression of opinion. Emails should also include full contact details of the submitter, and may include up to 100 words of explanatory background. (See also page 6.)*

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

## 15.30 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Sarah Boad  
Aide: Jock Gallagher

# Saturday 4th

## F13 Pupil choice and local collaboration: reform of 14-19 learning

*Ten representatives*

Mover: Edward Davey MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Skills)

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrats' fundamental commitment to high-quality education  
2 and training for all, and our belief that such learning is central to enabling individual self-  
3 fulfilment, achieving equality of opportunity and fostering economic prosperity.

4 Conference notes that the Government's proposed reforms to the structure of England's  
5 education system, set out in the recent Schools White Paper, risk destroying the concept of a  
6 local education system, accountable to parents and the wider community.

7 In particular conference notes that:

8 a) In encouraging every school to become its own admissions authority, the Government is  
9 creating a chaotic admissions 'free for all' where children from disadvantaged homes will  
10 lose out and where, despite ministerial rhetoric, parental choice will be reduced as schools  
11 will be choosing pupils.

12 b) In pursuing a market model with no strategic planning, with some schools able to expand  
13 regardless of the number of surplus places in nearby schools and regardless of the views of  
14 existing parents, the plans will be hugely expensive, especially given major reductions in  
15 school rolls over the next ten years.

16 c) The proposed trust school model entrenches unfair admissions, undermines local  
17 democratic accountability and hinders the freedom of local schools, colleges and work-  
18 based learning providers to collaborate, especially in delivering a new curriculum for 14-19  
19 year olds.

20 d) Labour's white paper continues this Government's centralist approach to education, with its  
21 new centralised funding and further Whitehall direction from the proposed Schools  
22 Commissioner, and therefore fails to give schools the freedom they most need – the  
23 freedom from central government interference.

24 e) These proposals are largely irrelevant to the most pressing problems facing education,  
25 especially the high drop-out rate from education and training post-16, and the  
26 unacceptably high level of illiteracy amongst children leaving primary school.

27 Conference therefore rejects this approach in the white paper and reaffirms the Party's belief  
28 that high-quality education and training for all is best achieved through structures where  
29 learning institutions are rooted in and democratically accountable to the local communities they  
30 serve, and where they are encouraged to collaborate for the good of all.

31 Conference believes that the country's education system urgently needs reform, but that  
32 changes should focus more on improving standards, not tinkering with structures. These  
33 changes should begin with urgent reforms to 14-19 learning, to motivate more young people to  
34 remain involved with education and skills training, to enable young people to exercise real  
35 choice and responsibility over their learning and to encourage learning providers to collaborate  
36 in response to pupils' choices.

37 Conference therefore urges the Government to take forward the reforms proposed in the  
38 Government's own reviews, chaired by Sir Mike Tomlinson and Sir Andrew Foster, and to build

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39 these into a new model of learning for 14-19 year olds based on the principle of pupil choice,  
40 that includes:

- 41 1. Curriculum choice based on new diplomas designed to widen subject choice for pupils and  
42 combine academic and vocational opportunities.
- 43 2. Course choice where pupils are free to learn at more than one institution, including  
44 schools, colleges and work-based learning providers.
- 45 3. Funding choice where funding follows the pupil and where local authorities and local  
46 learning providers must respond to those choices.
- 47 4. Local, democratically accountable commissioning and collaboration, where local  
48 authorities have real resources and powers to commission 14-19 learning, taking all 16-19  
49 budgets from Learning and Skills Councils and real funding freedoms from Whitehall, and  
50 where schools, colleges and work-based learning providers are encouraged to work in  
51 collaborative arrangements that are democratically accountable to the local community.
- 52 5. Independent careers advisers where advisers act as mentors and guide pupils and their  
53 families on their choices in preparation for and throughout their 14-19 learning.

54 Conference requests the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary team and local council groups to  
55 develop further such models of reform for 14-19 learning.

*Applicability: England.*

*Note: The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 28 February; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 6). Those selected for debate will be printed in the Advance Notice sheet.*

*Requests for separate votes may be submitted in writing by conference representatives to the chair of the debate at any time up to the commencement of the closing speeches, but they will have a much higher chance of being accepted if they are submitted by 12.00 noon, Tuesday 28 February; to the Policy Unit, as above.*

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

*In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion (see page 8). The chair will explain the procedure for making interventions at the beginning of the session.*

## 16.30 Party business

Chair: Ruth Polling (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)  
Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### F14 Constitutional amendment: Minimum age requirement

*English Liberal Democrats*

Mover: Philip Goldenberg  
Summation: Brian Orrell

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1 *At end of Article 3.2, add:*

2 However, a State Party may, by its internal procedures, determine that the eligibility of a  
3 member to vote in Local Party elections (including Parliamentary and local government  
4 selections, but excluding the appointment of representatives to Federal Conference) may be  
5 subject to a minimum requirement as to age (not being more than 10 years) and/or length of  
6 continuous membership (not being more than 15 months); and the provisions of this  
7 constitution as to members' voting rights shall be construed accordingly.

*The relevant part of the existing constitution is as follows:*

3.2 Membership shall be acquired through an enrolling body, being:  
(a) a Local Party in the area of which the member lives, works or studies (or, with its consent, another Local Party);  
(b) a Specified Associated Organisation representing youth and/or students; or  
(c) a State Party in accordance with its internal procedures (and so that any overseas member in a location where there is no Local Party may become a member via a State Party designated by the Federal Executive to act as agent for the Federal Party).  
An applicant shall become a member on acceptance by the enrolling body, payment of the requisite subscription and registration.

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

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

## **F15 Constitutional amendment: Policy lapse**

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Gareth Epps

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

1 *At end of Article 5.8, add: 'However, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 each such approval*  
2 *(whenever given) shall lapse after eight years.'*

*The relevant part of the existing constitution is as follows:*

5.8 Subject to the foregoing procedure, all Federal policy papers and motions approved by the Federal Conference shall thereby become the policy of the Federal Party.

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

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

## **F16 Constitutional amendment: Federal Committee and Presidential elections**

*Federal Executive*

Mover: President of the Liberal Democrats

Summation: To be announced

1 *In Article 6.10, paragraph 1, (c) delete the word 'annually'.*

2 *In Article 6.10, paragraph 1, (f), delete all after 'Chief Executive' to the end, and after 'Chief*  
3 *Executive' insert: '(who shall not be entitled to vote)'.*

4 *After Article 6.10, paragraph 1, (f) delete (g) and insert:*  
5 (g) a representative of the staff employed by the party at federal level or by or on behalf of  
6 either or both parliamentary parties in Westminster and elected by such staff (who shall not  
7 be entitled to vote): and

8 *After Article 6.10, paragraph 1, (g) add:*  
9 (h) 12 persons elected by the Federal Conference (casual vacancies shall be filled in accordance  
10 with the election regulations)

11 *After Article 6.10, paragraph 1, (h) add:*  
12 The persons elected in accordance with (c), (d), (e), (g) and (h) above shall be elected in even-  
13 numbered years and shall serve for a term of two years from the date of election.

14 *In Article 6.10, paragraph 2 after 'such periods', insert: 'not exceeding two years', and at end*  
15 *insert: '(but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time)'.*

*The relevant part of the existing constitution is as follows:*

6.10 The Conference shall be organised by the Federal Conference Committee, which shall be subject to the control of the Federal Executive in matters of financial and other resources. Standing orders for the Conference shall be made by the Conference Committee subject to the approval of the Conference. The Conference Committee shall consist of:

- (a) the President;
- (b) the Chief Whip (or nominee, who shall be a member of the Parliamentary Party as defined in Article 9.1);
- (c) one representative of each State Party, elected annually by its internal procedures;
- (d) two persons elected by the Federal Executive;
- (e) two persons elected by the Federal Policy Committee;
- (f) the Federal Chief Executive and a representative of the staff employed by the Party at federal level or by the Parliamentary Parties elected from time to time by such staff (neither of whom shall be entitled to vote); and
- (g) 12 persons elected annually by the Federal Conference (with a power to the Conference Committee itself to fill casual vacancies).

The Conference Committee thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods as it thinks fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote.

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

16 *In Article 7.2 paragraphs 1(b), (d), (e), (g), (h) and (i), delete: 'annually'.*

17 *In Article 7.2 paragraph 1 (i) after 'Federal Conference', delete: '(with a power to the FPC itself to*  
18 *fill casual vacancies)' and insert: '(which shall be filled in accordance with electoral*  
19 *regulations)'.*



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- 20 *In Article 7.2 paragraph 1 after (i), insert:*  
21 The persons elected in accordance with (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h) and (i) above shall be elected in  
22 even-numbered years and shall serve for a term of two years from the date of election.
- 23 *In Article 7.2 paragraph 1, after 'and its chair shall be elected', delete: 'annually' and insert: 'every*  
24 *two years'.*
- 25 *In Article 7.2 paragraph 2, delete: 'one year' and insert: 'two years'.*
- 26 *In Article 7.2 paragraph 2 after 'thinks fit', delete: '(but so that there shall not be more than three*  
27 *persons co-opted at any time)', and at end of paragraph add: '(but so that there shall not be more*  
28 *than three persons co-opted at any time)'.*

*The relevant part of the existing constitution is as follows:*

- 7.2 The FPC shall consist of the following:
- (a) the Leader;
  - (b) one other MP elected annually by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons;
  - (c) one MP each elected by and from members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons representing constituencies in England, Scotland and Wales respectively;
  - (d) one Peer elected annually by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords;
  - (e) one MEP elected annually by and from the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament;
  - (f) the President;
  - (g) three principal local authority councillors, elected annually by principal local authority councillors of the Party from among their own number;
  - (h) one representative of each State Party, elected annually by its internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the FPC); and
  - (i) one more person than the total number elected or appointed under paragraphs (a) to (h) above elected annually by the Federal Conference (with a power to the FPC itself to fill casual vacancies) except that persons who, at the date of close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are MPs shall not be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph;
- and its chair shall be elected annually by the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons from among those of its members who are members of the FPC by virtue of paragraphs (a) through (c) of this Article. The FPC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not exceeding one year as it thinks fit (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time) who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote.

- 29 *In Article 8.1 paragraphs 1(i) (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i), delete: 'annually'.*
- 30 *In Article 8.1 paragraph 1 (i) after 'Federal Conference', delete: '(with a power to the Federal*  
31 *Executive itself to fill casual vacancies)' and insert: '(casual vacancies shall be filled in*  
32 *accordance with the electoral regulations)'.*
- 33 *In Article 8.1 paragraph 1 after (i) (i) 'under this paragraph', insert:*  
34 (ii) The persons elected in accordance with 8.1.(i) (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i) above shall be

35 elected in even-numbered years and shall serve for a term of two years from 1st January  
36 after the date of the election.'  
37 and renumber (ii) as (iii).

38 *In Article 8.1 paragraph 1 (ii) (c) after 'elected', delete: 'from time to time'.*

39 *In Article 8.1 paragraph 2 after 'periods not exceeding', delete: 'one year' and insert: 'two years'.*

40 *In Article 8.1 paragraph 2 after 'elect', insert: 'at its first meeting in every odd-numbered year and  
41 who shall serve for two years'.*

42 *In Article 8.1 paragraph 2 after 'thinks fit', delete: '(but so that there shall not be more than three  
43 persons co-opted at any time)', and at end of paragraph add: '(but so that there shall not be more  
44 than three persons co-opted at any time).'*

*The relevant part of the existing constitution is as follows:*

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

(i) voting members:

- (a) the President, who shall act as its chair;
- (b) the Vice-Presidents;
- (c) the Leader;
- (d) two other MPs elected annually by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons;
- (e) one Peer elected annually by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords;
- (f) one MEP elected annually by and from the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament;
- (g) two principal local authority councillors elected annually by principal local authority councillors of the Party from among their own number;
- (h) one representative of each State Party, elected annually by its internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the Federal Executive);
- (i) one more person than the total number of voting members elected or appointed under paragraphs (a) to (h) above elected annually by the Federal Conference (with a power to the Federal Executive itself to fill casual vacancies) except that persons who, at the date of close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are MPs shall not be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph.

(ii) non voting members:

- (a) the Chief Whip (or his substitute from within the Parliamentary Party as defined in Article 9.1);
- (b) the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee and the Treasurer in accordance with Articles 12.4 and 12.5;
- (c) the Federal chief executive and a representative of the staff employed by the Party at federal level or by the Parliamentary Parties elected from time to time by such staff; and
- (d) the chair of the Federal Policy Committee.

The Federal Executive shall elect a deputy chair from amongst its members who shall chair meetings in the absence or at the request of the President. The Federal Executive thus

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

45 *In Article 8.2. paragraph 2 after ‘(“FAC”)', insert: ‘whose members shall serve for a term of two*  
46 *years and’.*

47 *In Article 8.2 paragraph 2 (ii) (f) after ‘elected’, delete: ‘from time to time’.*

48 *In Article 8.2 paragraph 2 (ii) (g) at end after ‘Federal Executive’, insert: ‘(casual vacancies shall*  
49 *be filled in accordance with the standing orders of the Federal Executive)’.*

50 *In Article 8.2 paragraph 3, delete: ‘one year’ and insert: ‘two years’.*

51 *In Article 8.2 paragraph 4, at end add: ‘The members of such sub-committees shall be elected at*  
52 *the first meeting of the Federal Executive in every odd-numbered year and shall serve for a term*  
53 *of two years’.*

*The relevant part of the existing constitution is as follows:*

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

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

- (a) planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party;
- (b) directing the administration of the Federal Party including its chief executive, headquarters and other staff; and
- (c) overseeing the role of the Party as an equal opportunities employer and the maintenance of grievance and disciplinary procedures,
- (d) ensuring the compliance of the Party at all levels with the provisions of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

and shall consist of:

- (a) the Chair of the FAC;
- (b) the Treasurer;
- (c) the President;
- (d) one representative of each State elected by their internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the FAC);
- (e) the Federal chief executive;
- (f) two representatives of the staff employed by the Federal Party or by the Parliamentary Parties and elected from time to time by such staff; and
- (g) five persons elected by the Federal Executive.

The FAC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not exceeding one year as it thinks fit (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time) who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote. The FAC shall have the power to borrow money for the general purposes of the Federal Party and to secure any monies borrowed in such manner as it thinks fit upon the assets of the Federal Party:

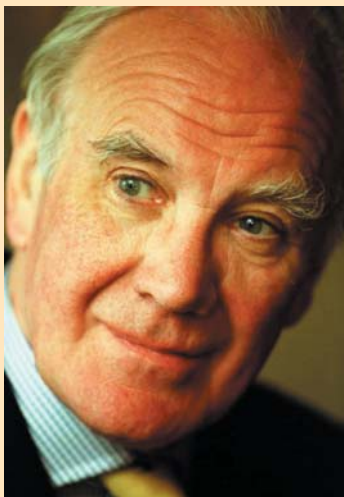
# Conference fringe and diary

**Your pullout guide to the fringe at the 2006  
Liberal Democrat Spring conference starts here!**

## Fringe meeting venues

The official fringe meeting venues are the Queen's Suite, level 4 of the Harrogate International Centre (HIC) and the adjacent Holiday Inn Hotel. The HIC and the Holiday Inn Hotel are fully wheelchair accessible.

## Who will be the NEW Leader of the Liberal Democrats?



**Sir Menzies Campbell**



**Simon Hughes**



**Chris Huhne**

**Your chance to see and hear the new Leader  
Friday 3rd March in the Harewood Suite  
at the Holiday Inn Hotel  
at the end of the fringe meeting:**

***'How do we make Britain a more liberal country?'*  
18.00 to 19.30**





## Afternoon fringe

### Training session

#### Email Masterclass

Mark Pack, Campaigns Dept and Pete Dollimore, Lib Dems Online.

**13.30 - 17.00**

**Queen's Suite 6, HIC**

### LGA Liberal Democrat Group

#### LGA LibDems Group Meeting

All LibDem Councillors are welcome to attend the LGA LibDems Group Meeting to discuss the upcoming local elections.

**16.15 - 17.30**

**Charter 1,**

**Holiday Inn Hotel**

## Evening fringe

### Meeting the Challenge debate

How can we make Britain a more liberal country?

Chaired by Sarah Teather MP. Speakers: Sal Brinton; Lynne Featherstone MP; and Baroness Falkner.

To be followed by your opportunity to meet the new Leader.

**18.00 - 19.30**

**Harewood Suite**

**Holiday Inn Hotel**

### Green Liberal Democrats

#### Green briefing and reception

Briefing on key environmental policy issues, including aviation policy motion, organised by Green Liberal Democrats. All welcome.

**20.00 - 21.15**

**Bramham Suite,**

**Holiday Inn Hotel**

### Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

*The respect agenda. What approach?*

What is respect? Join the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum to discuss the government's respect agenda. How should the Liberal Democrats respond to the government's respect agenda?

**20.00 - 21.15**

**Queen's Suite 6, HIC**

### Liberal Democrat History Group

#### Defender of liberties:

*Charles James Fox*

This year sees the bicentenary of his death but his ideas, particularly on civil liberties during wartime, are as relevant today as in 1806. With Professor Frank O'Gorman.

**20.00 - 21.15**

**Queen's Suite 5, HIC**

### Post Office

#### The Future of Royal Mail

Speakers: Norman Lamb MP; Danny Alexander MP; Chris White; Jonathan Marks QC.

**20.00 - 21.15**

**Harewood 1**

**Holiday Inn Hotel**



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### Venue accessibility

All fringe meetings listed will be held in the Harrogate International Centre (HIC) or the Holiday Inn Hotel, which are both fully wheelchair accessible.

Party members will be able to obtain free registration to fringe and training events. Please see registration - fringe and training on page 44.



### Taking control in May 2006

Managing and maintaining the change

Saturday 4 March, 2.30pm - 3.45pm

Charter 2, Holiday Inn



The Leadership Centre for Local Government, ALDC and the LGA Liberal Democrats have joined forces to ask leading council leaders their views on the best strategies for winning and how best to manage a change of control.

#### SPEAKERS

**Cllr Warren Bradley** leader of Liverpool

**Cllr Isobel McCall** leader of Milton Keynes

**Cllr Steve Hitchens** leader of Islington LBC

**Cllr Peter Arnold** leader of Newcastle

### Attracting members of talent

Saturday 4 March 6.15pm - 7.15pm

Queen's Suite 3, Harrogate International Centre

Refreshments provided

A Leadership Centre discussion on how to widen diversity and talent in local politics.

#### SPEAKERS

**Sal Brinton** candidate for Watford

**Cllr Erica Kemp** Liverpool City Council

**Cllr Nick Stanton** leader of Southwark (invited)

**Morning fringe**

**Liberal Democrat Christian Forum**

*Morning praise*  
Join the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum for prayer and praise. All welcome.  
**08.15-08.45**  
**Charter 1**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

**Local Government Association / National Association of Councils for Voluntary Service / Urban Forum / IDeA**

*Councils and the voluntary sector*  
Breakfast seminar.  
**By invitation only.**  
**08.45 - 09:45**  
**Charter 2**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

**Training sessions**  
**All at 09.15 - 10.45**

*Holding on to your council seat*  
Andy Sangar, ALDC.  
**Queen's Suite 1, HIC**

*Canvass analysis and switching resources*  
John Bridges, ALDC.  
**Queen's Suite 2, HIC**

*Introduction to PagePlus 11*  
Duncan Borrowman, Campaigns.  
**Queen's Suite 3, HIC**

*Making a speech at Conference*  
**Women only.** Sal Brinton and Ruth Polling, GBTF.  
**Queen's Suite 5, HIC**

*Basic election law*  
Mark Pack and Jon Aylwin, Campaigns.  
**Queen's Suite 6, HIC**

*Dealing with negative campaigning*  
Ed Maxfield, Campaigns.  
**Queen's Suite 8, HIC**

*Making the most of election week*  
Chris Leaman, Agents Association.  
**Queen's Suite 9, HIC**

**Yorkshire Regional Party**  
*Campaigning in inner city seats*  
British cities are now highly diverse communities, in which Liberal Democrats aim to attract votes from all groups. This training session will focus on particular campaign approaches needed.  
**11.00 - 12.30**  
**Charter 1**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

**Training sessions**  
**All at 11.00 - 12.30**

*Coping with a larger group and new faces*  
Howard Sykes, ALDC.  
**Queen's Suite 1, HIC**

*Quality effective literature*  
Roger Symonds, ALDC.  
**Queen's Suite 2, HIC**

*Winning the postal vote campaign*  
Ed Maxfield and Dave McCobb, Campaigns.  
**Queen's Suite 3, HIC**

*Communicating with members and supporters*  
Dave Hodgson and Colin Ross, Membership Department.  
**Queen's Suite 4, HIC**

*Getting yourself approved*  
**Women only.**  
Ros Harper and Hannah Hedges, GBTF.  
**Queen's Suite 5, HIC**

*Advanced election law*  
Mark Pack and John Miller, Campaigns.  
**Queen's Suite 6, HIC**

*Winning the student vote*  
Chris Keating, LDYS.  
**Queen's Suite 8, HIC**

*Taking better photographs*  
Alex Folkes and Adam Teladia, Agents Association.  
**Queen's Suite 9, HIC**

**Lunchtime fringe**

**Age Concern England and Joseph Rowntree Foundation**

*Facing the cost of long-term care: towards a sustainable funding system*  
With Steve Webb MP, Shadow Health Secretary (invited); Robin Wendt, JRF; Sue Collins, JRF; Gordon Lishman, Age Concern England.  
Sponsored by Joseph Rowntree. Lunch provided.  
**13.00 - 14.00**  
**Queen's Suite 1, HIC**

**ALDC**  
*Using paid staff*  
How campaign organisers and/or political assistants can make the difference to your council group.  
**13.00 - 14.00**  
**Harewood 2**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

**ALDES**  
*Micro-generation: power your own house!*  
Local generation of power: the new challenge.  
Windmills on chimneys? Solar panels on roofs? Heat pumps? In-house generators? Better insulation? Chris Trott, Arups, will review latest options and best buys.  
**13.00 - 14.00**  
**Queen's Suite 9, HIC**

**ALTER**  
*Planning Gain Supplement: a disaster*  
Why Planning Gain Supplement will be a disaster: Less money for local government, less land released, less development and more expensive housing. Come and hear our alternative.  
**13.00 - 14.00**  
**Charter 2**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

**CentreForum**  
*Social mobility: a soluble problem?*  
Can declining social mobility in the UK be reversed? What are the lessons from abroad? Speakers: Simone Delorenzi, IPPR; Jennifer Moses, CentreForum; and others.  
**13.00 - 14.00**  
**Harewood 1**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

**AGE Concern** Facing the cost of long-term care: Towards a sustainable funding system

Steve Webb MP, Shadow Health Secretary (invited)  
Robin Wendt, Joseph Rowntree Advisory Group on long-term care  
Sue Collins, Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
Gordon Lishman, Director General, Age Concern England

Saturday 4 March 2006, 13.00 - 14.00  
Queens Suite in Harrogate International Centre  
a buffet will be provided

SUPPORTED BY  
**JOSEPH ROWNTREE FOUNDATION**

For further details please contact 020 8765 7601 or eventsdept@ace.org.uk

Fringe

## Lunchtime fringe cont.

### The Chard Group (1992)

*Annual General Meeting*  
**Members only.** Followed by discussion.

**13.00 - 14.00**

**Charter 1**

**Holiday Inn Hotel**

### GBTF: Campaign for Gender Balance

*Identifying your seat*  
Come and hear MPs, candidates and campaigners explain how to choose a seat to meet your ambition and achieve your dreams.

**13.00 - 14.00**

**Queen's Suite 5, HIC**

### IPPR North supported by Rockpool

*Public service reform and localism*

Exploring a Liberal agenda for our future public services, can localism deliver quality? Speakers: Ed Davey MP, Shadow Education; Sarah Teather MP, Shadow Local Government & Communities; Sue Stirling, Director, IPPR North.

**13.00 - 14.00**

**Queen's Suite 7, HIC**

### Liberal Democrat Education Association

*Further education in England*

Tim Farron MP will lead a discussion on the future of further education in England.

**13.00 - 14.00**

**Queen's Suite 8, HIC**

### Liberal Democrat European Group

*Islam and the EU*

Is the European Union still at heart a Christian club?

How does it relate to its own Muslim citizens?

Concludes with LDEG AGM.

**13.00 - 14.00**

**Queen's Suite 2, HIC**

### New Local Government Network

*From backbench to community leader!*

Sarah Teather MP, ODPM Shadow Spokesperson; Chris Huhne (invited), Treasury Spokesperson; Chris Leslie, Director, NLGN; Martin Horton, Director of Services, IDeA; Anna Bawden, *Guardian* 'public' (Chair). All welcome. Refreshments.

**13.00 - 14.00**

**Queen's Suite 6, HIC**

### Yorkshire Regional Party

*A diverse party, a diverse society*

Reception for councillors and activists from Britain's cities, in particular from urban ethnic communities, who play an increasingly important role in the Liberal Democrats and in campaigning for future elections.

**13.00 - 14.00**

**Ripley**

**Holiday Inn Hotel**

## Afternoon fringe

### Training sessions

**All at 14.30 - 15.45**

*Winning in the last week*

Mark Alcock, ALDC.

**Queen's Suite 1, HIC**

*Delivering your manifesto, not the government's agenda*

Roger Symonds, ALDC.

**Queen's Suite 2, HIC**

*How to win on polling day*

Hilary Stephenson and

Richard Pinnock,

Campaigns.

**Queen's Suite 3, HIC**

*Working together to be a*

*successful council group*

Ruth Polling and Islington

Council Lib Dem Group.

**Queen's Suite 4, HIC**

*Getting yourself selected*

**Women only.**

Jenny Shorten and Tessa

Munt, GBTF.

**Queen's Suite 5, HIC**

*How to get the most from*

*direct mail*

**Basic.**

Mark Pack and Neil

Trafford, Campaigns.

**Queen's Suite 6, HIC**

*Media training*

**Invitation only.**

David Walter, Candidates

Office.

**Queen's Suite 8, HIC**

*Introduction to agenting*

Tim Prater and Andrew

Jolly, Agents Association.

**Queen's Suite 9**

### Leadership Centre for Local Government / LGA Liberal Democrat Group / ALDC

*Taking control in May 2006*

What can you do now to ensure victory? Hear how

other LibDem councillors

have managed and

maintained the change,

with the council leaders of

Liverpool, Newcastle,

Milton Keynes and

Islington.

**14.30 - 15.45**

**Charter 2**

**Holiday Inn Hotel**

### Training sessions

**All at 16.00 - 17.30**

*Making sure you get a political dividend from casework*

Mark Alcock, ALDC.

**Queen's Suite 1, HIC**

*Help! No-one has a majority*

Andy Sangar, ALDC.

**Queen's Suite 2, HIC**

*How to make the best use of your EARS data*

Duncan Borrowman,

Campaigns.

**Queen's Suite 3, HIC**

*Using your web site to*

*attract members and*

*supporters*

Dave Hodgson and Colin

Ross, Membership

Department.

**Queen's Suite 4, HIC**

*Action photos for selection manifestos*

**Women only.** Jo Swinson

MP and Duncan Hames,

GBTF.

**Queen's Suite 5, HIC**

*How to get the most from*

*direct mail*

**Advanced.**

Mark Pack and Stuart Bray,

Campaigns.

**Queen's Suite 6, HIC**

*MPs' staff briefing*

Hilary Stephenson, POLD.

**Queen's Suite 8, HIC**

*Advanced voter*

*identification*

Miranda Piercy and Chris

Keating, Agents

Association.

**Queen's Suite 9, HIC**



## Afternoon fringe cont.

### LGA Liberal Democrat Group

*Regional reform: improvement or imposition?*  
Are reforms to health, police and fire authorities necessary and sensible, or are they just a smokescreen for the imposition of undemocratic regional governance? Fringe hosted by LGA Liberal Democrats.  
**16.15 - 17.30**  
**Charter 2**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

## Evening fringe

### ALDC

*Positive ways to tackle child poverty*  
ALDC and the End Child Poverty campaign look at practical examples how local councils can work to liberate children in the UK from poverty.  
**18.15 - 19.30**  
**Harewood 2**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

### Joseph Rowntree Foundation

*Recruiting local councillors: encouraging diversity*  
Cllr Richard Kemp, Leader, LGA Liberal Democrat Group and Paul Wheeler, Director, Political Skills Forum. On making a success of councillor recruitment.  
**18.15 - 19.30**  
**Queen's Suite 1, HIC**

### Leadership Centre for Local Government

*Attracting members of talent*  
A Leadership Centre discussion on how to widen diversity and talent in local politics, with Sal Brinton; Cllr Nick Stanton (invited); and Cllr Erica Kemp.  
**18.15 - 19.30**  
**Queen's Suite 3, HIC**

### Liberal Democrat European Group

*Setting the EU reform agenda*  
Liberal Democrat MEPs launch proposals for EU reform and improvement. Speakers: Chris Davies MEP; Nick Clegg MP; Baroness Sarah Ludford MEP.  
**18.15 - 19.30**  
**Queen's Suite 6, HIC**

### Liberal Democrat Forum for the Countryside

*Rural housing: a planning disaster?*  
Dan Rogerson MP will speak on the crisis that is the lack of affordable housing in rural areas. Chair: Brian Friend, Secretary LDFC.  
**18.15 - 19.30**  
**Queen's Suite 8, HIC**

### Liberal Democrat Humanist & Secularist Group

*Where now?*  
Paul Holmes, Chairman of the Parliamentary Party and one of our members, will review priorities for LibDem Humanists and Secularists now we have a new leader.  
**18.15 - 19.30**  
**Harewood 1**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

### Liberal Democrat Lawyers

*Policing the polluter*  
The role of environmental law in green politics. Speakers: Peter Roderick, Barrister, Director of Climate Justice; Norman Baker MP, Shadow Environment Secretary. Chair: Jonathan Marks QC. Refreshments.  
**18.15 - 19.30**  
**Queen's Suite 7, HIC**

### Liberal Democrat Muslim Forum

*Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran. Where Next?*  
Where do Liberal Democrats stand on Iran, Hamas, Syria and beyond? Is the UN a viable route? Join speakers from Iran shadow spokesperson and academia on nuclear.  
**18.15 - 19.30**  
**Queen's Suite 9, HIC**

### Liberal Democrat Youth and Students

*Young people and politics*  
Inspiring young people to get involved in politics.  
**18.15 - 19.30**  
**Charter 1**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

### Women Liberal Democrats

*Equal? Men, women and work*  
Join WLD to discuss access to employment for men and women. How do we break down gender stereotypes? How much has really been achieved when it comes to equal pay?  
**18.15 - 19.30**  
**Queen's Suite 4, HIC**

*Palestine at the cross roads*  
Speakers: Prof. Stephen Rose; Colin Breed MP. After the stunning victory of Hamas in the Palestinian election, what does the future hold for the oppressed people of the occupied territories?  
**18.15 - 19.30**  
**Queen's Suite 5, HIC**

### Local Government Association

*Education Bill: pass or fail?*  
Speakers: Ed Davey, Shadow Secretary; Baroness Ros Scott, Shadow ODPM; John Ransford, Deputy Chief Executive LGA; Cllr Richard Harker, Cabinet Member for Education, Leeds City Council; Richard Garner, Education Editor, *The Independent*.  
**18.30 - 19.30**  
**Bramham Suite**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**

### CentreForum

*Meeting the Cameron challenge*  
How should the Liberal Democrats respond to changes in Conservative policy and positioning? Speakers: Nick Clegg MP; Susan Kramer MP; Peter Riddell, *The Times*; Professor Paul Whiteley. Refreshments.  
**20.00 - 21.15**  
**Ripley**  
**Holiday Inn Hotel**



**Morning fringe**

**Liberal Democrat Christian Forum**

*Morning praise*  
Join the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum for prayer and praise. All welcome.  
**08.15 - 08.45**  
Charter 1  
Holiday Inn Hotel

*How to organise your campaign team*  
Shaun Roberts and Ian Horner, Campaigns.  
**11.00 - 12.30**  
**Queen's Suite 7, HIC**

*How to make the most of your members*  
Neil Fawcett and Dave Hodgson, Campaigns.  
**14.30 - 15.45**  
**Queen's Suite 7, HIC**

*How to start your campaign for 2009*  
Richard Pinnock and Shaun Roberts, Campaigns.  
**16.00 - 17.30**  
**Queen's Suite 7, HIC**

**Training sessions**

*Introduction to campaigning for Moving Forward seats*  
Neil Fawcett and Hilary Stephenson, Campaigns.  
**09.00 - 10.30**  
**Queen's Suite 7, HIC**

**PCA**

*PCA Extraordinary General Meeting*  
Liberal Democrats Parliamentary Candidates Association is holding an extraordinary general meeting to agree new constitutional amendments.  
**PCA members only.**  
**11.00 - 12.30**  
**Queen's Suite 2, HIC**



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**www.libdems.org.uk**

15.00 - 20.00	Registration desk open
15.00 - 17.30	Consultative sessions
18.00 - 19.30	Meeting the Challenge debate and Meet the new Leader
	Evening fringe

	Morning fringe	
09.00	Formal Opening of Federal Conference	
	F1 Introduction of newly-elected Leader of the Liberal Democrats	
	F2 The Worshipful the Mayor of Harrogate, Cllr Caroline Bayliss	
	F3 Reply by Phil Willis MP	
09.20	F4 Report of the Federal Conference Committee	
	F5 Report of the Federal Policy Committee	
09.40	F6 Policy motion: Securing Royal Mail and the Post Office	
10.40	F7 Speech by Vince Cable MP	
11.00	F8 Business motion: Campaign for ethnic minority Liberal Democrat MPs	
11.45	F9 Speech by David Laws MP	
12.05	F10 Policy motion: NHS deficits and threats to local services	
12.45 - 14.15	Lunchtime fringe	
14.15	F11 Policy motion: closed circuit television	
15.00	F12 Urgent issue	
15.30	F13 Policy motion: Reform of 14-19 learning	
16.30	F14 Constitutional amendment: Minimum age requirement	
	F15 Constitutional amendment: Policy lapse	
	F16 Constitutional amendment: Federal Committee and Presidential elections	
	F17 Standing orders amendment: Presidential inauguration	
	F18 Business motion: ELDR Delegation and International Relations Committee	
17.30	F19 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties	
18.00	Close of session	
	Evening fringe	

	Morning fringe	
09.00	F20 Emergency Motions	
09.30	F21 Report of the Federal Executive	
	F22 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee	
	F23 Report of the Gender Balance Task Force	
10.10	F24 Policy motion: A Soft Landing: Creating a Sustainable Market in Aviation	
11.10	F25 Presentation by Liberal Democrat Group on Watford Borough Council	
11.30	F26 Presentation of Awards	
	F27 Speech by the Leader of the Liberal Democrats	
13.00	Close of conference (approx.)	

## Conference timetable 2006

**Autumn 2006:**

**Saturday 16th - Thursday 21st September 2006**

**Brighton**

Deadline: policy and business motions / constitutional amendments / amendments to Standing Orders

Wednesday 24th May 2006

Conference Committee

Saturday 3rd June 2006

Preliminary Agenda dispatch

Monday 19th June

Deadline: amendments / topical motions

Wednesday 12th July 2006

Conference Committee

Saturday 22nd July 2006

Final Agenda dispatch

Saturday 19th August

Deadline: amendments to topical motions / emergency motions / questions to reports / urgent issues

Wednesday 13th September 2006

provided always that the total amount of monies borrowed shall not exceed such amount as may from time to time be determined by the Federal Executive and approved by the Federal Conference.

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

54 *In Article 12.1 after 'term of two years', delete: 'from a time during the autumn Conference' and*  
55 *insert: 'starting from 1st January in the year immediately following the election'.*

56 *In Article 12.1 at end add: ', except that if the remainder of the term is less than twelve months,*  
57 *the successor shall serve for the remainder of the term plus a period of two years thereafter'.*

58 *In Article 12.3 delete: 'one year' and insert: 'two years'.*

59 *In Article 12.4 after 'fund-raising', delete: 'shall be elected for a term of two years by the Federal*  
60 *Executive and shall' and insert: 'shall be elected by the Federal Executive at its first meeting in*  
61 *every odd numbered year and shall serve for a term of two years and shall,'*

*The relevant part of the existing constitution is as follows:*

12.1 The President shall be the principal public representative of the Party and shall chair the Federal Executive. The President shall be elected by the members of the Party for a term of two years from a time during the autumn conference provided in conference standing orders and shall hold office until death, incapacity, resignation or the election of a successor; the President shall be eligible for re-election once only. A candidate for the office of President shall require the nomination of not less than 50 representatives entitled to attend the Federal Conference. The President shall report to the annual meeting of the conference and may make reports to any other meetings of conference. The Federal Executive shall have the power, in the event of a casual vacancy, to elect an Acting President from any of the Vice-Presidents and to determine a convenient date for a ballot to elect a successor who shall serve for the remainder of the term.

12.2 Each of the State Parties shall, by its internal procedures, designate one of its officers to be a Federal Vice-President.

12.3 The Chair of the FAC, who shall be responsible for the overall budget and finances of the Party, shall be its treasurer for the purposes of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and shall be responsible for its compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, shall be elected for a term of one year by the Federal Executive and shall, upon election, become (if not already a member) a non-voting member of the Federal Executive and a member of any fund-raising committee established by the Federal Executive.

12.4 The Treasurer, who shall be responsible for fund-raising, shall be elected for a term of two years by the Federal Executive and shall, upon election, become (if not already a member) a non-voting member of the Federal Executive, a member of the FAC and chair of any fund-raising committee established by the Federal Executive.

12.5 The Federal Executive shall appoint a salaried chief executive.

12.6 The Federal Executive shall appoint a nominating officer for the purposes of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.



# Saturday 4th

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

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

## **F17 Standing orders amendment: Presidential inauguration**

*Federal Executive*

Mover: President of the Liberal Democrats

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Delete Standing Order 1.1 e)

*The existing standing orders are set out in pages 49 - 55 of this Agenda and Directory.*

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

*Note: a standing orders amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.*

## **F18 ELDR Delegation and International Relations Committee**

*Federal Executive*

Mover: President of the Liberal Democrats

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference resolves to conduct the elections for the ELDR Delegation and the International
- 2 Relations Committee in even-numbered years at the same time as those for the Federal
- 3 Conference Committee, Federal Policy Committee, Federal Executive and Federal President.

*Note: this motion will be moved only if F16 Federal Committee and Presidential Elections is passed.*

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

## **17.30 Party business**

Chair: Cllr Debra Storr

Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

## **F19 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats**

Movers: Andrew Stunell MP (Chief Whip, House of Commons)  
Lord Shutt of Greetland (Chief Whip, House of Lords)  
Bill Newton-Dunn MEP (Chief Whip, European Parliament)

## **18.00 Close of session**

## 09.00 Policy motion

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

### F20 Emergency motions

*Note: The deadline for emergency motions is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 28 February; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ (see page 6). Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in the Advance Notice sheet.*

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

## 09.30 Party business

Chair: Baroness Barker  
Aide: Sue Garden

### F21 Report of the Federal Executive

Mover: President of the Liberal Democrats

### F22 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee

Mover: David Griffiths (Chair, Federal Finance and Administration Committee)

### F23 Report of the Gender Balance Task Force

Mover: Sandra Gidley MP

## 10.10 Policy motion

Chair: Dee Doocey AM (London)  
Aide: Cllr Gareth Epps

### F24 *A Soft Landing: Creating a Sustainable Market in Aviation* (Aviation policy paper)

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Tom Brake MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Transport)

Summation: John Thurso MP (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 i) The Government's current projections that demand for air travel in the UK will treble by the
- 3 year 2030 and that meeting this demand could be hugely damaging to the environment.
- 4 ii) The importance of the aviation industry to the UK economy.

# Sunday 5th

5 Conference believes that the UK must meet its targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by  
6 60% of the 1990 level by 2050 and that the aviation industry must make its contribution to  
7 meeting that target, and therefore reduce its emissions.

8 Conference calls for the adoption of an aviation policy that aims to:

- 9 a) Bring about a long-term lowering of greenhouse gas emissions at the lowest possible cost.
- 10 b) Reduce air congestion.
- 11 c) Encourage the use of cleaner, quieter, more fuel-efficient aircraft.
- 12 d) Avoid damaging social, economic and environmental consequences.
- 13 e) Ensure that the international competitiveness of the UK aviation industry is not reduced.

14 Conference believes that market-based measures are the most effective route to achieve these  
15 goals and therefore supports the following measures to reduce aviation emissions, as set out in  
16 policy paper 71, *A Soft Landing: Creating a Sustainable Market in Aviation*:

- 17 1. Abolishing Air Passenger Duty and replacing it with a pollution charge paid directly by  
18 airline operators rather than directly by passengers.
- 19 2. Entering aviation into the European Union Emission Trading Scheme as the main route to  
20 curb emissions but continuously monitoring it for its effectiveness.
- 21 3. Ruling out further runways at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.
- 22 4. Introducing a presumption into the planning system of no new runways elsewhere except  
23 where there is a clear economic, social and environmental need and ensuring that the  
24 concerns of affected communities are given full consideration.
- 25 5. Permitting the auctioning of new runway slots at those airports where they have a monetary  
26 value, with the proceeds raised invested in public transport.
- 27 6. Allowing airline operators to trade existing airport slots.
- 28 7. Ending the regulation that requires operators of the busiest airports to subsidise landing  
29 charges from retail rents to help reduce air congestion and make other airports more  
30 competitive.
- 31 8. Developing a high-speed rail network in the UK as a long-term ambition and as an attractive  
32 alternative to short-haul domestic and European flights.

33 Conference endorses *A Soft Landing: Creating a Sustainable Market in Aviation* as the Liberal  
34 Democrats' policy on reducing the impact of aviation on the environment, replacing all previous  
35 policy on the subject.

*Applicability: Federal, except for points 4 and 5 (lines 22 - 26), which are England only.*

*Mover and summation: 15 minutes combined; other speakers: 5 minutes.*

## 11.10 Party business

Chair: Sarah Teather MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Local  
Government and Communities)  
Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

## F25 Presentation by Liberal Democrat Group on Watford Borough Council

Keynote speakers will include Dorothy Thornhill, Mayor of Watford.

### 11.30 Party business

Chair: President of the Liberal Democrats  
Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

## F26 Presentation of awards

## F27 Speech by the Leader of the Liberal Democrats

### 13.00 Close of conference (approx.)

## The Federal Party

### Officers of the Federal Party

Acting Leader	Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell QC MP
President	Simon Hughes MP
Chair of FFAC	David Griffiths
Treasurer	Lord Clement-Jones
Vice President (England)	Stan Collins
Vice President (Scotland)	Judy Hayman
Vice President (Wales)	Lembit Öpik MP
Chief Executive	Chris Rennard CBE

### Conference Committee

The Conference Committee is responsible for all questions concerning the organisation of the Conference. A member of the Conference Committee may be contacted via the Information Desk in the foyer of Hall Q, where registration and the exhibition are located, or via the Stewards' Table at the side of the auditorium by the platform.

Members of the Conference Committee are identified by their purple and gold badges.

Stuart Marritt has overall responsibility for the organisation and administration of the Conference.

### Members of the Conference Committee

Robert Adamson (FPC rep)  
Cllr Jon Ball  
Catherine Bearder  
David Bourne (Welsh rep)  
Cllr Sarah Boad  
Duncan Brack (Chair)  
Sal Brinton  
Dee Doocey AM (London)  
Cllr Gareth Epps  
Jock Gallagher (FE rep)  
Sue Garden  
Cllr James Gurling (FE rep)  
Jeremy Hargreaves (FPC rep)  
Simon Hughes MP (Party President)  
Chris Jennings (Chief Steward, co-opted)  
Justine McGuinness  
Ruth Polling (Vice Chair)  
Chris Rennard (Chief Executive)  
Gordon Seekings (Staff rep)  
Harriet Smith  
Debra Storr (Scottish rep)  
Andrew Stunell MP (Chief Whip)  
Andrew Wiseman (English rep) (Vice Chair)



# The exhibition

The exhibition will be located in Hall Q of the HIC, adjacent to the main registration and catering areas. Please come and visit all the exciting stands!

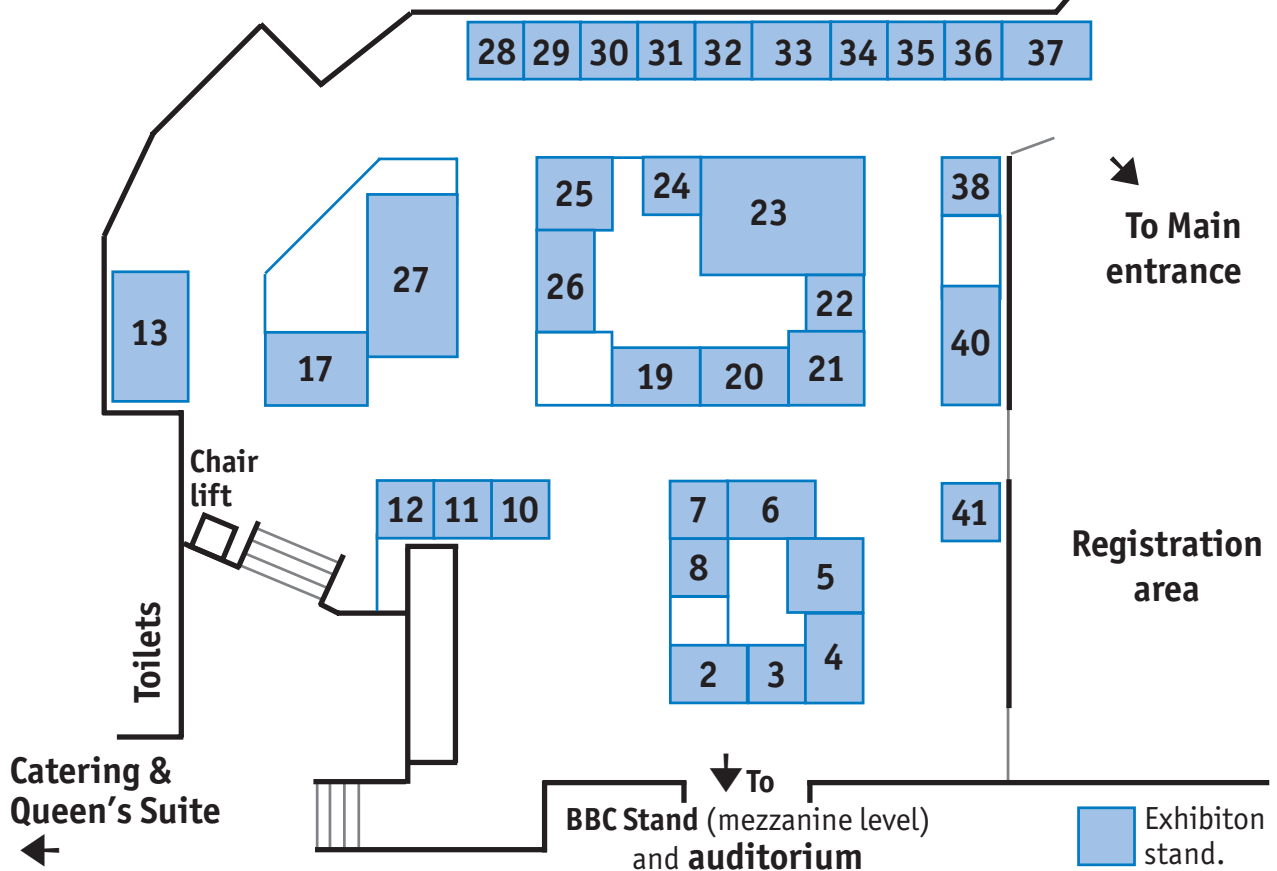
Exhibition opening times are as follows:

Friday	3rd March	15.00 - 17.30
Saturday	4th March	08.30 - 18.30
Sunday	5th March	08.30 - 13.00



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## Plan of the exhibition, HIC Hall Q



Exhibition

## Exhibitors listed by stand number

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 2 Yorkshire Region / Diana Wallis MEP      | 17 Libdem Books and The Westminster Bookshop      | 30 Liberal Democrat Christian Forum           |
| 3 Liberal Democrat History Group           | 19 Liberal Democrat Humanist and Secularist Group | 31 CentreForum                                |
| 4 Liberal Democrats On Line (LDO)          | 21 WRAP   | 32 Liberator                                  |
| 5 DELGA                                    | 22 Parliamentary Candidates Association (PCA)     | 33 Liberal Democrat Youth and Students        |
| 6 The Co-operative Bank plc                | 23 LGA  | 34 Liberal Democrat Education Association     |
| 7 The CHARD Group (1992)                   | 24 DAGGER   | 35 Agents & Organisers Association            |
| 8 Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association     | 25 The Northcliffe Press                          | 36 Liberal Democrat Christmas Draw            |
| 10 Liberal Democrat European Group         | 26 Green Liberal Democrats                        | 37 Liberal Democrat Forum for the Countryside |
| 11 EARS                                    | 27 Liberal Democrat Image                         | 38 ALDES – Engineers & Scientists             |
| 12 Liberal Democrat Disability Association | 28 Gender Balance Task Force                      | 40 ALDC                                       |
| 13 Centro GMPTA                            | 29 Women Liberal Democrats                        | 41 ALTER                                      |

# Directory of exhibitors

**Stand 35**  
**Agents & Organisers Association**



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

**Stand 40**  
**ALDC**



The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors is at the cutting edge of campaigning and provides essential support to all activists and councillors. We produce an extensive range of publications on campaigning and local government issues and provide support and training.

**Stand 38**  
**ALDES – Engineers & Scientists**



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

**Stand 41**  
**ALTER**



Planning Gain Supplement: you could lose not gain. It will make land and homes more expensive and take money from councils' control. ALTER offers a real alternative.

**Mezzanine level**  
**BBC**



Find out about our plans for local television; hear how we aim to move more BBC production to the North; see the breathtaking quality of high definition television.

**Stand 13**  
**Centro GMPTA**



WMPTA and Centro in the West Midlands and GMPTA and GMPTA in Greater Manchester working together to improve public transport in the major metropolitan areas.

**Stand 31**  
**CentreForum**



CentreForum, the UK's only liberal think-tank, presents their new online discussion forum, [www.freethink.org](http://www.freethink.org).

**Stand 24**  
**DAGGER**

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

**Stand 5**  
**DELGA**



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

**Stand 11**  
**EARS**



EARS, HandS and Casework Manager, the complete solution. EARS for campaigning and elections, HandS for membership and supporters, Casework Manager for casework. Try them all on our stand. Training available.

**Stand 28**  
**Gender Balance Task Force**



Wanted - winning women? Are you interested in being a Parliamentary candidate? If so make the GBTF: Campaign for Gender Balance stand your first stop at Harrogate!

**Stand 26**

**Green Liberal Democrats**  
 The green campaign group of the Liberal Democrats. For more information, see our website: [www.greenlibdems.org.uk](http://www.greenlibdems.org.uk).

**Stand 23**  
**LGA**



**Local Government Association**  
 The Local Government Association is the national voice for local authorities. Our mission is to promote better local government for a better local future.

**Stand 30**  
**Liberal Democrat Christian Forum**

Open to Liberal Democrats of all denominations. We hold fringe meetings and services at party conferences, attend regional conferences and publish a quarterly newsletter. Meet us at our stand.

**Stand 36**  
**Liberal Democrat Christmas Draw**

Don't falter for lack of funds. Talk to the draw team on Stand 36.

**Stand 12**  
**Liberal Democrat Disability Association**

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

**Stand 34**  
**Liberal Democrat Education Association**

Information and publications available. Staff on hand to answer questions on Liberal Democrat education issues.

# Directory of exhibitors continued

Stand 10

## Liberal Democrat European Group

Budget rebate; CAP reform; MEPs; Constitution. We have the briefings and campaign materials: everything you need to know about Europe and how to campaign on it. [www.ldeg.org](http://www.ldeg.org).

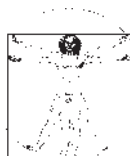
Stand 37

## Liberal Democrat Forum for the Countryside

The LDFC is dedicated to the preservation of the countryside and the traditions of rural communities. We have invited the Middle Way Group to share our stand again. Visit us on our stand.

Stand 3

## Liberal Democrat History Group



We promote the discussion and research of historical topics relating to the Liberal Democrats and its predecessors, the Liberal Party and SDP. The past illuminates the future. Come and discover.

Stand 19

## Liberal Democrat Humanist and Secularist Group

The organisation for Liberal Democrats who think that humanism and secularism need a louder voice within the party and across the UK. Join our big meeting on Saturday 4 March with Paul Holmes MP.

Stand 27

## Liberal Democrat Image



Keep campaigning with Liberal Democrat Image. Visit our stand for your local election supplies and save money on postage or visit our website [www.libdemimage.co.uk](http://www.libdemimage.co.uk).

Stand 8

## Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association

Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association is the link between the Party and those in, or interested in, the justice system and justice for all. New members welcome. [www.libdems.org.uk](http://www.libdems.org.uk).

Stand 33

## Liberal Democrat Youth and Students



Visit the LDYS stand for merchandise, campaign postcards, campaign guides (including our speaking in schools pack) plenty of information on how you and LDYS can work together.

Stand 4

## Liberal Democrats On Line (LDO)



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

Stand 32

## Liberator

Since first published in 1970, Liberator has provided a platform for Liberals to discuss and read ideas and enjoy light thrown into dark corners of their party. Come and subscribe.

Stand 25

## The Northcliffe Press

The requirements of newspaper printing are different from that of leaflets and magazines. To best ensure you get the very best quality reproduction of your newspaper, call Northcliffe on 01332 595607.

Stand 22

## Parliamentary Candidates Association (PCA)

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

Stand 7

## The CHARD Group (1992)

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

Stand 6

## The Co-operative Bank plc



The Co-operative Bank is the only UK clearing bank that works to a strict ethical policy. Visit our stand for details of the Liberal Democrat Affinity Visa Credit Card.

Stand 29

## Women Liberal Democrats

WLD exists to represent women within the party and works for changes to boost opportunities for women. Come and meet us on our stand.

Stand 21

## WRAP



WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme) is a government funded programme, established to create stable and efficient markets for recycled materials and products and remove barriers to waste minimisation, reuse and recycling.

Stand 2

## Yorkshire Region / Diana Wallis MEP

Yorkshire and Humber Libdems and Diana Wallis MEP invite members to visit our stand, find out what's happening in the Region and what your MEP is up to in Europe.

## Libdem Books

in association with  
**The Westminster Bookshop**



Stand 17

Essential books on the Liberal Democrats past and present.

**Every book bought at conference will see at least 20% of the profits going to Party funds!**

# Conference information

Everything you need to know about this year's Spring conference is listed below in alphabetical order. If you have any questions on site, please ask one of our friendly stewards.

## Access

Access to the Harrogate International Centre (HIC) and the Holiday Inn Hotel is possible **only** with a valid, visible conference photo pass. **Everyone must have a conference pass, including those attending only fringe or training events.**

The main entrance to the HIC is via Hall Q (see venue plan on page 48).

## Car parks

There is a car park at the HIC with 450 spaces, including 21 free disabled parking spaces. For further information see transport and travel on page 47 and access and facilities for disabled people on page 46.

## Cash points

A cash machine is located in the Holiday Inn Hotel which takes most of the standard bank switch/maestro and delta cards; however, there is a charge of £1.50 per withdrawal. There are numerous cashpoints that do not charge a fee in Harrogate town centre, approximately a four-minute walk away.

## Cloakroom

**Please note that under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the auditorium or exhibition hall.**

There is a cloakroom located on level 4 of the HIC. A charge of £1 per item left applies.



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## Communications centre

The communications centre is located on level 5 of the HIC.

## Consultative sessions

Consultative sessions take place on Friday 3rd between 15.00 and 17.30. Please see page 9.

## Crèche

The crèche is located in the Studley and Newby rooms of the Holiday Inn Hotel. The crèche will be open at the following times:

Friday	3rd March	14.30 – 18.00
Saturday	4th March	08.30 – 21.00
Sunday	5th March	08.30 – 13.30

The Children Act 1991 strictly controls the ratio of staff to children in crèches. This means that the crèche staff are not allowed to accept children who are not pre-registered.

If you would like to receive information on the crèche for future conferences please call the Conference Office on 020 7222 7999 and ask to be put on our mailing list.

## Disabled persons' access

Please see access and facilities for disabled people on page 46.

## Distribution of literature

Distribution of literature is not allowed inside the HIC. Literature may be distributed outside the main entrance, subject to the discretion of the Chief Steward, the management and the police. Exhibitors may only distribute material, sell raffle tickets etc. directly from their stands. Gangways, stairways, entrances and catering areas must not be used for this purpose.

***Fly-posting is prohibited inside the HIC.***

## Documents for conference

If you pre-registered for conference you will have received with your photopass a blue voucher for a members' pack. Please bring this voucher to the registration area and exchange it for your pack.

If your registration form reaches Cowley Street HQ after 13th February you will not be mailed any documents before conference. You will be able to



# Conference information

collect all your conference information from the registration area located in Hall Q of the HIC.

Extra copies of the Conference Agenda and Directory are available for sale from the registration area for £5.00 each. You can also purchase a complete pack of policy papers from reception for £25.00.

Biodegradable, environmentally friendly jute bags have been issued free to delegates since 2004 at the autumn conference. Please help keep our conference as environmentally friendly as possible by bringing yours along. First time members will be entitled to a free jute bag, subject to availability – we normally only issue on an annual basis in the autumn. Replacement bags will cost £4.00, subject to availability. **Don't throw yours away!**

## Emergency exits

The auditorium in the HIC has emergency exits located around the perimeter, numbered Towers 1-6; please note these are not the main entrances to the auditorium via the centre of the room. In the event of an emergency, the lights will come on and the stage manager will direct you to the nearest exit.

## Exhibition

The exhibition at this year's conference will be held in Hall Q of the HIC. Please see pages 38 - 40 for opening times and exhibitor details.

## First Aid

The First Aid room is located in Hall Q of the HIC. It will be staffed from 08.00 on Thursday 2nd March until 20.00 on Sunday 5th March.

## Flash photography

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



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## Fringe

For details of fringe meetings, see pages 25 to 30. The official fringe meeting venues are the Queen's Suite located on level 4 of the HIC and the Holiday Inn Hotel, adjacent to the HIC. Party members may obtain a free pass to fringe events, please see registration - fringe and training on page 44.

HQ fringe events:

**Meet the new Leader;** Friday 4th March, Harewood Suite, Holiday Inn Hotel (see page 25).

**Glee Club:** Saturday 5th March, 21.45 to late. The Harewood Suite, Holiday Inn Hotel.

## Information desk

The information desk is located in the foyer of Hall Q at the main entrance to the HIC. It will be clearly marked and friendly members of the Conference Team can answer your questions.

The information desk telephone number is **01423 537347**. Information desk opening times:

Friday	3rd March	15.00 – 20.00
Saturday	4th March	08.30 – 18.30
Sunday	5th March	08.30 – 12.00

## Internet access

Free wi-fi internet access is available within the HIC.

## Lost passes

If you have lost your photopass please report immediately to the registration area in Hall Q of the HIC. A replacement fee of £25.00 applies and photo passes are reissued at the discretion of the Chief Steward/ Conference Organiser.

## Lost property

With the exception of photo passes, which should be handed into registration, all items of lost property should be handed in to, and reclaimed from, the information desk in the foyer of Hall Q of the HIC.

## Mobile phones / pagers

Please ensure that all mobile phones / pagers are switched off before entering the auditorium.

## Newspapers

*The Independent* will be distributed free of charge at the main entrance to Hall Q of the HIC.

## Photo passes

All conference photo passes are mailed prior to conference if registration details are received before 13th February. If you have not received your pass in the post, please come to the registration area in Hall Q of the HIC.

## Photo pass identification codes and colours

Photo pass colours and codes are:

- Party members – Yellow
  - Conference representatives – VOR
  - Non-voting members – NVO
  - Parliamentarians – PAR
  - Day visitors – DA – sat
  - DA – sun
  - Party Officers – POF
- Non-members – Grey
  - Commercial observers – OBS
  - Diplomats – DIP
  - International guest – ING
  - Sister party member – SPG
  - Exhibitor observer – EXO
  - Exhibitor – EXH
  - NGO / charity – NGO
  - Exhibition technician – TEC
  - Party exhibitor – PEX
- Media – Pink
  - Press or broadcast journalist – JOR
  - Camera crews / photographer – PHO
  - Media technician – MTE
- Staff – Orange
  - Headquarters staff – HQS
  - Parliamentary staff – PST
  - POLD staff – POL
  - State, Regional or constituency staff – SRC
  - Local government staff – LGS
- Conference Management – Green
  - Federal Conference Committee – FCC
  - Stewards – STW
  - Conference office staff – ORG
- Fringe and training – Purple
  - (Access only to the Queens Suite and Hall D of the HIC and to the Holiday Inn Hotel)*
  - Training member – TRM
  - Trainer – TNR
  - Fringe organiser – FRO
  - Fringe guest – FRG



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## Postal and telephone facilities

The staff on the HIC reception desk located on level 4 of the building can accept post; there are also stamps available for purchase.

## Press office

The press office is located in the King's Suite of the HIC. The press office telephone number is 01423 537298. It is open during the following times:

Friday	3rd March	14.00 – 18.00
Saturday	4th March	08.30 – 18.00
Sunday	5th March	08.30 - 13.30

## Recycling facilities

Recycling points will be located throughout the HIC and Holiday Inn Hotel.

## Refreshments

Hot and cold meals and soft drinks are available in the King's Suite catering area in Hall Q of the HIC. Alcoholic beverages, tea and coffee will be served from the bar on level 5 of the HIC.

## Registration on-site

Please complete the relevant registration form and take it to the registration desk in the foyer of Hall Q in the HIC. You do not need a photograph, one will be taken free of charge. If you have any questions, one of our Conference Team will help.

*Tip:* Save time on-site by downloading and completing a registration form before you arrive from [www.libdems.org.uk](http://www.libdems.org.uk).

You can register on-site at the following times:

Friday	3rd March	15.00 - 20.00
Saturday	4th March	08.30 - 18.30
Sunday	5th March	08.30 - 12.00

## Conference information continued

### Attendance after registration has closed

Party members without a valid conference pass who arrive after registration has closed will be able to obtain a free temporary pass from the temporary registration desk in the Holiday Inn Hotel foyer. This will be on the completion of a registration form and presentation of your membership card. This will give you access to the hotel and fringe events only. ***This service will only be available until 22.30.*** After 22.30 ***only*** valid pass holders will be allowed access to the hotel. Temporary passes will ***not*** be issued to non-party members.

### Party members full registration

- Cost: £58.

All Party members are entitled to attend all sessions of the Conference once registered. Only elected representatives may vote. To register on-site as a voting, substitute, or non-voting member, you will need to bring:

- Party membership card
- Proof of personal identity
- Completed registration form (available onsite or download from [www.libdems.org.uk](http://www.libdems.org.uk))

Tip: Register online at [www.libdems.org.uk](http://www.libdems.org.uk) right up to midnight 28 February.

### Party members - day visitors

Day visitors do not need to bring a photograph, as one will be taken at the point of registration. Proof of current party membership is required. Charges are:

Full day: £15. Afternoons only: £11.  
 Claimants: Full day: £9. Afternoons only: £7.  
 Proof of claimant status is required in all cases.



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### Fringe and training

Party members will be able to obtain free registration to fringe and training events during the normal registration hours. This pass only gives access to the fringe and training areas and does not allow any access through the HIC. Proof of membership (current up-to-date membership card) is required. Photographs will be taken free of charge.

### Non-members

Non-members can register for conference up until 20.00 every evening. A typical non-member, 2-day commercial observer pass costs £106. No-one will be able to get access to the fringe or exhibition areas in the HIC or the Holiday Inn Hotel without a valid pass.

### Security and safety

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

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

***All*** bags will be searched at the main entrance to the HIC. Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the building. Any bag left unattended will be brought to the attention of the Police and may be removed and/or destroyed. Please use the luggage tag in your delegate pack to identify your personal items.

### Smoking

In accordance with party policy, the Harrogate International Centre is entirely **non-smoking**.

### Stewards

The security team includes volunteer stewards who act under the direction of the Chief Steward, whose decision is final in any dispute regarding security. The Chief Steward reserves the right, acting in conjunction with police advice, to search anyone in the HIC or Holiday Inn Hotel at any time, and the right to remove anyone from the building.

### Substitute conference representatives

If you have received a non-voting photo pass (NVO) but are attending this year's conference as a substitute conference representative, you need to:



- Contact an officer of your local party.
- Ask them to write a letter to Membership Services with the name, address and membership number of the representative you are substituting for, as well as your own full details, **before 12.00 noon, Monday 27th February.**
- Bring a copy of the letter to the membership section, in the foyer of Hall Q in the HIC, to have your substitute voting status verified.
- Collect a replacement pass from the membership desk in the foyer of Hall Q in the HIC.

### Training events

Only Party members may attend training events. To attend **training events** only you may obtain a free pass on completion of a registration form and presentation of party membership card. Please see registration - fringe and training on page 44.

### Transport and travel

See page 47 for transport and travel information.

### Venues

The main conference venue is:

Harrogate International Centre (HIC)  
Kings Road, Harrogate, HG1 5LA  
Tel: +44 (0) 1423 500 500  
Fax: +44 (0) 1423 537 210  
[www.harrogateinternationalcentre.co.uk](http://www.harrogateinternationalcentre.co.uk)

The official conference hotel (adjacent to HIC):

The Holiday Inn Hotel  
Kings Road, Harrogate, HG1 1XX  
Tel: +44 (0) 1423 849 988  
Fax: +44 (0) 1423 524 435  
[www.holiday-inn.co.uk](http://www.holiday-inn.co.uk)

### Voting and non-voting photo passes

If you have received a non-voting photo pass (NVO) and believe you are an elected conference representative, you need to:

- Contact an officer of your local party and get them to inform the Membership Department at Cowley Street of the conference representatives of your local party. This must be done in writing and signed by an officer of your local party. Your voting status cannot be changed over the phone.
- Write to: Membership Services, 4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3NB. Fax to 020 7976 8421. Email to [ld\\_membsevs@cix.co.uk](mailto:ld_membsevs@cix.co.uk)
- Collect the appropriate pass from the registration desk in the foyer of Hall Q in the HIC.

### Website

For conference details online, please see [www.libdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference).




## Meeting the Challenge continued from page 4

the day saw extremely thoughtful discussions of many of the issues we aim to cover in the final paper.

Unlike some other parties, the Liberal Democrats is not a party which changes its entire policy platform when we change our leader. The exercise has therefore carried on throughout the leadership election, and by early March we should have an idea of the shape and outline contents of the final paper – in good time for the new leader and new chair of the FPC to input into it. All being well, the paper should be approved by the FPC

in May and published, along with the Preliminary Agenda for Brighton, in June.

Many of the Lib Dems who attended the conference in January said how much they'd enjoyed it, and how much they hoped more such events could be arranged. The FPC will consider this later in the year, but in the meantime we are using the rally slot at Harrogate to continue this kind of discussion, with a session on '*how can we make Britain a more Liberal country?*' I hope to see as many unrepresentative activists there as possible! 



**Duncan Brack is Vice Chair of the 'Meeting the Challenge' working group**



# Access and facilities for disabled people

Both the Harrogate International Centre (HIC) and the Holiday Inn Hotel are fully accessible by wheelchair.

## The Harrogate International Centre

Access to the HIC is through Hall Q (see page 48). Registration, the exhibition, the information desk and catering are all through Hall Q. The lift in Hall Q will take you up to the auditorium.

## Electric buggies and wheelchairs

The HIC have a limited number of electric buggies and wheelchairs available to be used by conference members. They will be available from the information desk in Hall Q. They will need to be returned each evening for charging. Further details can be obtained from Robert Penfold at the HIC on 01423 537213 or [robert.penfold@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:robert.penfold@harrogate.gov.uk)

## In the auditorium

The designated area within the auditorium for members who are wheelchair users is in front of the stewards table, at the front of the auditorium on the right hand side of the stage.

The hearing loop covers the block in front of the speakers and stewards table.

## Communications centre

There is a dedicated wheelchair-level work station in the communications centre on the upper section of level 5 of the HIC.

## Disabled toilets

There are disabled toilets in the HIC on level 4 and 5, in Hall Q and in the Queens Suite.



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## Services to the blind and visually impaired

Copies of the conference Agenda and Directory and consultative and policy papers will be available on tape from RNIB from 21st February. Contact Donna Gordon at RNIB: 01733 375106.

PDF files of all documents are available from the Conference Office: email [s.marritt@libdems.org.uk](mailto:s.marritt@libdems.org.uk).

The Agenda and Directory and other papers can also be produced on coloured paper and in a larger format on request. Write to the Conference Office, 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB, before 24th February.

## Car parking

There is free disabled parking on the green level of the HIC underground car park. 14 disabled spaces are located in front of the lift. Once in the lift you should go to level 3, this will take you to the registration area in Hall Q.

## Access to the Holiday Inn

Access to the Holiday Inn Hotel is via the main entrance. The hotel has 3 disabled car parking spaces for residents. Access to the first floor meeting room is via one of the 3 lifts in the foyer.

Please note there is no disabled access to the HIC via the link way.

## Other requirements

If you have any specific requirements that are not mentioned, please contact Stuart Marritt, email [s.marritt@libdems.org.uk](mailto:s.marritt@libdems.org.uk). before 24 February, and he will endeavour to assist if it is at all possible.

## Information and assistance at conference

Robert Littlehales is the disabled access steward at conference. You can contact him on 07712 667702 or at [rlittlehales@aol.com](mailto:rlittlehales@aol.com).



# Transport and travel

For map of Harrogate, please see page 56.

## By train

GNER trains run from London Kings Cross to Leeds or York. Change at either destination using Arriva Trains Northern for Harrogate. Trains operate on average every hour and at 5 past the hour with varying journey times dependent on the time of day.

For journeys from other destinations and train times, visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

## By car

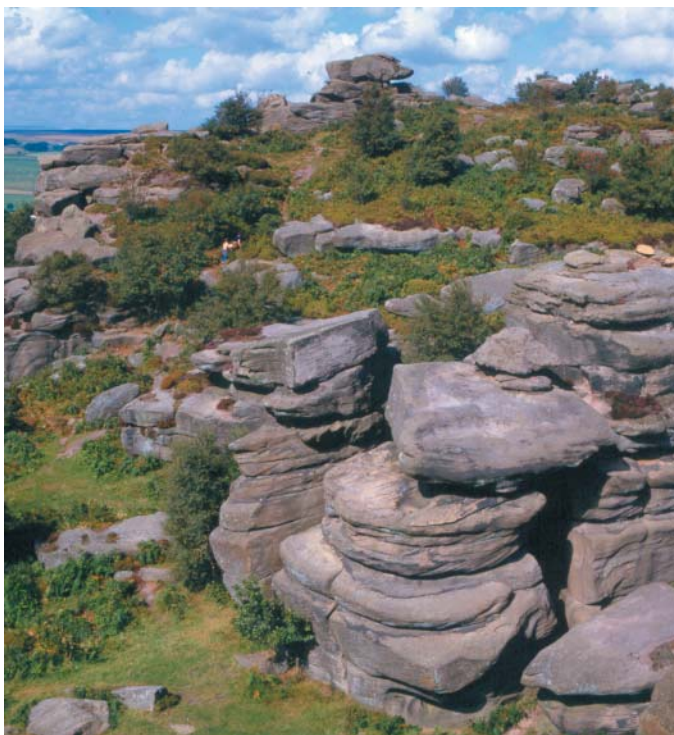
**If you are travelling by car, please remember to car share where possible!**

From London, journeys take approx 4.5 hours depending on the time of travel. Take the M1 – A1(M) exit Wetherby (Wetherby is 9 miles from Harrogate).

From the North A1, exit Wetherby or Knaresborough (Knaresborough exit is 8 miles from Harrogate).

Journeys can be planned in detail by visiting [www.theaa.com](http://www.theaa.com)

Cars may be parked in either the HIC Red car park (height: 2.1m) or the HIC Green car park (height: 2.05m). There are a total of 450 parking spaces, including 14 disabled access spaces in the Green car park and 7 in the Red car park (see also access and



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facilities for disabled people on page 46). Parking for disabled persons is free, other fees range from £3.50 for up to 3 hours to £10.00 for 24 hours.

## By air

Harrogate is well served by Leeds Bradford International Airport, which operates internal flights to the majority of UK Airports. Leeds Bradford Airport is 12 miles from the HIC.

Leeds Bradford International Airport:  
Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS19 7TU.  
Enquiry Desk Tel: 0113 250 9696.

## Bus services (local)

Harrogate and the surrounding area have an extensive and efficient local bus service. The main bus station is located on Station Parade, Harrogate.

A staffed Information Kiosk is located at Harrogate Bus Station, and is open as follows:

Mondays to Fridays	06.00 – 24.00
Saturdays	08.00 – 24.00
Sundays	09.00 – 23.30

Further information and timetables can be obtained by visiting:

Harrogate & District Travel, including routes to Leeds, Skipton, Pateley Bridge, Ripon, Boroughbridge and Wetherby at [www.harrogateanddistrict.co.uk](http://www.harrogateanddistrict.co.uk)

The Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group, including routes from Harrogate to Pateley Bridge, Grassington, Skipton, Middlesmoor, Hawes and Leyburn at [www.dalesbus.org](http://www.dalesbus.org)

Or plan your bus journey using the Online Journey Planner provided by North Yorkshire County Council, including timetables for all operators' services at <http://ukbus.u-net.co.uk/>

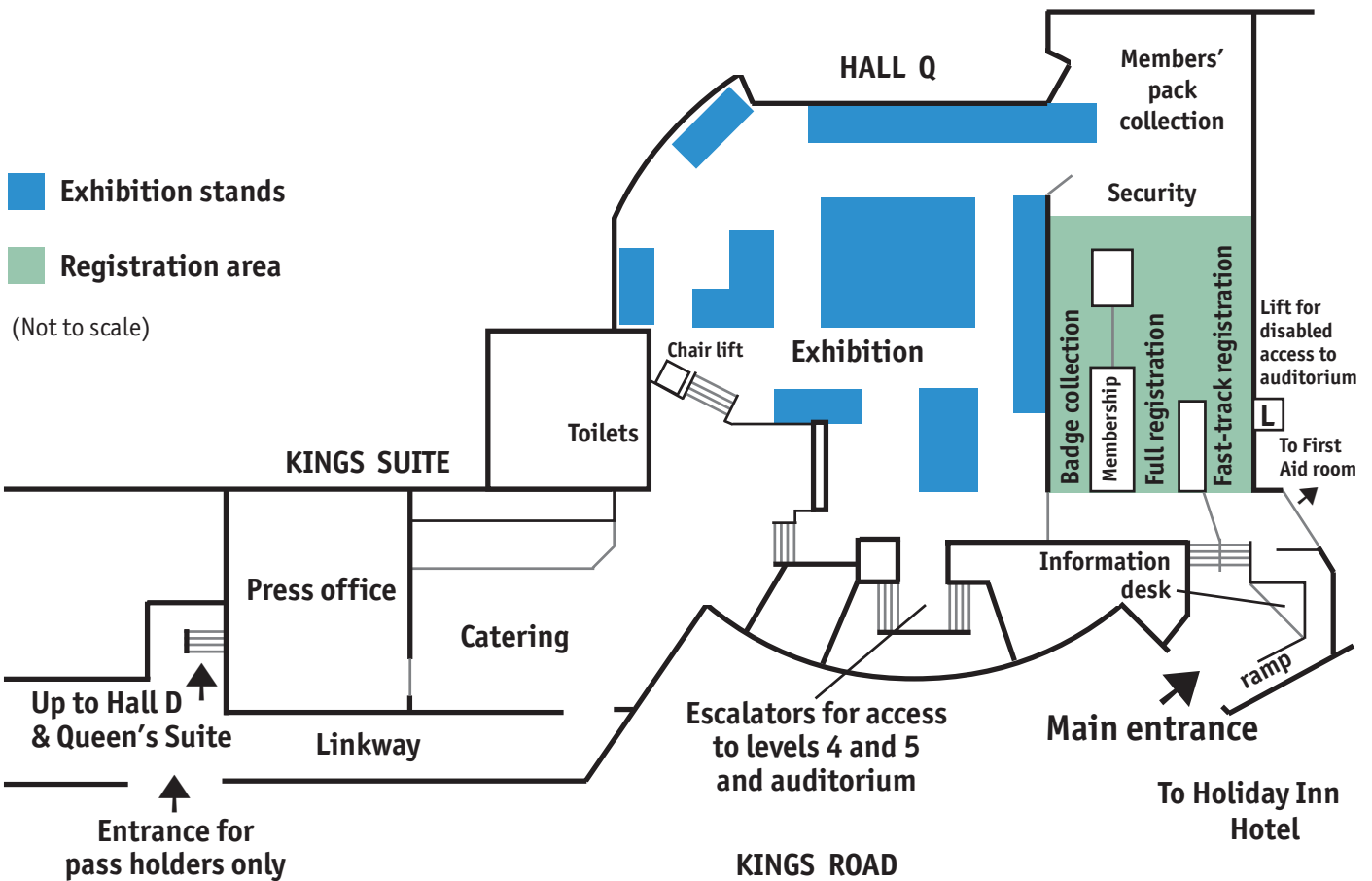
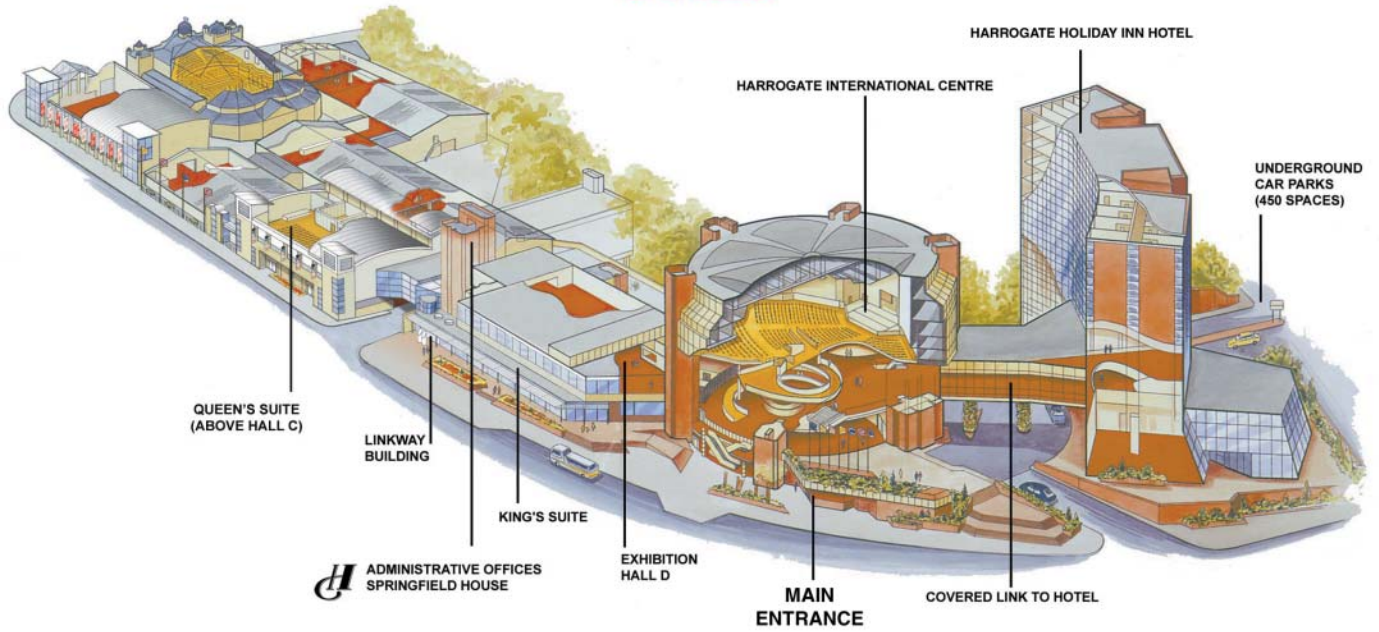
## Taxi services (local)

The following companies provide a taxi service:

Yellowline	01423 521 531
Central	01423 50 50 50
Mainline	0500 131 211 (freephone)
Blueline	01423 503 037



# Conference venue





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# 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, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.*

### **Committee**

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

### **Constitutional amendment**

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

### **Secondary constitutional amendment**

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

### **Consultative session**

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

### **Day visitor**

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

### **Elected representative**

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

### **Emergency motion**

A proposal which relates to a *specific recent development which occurred after the deadline for submission of amendments. **Emergency motions must be brief.***

### **Emergency amendment**

An amendment to a motion which

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

### **Full session**

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

### **Non-voting member**

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

### **Point of order**

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

### **Policy motion**

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

### **Policy amendment**

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

### **Policy paper**

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

### **Pre-manifesto paper**

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

### **Procedural motion**

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

#### ***Move to next business***

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

#### ***Reference back***

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

#### ***Request for a count***

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

#### ***Separate vote***

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

#### ***Suspension of standing orders***

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

### **Special conference**

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

### **Standing orders amendment**

A proposal to change these standing orders.

### **Secondary standing orders amendment**

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

### **Topical motion**

A motion which would otherwise qualify as a policy or a business motion, but is either about an event which occurs after the deadline for submission of motions but before the deadline for submission of amendments or on a topic announced



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# Standing orders

by the Committee in the Preliminary or Final Agenda as meriting a topical motion.

Topical Motions (except for those announced in the Final Agenda but not published until the meeting of the conference) may have amendments submitted to them in the same way as

policy or business motions. *Any such amendment should be of significant importance, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.*

## Voting member

A person who is entitled to vote at conference. This term includes

substitutes replacing conference representatives for a particular meeting of conference. It does not include conference representatives who have not paid any registration fee that may be in force nor does it include day visitors or observers who are not conference representatives.

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# Standing orders for the Federal Conference

## 1. The conference agenda

### 1.1 What is on the agenda

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

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

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

### 1.2 Conference or council of state parties

In addition, time before or after any meeting may be agreed with the

relevant state party for a meeting of the conference or council of that party.

### 1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the relevant Federal Committee.
- b) Business motions (including amendments, topical business motions and emergency business motions and amendments), constitutional amendments and secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal Executive, Federal Policy committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives. Business motions, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.
- c) Motions accompanying policy papers and pre-manifesto papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, topical policy motions, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives.

### 1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

All motions and amendments must be submitted to the Committee. They must be submitted clearly and accompanied by

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

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

The Committee shall specify:

- a) The closing date for the receipt of constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders and policy motions accompanying policy papers. This shall be at least 15 weeks before the start of conference.
- b) The closing date for the receipt of policy and business motions. For the autumn conference, this shall be at least 15 weeks before the start of conference. For the spring conference, this shall be at least 8 weeks before the start of conference.
- c) The due date for the publication of the Preliminary Agenda.
- d) The closing date for receipt of amendments to the items published in the Preliminary Agenda and for the receipt of topical motions (autumn conference only) and policy motions accompanying pre-manifesto papers. This shall be at least 8 weeks before the start of conference.
- e) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the Final Agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- f) Notwithstanding 1.5(e), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the Final

# Standing orders

Agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(e). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.

- g) The closing date for the submission of emergency motions and amendments and amendments to topical motions and policy motions accompanying pre-manifesto papers published in the Final Agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.

## 1.6 Notification of deadlines

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

## 1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances

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

## 2. Consultative Sessions

### 2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions

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

### 2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

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

also be called.

### 2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

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

## 3. The Preliminary Agenda

### 3.1 The shortlisting of motions

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

### 3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

### 3.3 Circulation of the Preliminary Agenda

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

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

### 4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

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

- Treat any severable part of a motion or amendment as a separate motion or amendment.
- Redraft a motion or amendment so

as to improve expression, remove inaccuracy or superfluity or take account of new developments.

- Composite similar motions or amendments.

### 4.2 Selection of amendments

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

### 4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

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

### 4.4 Topical motions

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

### 4.5 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

- It is similar in effect to another motion that has been selected for

# Standing orders

debate or ballot.

b) It is unclear as to its meaning or intent.

c) It falls outside the definition of emergency motions.

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

## 4.6 Ballots for emergency motions

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

## 4.7 Emergency amendments

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

## 4.8 Holding motions

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

## 5. The Final Agenda

### 5.1 Drawing up the Final Agenda

The Committee may, in drawing up the Final Agenda:

a) Transfer any constitutional or standing order amendment from the ballot to the agenda for debate.

b) Remove a motion which was on the Preliminary Agenda.

The Final Agenda shall be circulated to voting conference members as soon as practicable.

### 5.2 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

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

## 6. Special meetings

### 6.1 Timetabling of special meetings

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

### 6.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

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

## 7. Appeals

### 7.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

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

### 7.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference

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

## 8. The chair

### 8.1 Who chairs conference

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

### 8.2 The chair's aide

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

## 9. Conduct of debate

### 9.1 Variation in the order of business

The Committee may propose to the conference a variation in the order of

# Standing orders

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

## **9.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments**

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

## **9.3 The order of debate**

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

## **9.4 Who may speak**

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

- a) As a member of the Federal Policy Committee representing that committee in a policy debate.
- b) As a member of the Federal Conference Committee representing that committee in debates on standing orders and matters of conference procedure.
- c) As a member of the Federal Executive representing that committee on matters of party business.
- d) If called by the chair of the session, after the Committee has given permission. Such permission shall only be given exceptionally. Additionally the Committee may invite any person to address the conference

as a guest.

## **9.5 The special rights of the Federal Committees**

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

## **9.6 The selection of speakers**

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

## **9.7 The length of speeches**

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

## **9.8 Where to speak from**

All speeches shall be made from the rostrum, save that speeches by the President or Leader of the Party, except when participating in debate, or by a guest invited by the Committee, or on the occasion of the opening or the closing of the meeting, may be made from the platform.

## **10. Voting at conference**

### **10.1 The method of voting**

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

### **10.2 Counting of votes**

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

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

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

### **10.3 Separate votes**

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

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

## **11. Points of order**

### **11.1 Making a point of order**

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

## **12. Procedural motions**

### **12.1 Next business**

- a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.
- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of



# Standing orders

reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.

- d) The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

## **12.2 Reference back (moved by a representative)**

- a) A voting member, who has not already spoken in the debate, may, at any time before the chair has asked the first speaker in reply to stand by, submit, in writing, a request to refer back the motion under debate. The submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a statement of the reasons, including reasons why voting against the motion would not achieve a similar result, not exceeding 75 words.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. If more than one request is received, the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken with respect to any motion.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to refer. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this

standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the reference back, it falls.

- d) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- e) If the substantive motion is referred to the Federal Executive, the Federal Policy Committee or the Federal Conference Committee that body shall, in its report to the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

## **12.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)**

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

on the motion and any amendments thereto accepted for debate.

## **12.4 Separate vote**

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

## **12.5 Counted vote**

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

## **12.6 Suspension of standing orders**

- a) A voting conference member may, during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of standing orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 75 words, to the chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.
- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the constitution, nor any part of these standing orders which govern:
  - i) The rights of, or timetable for, submission of motions and amendments.
  - ii) Consultative sessions.
  - iii) Procedural motions for next business or suspension of standing orders.
- c) No motion to suspend standing orders to introduce a motion or amendment on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.
- d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this

# Standing orders

standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.

- e) A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of the conference members voting. If the procedural motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

## **12.7 No procedural motions during votes**

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

## **13. Reports**

### **13.1 Which reports are tabled**

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

### **13.2 Submission and selection of questions**

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

### **13.3 Whether questions are in order or not**

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

conference, the Committee may transfer the question to that body.

### **13.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered**

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

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

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

### **13.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies**

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

## **14. Amendment of standing orders**

### **14.1 Amendment of standing orders**

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

## **15. The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee**

### **15.1 Chair and Vice Chairs**

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



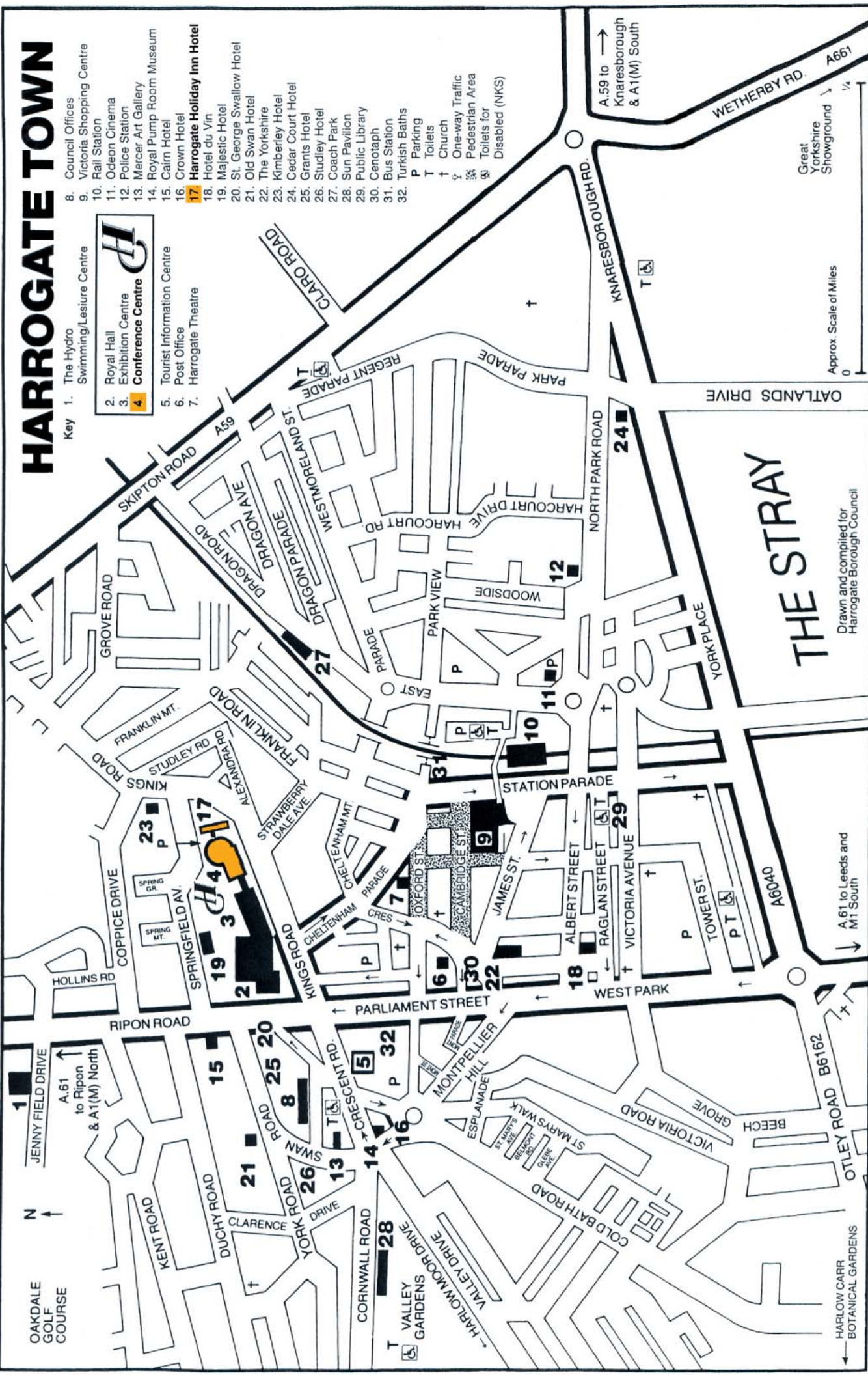
# HARROGATE TOWN

- Key**
- 1. The Hydro
  - 2. Royal Hall
  - 3. Exhibition Centre
  - 4. **Conference Centre**
  - 5. Tourist Information Centre
  - 6. Post Office
  - 7. Harrogate Theatre



- 8. Council Offices
- 9. Victoria Shopping Centre
- 10. Rail Station
- 11. Odeon Cinema
- 12. Police Station
- 13. Mercer Art Gallery
- 14. Royal Pump Room Museum
- 15. Cairn Hotel
- 16. Crown Hotel
- 17. **Harrogate Holiday Inn Hotel**
- 18. Hotel du Vin
- 19. Majestic Hotel
- 20. St. George Swallow Hotel
- 21. Old Swan Hotel
- 22. The Yorkshire
- 23. Kimberley Hotel
- 24. Cedar Court Hotel
- 25. Grants Hotel
- 26. Studley Hotel
- 27. Coach Park
- 28. Sun Pavilion
- 29. Public Library
- 30. Cenotaph
- 31. Bus Station
- 32. Turkish Baths

- P Parking
- T Toilets
- † Church
- ↔ One-way Traffic
- ⚓ Pedestrian Area
- ♿ Toilets for Disabled (NKS)



Approx. Scale of Miles  
0 1/4

Great Yorkshire Showground

Drawn and compiled for Harrogate Borough Council

A.61 to Leeds and M1 South

HARLOW CARR BOTANICAL GARDENS

OAKDALE GOLF COURSE



A.61 to Ripon & A1(M) North

A.59 to Knarborough & A1(M) South

OATLANDS DRIVE

THE STRAY

YORK PLACE

KNARESBOROUGH RD.

WETHERBY RD. A661

A6040

OTLEY ROAD B6162

WEST PARK

RIPON ROAD

PARLIAMENT STREET

STATION PARADE

FRANKLIN ROAD

HARCOURT DRIVE

NORTH PARK ROAD

FRANKLIN ROAD

HARCOURT RD

SKIPTON ROAD A59

CLARO ROAD

FRANKLIN ROAD

REGENT PARADE

FRANKLIN ROAD

REGENT PARADE

FRANKLIN ROAD

REGENT PARADE



# Which of these students is the most important?



A briefing on the future of learning and skills in your constituencies and wards

Tim Farron MP Lib Dem Spokesman on Further Education

Saturday March 4th 1pm - 2pm  
Harrogate Conference Centre





Local Government Association

# devolution

the future is local

## Meeting the challenge of devolution

The LGA is calling for a bold and ambitious devolution of power from central government to local councils, and through them, to people, communities and local organisations. How should the Liberal Democrats meet this challenge?

The LGA's devolution action plan proposes that:

**Councils commit to:**

- establish a clear set of ambitions for the locality and the community;
- work with partners to ensure that ambitions are achieved;
- strengthen public accountability to local people;
- devolve power where appropriate to local people and communities;
- improve local services and develop the capacity to lead and innovate.

**National politicians should work to:**

- reduce national targets and transfer visible accountability to local councils;
- replace the Comprehensive Performance Assessment with an independently assured improvement framework overseen by local government;
- develop local area agreements into agreements to deploy the totality of local public resources;
- support the reconfiguration of local public services for greater effectiveness and efficiency;
- introduce a fair and sustainable system of local government finance.

Visit stand 23 and find out how the LGA and local government is meeting the challenge of devolution.



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