

# Preliminary Agenda

Liberal Democrat Spring Conference

2nd - 4th March 2007

Harrogate



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# Promote your organisation at conference

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

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



**Exhibition:** The diverse and vibrant exhibition at conference gives stand-holders an opportunity to

display their products and services and to talk to a broad cross-section of visitors.

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

For further information about advertising, exhibition and sponsorship, contact Carol

Caruana on 020

7227 1323 or email [c.caruana@libdems.org.uk](mailto:c.caruana@libdems.org.uk).



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

For conference fringe, contact Jane Stainer on 020 7227 1348 or email [j.stainer@libdems.org.uk](mailto:j.stainer@libdems.org.uk).

## Paperless conference

If you would like to be added to the circulation list for conference emails, please send an email to

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

with 'Email Address' in the subject box. We will not release your contact details to any third parties.

In an effort to make conference more environmentally friendly, we offer a paperless option for conference, which enables you to receive online versions of all the consultation and policy papers rather than the hard copy format. Please be sure to tick the paperless registration box on the registration form if you would like to opt for the online format.

## Advertise in Daily Announcements

***Daily Announcements, issued to attendees on the Saturday and Sunday of conference, are the ideal vehicles for circulating up-to-the minute information to conference-goers.***

For more details and rates, please contact Carol Caruana on 020 7227 1323 or email [c.caruana@libdems.org.uk](mailto:c.caruana@libdems.org.uk) (or via a conference steward at Harrogate).

Artwork should be supplied by email or on disk as a pdf or as a simple layout as a Word file (20% surcharge) and emailed to [c.caruana@libdems.org.uk](mailto:c.caruana@libdems.org.uk) or deposited in the Daily Announcements pigeon hole at the Information Desk by 10.00am of the day before distribution.

# Contents

**This Preliminary Agenda lists the FPC policy paper motions and the standing order amendments which will appear on the Final Agenda, as well as other relevant information. No constitutional amendments have been submitted. The items listed are open to amendment - see deadlines below.**

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

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

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Map of Harrogate town centre	Inside back cover

## Diary of operations

Requests for advice on drafting motions	Wednesday 13 December
Notification of voting representatives	Friday 15 December
Policy and business motions, amendments to policy paper motions, and amendments to standing amendments	} } Wednesday 3 January }
Exhibition, fringe bookings and advertising listings	Monday 22 January
Crèche bookings	Monday 5 February
Notification of substitute representatives	Friday 9 February
Amendments to motions, emergency motions, questions to reports to conference, urgent issues and appeals against non-acceptance of motions	} } Tuesday 27 February }



# 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).

*See map of Harrogate town centre on inside back cover.*

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## Getting to Harrogate

### By train

GNER trains run from London Kings Cross to Leeds or York. Change at either destination using Northern Rail for Harrogate. From York, trains operate on average every hour and at 11 past the hour with varying journey times dependent on the time of day. From Leeds the trains are every 20 minutes.

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. Parking fees range from £3.50 for up to 3 hours to £10.00 for 24 hours; parking for disabled persons is free.

### By air

Harrogate is only 12 miles from Leeds Bradford International Airport, which operates internal flights to the majority of the UK.

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

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## Accommodation

The party's Conference Office is responsible for organising accommodation in the conference hotel, the Holiday Inn, which has recently undergone a complete refurbishment.

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

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## Crèche

A crèche, run by qualified staff, will be available in the Holiday Inn during conference sessions. Children must be pre-registered **by Tuesday 5 February** to attend the crèche.

For further information or to register, contact:

The Conference Office,  
Liberal Democrat Headquarters,  
4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3NB.  
Tel: 020 7222 7999,  
email: [j.stainer@libdems.org.uk](mailto:j.stainer@libdems.org.uk).

# Disability access

**Using a wheelchair or a scooter is no barrier to coming to conference and participating fully in its activities.** That's the message from the Conference Access Group (CAG), which has just launched its Accommodation Assistance Scheme for wheelchair users attending the 2007 conferences. The Group is also continuing its work to make all areas of conference as accessible as possible for all party members.

In the main conference auditorium, there is always full access for anyone in a scooter or wheelchair. There is wheelchair access to the stage and an adjustable speaker's podium.

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

Outside the conference hall, all fringe meetings booked through the Conference Office are now in fully wheelchair-accessible rooms – and from this year we are insisting that all fringe meetings listed in the conference documentation are fully accessible.

For those who have carers, conference registration for carers is free. We are increasingly offering help to conference attendees in finding suitable accommodation.

## Further information

For more information please contact:

The Conference Office,  
4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.  
Tel: 020 7227 1350 or  
email: emma.harris@libdems.org.uk.

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

For information on the work of the Conference Access Group, contact Catherine Bearder, email: cbearder@cix.co.uk.

The Federal Conference Committee (FCC) wants to encourage as many party members as possible to come – whether they have a disability or not. Coming to conference is not only every party member's opportunity to play a part in making our party's policy, it is also a great weekend of fringe meetings, training and networking.

**Deciding whether to come to conference or not is a decision for every party member – but no one should think they can't come to conference because of a disability.**

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## Registration

Registration fees for the Harrogate and Brighton 2007 conferences, **for both voting representatives and non-voting members**, are:

	Waged	Claimants
<b>Joint registration fee</b>		
paid on or before Fri 15 Dec	£79	£30
paid on or before Wed 24 Jan	£81	£36
<b>Harrogate only</b>		
paid on or before Fri 15 Dec	£45	£14
paid on or before Wed 17 Jan	£50	£14
paid on or before Wed 14 Feb	£58	£14
paid after Wed 14 Feb	£71	£27

A registration form is provided in the centre pages of this Preliminary Agenda, or can be obtained from

[http://www.libdems.org.uk/media/conference\\_forms/members-registration-form-2007.pdf](http://www.libdems.org.uk/media/conference_forms/members-registration-form-2007.pdf).

You can register online at <https://www.libdems.org.uk/conference/conference-registration.html>.

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

Registration must be sent in **before Tuesday 30 January 2007** to ensure that the Final Agenda and other conference papers can be mailed out to you.

# Registration continued

Registrations received after 30 January will have to pick up their papers at conference. We will try to send out photopasses for all registrations received **on or before 14 February**, but otherwise they will be available at the registration desk at Harrogate.

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

## First-time attendees

As an incentive to encourage new conference-goers, a special rate of £36 is now available to those attending Harrogate as their first Liberal Democrat conference. This is not cumulative with any other discount and is subject to confirmation of first-timer status.

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

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

\* To ensure that a voting badge is sent out before conference, this information **must be received by 30**



Photograph by Paul Harris, courtesy of Harrogate International Centre

**January**. Otherwise a non-voting badge will be sent to you if you are registered, which you will be able to change at the registration desk at conference, providing information has been subsequently sent in or is available at conference, as in 3 above.

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

## Representation

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

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

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

## Non-voting members

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

Non-voting members who have paid the full registration fee are eligible to speak (but not vote) in all debates.

Non-voting members can attend conference sessions as day visitors, for a fee of £18 per day. Day visitors are not entitled to speak or vote in conference sessions, other than consultative sessions.

## Deadline for postage of Final Agenda

To ensure receipt of the Final Agenda prior to conference, which will be sent out on 7 February 2007, please send your registration form, payment and photograph (if necessary) to arrive in Cowley Street **no later than 30 January 2007**.

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









Nightly rate quoted includes VAT and a full English breakfast. All extras are to be settled directly with the hotel. Please note: To qualify for these rates you must have registered for conference at the time of booking; your hotel booking will not be processed until a full registration has been made. All bookings will be confirmed on receipt.

**Payments will be processed on 29 January 2007.**

### EXECUTIVE BEDROOM

£135 Single occupancy  £145 Double occupancy

### STANDARD BEDROOM

£105 Single occupancy  £115 Double occupancy  
 £115 Twin occupancy

### FAMILY SUITE

£155 Family

Disability bedrooms are available on request.

### EXECUTIVE SUITE

£205 Single occupancy  £205 Double occupancy

Arrival date

Time

Departure date

Time

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		0	3	2	0	0	7
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### PAYMENT BY DEBIT/CREDIT CARD

Please debit my Debit Card/MasterCard/Visa/Maestro/Amex/Diners/Delta (delete as applicable)

Card number

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Expiry date

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Start date or issue number

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CSC number

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The CSC is the last 3 digits of the number on the signature strip on the back of the card

Name on card

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Please note that debit cards are the preferred method of payment as they cut our costs by 2.5%

Signed

*I agree that the full hotel accommodation costs will be deducted from my credit/debit card by the party and that if I cancel after the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007, I will be liable for a cancellation fee of 50% of the total cost and that if I cancel after 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007 I will be liable for 100% of the charges.*

Date ddmmyy

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# Submission of motions

## Submission of motions and amendments

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

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

See diary of operations on page 1 for all deadlines.

The next deadline for policy and business motions is **12 noon Wednesday 3 January**.

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

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

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

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

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

## Submission of motions by ten conference representatives

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

- A co-ordinator should be responsible for collecting all signatures and submitting them in one email to motions@libdems.org.uk.

- The signatures should include the person's name, email address, constituency/SAO, and membership number. Signatures submitted by people other than the coordinator will not be accepted.
- If you are submitting a motion in the name of ten+ conference representatives by post or fax, all signatures and accompanying details (email not required) should be submitted together.

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

## Appeals

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

Appeals should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to: motions@libdems.org.uk, **by 12 noon on Tuesday 27 February 2007**.

## Drafting advice

All submitters of motions and amendments are encouraged to use the drafting advisory service, through which the Policy Projects Team will provide comments on draft motions and amendments, as long as they are submitted **no later than Wednesday 13 December**, to: motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk.

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



© LDPics

# Policy motions

## FP1 *Green and Prosperous Communities (Local Regeneration Policy Paper)* Federal Policy Committee

Conference regrets that regeneration policies pursued by both Labour and Conservative governments have too often been characterised by:

- A. Preference for outside professional skills over local know-how.
- B. Excessive central government interference through unelected quangos and disempowering targets.
- C. Encouragement of inward investment, which may later be withdrawn, over growing committed local businesses.
- D. Promotion of large identikit projects over local solutions.
- E. Destruction of the social networks that have traditionally provided neighbourhoods with mutual support and advice.
- F. Inconsistency and short-termism.
- G. Consequent failure to balance the economic, infrastructure and social needs of the people who live in areas that need renewal.

Conference believes that regeneration works best when:

- i) It is underpinned by an active community which is ambitious for itself and prepared to take responsibility for putting those ambitions into practice, working through elected local government and able to share in the delivery of public services alongside professionals.
- ii) The physical infrastructure is human-scale, designed with the active involvement of local people, provides for and encourages small-scale activity and enterprise, and includes the sanctuary of natural green space.
- iii) The local economy is diverse enough to minimise the leakage of net money flows outside the local economy, and maximises local expenditure on local business or local skills.

Conference therefore endorses Policy Paper 77, *Green and Prosperous Communities – Local Regeneration for the 21st Century*, as a statement of the party's policies on regeneration based on these principles. Conference in particular welcomes its proposals to:

1. Support and facilitate **social regeneration** by:
  - a) Giving every community, urban (including London), suburban or rural, the right to establish a community council at the same tier as existing parish councils.
  - b) Increasing councils' ability to address local issues by increasing their powers, including their freedom to raise and spend revenue locally and providing a power of general competence.
  - c) Ending disincentives to volunteering and mentoring, for example through unnecessary age barriers and bureaucratic regulations that prevent claimants taking part, and encouraging a network of mutual volunteering exchanges in local institutions.
  - d) Encouraging development of effective and accountable models for the local control of local facilities and institutions.

# Policy motions

2. Encourage locally driven and environmentally sustainable **physical regeneration** by:
  - a) Decentralising the planning system, giving greater control of it over to local communities with councils having the freedom to enforce their own local plans to suit their needs, and reforming the system of appeals, with greater third-party rights of appeal.
  - b) Requiring any local plans to include 'design codes' setting out for developers what the local community wishes to see in developments happening in its area.
  - c) Requiring both new developments and refurbishment schemes to make significant progress on carbon minimisation, with much greater use of technologies which enable reductions in energy consumption.
  - d) Creating a 'Community Task Force' so that community volunteers, gap year students, and others wishing to make a contribution to creating more sustainable communities can benefit from supported training and placements with regeneration schemes.
3. Promote vibrant local **economic regeneration** by:
  - a) Allowing councils to develop their own use-class orders to protect local independent traders from multiple retailers dominating an area.
  - b) Tackling abuse of market power by big retailers, and appointing an independent retail regulator to enforce a stronger code of practice to protect supermarkets' suppliers.
  - c) Cutting business rates on small businesses, with a Business Rates Allowance similar to personal tax allowances.
  - d) Extending the discretionary local 50 per cent rate relief scheme for village shops to sole village pubs, and imposing an obligation on the government to maintain a universal service for the Post Office branch network – insisting that the Post Office carries out an economic impact study before closing sub-post offices.

*Applicability: England.*

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

*Drafting contact: Christian Moon, tel: 020 7227 1386, email: c.moon@libdems.org.uk  
Liberal Democrat HQ, 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.*

## **FP2 Crime in the Community (Crime Prevention Policy Paper)**

*Federal Policy Committee*

Conference welcomes Policy Paper 78, *Crime in the Community: Prevention, Justice and Victims*, as a statement on the party's policy on crime prevention and the criminal justice system.

*Note: This is a holding motion only. A full motion will appear in the Final Agenda and the deadline for amendments will be Tuesday 27 February 2007. The policy paper will be circulated with the final agenda.*

# Policy motions

## Note – Future of Trident

*The Federal Policy Committee will be submitting a motion for debate at the Harrogate Conference on the Future of Trident by the policy motions deadline. The full motion will appear in the Final Agenda and the deadline for amendments will be Tuesday 27 February 2007. A background paper will also be circulated with the Final Agenda.*

# Standing order amendments

## FS1 Holding Motions

*Federal Conference Committee*

*In standing order 4.8:*

*In the first sentence, after 'submitted' add: 'by the Federal Executive or Federal Policy Committee'.*

*In the third sentence, delete both references to 'any one body' and insert in each case: 'each committee'.*

*Applicability: Federal.*

*Existing standing order text:*

### 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.

*Drafting contact: Duncan Brack, tel: 020 8674 0612, email: [duncan@dbrack.org.uk](mailto:duncan@dbrack.org.uk)  
38, Salford Road, Streatham Hill, London SW2 4BQ.*

# Consultative sessions

*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-making process. Each session examines a particular topic, and may hear contributions from invited speakers, conference representatives and other party members. The consultative sessions will take place from 2pm on the Friday afternoon of conference. It is intended that background consultative papers for the session will be circulated with the Final Agenda.*

*It is currently planned to hold consultative sessions on the subjects of:*

- Better Governance
- Health
- Local Government Structures and Finance
- The 4 Rs (Articulation and Communication in Primary Education)

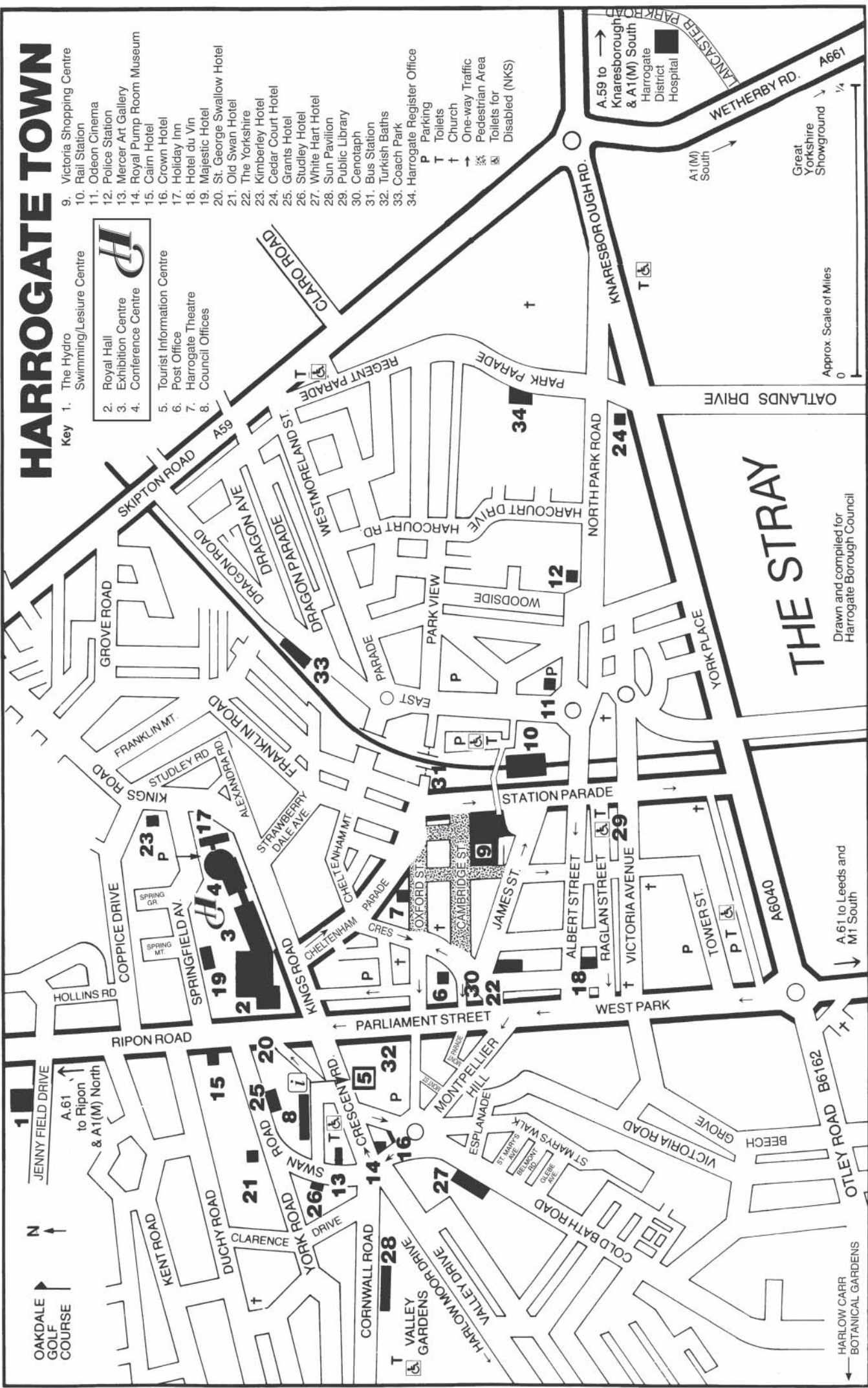
# HARROGATE TOWN

- Key
1. The Hydro Swimming/Leisure Centre
  2. Royal Hall Exhibition Centre
  3. Conference Centre
  4. Tourist Information Centre
  5. Post Office
  6. Harrogate Theatre
  7. Council Offices
  8. Victoria Shopping Centre
  9. Rail Station
  10. Odeon Cinema
  11. Police Station
  12. Mercer Art Gallery
  13. Royal Pump Room Museum
  14. Cairn Hotel
  15. Crown Hotel
  16. Holiday Inn
  17. Hotel du Vin
  18. Majestic Hotel
  19. St. George Swallow Hotel
  20. Old Swan Hotel
  21. The Yorkshire
  22. Kimberley Hotel
  23. Cedar Court Hotel
  24. Grants Hotel
  25. Studley Hotel
  26. White Hart Hotel
  27. Sun Pavilion
  28. Public Library
  29. Cenotaph
  30. Bus Station
  31. Turkish Baths
  32. Coach Park
  33. Harrogate Register Office
  34. Parking



1. The Hydro Swimming/Leisure Centre
2. Royal Hall Exhibition Centre
3. Conference Centre
4. Tourist Information Centre
5. Post Office
6. Harrogate Theatre
7. Council Offices

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



Approx. Scale of Miles

Drawn and compiled for Harrogate Borough Council

Harrogate Tourist Information Centre, Royal Baths, Crescent Road, Harrogate, HG1 2RR.  
Tel: 01423 537300 or to book accommodation online please visit [www.enjoyharrogate.com](http://www.enjoyharrogate.com)



*Local Government Association*



## prosperous communities beyond the white paper

Future economic governance is arguably the central challenge in addressing the future for communities. Globalisation and technological change present challenges. The regional growth gap persists. Our cities lag behind the performance of European comparators. Social exclusion and unemployment are stubbornly high in many areas. Social cohesion and sustainability are threatened by these factors. The threat of climate change challenges our economic behaviour.

This report sets out LGA's preliminary views on how councils are at the heart of tackling these challenges and can contribute to creating prosperous communities.

Available free from our website [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk) or contact LGconnect on 020 7664 3131, email [info@lga.gov.uk](mailto:info@lga.gov.uk)



*the future is local*