

Agenda and Directory

Liberal Democrat Spring Conference

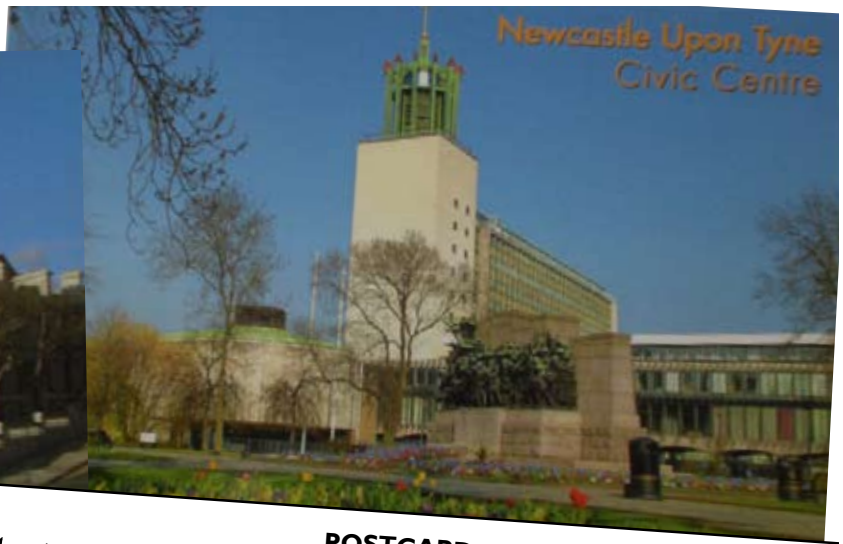
7th - 9th March 2008

Liverpool





Stockport Town Hall



Newcastle Upon Tyne Civic Centre



WATFORD Town Hall, Pond & Memory Wall

POSTCARD

Dear Nick,
 It was great to meet up the other day.
 I'm so pleased you're out and about seeing what our Lib Dem councillors are doing for their residents day-in, day-out.
 Many thanks, look forward to seeing you in Liverpool,
 Richard Kemp,
 Leader of the Lib Dems in the Local Government Association

Nick Clegg MP
 Leader of the Liberal Democrats
 House of Commons
 LONDON
 SW1A 0AA

Friday 7 March, 8-9.15pm
Local Elections Briefing
 Hall 3, Conference Centre

Friday 7 March, 10.00pm
Local Government Reception - featuring The Council Group of the Year Awards.
 Baroness Ros Scott,
 Cllr Richard Kemp (Liverpool),
 Julia Goldsworthy MP,
 Princes Suite, Crowne Plaza

Saturday 8 March, 1-2pm
Councils that are tackling Climate Change
 Mayor Dorothy Thornhill (Watford), Steve Webb MP
 Hall 1, Conference Centre

Saturday 8 March, 1-2pm
Food Miles and Food Markets
 Tim Farron MP
 Hall 3, Conference Centre

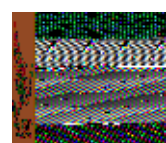
Saturday 8 March, 1-2pm
Leadership Centre and the Next Generation
 Cllr Paul Massey (Cheltenham),
 Cllr Gareth Kane (Newcastle)
 Hall 2, Conference Centre

Saturday 8 March, 6.15-7.30pm
Save our Post Offices
 Sarah Teather MP
 Hall 3, Conference Centre

Saturday 8 March, 6.15-7.30pm
"Mummy, I want to be a councillor when I grow up"
 Cllr Cathy Bakewell (Somerset),
 Steve Hitchins (Leadership Centre)
 Hall 1, Conference Centre

Saturday 8 March, 8-9.15pm
2008 & 2012: transformation through culture - Liverpool, Beijing and London
 Cllr Flo Clucas, Cllr Mike Storey,
 Cllr Chris White (Herts)
 Hall 1, Conference Centre

Saturday 8 March, 8-9.15pm
Leadership Centre Reception: Next Generation and more
 Julia Goldsworthy MP,
 Tim Farron MP, Joe Simpson,
 Cllr Erica Kemp (Liverpool)
 Princes 2, Crowne Plaza



I&DeA



Local Government Association



LGA LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
WWW.LGA.GOV.UK/LIBDEMGROUP

Contents

Services to the blind and visually impaired

Copies of the *Conference Agenda and Directory* and other conference documents can be made available on request in alternative formats.

Please contact Emma Harris, emma.harris@libdems.org.uk or 020 7227 1350, by Tuesday 19th February.

Features:

Welcome to Spring Conference by <i>Nick Clegg MP</i>	3
Liverpool – European Capital of Culture by <i>Chris Rennard</i>	4
Engaging more members by <i>Jeremy Hargreaves</i>	5
Sponsors and advertisers	6

Agenda:

Agenda index	6
Friday 7th March	7
Saturday 8th March	8
Sunday 9th March	21

Conference fringe guide and diary:	25–32
Friday fringe	26
Saturday fringe	27
Sunday fringe	31
2008 Conference timetable	31
Conference diary	31–32

Exhibition	33–36
------------	-------

Information:

Conference venue plans	37
Conference information	38
Access and facilities for disabled people	47
Transport and travel	48

Standing orders	49–56
-----------------	-------

Federal Party	56
---------------	----

Map of Liverpool city centre	inside back cover
------------------------------	-------------------

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



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

www.libdems.org.uk



Design and layout by Mike Cooper, 25 Orchard Road, Sutton, SM1 2QA.
Printed by DSR Print Management Ltd, Scirocco Close, Moulton Park,
Northampton, NN3 6HE.

Front cover photo: © LDPics 2008.



Printed on recycled paper

Published by Conference Office,
Liberal Democrats,
4 Cowley Street,
London, SW1P 3NB.

ISBN 1-85187-780-5

The Federal Conference Committee is here to serve you!

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

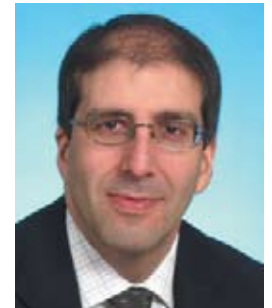
Here are the members of the Federal Conference Committee.



Duncan Brack, Chair, directly elected



Ruth Polling, Vice Chair Communications, directly elected



Andrew Wiseman, Vice Chair Finance, English rep

Directly elected:



Robert Adamson



Jon Ball



Catherine Bearder



Sal Brinton



Dee Doocey



Gareth Epps



Sue Garden



Arnie Gibbons



Chris Maines



Justine McGuinness



James Gurling
FE rep



Tessa Munt
FE & FFAC rep



Jeremy Hargreaves
FPC rep



Geoff Payne
FPC rep



Debra Storr
Scottish rep



Ian Walton
Welsh Rep



Andrew Reeves,
Staff rep



Chris Jennings,
Chief Steward,
co-opted

Ex officio:

Paul Burstow MP, Chief Whip.

Ed Davey MP, CCC Chair.

Simon Hughes MP, Party President.

Chris Rennard, Chief Executive.

Welcome to Spring Conference

By Nick Clegg MP

This conference will represent a number of firsts. The first conference we have held as a party in Liverpool, the first conference we have ever held in a European Capital of Culture and my first conference as your party leader. And I'm hugely looking forward to it.

For me there is no better city in which to attend my first conference as leader. Liverpool is a city with a proud Liberal and Liberal Democrat history. And our achievements in Liverpool are not just historic – Warren Bradley and his team are leading an impressive effort to regenerate this great city, spearheaded by what is already a highly successful year as the European Capital of Culture. It is also a city where we have a golden opportunity to deliver new Liberal Democrat MPs to parliament at the next election.

I've set out my clear goal to double our number of MPs over the next two General Elections. This is an ambitious target. But I am confident that we can do it. With that new generation of Liberal Democrat MPs we can turn Britain into a liberal country again. It will take hard work and dedication from all of us – something I know we can deliver.

For my part, I've been focusing on the real issues that affect people in what I say in Parliament and the media – schools, hospitals, the environment, rising bills, economic insecurity. More importantly, I've been spending as much time as possible out of Westminster listening to people's views in countless visits, Town Hall meetings and other public events.

I'm delighted that once again at this conference we are the party facing up to some crucial issues that face us as a nation, from health and education policy to ballistic missile defence. This weekend is our chance to set the political agenda once again.

It is also a chance for us to lay a platform for the elections in May. With Brian Paddick as our excellent candidate for London Mayor, and committed campaigners and councillors up and down the country, we have an excellent opportunity to take a major step forward.

I look forward to meeting many of you, both this weekend and out on the campaign trail over the coming months.

I hope you all have a thoroughly enjoyable conference,



Nick Clegg MP
Leader of the Liberal Democrats



© LDPics 2008

Nick Clegg with Cllr Warren Bradley, Leader of Liverpool City Council, meeting Merseyside Police.

For me there is no better city in which to attend my first conference as leader.

A new politics for Britain

Liverpool – European Capital of Culture

By Chris Rennard

Some people ask in politics if one person can make a difference.

One person made a huge difference to Liverpool nearly ten years ago when he fished a letter out of a pile of 'things to say no to'. Mike Storey was the Lib Dem Leader of Liverpool City Council at the time. He combined this with a full-time job as headteacher of a 600-strong primary school just outside the city boundary. Some of his paperwork had to be dealt with sitting with council officers in the back of a car as he was driven backwards and forwards between city centre council meetings and his school.

A letter in the pile of things officers assumed that he would reject was an invitation to bid for Liverpool to become European Capital of Culture 2008. 'Why not bid? We need to make the case for Liverpool,' was Mike's approach and Liverpool's bid succeeded.

Chris Rennard (Lord Rennard of Wavertree) began his political career in his home city of Liverpool and his first by-election campaign was Edge Hill in 1979. He was election agent to the first Liberal Councillor in Liverpool (and former Party President) Cyril Carr and to David Alton when he was first elected as Liberal MP for Mossley Hill.

Chris learned much from Liverpool's Councillor Sir Trevor 'Jones the vote', who led the City Council between 1980 and 1983. During this time Chris was Deputy Chair of the Liverpool Liberal Party and Ann McTegart was Chair. Chris and Ann got married in Liverpool in 1989.

Scousers across the world (and there are many of us!) jumped for joy when Liverpool won. We wanted to see 2008 as the year when many of the prejudices we perceive against Liverpool could be overcome. Of course, the city has problems. But the regeneration of the city in the ten years since the Liberal Democrats won back control of the council has been remarkable and will be much in evidence over the weekend of our Spring Conference.

The Capital of Culture year will be a great celebration and help Liverpool look positively to the future – and we hope everyone else will feel more positive about the city.

The contrast between our administration over the last ten years (now led by Warren Bradley) and Labour's previous fifteen years of control is remarkable. Labour left the city with the highest council tax in the country and an appalling record of failing services. Liverpool is still struggling to put things right after Labour's legacy (which included Derek Hatton's reign of terror).

If you have any spare time over the weekend of the Conference (or at any other time!) to help the Liverpool Lib Dems, then please do let them know! The city still has five Labour MPs and they are doing everything they can to remove our majority on the council. Email Colin Eldridge, PPC for Liverpool Wavertree: colin@wavertreelibdems.co.uk, or call Tom Morrison on 07779 144334.

Enjoy a great weekend in the European Capital of Culture!



Chris Rennard is Chief Executive of the Liberal Democrats.

The Capital of Culture year will be a great celebration and help Liverpool look positively to the future.

A new politics for Britain

Engaging more members

By Jeremy Hargreaves

We are rightly proud that we are the only major party whose members are able to decide our policies, at our twice-yearly conferences.

But of course many members are not able to come to conference, because of personal commitments, financial, geographical or other reasons.

And so – while final decision-making will of course remain where it belongs, on the floor of conference itself, and we will continue to encourage as many members as possible to participate – the Federal Conference Committee has been looking at how we can involve those people who are not able physically to attend.

The first thing we plan to do is to encourage and help the parties around the English regions and Scotland and Wales to discuss some of the major issues coming to federal conference. Many members who may not be prepared to travel to the other end of the country may well travel to take part in policy discussions closer to home. We hope this could also increase the number of members going to regional conferences.

We also want to help and encourage local parties to discuss policy questions. To try to get a clearer picture of what already happens locally, so we can support and develop it, we are asking conference attendees and other activists from as many local parties as possible to complete a simple online questionnaire: please take five minutes to complete it yourself, at: <http://libertyresearch.org.uk/take/264>

We are also aware that many party members who don't physically attend conference nevertheless follow it carefully, for example by watching it on BBC Parliament or other media coverage. We're looking at what more we can do to give them as much information and make them feel as engaged as possible in conference, without actually being there.

And of course we are looking at how we can make best use of the internet. We will improve radically the formal information available online about our conference. And we've agreed to partner with Lib Dem Voice (www.libdemvoice.org) to provide expanded unofficial commentary on what's going on.

All policy papers which come to conference have already been subject to extensive consultation within the party, and every working group has its own website (<http://consult.libdems.org.uk>) to invite contributions and debate while it's working. If a fellow party member complains that they had no opportunity to contribute their views, please point them there!

In future we will also be hosting special discussions of some of the key decisions coming to conference through one of the party's online discussion forums.

Our aim is to ensure that – while conference remains sovereign – every Party member should have as great a chance as possible to participate in its decisions. If you have any comments or suggestions on the proposals here, or other things we could do, then we'd be very pleased to hear them.



Jeremy Hargreaves is Vice Chair of the Federal Policy Committee and a member of the Federal Conference Committee.

Every Party member should have as great a chance as possible to participate.

A new politics for Britain

Agenda index

Friday 7th March		<i>Page</i>		
15.00	Consultative Sessions:	7		
– 17.30	Security; Transport; UK Response to Globalisation; Party Reform Commission			
<hr/>				
Saturday 8th March				
09.00	F1 Speeches of Welcome from Lord Rennard and the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Cllr Paul Clark	8		
09.15	F2 Report: Federal Conference Committee	8		
	F3 Standing Order Amendment: Selection of Amendments	8		
	F4 Standing Order Amendment: Reports	8		
	F5 Standing Order Amendment: Separate Votes	9		
	F6 Report: Federal Policy Committee	10		
09.55	F7 Ballistic Missile Defence	10		
10.30	F8 Presentation: London Liberal Democrats	11		
10.50	F9 Support for Children with Special Educational Needs	11		
11.35	F10 Speech: Dr Vince Cable MP	13		
11.55	F11 Legal Aid	13		
12.25	F12 Party Awards	14		
–12.40	F13 Speech: Simon Hughes MP	15		
14.20	F14 <i>Empowerment, Fairness and Quality in Health Care</i> (Health Policy Paper)	15		
16.05	F15 Speech: Julia Goldsworthy MP	17		
16.25	F16 Emergency Motion	18		
16.55	F17 Report: Federal Executive	18		
	F18 Business Motion: Liberal Democrat Lawyers	18		
	F19 Constitutional Amendment: Chair of Federal Executive	19		
	F20 Report: Federal Finance and Administration Committee	20		
17.30	F21 Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	20		
–18.00	F22 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats	20		
<hr/>				
Sunday 9th March				
09.00	F23 Emergency Motions	21		
09.30	F24 Presentation: Liberal Democrat Group on Eastleigh Borough Council	21		
09.50	F25 Homes for All	21		
10.35	F26 Question and Answer Session: Schools	23		
11.10	F27 Urgent Issue	23		
11.40	F28 Speech: Nick Clegg MP	23		
–13.00 (approx.)				

Conference sponsors and advertisers

We wish to express grateful thanks to our sponsors

The LGA Liberal Democrat Group

The Local Government Association Liberal Democrat Group are pleased to sponsor Nick Clegg's first conference as Leader, the 2008 spring conference in Lib Dem-run Liverpool, with lanyards, a range of fringe meetings and exhibition stand 2.



The Northwest Regional Development Agency

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) welcome you to Liverpool and are delighted to sponsor the *Welcome to Conference Drinks Reception*. We look forward to seeing you there.



List of advertisers

Local Government Association	back cover, inside front and page 24
New Local Government Network	page 28

A new politics for Britain

Friday 7th

15.00 Consultative Sessions
– 17.30

Security

Room 2
Crowne Plaza Hotel

Chair: Dr Julie Smith
Rapporteur: Ben Jones

Transport

Room 1
Crowne Plaza Hotel

Chair: Shaun Carr
Rapporteur: Emily Cornborough

UK Response to Globalisation

Room 3
Crowne Plaza Hotel

Chair: Lord Teverson
Rapporteur: Chris Saunders

Party Reform Commission

Hall 2H
ACC Liverpool

Chair: Chris Bones
Rapporteur: Matthew Hanney

Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than 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 Security, Transport and UK Response to Globalisation 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. The Party Reform session will be organised by the Party Reform Commission and will inform the Commission's final report.

Saturday 8th

09.00 Formal Opening of Federal Conference

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

F1 Speeches of Welcome from Lord Rennard and the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Cllr Paul Clark

09.15 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Ruth Polling (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Baroness Garden

F2 Report of the Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 4th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 43 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in the Advance Notice sheet. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 09.00 on Saturday 8th March.

F3 Standing Order Amendment: Selection of Amendments

Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Summation: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

1 *In standing order 4.2, add new first sentence:*

2 The Committee shall decide which of the amendments duly submitted to each motion shall be
3 selected.

Applicability: Federal.

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

The existing text of standing orders is given on pages 49–56 of this Agenda and Directory. A standing order amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

F4 Standing Order Amendment: Reports

Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Summation: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

A new politics for Britain

Saturday 8th

- 1 In standing order 1.1(b):
- 2 *After: 'the Federal Executive', insert: ', the Federal Finance and Administration Committee.'*
- 3 *After: 'when appropriate', insert: ', reports from any other body the Committee considers*
4 *appropriate.'*
- 5 *In standing order 1.3 (a), delete: 'relevant Federal Committee', and insert: 'bodies listed in paragraph*
6 *1.1(b).'*
- 7 *In standing order 1.5:*
- 8 *Change title to: 'The deadlines by which motions, amendments, reports and questions to reports*
9 *must be submitted.'*
- 10 *Add new paragraph (e) and re-letter:*
- 11 (e) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in paragraph
12 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with the Final Agenda. Any
13 supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference
14 with the permission of the Committee.
- 15 *In standing order 13.1, delete second sentence: 'It may also include consideration of any other*
16 *reports submitted by any Federal Party committee or sub-committee.'*

Applicability: Federal.

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

The existing text of standing orders is given on pages 49–56 of this Agenda and Directory. A standing order amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

F5 Standing Order Amendment: Separate Votes

Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

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

- 1 *Delete standing order 12.4 and replace with:*
- 2 A voting member of conference may request that the chair take a separate vote on a part
3 of a motion or amendment provided that such a request is in writing and received by the
4 commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled. If the
5 debate is scheduled for the first day of conference, the request must be received in writing by the
6 same deadline as that for emergency motions. The Committee shall have complete discretion
7 whether to take a separate vote. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair of the debate shall have
8 discretion to accept a request for a separate vote if it is received in writing after this deadline.

Saturday 8th

Applicability: Federal.

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

The existing text of standing orders is given on pages 49–56 of this Agenda and Directory. A standing order amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

F6 Report of the Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Sal Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 4th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 43 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in Sunday's Advance Notice sheet. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 09.00 on Saturday 8th March.

09.55 Policy Motion

Chair: Justine McGuinness

Aide: Arnie Gibbons

F7 Ballistic Missile Defence

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Edward Davey MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Foreign Secretary)

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

1 Conference notes:

2 a) The Bush Administration's determination, following its 2002 unilateral withdrawal from the
3 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, to develop a unilateral Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) capability
4 against 'rogue states'.

5 b) The British Government's written announcement of 25 July 2007 permitting the US
6 government to install and operate equipment related to this US Ballistic Missile Defence
7 system at RAF Menwith Hill.

8 c) The continued doubts over the future operational effectiveness of the system despite the
9 \$107bn spent by the US since the mid-1980s and the \$49bn to be spent over the next five
10 years.

11 d) Russia's decision, in part a response to the US programme as well as to the US rejection of
12 a Russian offer to co-operate over it, to suspend its participation in the 1990 Conventional
13 Forces in Europe Treaty on 12 December 2007.

14 e) That the US BMD system remains outside the NATO alliance, which has made no decisions
15 regarding acquiring BMD.

Saturday 8th

16 f) That in February 2007, then Prime Minister Tony Blair promised Parliament and the public a
17 full debate on the merits of UK involvement with BMD.

18 Conference believes that the development of the US BMD system will destabilise strategic arms
19 control and risks the re-ignition of an arms race in nuclear weapons.

20 Conference condemns the Government's decision to make the Menwith Hill announcement by
21 Written Statement, and calls for a full and open public debate in UK involvement with the US
22 BMD programme.

23 Conference urges the UK Government to reject any missile defence system incompatible with
24 wider arms control and non-proliferation objectives and, accordingly, denial of UK facilities for a
25 unilateral US Ballistic Missile Defence system.

Applicability: Federal.

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 4th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 38 for further information. Those selected for debate will be printed in the Advance Notice sheet.

For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see 'separate votes' on page 44.

10.30 Presentation

Chair: Cllr James Gurling
Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F8 Presentation by London Liberal Democrats

The presentation will be made by:

Brian Paddick (Liberal Democrat Candidate for London Mayor)

Liberal Democrat Prospective Candidates for the London Assembly and other London Campaigners

10.50 Policy Motion

Chair: Sal Brinton
Aide: Geoff Payne

F9 Support for Children with Special Educational Needs

Cambridge City, Greenwich, Hackney, North East Hertfordshire, and Oxford West & Abingdon

Mover: Andrew Bridgwater
Summation: To be announced

Saturday 8th

Saturday

1 Conference notes with concern that:

- 2 i) The new Children's Services initiative has yet to respond fully to the children and young
3 people with the most complex needs.
- 4 ii) The six-month target for completion of assessments for Special Educational Needs (SEN)
5 statements is often too long to meet the needs of young people and is frequently not being
6 met.
- 7 iii) There is no statutory funding for children and young people on 'Action' and 'Action Plus' on
8 the SEN Code of Practice.
- 9 iv) Too many children and young people with SEN placed in mainstream schools do not
10 necessarily have an appropriate support package provided for them and could better
11 achieve access to the curriculum in a special school or a school with more specialist
12 facilities.
- 13 v) 87% of primary school children and 60% of secondary school children who are excluded
14 from school have autism, behavioural, emotional or other special educational needs.
- 15 vi) There is insufficient teacher training covering special educational needs for both new and
16 existing teachers.

17 Conference therefore calls on the Government to:

- 18 a) Separate funding from assessment and develop a multi-agency professional assessment
19 framework which is statutorily funded and operates independently of the commissioning
20 process; this assessment will specify the services that will then be costed and provided for
21 that individual pupil's education.
- 22 b) Ensure that every child's special educational needs are identified at the earliest possible
23 time.
- 24 c) Specify that the assessment framework be used to determine provision in as short as time
25 as possible, working towards achieving and then reducing the present six-month target.
- 26 d) Ensure the needs of SEN students are included within its plans to raise the school leaving
27 age.
- 28 e) Ensure the inclusion in initial teacher training courses, other routes to ITT, and through
29 continuous professional development of existing teachers and support staff, of
30 comprehensive training in all types of special educational, social and health needs,
31 difficulties and disabilities of children and young people.

32 Conference further calls on local government to:

- 33 1. Make the target of full inter-agency working in schools a reality by bringing together
34 school-based social workers, mental health nurse practitioners, community police officers
35 and youth offending teams (YOTs) in addition to existing provision.
- 36 2. Ensure that the development of children's services takes into account the inclusion needs
37 of the children and young people most in need and with the most complex difficulties and
38 disabilities.
- 39 3. Develop local alternatives to Pupil Referral Units under schools regulations to enable those
40 children and young people with misdiagnosed and/or undiagnosed needs, difficulties
41 and disabilities to be supported in environments free from the stigma of failure caused by
42 permanent exclusion from schools.

Applicability: England.

Saturday 8th

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 4 March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 38 for further information. Those selected for debate will be printed in the Advance Notice sheet.

For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see 'separate votes' on page 44.

11.35 Speech

Chair: Baroness Garden

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

F10 **Speech by Dr Vince Cable MP, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer**

11.55 Policy Motion

Chair: Dee Doocey AM

Aide: Catherine Bearder

F11 **Legal Aid**

Islington

Mover: Bridget Fox

Summation: Cllr Greg Foxsmith

1 Conference believes that:

2 A. Access to justice for all is one of the cornerstones of a free and liberal society and that a
3 robust legal aid service is therefore essential.

4 B. Government must ensure value for money from the legal aid service; but that this must not
5 be at the expense of access to justice.

6 Conference notes that legal aid cases are typically those around such areas as housing law,
7 immigration, domestic violence, and debt.

8 Conference further notes the findings of the 2006 Carter report into legal aid procurement and
9 the Government's consequent move to replace hourly rates for legal aid by fixed fees.

10 Conference believes that:

11 I. The inclusion of travel costs within the fixed fee will reduce access to justice for clients in
12 remote areas or those requiring access to specialist practitioners.

13 II. Fixed fees will inevitably reduce the time available for the more complex cases, so
14 undermining the equal access to justice that legal aid is designed to ensure.

Saturday 8th

15 III. A fixed fee approach is inappropriate in the context of legal advice to the most vulnerable
16 clients.

17 Conference also notes with concern that:

- 18 a) The Law Society estimate that as many as 800 law practices may abandon legal aid as a
19 result of these proposals, equivalent to a quarter of all current providers of legal aid advice.
20 b) The Government's own proposals for a unified contract for civil legal aid have been found
21 by the Court of Appeal to be in breach of EU procurement regulations.
22 c) The House of Commons Constitutional Affairs Committee has concluded that:
23 i) Black and ethnic minority lawyers and their clients will be disproportionately
24 disadvantaged by these proposals.
25 ii) There is a breakdown in the relationship between the Legal Services Commission and
26 legal aid providers, which is at crisis point.
27 iii) The Government has introduced these plans too quickly, in too rigid a way and with
28 insufficient evidence.

29 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to a robust legal aid system ensuring
30 quality representation and access to justice for all.

31 Conference calls on the Government to:

- 32 1. Put any further implementation of the Carter reforms on hold, pending a full assessment of
33 the impact on the most vulnerable clients.
34 2. Reject the imposition of a flat fixed fee approach which will hurt vulnerable clients, and
35 undermine access to justice in both urban and rural areas.
36 3. Move to a new framework for funding legal aid, which recognises the needs of vulnerable
37 clients and the complexity of cases in which they are involved.
38 4. Pilot any new arrangements so that the costs and benefits can be judged in practice before
39 introducing these more widely.

Applicability: England and Wales.

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 4th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 38 for further information. Those selected for debate will be printed in the Advance Notice sheet.

For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see 'separate votes' on page 44.

12.25 Party Business

Chair: Gareth Epps
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

F12 Party Awards

A new politics for Britain

Saturday 8th

F13 Speech by Simon Hughes MP, President of the Liberal Democrats

12.40 Lunch

14.20 Policy Motion

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

Aide: Cllr James Gurling

F14 Empowerment, Fairness and Quality in Health Care (Health Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Norman Lamb MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Health)

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) The NHS is highly centralised, with communities having limited say over their local health
3 services and individual patients feeling they have little control over the care they receive.
4 ii) The UK has experienced a growth in health inequalities between the wealthiest and poorest
5 members of society.

6 Conference is committed to providing healthcare free at the point of delivery and funded by the
7 state through progressive taxation.

8 Conference therefore believes that the four key principles which should guide health and social
9 care policy are:

- 10 a) Fairness: our NHS must function on the basis of fairness and deliver high-quality health
11 services to all irrespective of income, age, condition or location.
12 b) Patient Empowerment to Improve Quality of Care: our NHS must no longer view patients as
13 passive recipients of care, but instead give people the power and support they need to take
14 control of their lives and their health.
15 c) Local Democratic Accountability: our NHS must give people a real say in how their local
16 health services are run, and establish proper local accountability.
17 d) Efficient Use of Public Resources: in delivering high-quality health services, it is incumbent
18 on government to ensure the most efficient use of taxpayers' money.

19 Conference therefore endorses Policy Paper 84, *Empowerment, Fairness and Quality in Health Care*,
20 as a statement of the Party's key policies for structuring the NHS and providing health and social
21 care services.

22 Conference particularly welcomes:

- 23 1. Proposals to deliver high-quality health services to all, irrespective of income, on a fair and
24 equitable basis, including:
25 a) Introducing a Care Guarantee, entitling elderly people to a personal care payment,

Saturday 8th

Saturday

- 26 based on need not ability to pay and setting out the entitlements both of people in
27 need of care and of their carers.
- 28 b) Raising the status and importance of improving public health and narrowing health
29 inequalities by:
- 30 i) Replacing the Health Secretary with a Secretary of State for Public Health, to
31 prioritise prevention across all government departments.
- 32 ii) Investing in more school nurses to educate children and parents about the
33 benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- 34 iii) Ensuring that health promotion and prevention is fully integrated into local
35 community plans.
- 36 c) Reviewing the basis on which NICE arrives at its judgements on the cost-effectiveness
37 of treatments to take account of factors such as the impact on carers and measures to
38 help people back to work.
- 39 d) Enshrining NICE's independence in statute so that there can be no risk of political
40 interference in the objective assessment of any particular technologies and
treatments.
- 41
- 42 2. Proposals to give power to citizens to take control of their lives and their health care,
including:
- 43
- 44 a) Piloting a network of Patient Advocates dedicated to providing information, guidance
45 and support to patients and carers in navigating the health and social care systems and
46 in providing support in how, most effectively, to use direct payments and individual
47 budgets.
- 48 b) Enshrining universal healthcare entitlements in a Patient's Contract between the NHS
49 and the individual.
- 50 c) Establishing a constitution for the NHS, enshrining its core principles.
- 51 d) Expanding the use of direct payments and individual budgets in the provision of social
52 services, and introducing the concept with pilots in specific areas within the NHS, such
53 as chronic conditions.
- 54 e) Piloting publishing 'Patient Reported Outcome Measures' which measure real patient
55 experiences and assess whether the treatment has actually benefited their physical
56 and mental health.
- 57 f) Expanding and developing expert patient initiatives.
- 58 g) Reforming the Government's politically motivated and clinically distorting national
59 targets.
- 60 h) Ensuring the greatest possible choice and flexibility in the delivery of local health
61 services by giving Local Health Boards the power to develop innovative mechanisms
62 for service delivery in defined areas of care.
- 63 3. Proposals to ensure local communities have an effective say in how their health services are
64 run, including:
- 65 a) Renaming Primary Care Trusts 'Local Health Boards', with the boards directly elected
66 rather than centrally appointed and supported by professionals providing financial
67 acumen and health expertise – as we strongly believe that a national model should
68 not override local innovation, the health commissioning role could alternatively be
69 passed to the local social services authority if local people indicated their support in a
70 referendum.
- 71 b) Switching some of the taxation which funds local services from national to local income

A new politics for Britain

Saturday 8th

- 72 tax, as part of a fundamental shift of power away from Whitehall to local communities
73 over the long term, and also giving locally elected health commissioners some freedom
74 to vary local income tax to spend on local health services to complement the NHS
75 Patient's Contract.
- 76 c) Establishing a new light-touch regional body made up of representation from local
77 health boards to take responsibility for planning tertiary services such as specialist
78 medical units.
- 79 d) Ending the central imposition of Independent Sector Treatment Centres and allowing
80 Local Health Boards to decide how to finance capital projects, in particular whether or
81 not to use PFI for capital projects.
- 82 e) Enabling Local Health Boards to negotiate adjustments to the tariff with local providers;
83 in a decentralised system, there should not be an inflexible national tariff.
- 84 f) Encouraging the development of 'Public Benefit Organisations'.
- 85 4. Proposals to ensure the efficient use of public resources in delivering high-quality services,
86 including:
- 87 a) Placing a statutory duty on both Local Health Boards and Social Services Authorities to
88 develop and commission joint services and to establish joint budgets.
- 89 b) Creating an independent 'NHS Funding and Advisory Commission' to independently
90 allocate funding to individual Local Health Boards and determine the needs-based
91 funding formula on which the allocation would be based, within an overall framework
92 of objectives and resources agreed by Parliament.
- 93 c) Making Local Health Boards subject to a statutory duty to demonstrate efficient use of
94 resources – value for money – and have regard to quality and equity.

Applicability: England.

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 41.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 4th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 38 for further information. Those selected for debate will be printed in the Advance Notice sheet.

For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see 'separate votes' on page 44.

16.05 Speech

Chair: Cllr Chris Maines
Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves

F15 Speech by Julia Goldsworthy MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Saturday 8th

16.25 Policy Motion

Chair: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Justine McGuinness

F16 Emergency Motion

The deadline for emergency motions is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 4th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'emergency motions' on page 40 for further information. 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.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

16.55 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball
Aide: Gareth Epps

F17 Report of the Federal Executive

Mover: Simon Hughes MP, President of the Liberal Democrats

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 4th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 43 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in the Advance Notice sheet. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 15.55 on Saturday 8th March.

F18 Business Motion: Liberal Democrat Lawyers

Federal Executive

Mover: Simon Hughes MP
Summation: Brian Orrell

- 1 Conference agrees that the Liberal Democrat Lawyers should, with immediate effect, be
- 2 recognised as a Specified Associated Organisation of the Liberal Democrats, in accordance with
- 3 Article 13.2 of the Federal Constitution.

Applicability: Federal.

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

Under Article 13.2 of the Federal Constitution, recognition as an SAO requires proposal by the Federal Executive and approval by a two-thirds vote of conference. This motion is not open to amendment.

Saturday 8th

F19 Constitutional Amendment: Chair of Federal Executive

Federal Executive

Mover: Lembit Öpik MP

Summation: Brian Orrell

- 1 *In Article 12.1, delete: 'and shall chair the Federal Executive.'*
- 2 *In Article 8.1 (i) (a), delete: 'who shall act as its chair.'*
- 3 *In Article 8.1, in bottom paragraph, delete first sentence and insert:*
 - 4 The Federal Executive shall elect at its first meeting in every odd-numbered year a chair and a
 - 5 deputy chair, from amongst its voting members, each of whom shall serve for two years. The
 - 6 deputy chair shall chair meetings in the absence of or at the request of the chair.
- 7 *In Article 8.2 second (c), delete: 'President', and insert: 'Chair of the Federal Executive.'*

Applicability: Federal.

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

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

The current Articles 8.1 and 8.2 of the constitution are 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;

...

The Federal Executive shall elect at its first meeting in every odd-numbered year and who shall serve for two years a deputy chair from amongst its members who shall chair meetings in the absence or at the request of the President.

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") whose members shall serve for a term of two years and 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,

Saturday 8th

- (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) etc. ...

The relevant part of existing Article 12.1 is:

12.1 The President shall be the principal public representative of the Party and shall chair the Federal Executive.

F20 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee

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

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 4th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 43 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in the Advance Notice sheet. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 15.55 on Saturday 8th March.

17.30 Party Business

Chair: Tessa Munt

Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F21 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance

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

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 4th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 43 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in the Advance Notice sheet. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.30 on Saturday 8th March.

F22 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats

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

The deadline for questions to these reports is 12.00, Tuesday 4th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 43 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in the Advance Notice sheet. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.30 on Saturday 8th March.

18.00 Close of Session

A new politics for Britain

Sunday 9th

09.00 Policy Motion

Chair: Catherine Bearder
Aide: Tessa Munt

F23 Emergency Motions

The deadline for emergency motions is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 4th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'emergency motions' on page 40 for further information. 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.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

09.30 Presentation

Chair: Geoff Payne
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

F24 Presentation by the Liberal Democrat Group on Eastleigh Borough Council

The presentation will be made by:
Cllr Keith House (Leader of Eastleigh Borough Council)
Cllr Louise Bloom (Cabinet member for Environment)
Cllr Anne Winstanley (Cabinet member for Social Policy)

09.50 Policy Motion

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves
Aide: Dee Doocey AM

F25 Homes for All

Ten conference representatives
Mover: Andrew Stunell MP
Summation: Lembit Öpik MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for Housing)

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
- 2 i) The number of families on social housing waiting lists has risen from one million ten years
- 3 ago to 1.63 million.
- 4 ii) 93,980 families are registered as homeless by local authorities.
- 5 iii) Homes sold under Right to Buy have not been replaced so that the number of homes
- 6 available for social rent has fallen from 4.39 million in 1997 to 3.98 million.
- 7 Conference believes that:
- 8 A. Every family should live in an affordable and sustainable home.

Sunday 9th

9 B. In order to meet current and future housing needs, more affordable housing needs to be
10 built than the Government is currently proposing, increasing the proportion of homes
11 available for social rent and intermediate sale.

12 Conference recognises that housing market conditions vary across the country and therefore
13 accepts that there is no single solution which will work for all local authorities. Conference
14 therefore proposes a range of provisions which will give local authorities the powers they need
15 to tackle housing problems in their area.

16 In addition to the policies contained in the conference motion *Sustainable Housing* (March 2007)
17 and Policy Paper 69, *Affordable Housing in Safer, Greener Communities* (2005), and alongside the
18 projected 130,000 open market homes which will be built each year, Conference therefore calls
19 for:

- 20 1. 1.3 million new homes to be built within 10 years, one half for the 'affordable' intermediate
21 sales market and one half available for social rent, with the 'affordability' of intermediate
22 market homes being retained when the property is sold, rather than lost after the first
23 resale.
- 24 2. Local authorities to be enabled to increase their stock of social and private housing by:
- 25 a) Allowing them to re-invest all the proceeds from right-to-buy sales into new social
26 housing, with no net loss of homes due to sales and with replacement social housing
27 integrated into mixed developments to diversify housing stock.
- 28 b) Extending the scope for local authorities to capture more of the rise in land value when
29 planning permission is granted, by encouraging tariff-based systems for planning, so
30 that developers pay a proportionate contribution towards infrastructure development.
- 31 c) Allowing local authorities to pilot 'Community Land Auctions'; planning authorities
32 taking part in a pilot would have the right to designate the whole, or part, of their
33 area as suitable for 'Community Land Auctions', not to replace the current Local Plan
34 system but to allow authorities to mediate a process of auction which will capture, for
35 investment in community infrastructure, much of the rise in the value of the land when
36 planning permissions is granted.
- 37 d) Introducing the 'Fourth Option' for the management of social housing, putting local
38 authorities on a level playing field with social landlords when refurbishing housing
39 stock.
- 40 e) Ring-fencing Housing Revenue Account capital receipts and rental income for local
41 investment.
- 42 3. Not-for-profit companies to be encouraged to develop mixed-tenure developments funded
43 by private finance.
- 44 4. A new equity mortgage scheme, supported by government, to replace the existing jumble
45 of confusing and ineffective schemes to promote wider, low-cost home ownership.

Applicability: England.

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 4th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 38 for further information. Those selected for debate will be printed in the Advance Notice sheet.

A new politics for Britain

Sunday 9th

For the procedure for submitting a request for a separate vote, see 'separate votes' on page 44.

10.35 Question and Answer Session

Chair: Cllr Munira Wilson
Aide: Sal Brinton

F26 Question and Answer Session on Schools

An opportunity to put questions on schools policy to a panel of speakers, including:
David Laws MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families)
Cllr James Kempton (Leader of Islington Council and Chair of Schools Working Group)
Guest speaker to be announced

Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on question cards to the Speakers' Table by 18.00 on Saturday 8th March. The Chair will select which questions to ask during the session. Questions may also be emailed to questions@libdems.org.uk until 17.00 on Thursday 6th March. See 'question and answer sessions' on page 43 for further information.

11.10 Policy Discussion

Chair: Arnie Gibbons
Aide: Cllr Ruth Polling (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F27 Urgent Issue

This slot has been reserved for discussion of an important current political issue. Suggestions for issues may be submitted by any conference representative. See 'urgent issues' on page 45 for further information. The deadline for suggestions for urgent issues is 12.00, Tuesday 4th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. The topic selected for the discussion will be notified through the Advance Notice and Daily Announcements.

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this discussion, see 'speaking at conference' on pages 44–45.

11.40 Speech

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

F28 Speech by the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

13.00 Close of Conference (approx.)



Party leader Nick Clegg MP meeting with Cllr Richard Kemp, Group Leader for the LGA Lib Dems and Julia Goldsworthy MP, Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government.

The Liberal Democrats have over 4,400 councillors across England and Wales. Consequently, our Group at the LGA plays a major role in the organisation. We are the persistent defenders of local democracy, arguing that what a local community can do for itself is best left to that community, without interference from central government.

The Lib Dems are very active within the LGA on lobbying, media work and identifying and promoting best practice and also within the Liberal Democrat local government family. We have a very strong working relationship with ALDC (Association of Liberal Democrats Councillors and Campaigners), the Federal Party and also the front-bench teams in Parliament: Lords and Commons.

Celebrating liberal democracy in Liverpool 7th-9th March 2008

A full programme of activity and support
- for more advice come to our exhibition stands
ALDC Stand 5
LGA Lib Dem Stand 26

Friday 7 March, 8-9.15pm
Local Elections Briefing
Hall 3, Conference Centre

Friday 7 March, 10.00pm
Local Government Reception - featuring The Council Group of the Year Awards.
Baroness Ros Scott,
Cllr Richard Kemp (Liverpool),
Julia Goldsworthy MP,
Princes Suite, Crowne Plaza

Saturday 8 March, 1-2pm
Councils that are tackling Climate Change
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill
(Watford), Steve Webb MP
Hall 1, Conference Centre

Saturday 8 March, 1-2pm
Food Miles and Food Markets
Tim Farron MP
Hall 3, Conference Centre

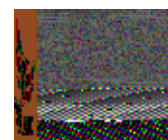
Saturday 8 March, 1-2pm
Leadership Centre and the Next Generation
Cllr Paul Massey (Cheltenham),
Cllr Gareth Kane (Newcastle)
Hall 2, Conference Centre

Saturday 8 March, 6.15-7.30pm
"Mummy, I want to be a councillor when I grow up"
Cllr Cathy Bakewell (Somerset),
Steve Hitchins (Leadership Centre)
Hall 1, Conference Centre

Saturday 8 March, 6.15-7.30pm
Save our Post Offices
Sarah Teather MP
Hall 3, Conference Centre

Saturday 8 March, 8-9.15pm
2008 & 2012: Liverpool, Beijing and London
Cllr Flo Clucas, Cllr Mike Storey,
Cllr Chris White (Herts)
Hall 1, Conference Centre

Saturday 8 March, 8-9.15pm
Leadership Centre Reception: Next Generation and more
Julia Goldsworthy MP,
Tim Farron MP, Joe Simpson,
Cllr Erica Kemp (Liverpool)
Princes 2, Crowne Plaza



I&DeA
Innovation and Development Agency

Local Government Association

Leadership Centre for local government.

LGA LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
WWW.LGA.GOV.UK/LIBDEMGROUP

Conference fringe guide and diary

Conference fringe guide and diary starts here. To create a fringe and diary pullout, remove pages 25–32 from the centre of your *Agenda and Directory*. Alternatively, you can create a one-page diary pullout using pages 31 and 32.

Conference fringe guide and diary:	Page
Friday fringe	26
Saturday fringe	27
Sunday fringe	31
2008 Conference timetable	31
Conference diary	31–32

Fringe meeting venues

All fringe events listed will be held in the official fringe venues: **Hall 2** and the **Arena** of the **ACC Liverpool**, and the **Crowne Plaza Hotel**, 10 minutes from the ACC Liverpool. See the *venue plans* on **page 37** and *map of Liverpool city centre* on the **inside back cover**.

A shuttle bus will operate between the ACC Liverpool and the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the start and end of fringe sessions. The ACC Liverpool and the Crowne Plaza Hotel are fully wheelchair accessible.

For access to fringe events in the ACC Liverpool a valid conference photo pass will be required; for access to fringe events in the Crowne Plaza Hotel a valid photo pass or Party membership card will be required.

The *'Winning for Britain'* rally

Hosted by:

Cllr Warren Bradley and Sarah Teather MP

Keynote speakers to include:

Nick Clegg MP and Brian Paddick

The rally will launch conference with a focus on Lib Dem success, ambition and inspiration!

There will be a welcome drink beforehand for all reps from 17.45 in the centre, kindly sponsored by the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

17.45 – 18.30 Welcome drinks, Hall 2J, ACC Liverpool

18.30 – 19.30 The Rally, Hall 2H, ACC Liverpool

Access to the welcome drink and rally is possible only with a valid, visible conference photo pass

Conference fringe Friday 7th March

Morning fringe

09.15 – 10.45 TRAINING SESSIONS

Page Plus 11 top tips

By invitation only. Ruth Younger and Neil Trafford, Campaigns.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brunswick Suite

Making the most of template literature and campaign packs

By invitation only. Dave McCobb and Richard Pinnock, Campaigns.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Canada Suite

09.15 – 12.30 TRAINING SESSION

Running your campaign online

How to do online petitions and surveys. (You will need a laptop with internet access – either wireless or via mobile phone.) Will Howells and Pete Dollimore, Innovations Department.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Salisbury Suite

11.00 – 12.30 TRAINING SESSIONS

Postal vote recruitment

By invitation only. Stuart Bray and Alice Wrigley, Campaigns.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brunswick Suite

Dealing with negative campaigning

By invitation only. Richard Pinnock and Jon Aylwin, Campaigns.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Canada Suite

Lunchtime fringe

13.00–14.00

First-timers' guide to conference

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

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Canada Suite

Afternoon fringe

14.30 – 15.45 TRAINING SESSION

Getting more people to your social and campaigning events

Using Flock Together to advertise your events and find out about other people's events. Mark Pack and Pete Dollimore, Innovations Department.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brunswick Suite

14.30 – 17.30 TRAINING SESSIONS

Time and project management

By invitation only. Hilary Stephenson and Ian Horner, Campaigns.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Canada Suite

Getting your message right

By invitation only. Shaun Roberts and Austin Rathe, Campaigns.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Salisbury Suite

16.00 – 17.30

TRAINING SESSION

Improving your media coverage

By invitation only. Ian Horner, Campaigns and Simon Waddington, Media Centre.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brunswick Suite

Evening fringe

18.30 – 19.30

CONFERENCE RALLY

The Winning for Britain Rally

Hosted by Cllr Warren Bradley and Sarah Teather MP. Keynote speakers to include: Nick Clegg MP and Brian Paddick. The rally will launch conference with a focus on Lib Dem success, ambition and inspiration! There will be a welcome drink from 17.45, kindly sponsored by the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

17.45 – 18.30 Welcome drinks

ACC Liverpool, Hall 2J

18.30 – 19.30 The Rally

ACC Liverpool, Hall 2H

20.00 – 21.15

Green Liberal Democrats

Green briefing

Briefing session covering environmental issues both on and off the conference agenda. All welcome. Refreshments served.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 1

20.00 – 21.15

Lib Dem Health Team

Championing a Liberal health policy

Norman Lamb MP discusses his proposals for a distinctly Liberal policy on health care. Come and see how he proposes to ensure empowerment, fairness and quality in the NHS.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 2

20.00 – 21.15

ALDC

Local elections briefing

Andrew Stunell MP, Chair of Local Elections Campaigns, Hilary Stephenson, Director of Campaigns, and ALDC brief representatives on the latest developments in the May local election campaign.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 3

20.00 – 21.15

Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

Living in a multi-faith society

An opportunity to further explore issues raised at the 'cohesive communities' workshop at the manifesto conference. Speakers include Paul Holmes MP and Martin Turner.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brunswick Suite

Conference fringe Friday 7th March

20.00 – 21.15

Liberal Democrat History Group

Merger twenty years on

Lord Clement Jones, Lord Goodhart and Professor David Dutton explore the merger of the Liberal and Social Democratic Parties. Did it really deserve the description 'merger most foul'?

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Princes 2

20.00 – 21.15

CentreForum and Demos

Making public services personal

Speakers: Jamie Bartlett, Demos; Peter Kinsella, Managing Director, Paradigm; Norman Lamb MP; Gordon Lishman, Director General, Age Concern. Chair: Alasdair Murray, CentreForum. Refreshments.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Princes 3

22.00 – 23.30

LGA Liberal Democrat Group

Local government reception. Featuring the Council Group of the Year Awards

This is the major event at conference for all those who care about local government, the Liberal Democrats and appreciating the work of all our 4,500 councillors up and down the country.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Princes Suite

Conference fringe Saturday 8th March

Morning fringe

08.15 – 08.45

Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

Morning praise – reflecting on 'truth'

Prayer and praise before conference. Rev. David Latham (from City Church, Kensington in Liverpool) will be speaking as part of our 'community cohesion' theme, looking at 'truth'. All welcome.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brunswick Suite

09.15 – 10.45

TRAINING SESSIONS

How do I get at stuff on the internet?

An introduction to the Party's web browser toolbar and the Liberal Democrat Accounts system. Will Howells, Innovations Department.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 1

Messaging for held Mets and District Councils

Neil Trafford and Dave McCobb, Campaigns.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 2

Using policy to win

Ruth Younger, Campaigns and Jake Holland, PICS.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 3

Postal vote recruitment

Stuart Bray and Alice Wrigley, Campaigns.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 4

Making the best use of the telephone

Often neglected, but vital for a successful campaign. Can cover more ground than door knocking. Good for cold, wet evenings. Mark Alcock, ALDC.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 5

Influencing and communicating skills

As councillors we need to communicate effectively to succeed. Trainers from the IDEA.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 6

09.15 – 10.45

TRAINING SESSIONS

Thinking of standing for Parliament?

Women only. An introduction to candidacy. Ros Harper, Campaign for Gender Balance.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 1

Basic election law

This newly updated course covers the basics of what every agent needs to know about election law. Miranda Roberts and Victoria Marsom, Agents Association.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 2

Communication with members and supporters

Dave Hodgson and Season Prater, Membership Department.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 3

11.00 – 12.30

TRAINING SESSIONS

Getting your message right for the general election

Jon Aylwin and Ruth Younger, Campaigns.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 1

Setting up a local phone bank

Ian Horner and Richard Pinnock, Campaigns.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 2

Polling Day – the difference between winning and losing

Neil Trafford and Season Prater, Campaigns.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 3

Beating the Tories

Shaun Roberts and Austin Rathe, Campaigns.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 4

Winning in the last week

Your campaign in the last week is essential to success – don't lose out on a year's work. John Bridges and Catherine Smart, ALDC.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 5

Conference fringe Saturday 8th March

11.00 – 12.30

TRAINING SESSIONS

Being an effective Lib Dem councillor

Balancing ward work, council work and being a Liberal Democrat. Jeanette Sunderland and Nic Rattle, ALDC.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 6

Confident communication – addressing and impressing an audience

Women only. Candy Piercy, Campaign for Gender Balance.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 1

Advanced election law

The new course contains information of a slightly more advanced level – the perfect partner to Basic Election Law. Miranda Roberts and Victoria Marsom, Agents Association.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 2

Winning the youth and student vote

Simon Drage and Naomi Smith, LDYS.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 3

Lunchtime fringe

13.00 – 14.00

Reform Commission

Reform Commission Q and A

Your chance to have a say about the future of the party organisation! This session gives an opportunity to hear from, and question, the Reform Commission and outside speakers.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 2

13.00 – 14.00

LDEG

Constitutional treaty update and AGM

Andrew Duff MEP provides an update on the constitutional treaty and the ratification process.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 3

13.00 – 14.00

CentreForum

Solving the social housing crisis

Can we save future generations from poor housing, declining neighbourhoods and social immobility?

ACC Liverpool, Arena 4

13.00-14.00

LDYS

Save Darfur – pension fund divestment

Join Shadow Foreign Secretary Ed Davey MP, the Aegis Trust, Sudan Divestment UK and LDYS, as we launch our local authority pensions fund targeted divestment campaign.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 5

13.00 – 14.00

ALDES / Green Liberal Democrats

Your zero-carbon car. How soon?

Progress is exciting! A top Ford designer will bring us right up to date with developments of hybrids, hydrogen-fuelled and other low-carbon vehicles, and indicate the future.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 6

13.00 – 14.00

Women Liberal Democrats

Today is International Women's Day!

Lorely Burt MP, President WLD, will be joined by Lib Dem women speakers who have international responsibilities.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 7

13.00 – 14.00

LGA Liberal Democrat Group

Councils tackling climate change

Find out what councils have been doing recently to tackle climate change and what other powers councils need to get more done. Chair: Dorothy Thornhill, Mayor of Watford. Refreshments provided.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 1

13.00 – 14.00

Leadership Centre for Local Government

New ideas from Next Generation

Launch of publications produced by Cllrs Paul Massey and Gareth Kane, graduates of *Next Generation*, the programme for talented councillors developed by the Leadership Centre and the LGA Liberal Democrats.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 2

13.00 – 14.00

ALDC

Food miles and farmers markets

Tim Farron MP. What can councillors and campaigners do to reduce the impact of food miles and total carbon footprints? Can local food markets help? Sponsor: Waitrose. Refreshments provided.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 3

13.00 – 14.00

NLGN / EEDA

The low-carbon community

Chair: Matthew Clifton, NLGN. Speakers: Steve Webb MP (invited); Cllr James Kempton, London Borough of Islington; Fay Mansell, Women's Institute; and Paul Burall, EEDA. Refreshments provided.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brunswick Suite

The Low Carbon Community Can Local Action Prevent Climate Change?

Steve Webb MP

Shadow Secretary of State for Environment,
Energy, Food and Rural Affairs (invited)

Cllr James Kempton

Leader, London Borough of Islington

Fay Mansell

Chair, Women's Institute

Paul Burall

Board Member, EEDA

Matthew Clifton

NLGN

Saturday 8 March

1.00 - 2.00 pm

Brunswick Suite

Liverpool Crowne Plaza

Refreshments Provided

NLGN
NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK

east of england

EEDA
East of England Development Agency

Conference fringe Saturday 8th March

13.00 – 14.00

Reinventing the State / IPPR North

Social mobility and equality

Chair: Lynne Featherstone MP. Speakers: Danny Alexander MP; Claire Tyler, CE, Relate, and former Director, Social Exclusion Unit; Sue Stirling, IPPR North. Is social mobility the answer to inequality? Or is equality the prerequisite for social mobility?

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Salisbury Suite

Afternoon fringe

14.30 – 15.45

TRAINING SESSIONS

Campaigning with your mobile phone made easy

How to use the Party's e-txt software to easily communicate with large numbers of people. Mark Pack and Pete Dollimore, Innovations Department.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 1

Winning in the last four weeks

Austin Rathe and James MacCleary, Campaigns.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 3

Postal votes matter

70% of postal voters vote! Our guide to campaigning with the postal vote. Eleanor Ritchie and Michael Mullaney, ALDC.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 5

LAAAs, MAAs and LSPs

Local and Multi Area Agreements and Local Strategic Partnerships – how do we make them work for us? Trainers from the IDEA.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 6

Winning with women

Practical hints and tips for women candidates and supporters. All welcome. Dominic Mathon and Ros Harper, Campaign for Gender Balance.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 1

Designing your development plan

You know you want to win – but have you decided what to win first, and by when you're going to do it? Don't just campaign hard – campaign smart! Miranda Roberts and Season Prater, Agents Association.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 2

Understanding your membership and building your local party

Dave Hodgson and Chris Keating, Membership Department.

ACC Liverpool, Multi Purpose Hall 3

14.30 – 15.45

Liberal Democrat Education Association

Annual General Meeting

Chair: Anthony Bowen. The Annual General Meeting of the Liberal Democrat Education Association.

ACC Liverpool, Boardroom 2

14.30 – 17.30

TRAINING SESSIONS

Tips on how to raise the money to win

Hilary Stephenson and Shaun Roberts, Campaigns.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 2

Media and television interview skills

By invitation only. David Walter and the Candidates Office.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 7

16.00 – 17.30

TRAINING SESSIONS

Beating Labour

Stuart Bray and Jon Aylwin, Campaigns.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 1

Planning your direct mail campaign

Ruth Younger and Dave McCobb, Campaigns.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 3

Incumbency protection for parliamentary staff

Hilary Stephenson.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 4

Getting the most out of your canvassing

Love it or hate it, canvassing on the doorstep is the key to our voter information. Derek Barrie and Martin Plant, ALDC.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 5

Community leadership

Effective community leadership for councillors the Lib Dem way! Roger Symonds and Howard Sykes, ALDC.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 6

Grow your own target seat

Women only. Mark Pack and Lynne Featherstone MP, Campaign for Gender Balance.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 1

Eye-catching literature explained

Tighten up your *Focus* design and remember the essentials for getting your message across clearly and with style. Ruth Wharram and Dan Purchase, Agents Association.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 2

How to recruit younger members

Naomi Smith and Sarah Green, LDYS.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 3

Evening fringe

18.15 – 19.30

ALTER

Economics as if people mattered

Speakers: Vince Cable MP; Jock Coats; James Graham. Chair: Tony Vickers. With the centenary of the People's Budget approaching, ALTER sets out 21st century challenges to the Liberal economic tradition.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 6

Conference fringe Saturday 8th March

18.15 – 19.30

Julia Goldsworthy MP and Danny Alexander MP

'Faceless Britain' consultation session

Chair: David Boyle, Fellow of the New Economics Foundation. All welcome to discuss policy proposals and share experiences concerning the impact of the Government's efficiency agenda on the accessibility of public services.

ACC Liverpool, Arena 7

18.15 – 19.30

Leadership Centre for Local Government and LGA Liberal Democrats

'Mummy, I want to be ... a councillor!'

How we can change the way councillors are recruited, and what a councillor's changing role is expected to be in the 21st century. Speakers: Cllr Cathy Bakewell, Steve Hitchins.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 1

18.15 – 19.30

Liberal Democrat Peers

Holding the Government to account

Peers Question Time and Report Back. Panel: Lord McNally; Baroness Williams; Lord Shutt; plus other celebrity peers. Chair: Lord Teverson. Hot food and wine provided.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 2

18.15 – 19.30

ALDC

Save our post offices

Sarah Teather MP. Your chance to hear the latest developments in this round of government post office closure and share your campaigning experience with colleagues from around the country.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 3

18.15 – 19.30

Liberal Democrat Forum for the Countryside

Pension Share Orders = discrimination

Brian Friend will introduce Mrs Clivena Thomas, PSO victim, and Paul Rowen MP to discuss the disgraceful discrimination against divorced women of the 1999 pension share order regulations.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brunswick Suite

18.15 – 19.30

Humanists and Secular Liberal Democrats

Faith schools – the debate continues

Dr Evan Harris MP addresses the whole question of religion, schools, RE and collective worship. Chair: Arnie Gibbons. All welcome.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Canada Suite

18.15 – 19.30

CentreForum

An end to two-party politics? How will the Liberal Democrats fare under Nick Clegg?

Speakers: Chris Huhne MP; David Laws MP; and Prof Paul Whiteley, University of Essex. Chair: Neil Sherlock. Refreshments.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Princes 3

18.15 – 19.30

Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association

Youth justice: the way forward

Chairman: Alistair Webster QC. Speaker: Lynne Featherstone MP. An essential event for social policy, with contributions from judges and practitioners. It will examine how sentencing works and how to improve it.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Salisbury Suite

20.00 – 21.15

LGA Liberal Democrat Group

2008 and 2012: transformation through culture

Liverpool, Beijing and London. Hear about what's going on, what's in it for you and how culture can be used to transform communities for the better.

ACC Liverpool, Multi-Purpose Hall 1

20.00 – 21.15

Liberal Democrat Forum for the Countryside

Barnett Formula and rural communities

The Barnett Formula disadvantages rural communities in England whilst favouring Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – is this a challenge to the union? Speakers: Rt Hon Alan Beith MP; Alistair Carmichael MP; Willie Rennie MP; Michael Knowles, CEP; David Wildgoose, CEP. Chair: Brian Friend, Secretary LDfC.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brunswick Suite

20.00 – 21.15

Campaign for Gender Balance

The CGB blog awards

An event to celebrate and encourage women bloggers. This drinks reception will feature an awards ceremony and talks by prominent women bloggers – come along and be inspired!

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Canada Suite

20.00 – 21.15

Leadership Centre for Local Government

Leadership Centre Next Generation Reception

The Leadership Centre celebrates Next Generation, the programme for talented high-flying councillors, with special guests Julia Goldsworthy MP (tbc), Tim Farron MP (tbc).

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Princes 2

Conference fringe Saturday 8th March

20.00 – 21.15

Liberal Democrat European Parliamentary Party and ALDE

Towards the 2009 European elections

Hosted by Andrew Duff, Leader of the UK Liberal Democrat delegation. A reception to highlight the achievements and work of Liberal Democrat MEPs over the last four years. Refreshments provided.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Princes 3

22.00 'til late

GLEE CLUB

The traditional end-of-conference celebration of songs old and new. Pick up the *Liberator* songbook so you can make the most of the occasion to *raise the roof*, with songs from the days of Gladstone and Lloyd George to razor-sharp satirical songs from 20 years of the Liberal Revue.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Princes Suite

Conference fringe Sunday 9th March

Morning fringe

08.15 – 08.45

Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

Morning praise – reflecting on 'reconciliation'

Prayer and praise before conference. Continuing our 'community cohesion' theme we will be looking at 'reconciliation'. Details on who is speaking will be available at our stand. All welcome.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brunswick Suite

09.00 – 10.00

ALDC

Community economics consultation

By invitation only. Bernard Greaves and ALDC are holding a consultative meeting on a new book on community economics.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Canada Suite

Conference diary Friday 7th March

	Morning fringe
	Lunchtime fringe
	Afternoon fringe
15.00–17.30	Consultative Sessions
17.45–19.30	Welcome drinks and Conference Rally
	Evening fringe

Conference timetable 2008

Autumn Conference: Saturday 13th – Wednesday 17th September

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

Conference diary Saturday 8th March

	Morning fringe
09.00–09.15	Speeches of Welcome
09.15–09.55	Report: Federal Conference Committee Standing Order Amendments Report: Federal Policy Committee
09.55–10.30	Ballistic Missile Defence
10.30–10.50	Presentation: London Liberal Democrats
10.50–11.35	Support for Children with Special Educational Needs
11.35–11.55	Speech: Dr Vince Cable MP
11.55–12.25	Legal Aid
12.25–12.40	Party Awards Speech: Simon Hughes MP
	Lunchtime fringe
14.20–16.05	<i>Empowerment, Fairness and Quality in Health Care</i> (Health Policy Paper)
16.05–16.25	Speech: Julia Goldsworthy MP
16.25–16.55	Emergency Motion
16.55–17.30	Report: Federal Executive Business Motion: Liberal Democrat Lawyers Constitutional Amendment: Chair of Federal Executive Report: Federal Finance and Administration Committee
17.30–18.00	Report: Campaign for Gender Balance Reports: Parliamentary Parties
	Evening fringe

Conference diary Sunday 9th March

	Morning fringe
09.00–09.30	Emergency Motions
09.30–09.50	Presentation: Liberal Democrat Group on Eastleigh Borough Council
09.50–10.35	Homes for All
10.35–11.10	Question and Answer Session: Schools
11.10–11.40	Urgent Issue
11.40–13.00 (approx.)	Speech: Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

The exhibition

The exhibition will be located in **Hall 2A** on the **lower ground floor** of the **ACC Liverpool**, and will be open at the following times:

Friday	7th March	15.00 – 18.30
Saturday	8th March	08.30 – 18.30
Sunday	9th March	08.30 – 13.30

Exhibitors are listed in alphabetic order below. For a plan of the exhibition and exhibitors listed by stand number, see **page 36**.



© Mike Cooper

Directory of exhibitors

Stand 6

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 4

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 5

Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and IDEa

ALDC represents Liberal Democrat Councillors and provides advice, information and resources for all Councillors and Activists. Visit us for publications, online resources and advice from ALDC and IDEa staff.



Stand 17

Campaign for Gender Balance

For everyone who wants to see more Lib Dem women in Parliament. Thinking of standing? Or can you help women gain the skills they need?



Stand 7

CentreForum

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



Stand 8

Chard Group (1992)

The Chard Group is a party organisation that encourages co-operation with others (as and where appropriate). Newsletter, quiz, traditional Lib Dem raffle(!) etc to enjoy.

Stand 21

DAGGER

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

Stand 13

DELGA

The Party's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality group is open to all members who share our aims. We also offer advice on LGBT issues and campaigning.

Stand 12

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 36

GovNet Communications

Govnet Communications publishes seven government and public sector magazines with a ABC-audit circulation of 100,000 readers. The magazines have a larger circulation to MPs, Lords and senior policy-makers than any other political title and have a controlled circulation to the select audience. GovNet also produces a wide range of events from flagship conferences to bespoke seminars and information-led briefings.



Directory of Exhibitors continued

Stand 1

Green Liberal Democrats

The green campaign group of the Liberal Democrats. For more information, see our website: www.greenlibdems.org.uk.

Stand 2

Humanist and Secular Liberal Democrats

The organisation for Liberal Democrats who think that humanism and secularism need a louder voice within the Party and across the UK.

Stand 14

Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

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



Stand 10

Liberal Democrat Christmas Draw

Maximise your income from the Christmas Draw. Visit stand 10 to learn how.



Stand 32

Liberal Democrat Education Association

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

Stand 34

Liberal Democrat European Group

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

Stand 15

Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine

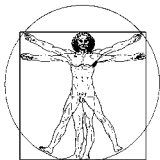
LDFP advocates a peace settlement for Israel and Palestine that applies international and humanitarian law in line with Party policy. Learn more at stand 15 and at www.ldfp.eu



Stand 11

Liberal Democrat History Group

We promote the discussion and research of historical topics relating to the Liberal Democrats and its predecessor parties. Subscribe to the *Journal of Liberal History*. Buy the *Dictionary of Liberal Thought*. The past illuminates the future. www.liberalhistory.org.uk



Shop

Liberal Democrat Image

Keep campaigning with Liberal Democrat Image. Visit us on our stand and tell us what new products you need. You can now order online at www.libdemimage.co.uk.



Stand 9

Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association

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

Stand 24

Liberal Democrat Youth & Students

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



Stand 20

Liberal Democrats Online

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



Stand 16

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 26

Local Government Association (Liberal Democrat Group)

LGA Liberal Democrats represent all councillors in England and Wales. Specialist information, detailed research, support for leaders and portfolio holders are just everyday gruel for us.



Keep in touch with the Lib Dems on the Internet

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Transport | Justice and Crime
Health | Education and Skills
Environment | The Economy

Thursday, 31 January 2008

- New figures show chasm of opportunity between rich and poor children - Laws
- Reports of army training cuts extremely disturbing - Harvey
- Rise in obesity drugs shows priorities are dangerously skewed - Laws
- Government failing to meet emissions targets - Woods
- Community orders must be monitored more effectively - Heath

RSS FEED 17

VIEW ALL NEWS

All our policies have a green thread running through them because a clean environment, a healthy economy and a fair society are all essential for a better future.

www.libdems.org.uk

Directory of Exhibitors continued

Stand 35

Newsquest Media Print

Newsquest is one of the largest regional newspaper printers in the UK. Offering superb quality at competitive prices for both newspaper and glossy print formats. Visit us for full details.



Stand 29

Northwest Regional Development Agency

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWRDA) leads the economic development and regeneration of England's Northwest: responsible for supporting business growth and encouraging investment; matching skills provision to employer needs; creating the conditions for economic growth; connecting the region through effective transport and communication infrastructure; and promoting the region's outstanding quality of life.



Stand 18

North West Liberal Democrats

The North West led the way in taking on the BNP in 2004. Come and learn how it's done! And register for our regional conference and 'Beat the BNP' dinner.

Stand 23

Parliamentary Candidates Association (PCA)

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



Stand 27

Prater Raines Web Sites

The leading supplier of Lib Dem sites. Instant site set-up. Site surgeries for current and potential users. User training and site demonstrations. Bespoke site development proposals and quotations.



Stand 19

pteg

pteg represents Britain's seven publicly accountable Passenger Transport Executives. PTE's are the driving force behind the development of public transport networks in some of Britain's largest city regions.



Stand 38

Riso UK Ltd

Come and see just why over 60 party organisations have invested in the two-colour Riso MZ770.



Stand 37

Somerset County Council

Somerset County Council will illustrate the work this Liberal Democrat authority is doing to combat climate change, spearheading the introduction of bioethanol in their transport fleet in a European project.



Stand 3

Southport Liberal Democrats

Southport, the only non-Labour seat on Merseyside, has a history of Liberalism going back to Gladstone and, together with John Pugh MP, a hard-working group of fourteen Liberal Democrat Councillors.

Stand 33

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 25

WRAP

WRAP (Waste &



Material change for a better environment

Resources Action Programme) works in partnership to encourage and enable businesses and consumers to be more efficient in their use of materials and recycle more things more often.

Advertise in Advance Notice and Daily Announcements

Advance Notice is issued to attendees on the Saturday of Conference, and *Daily Announcements* on the Sunday. They provide the ideal way for you to get a topical message to conference-goers, about events at Conference or after, such as byelections, fundraisers or party job vacancies.

Advertising rates (all plus VAT) are:

- 10cm deep x 9 cm wide £120
- 10cm deep x 18 cm wide £230
- 5 cm deep x 9 cm wide £80
- 5cm deep x 18 cm wide £120

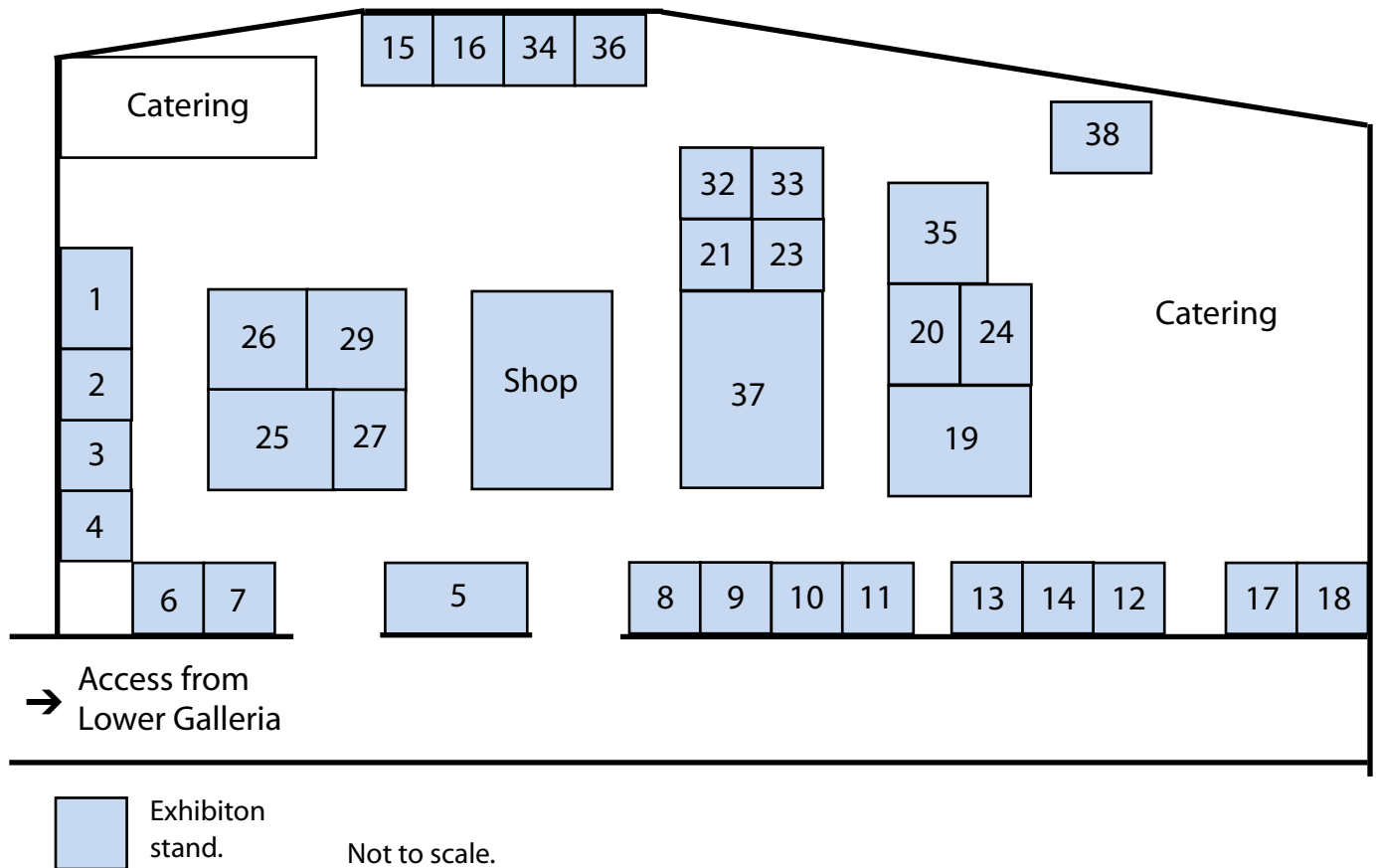
Artwork should be supplied as a pdf file or as text in a Word file (20% surcharge). For *Advance Notice* artwork must be received no later than noon, Monday 3rd March; and for *Daily Announcements* by 10.00 am Saturday 8th March.

For information and bookings, contact Carol Caruana on carol.caruana@libdems.org.uk, or on 020 7227 1323.



Plan of the exhibition

ACC Liverpool Hall 2A



Exhibitors listed by stand number

Stand Organisation

Shop	Liberal Democrat Image
1	Green Liberal Democrats
2	Humanist and Secular Liberal Democrats
3	Southport Liberal Democrats
4	ALDES – Engineers & Scientists
5	Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and IDEA
6	Agents & Organisers Association
7	CentreForum
8	The CHARD Group (1992)
9	Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association
10	Liberal Democrat Christmas Draw
11	Liberal Democrat History Group
12	EARS
13	DELGA
14	Liberal Democrat Christian Forum
15	Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine
16	<i>Liberator</i>
17	Campaign for Gender Balance

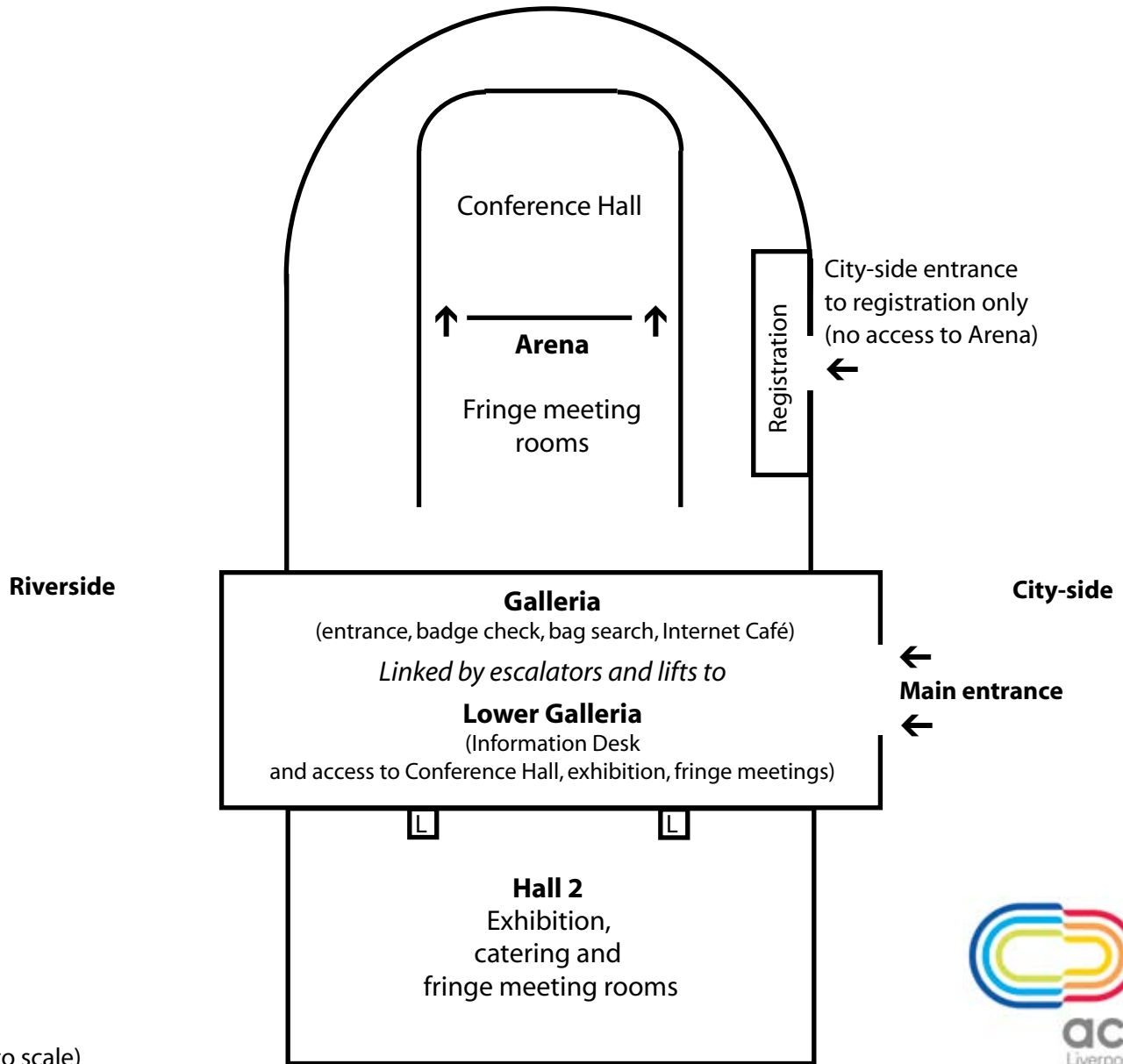
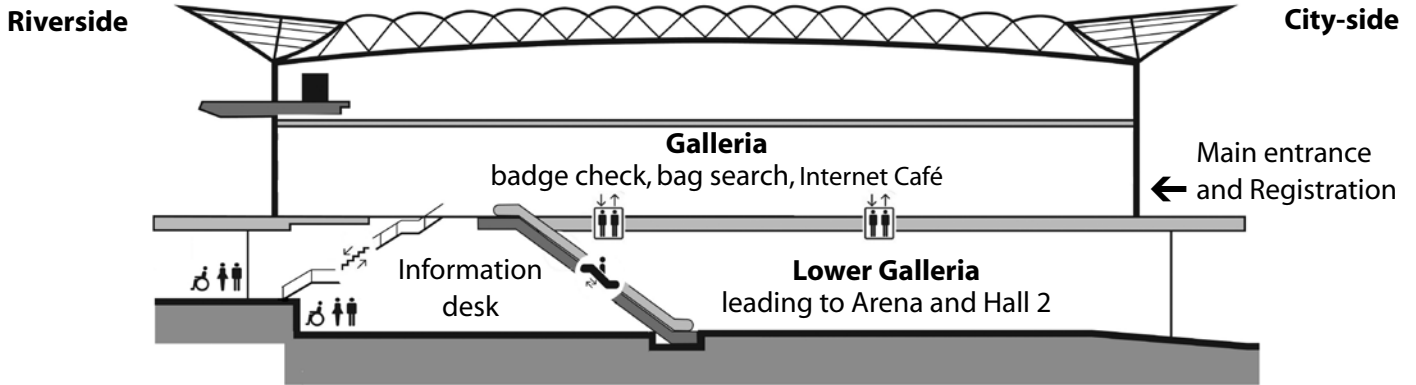
Stand Organisation

18	North West Liberal Democrats
19	pteg
20	Liberal Democrats Online
21	DAGGER
23	Parliamentary Candidates Association (PCA)
24	Liberal Democrat Youth & Students
25	WRAP
26	Local Government Association (Liberal Democrat Group)
27	Prater Raines Web Sites
29	Northwest Regional Development Agency
32	Liberal Democrat Education Association
33	Women Liberal Democrats
34	Liberal Democrat European Group
35	Newsquest Media Print
36	GovNet Communications
37	Somerset County Council
38	Riso UK Ltd

A new politics for Britain

Conference venue plans

ACC Liverpool



(Not to scale)



Information

A new politics for Britain

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 go to the Information Desk or ask one of our friendly stewards.

Access

Access to all areas of the **ACC Liverpool** is possible **only with a valid, visible conference photo pass**.

The main entrance to the ACC Liverpool is the City-side Galleria entrance on Monarch's Quay, where bag checks will be conducted. See *conference venue plans* on **page 37**.

Accommodation

Rooms in the conference hotel, the Crowne Plaza, are fully booked. If you have not booked your accommodation in Liverpool we recommend you contact one of our accommodation partners:

Liverpool Hotels
Tel: 0800 321 3065
www.liverpool-hotels.net/liberal-democrats

The Mersey Partnership Conference Bureau
Tel: 0151 237 3938
www.conferencebookings.co.uk/delegate/TMPLIBDEM08

Amendments to motions

Motions **F5, F9, F11, F14** and **F25** are still open to amendment.

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

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

A standard form is included with the Final Agenda mailing; if faxing or posting, please use this or a



photocopy. Those submitting amendments are encouraged to include a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment.

All amendments accepted for debate will be detailed in the *Advance Notice* sheet.

Appeals

Appeals against non-acceptance of motions should:

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

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

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

Applicability of motions

The Federal Conference makes policy for the Federal Party. However, the English Party has 'passed up' responsibility for policy-making to the Federal Party in all areas and the Welsh Party for some areas. The applicability of each motion is shown in the Agenda.

Conference information continued

Car parks

The nearest car park to the ACC Liverpool is on-site: turn off at Queen's Wharf where you will find a 1,600 space multi-storey car park. The rates are as follows:

Up to 1 hour	£1
Up to 2 hours	£2
Up to 5 hours	£4
Up to 9 hours	£7
Up to 24 hours	£10

There are approximately 160 car parking spaces allocated to disabled visitors within the ACC Liverpool multi-storey car park. There are disabled spaces allocated to each floor and passenger lifts to the ground floor exit.

For directions, see the *map of Liverpool city centre* on the **inside back cover** and *transport and travel* on **page 48**. There are also four NCP car parks locally.

Cash points

There are two cash points on the **Albert Dock**; they are about 5 minutes walk away from the ACC Liverpool.

Cloakroom

Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the Conference Hall or exhibition hall of the ACC Liverpool.

There is a cloakroom located in the **Galleria** of the **ACC Liverpool**.

Daily Announcements and Advance Notice

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

Advance Notice will be available on Saturday morning and *Daily Announcements* on Sunday morning.

Collect your copy from the Information Desk in the Lower Galleria of the ACC Liverpool.

Consultative sessions

Consultative sessions take place on **Friday 7th March between 15.00 and 17.30** in the **Crowne Plaza Hotel** and **ACC Liverpool**. See **page 7** for details.

Crèche

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

Friday	7th March	18.00 – 20.00
Saturday	8th March	08.30 – 19.30
Sunday	9th 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.

Daily Announcements and Advance Notice

An *Advance Notice* sheet will be published on Saturday 8th March; this will contain amendments to motions, urgent issues, emergency motions for debate or the ballot and questions to reports selected by the Federal Conference Committee. A *Daily Announcements* sheet will be published on Sunday 9th March; it will include last-minute changes to the order of business, movers, emergency motions etc.

Advance Notice and *Daily Announcements* will be available at the start of the morning session from the **Information Desk** in the **Lower Galleria** of the **ACC Liverpool**. Please make sure you collect your *Advance Notice* and *Daily Announcements* sheets as the information they contain will always be vital to understanding the day's business.

Disabled persons' access

Please see *access and facilities for disabled people* on **page 47**.

Distribution of literature

Distribution of literature is not allowed inside the ACC Liverpool. Literature may be distributed outside the main entrance, subject to the discretion of the Chief Steward, the management and the police. Exhibitors

Conference information continued

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 ACC Liverpool.

Documents for conference

If you pre-registered for conference **before 29th January**, your conference documentation will be mailed to you in mid-February. For those who register after this date, your documentation will be available for collection in Liverpool from 15.00 on Friday 7th March.

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 the **Information Desk** for £25.00.

Biodegradable, environmentally friendly bags have been issued free to representatives since 2004 at the autumn conference. Please help keep our conference as environmentally friendly as possible by bringing yours along. Replacement bags will cost £4.00, subject to availability. Don't throw yours away!

Emergency motions

The slots at **F16** and **F23** are reserved for an emergency motion debate or debates as described in standing

orders: i.e. debates with a vote which make formal Party policy like any other policy motion, but which refer to a development **since the 9th January deadline** for motions.

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

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

Emergency motions may be the subject of priority ballots among representatives. Ballot papers and the ballot box will be available at the **Speakers' Table** in the **Conference Hall**. The poll will be held, if necessary, between **09.00 and 13.00 on Saturday 8th March**. In the event that there is a simple choice between two motions, a card vote will be held in the **Conference Hall** at **11.35 on Saturday 8th March**.

All emergency motions accepted for debate will be detailed in the *Advance Notice* sheet.

Exhibition

The exhibition is being held in **Hall 2A** on the **lower ground floor** of the **ACC Liverpool**; see *conference venue plans* on **page 37**. For details of exhibitors, plan of exhibition and opening times, see **pages 33–36**.

First Aid

The First Aid rooms are located off the Lower Galleria and the Riverside Arena Concourse of the ACC Liverpool. They will be staffed from 15.00 on Friday 7th March until 14.00 on Sunday 9th March.

Flash photography

Representatives vulnerable to epilepsy should note that flash photography is frequently used in the Conference Hall.

Liverpool 2008 Members' training programme

Free training for party members

An extensive range of training courses will take place at conference, in the meeting rooms of the ACC Liverpool and Crowne Plaza Hotel on Friday and Saturday 09.00 – 17.30

These courses are open to all Party members. For courses in the ACC Liverpool a photo pass will be required; for courses in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, a photo pass or Party membership card will be required.

Full details of the training sessions are listed in the fringe guide on pages 25 to 31.



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Conference information continued

Fringe

For details of fringe meetings, see the *conference fringe guide and diary* on **pages 25–31**.

The official fringe meeting venues are **Hall 2** and the **Arena** of the **ACC Liverpool**, and the **Crowne Plaza Hotel**, 10 minutes from the ACC Liverpool. See the *conference venue plans* on **page 37** and *map of Liverpool city centre* on the **inside back cover**. A shuttle bus will operate between the ACC Liverpool and the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the start and end of fringe sessions.

For access to fringe events in the ACC Liverpool a valid conference photo pass will be required; for access to fringe events in the Crowne Plaza Hotel a valid photo pass or Party membership card will be required.

HQ fringe events:

Welcome drinks

Kindly sponsored by Northwest Regional Development Agency
Friday 7th March, 17.45 – 18.30
Hall 2J, ACC Liverpool
(Conference photo pass required)

The Rally

Friday 7th March, 18.30 – 19.30
Hall 2H, ACC Liverpool
See advert on page 25 for details
(Conference photo pass required)

Glee Club

Saturday 8th March, 22.00 'til late
Princes Suite, Crowne Plaza Hotel
(Conference photo pass or Party membership card required)



© Mike Cooper 2008

Information Desk

The **Information Desk** is located in the **Lower Galleria** of the **ACC Liverpool**. It will be clearly marked and friendly members of the Conference Team can answer your questions.

The **Information Desk** telephone number is:

0151 293 6050

Information Desk opening times:

Friday	7th March	15.00 – 20.00
Saturday	8th March	08.30 – 18.30
Sunday	9th March	08.30 – 12.00

Internet access

The **Internet Café** is located in the **Business Centre** of the **ACC Liverpool**, off the **Galleria**. Opening times:

Saturday	8th March	08.30 – 18.30
Sunday	9th March	08.30 – 12.00

There is wi-fi internet access in the ACC Liverpool. Cards are available from the **Business Centre** of the **ACC Liverpool**.

Interventions

There will be interventions during debate **F14**. This procedure offers representatives the opportunity to make concise (one-minute) speeches from the floor during the debate on the motion. Eligibility to make an intervention is exactly the same as for those wishing to make a speech (see *speaking at conference* on **pages 44–45**).

There are two microphones in the body of the Conference Hall 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.

Conference information continued

Lost photo passes

If you have lost your photo pass please report immediately to the **registration area** in the **ACC Liverpool**. 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 **Lower Galleria** of the **ACC Liverpool**.

Mobile phones / pagers

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

Newspapers

The Independent will be distributed free of charge at the **main entrance** of the **ACC Liverpool**.

Photo passes

All conference photo passes are mailed prior to conference if registration details are received before 15th February. If you do not receive your pass, please come to the **registration area** in the **City-side Arena Concourse** of the **ACC Liverpool**.

Photo pass identification codes and colours:

- Party members – Orange
 - Conference representatives – VOR
 - Non-voting members – NVO
 - Parliamentarians – PAR
 - Day visitors – DA – sat
 - DA – sun
 - Party Officers – POF
- Non-members – Green
 - Commercial observers – OBS
 - Diplomats – DIP
 - International guest – ING
 - Sister party member – SPG
 - Exhibitor – EXH
 - NGO / charity – NGO
 - Contractor – CTR
 - Party exhibitor – PEX
- Media – Grey
 - All media – MED
- Staff – Yellow
 - Headquarters staff – HQS
 - Party staff – PST
 - Trainer – TNR
- Conference Management – Purple
 - Federal Conference Committee – FCC
 - Stewards – STW
 - Conference Office staff – ORG

Press office

The press office telephone number is 0151 293 6051. It is open during the following times:

Friday	7th March	14.00 – 18.00
Saturday	8th March	08.30 – 18.00
Sunday	9th March	08.30 – 13.30

Members of the press who have booked workspaces will be sent details of the location and access routes to the press office in due course.

Recycling facilities

Recycling points will be located throughout the ACC Liverpool and Crowne Plaza Hotel.



© Mersey Partnership

Conference information continued

Wheelchair users attending conference

To encourage participation at conference and offset the extra cost of staying in a specially adapted disabled-friendly room in a larger hotel, we are operating a financial assistance scheme for wheelchair users at conference. For information and an application form, go to: www.libdems.org.uk/conference/access.html

Question and answer sessions

This year's spring conference features one question and answer session, on schools policy (**F26**). Any elected representative may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) and, if selected by the chair of the session, will be asked to put the question from one of the intervention mikes in the **Conference Hall** of the **ACC Liverpool**.

Questions must be submitted on question cards, collected from and returned to the **Speakers' Table** in the **Conference Hall**. The deadline for the receipt of questions is **18.00 on Saturday 8th March**. Questions may also be emailed to questions@libdems.org.uk until **17.00 on Thursday 6th March**.

Questions to reports

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

The deadline for receipt of questions is **12.00 on Tuesday 4th March**; they should be sent to the Policy



© Mike Cooper 2008

Projects Team, preferably by email to questions@libdems.org.uk, or by fax to 020 7799 2170 or post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. A standard form is included in the Final Agenda mailing; if faxing or posting, please use this or a photocopy. Questions to reports will be detailed in the *Advance Notice* sheet.

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

Refreshments

Hot and cold meals and soft drinks are available in the catering area in the **exhibition** in **Hall 2A** of the **ACC Liverpool**. Alcoholic beverages, tea and coffee will be served from the bar in **Hall 2J**.

Registration on-site

The **registration area** is located in the **City-side Arena Concourse** of the **ACC Liverpool**, accessed via a separate entrance on Monarchs Quay – see *conference venue plans* on **page 37**. **There is no direct access from the registration area into the rest of the building**.

Please complete the relevant registration form and take it to the **registration area**. 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.

You can register on-site at the following times:

Friday	7th March	15.00 – 19.00
Saturday	8th March	08.30 – 18.30
Sunday	9th March	08.30 – 12.00

Tip: Queuing for on-site registration can take up to three hours. Save time on-site by downloading and completing a registration form before you arrive from www.libdems.org.uk.

Party members full registration

Cost: £73

All Party members are entitled to attend all sessions of conference once registered. Only elected representatives

Conference information continued

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; and
- completed registration form (available on-site or download from www.libdems.org.uk).

Tip: Register online at www.libdems.org.uk up to **midnight Thursday 21st February**. To collect your photo pass and documents, go to the **registration area** in the **City-side Arena Concourse** of the **ACC Liverpool**.

Party members – day visitors

Cost, per full day:	£19
Claimants, per full day:	£11

Proof of current party membership, and of claimant status if appropriate, is required in all cases.

Security and safety

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

Conference photo passes **must be worn visibly at all times in all areas** of the **ACC Liverpool**. Anyone found in the secure area without a valid pass will be escorted from the building.

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. **All** bags will be searched at the main entrance to the ACC Liverpool. Conference representatives are encouraged not to bring sharp objects into conference and any offensive weapons will be confiscated.



© Mike Cooper 2008

First-timers' guide to conference

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

Location: Canada Suite, Crowne Plaza Hotel
Time: 13.00 – 14.00 Date: Friday 7th March

If circumstances require it, the Federal Conference Committee may increase levels of security at conference at short notice. Where possible, representatives will be notified of the change of security level by a notice in the *Daily Announcements*.

Separate votes

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

Shuttle bus

A shuttle bus will operate between the ACC Liverpool and the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the start and end of fringe sessions.

Smoking

In accordance with party policy, the ACC Liverpool is entirely non-smoking.

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).

Conference information continued

- Persons who are ex-officio representatives (e.g. Parliamentary Spokespersons).
- Persons who have been given permission to speak by the Federal Conference Committee.

No other person may be called to speak in debates.

Anyone who is entitled and wishes to speak must complete a speaker's card to speak in the debate. Cards can be obtained from the Steward overseeing the block of seats in the **Conference Hall** 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 complete all sections legibly.

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

Lengths of speeches

Lengths of speeches for each debate are shown after each motion. These times may be changed by the Chair of the session.

The **speaker's rostrum** in the **Conference Hall** 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.

See also *interventions* on **page 41**.

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 ACC Liverpool or the Crowne Plaza Hotel at any time, and the right to remove anyone from the building.

Training sessions

Free training courses, **for Party members only**, are listed in the *fringe guide*, **pages 25–31**. For entry to

training sessions in the ACC Liverpool you must show a valid conference photo pass; and in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, a valid photo pass or Party membership card.

Transport and travel

See **page 48** for transport and travel information.

Urgent issues

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

Suggestions for urgent issues may be submitted by any conference representative, and should be emailed to **urgentissues@libdems.org.uk** by **12.00 on Tuesday 4th March**.

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

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



© Mersey Partnership

Conference information continued

Venues

The main conference venue is:

ACC Liverpool

16 Monarchs Quay, Liverpool, L3 4FP
Tel: +44 (0) 151 475 8888
www.accliverpool.com

The main conference sessions will take place in the **Conference Hall** in the **Arena** of the **ACC Liverpool**.

The official conference hotel (10 minutes from the ACC Liverpool):

Crowne Plaza Hotel

St Nicholas Place, Princes Dock, Liverpool, L3 1QW
Tel: +44 (0) 151 243 8000
www.cpliverpool.com

For locations, see *map of Liverpool city centre* on **inside back cover**.

Voting status and voting / non-voting photo passes

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

- 1) has already received in writing notification from the Returning Officer of your local party that you have been elected as a voting representative*; or
- 2) has already received in writing notification from the Returning Officer of your local party that you are a substitute elected by your local party Executive after a voting representative has indicated to them that s/he is unable to attend*; or
- 3) receives at the **Membership Desk**, in the **registration area** in the City-side Arena Concourse



© Mersey Partnership

Paperless conference

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

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

of the ACC Liverpool, written notification from the Returning Officer of your local party that you have been elected as a voting representative or as a substitute.

* For a voting photo pass to be sent out before conference this information must be received by **15th February**. Otherwise you will be sent a non-voting pass.

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

If you have received a non-voting photo pass but are attending conference as a substitute voting representative, you need to get an officer of your local party to write to Membership Services with the name, address and membership number of the representative you are substituting for, as well as your own full details, before **12.00 Friday 23rd February**, and bring a copy of this letter to the **Membership Desk** at conference.

You may then collect the appropriate pass from the **Membership Desk**, in the **registration area** in the City-side Arena Concourse of the ACC Liverpool.

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

Website

For conference details online, please see :

www.libdems.org.uk/conference



A new politics for Britain

Access and facilities for disabled people

Both the ACC Liverpool and Crowne Plaza Hotel are fully accessible by wheelchair.

The ACC Liverpool

The **main entrance** to the ACC Liverpool is the City-side Galleria Entrance on Monarchs Quay (see *conference venue plans* on **page 37**).

The security bag searches and bag checks will take place in the Galleria where the Business Centre/Internet Café is also located. There are lifts and escalators which will take you down to the Lower Galleria where the Information Desk and bag handout are located and there is access to the exhibition, catering areas, fringe meeting rooms and Conference Hall.

The **registration area** is in the City-side Arena Concourse of the ACC Liverpool, accessed by a separate entrance on Monarch's Quay.

In the Conference Hall

Access to the Conference Hall from the **Lower Galleria** is all on the flat. There is a ramp on to the stage and a height-adjustable lectern.

A **hearing loop** covers the seating block nearest to the Speakers' Table. All the main conference sessions in the Conference Hall have **sign language interpreters**.

Electric buggies and wheelchairs

Electric buggies and wheelchairs can be hired from the Liverpool branch of Shopmobility. Restrictions and hire charges do apply, so make sure you contact them well in advance to ensure that you are eligible and that you don't miss out on their limited stock.

Liverpool Shopmobility: 0151 707 0877.

Disabled toilets

There are disabled toilets on the mezzanine level (Riverside entrance), Lower Galleria and adjacent to the Arena and Conference Hall within the ACC Liverpool.

Services to the blind and visually impaired

Copies of the Conference Agenda and Directory and other conference documents can be made available on request in alternative formats.

Please contact Emma Harris, emma.harris@libdems.org.uk or 020 7227 1350, by Tuesday 19th February.

Car parking

There are approximately 160 car parking spaces allocated to disabled visitors within the ACC Liverpool multi-storey car park. There are disabled spaces allocated to each floor and passenger lifts to the ground floor exit.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel

Access to the Crowne Plaza Hotel is via the main entrance. The hotel has eight disabled car parking spaces for residents. Access to the first floor meeting rooms is via one of the two lifts in the foyer.

Other requirements

If you have any specific requirements that are not mentioned, please contact Emma Harris, email emma.harris@libdems.org.uk, before 19th February and she 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.



Transport and travel

By train

From the South: Virgin Rail operate hourly direct services to Liverpool Lime Street. London to Liverpool takes approximately 2.5 hours. **Be warned:** travel before 09.00 and between 15.00 and 18.00 is charged at peak rates.

From the North: Virgin Rail to Wigan North Western, Local train to Liverpool Lime Street.

You can book train tickets via our TheTrainLine link at www.libdems.org.uk/conference/booking/

ACC Liverpool is a 15 minute walk from Lime Street station. Alternatively, take bus Route S1 directly to ACC Liverpool, or it is a short taxi ride.

Merseyrail will take you the 5 minute journey from Lime Street to James Street; it is then a 3-minute walk to the Crowne Plaza Hotel and a 10-minute walk to ACC Liverpool. (Tickets to 'Liverpool Stations', rather than 'Lime Street', include the journey to James Street.) See www.merseyrail.com; tel 0870 608 260.

By coach and bus

There are good express coach connections to Liverpool from most towns and cities in Britain. See www.nationalexpress.co.uk. The coach station is in Norton Street, just north of Lime Street Station.

The City Centre Circular Route S1 links Lime Street railway station with Queen Square Bus Station, the Albert Dock, ACC Liverpool and other central tourist attractions, and operates every 10 minutes every day. See www.merseytravel.gov.uk/information_bus.html

By car

Please reduce congestion and pollution by using public transport or **car-sharing** where possible. For the Liberal Democrats conference car-share scheme, see: www.liftshare.org/v3/pages/default.asp?sid=1079

From the North: take the M6 to junction 26, then M58, following signs to Liverpool. At the end of the M58, turn on to the A59 and follow signs for 'Liverpool' and 'City Centre' until picking up signs for the Albert Dock. This will take you right off the A59 on to the A5053 heading

for the Albert Dock. Follow the Yellow AA signs marked 'Echo Arena'.

From the South: take the M6 to junction 21A, then M62 to Liverpool, follow signs for 'City Centre', until picking up signs for the Albert Dock. This will take you via the A59 and A5053 towards the Albert Dock. Follow the Yellow AA signs marked 'Echo Arena'.

There is a 1,600 space multi-storey car park on-site at ACC Liverpool. There are also four NCP car parks nearby. See also **car parks** on **page 39**.

By plane

Liverpool John Lennon Airport is 20 minutes from the city centre by taxi, or 40 minutes by bus. Enquiry desk tel: 0870 129 8484. www.liverpoolairport.com.

Taxi services

The following companies provide a local taxi service:

Davy Liver	0151 708 7080
Delta	0151 924 7373
SRC Private Hire Taxis	0151 928 3535

Transport around Liverpool

For full details of all local bus, rail and ferry services call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or go to:

www.merseytravel.gov.uk

A shuttle bus will operate between the ACC Liverpool and the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the start and end of fringe sessions.

For map of Liverpool city centre, see the **inside back cover**.



© Mersey Partnership

A new politics for Britain

Standing orders for Federal Conference

Glossary of Terms

Business motion

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

Business amendment

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

Committee

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

Constitutional amendment

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

Secondary constitutional amendment

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

Consultative session

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

Day visitor

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

Elected representative

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

Emergency motion

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

Emergency motions must be brief.

Emergency amendment

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

Full session

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

Non-voting member

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

Point of order

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

Policy motion

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

Policy amendment

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

Policy paper

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

Pre-manifesto paper

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

Procedural motion

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

Move to next business

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

Reference back

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

Request for a count

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

Separate vote

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

Suspension of standing orders

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

Special conference

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

Standing orders continued

Standing orders amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

Secondary standing orders amendment

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

Topical motion

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

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

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

Urgent issue discussion

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

Voting member

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

Standing orders

1. The conference agenda

1.1 What is on the agenda

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

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

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

1.2 Conference or council of state parties

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

1.3 Right to submit agenda items

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

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

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

1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

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

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

The Committee shall specify:

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

A new politics for Britain

Standing orders continued

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

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

1.6 Notification of deadlines

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

1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances

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

2. Consultative Sessions

2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions

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

2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

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

2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

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

3. The Preliminary Agenda

3.1 The shortlisting of motions

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

3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

3.3 Circulation of the Preliminary Agenda

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

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

4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

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

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

4.2 Selection of amendments

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

4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

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

Standing orders continued

that it leaves unamended some other part of the constitution which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.

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

4.4 Topical motions

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

4.5 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

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

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

4.6 Ballots for emergency motions

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

4.7 Emergency amendments

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

4.8 Urgent issue discussions

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

4.9 Holding motions

A policy or business motion which contains no substantive text at the time of its submission (a 'holding motion') may be submitted by the Federal Executive or Federal Policy

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

5. The Final Agenda

5.1 Drawing up the Final Agenda

The Committee may, in drawing up the Final Agenda:

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

5.2 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

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

6. Special meetings

6.1 Timetabling of special meetings

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

6.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

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

7. Appeals

7.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

The Committee shall provide written reasoning to the nominee of the proposers for the rejection of any motion or amendment or the removal of any motion from the Preliminary Agenda. The proposers may appeal, in writing, to the next meeting of

A new politics for Britain

Standing orders continued

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

7.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference

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

8. The chair

8.1 Who chairs conference

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

8.2 The chair's aide

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

9. Conduct of debate

9.1 Variation in the order of business

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

9.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

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

9.3 The order of debate

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

9.4 Urgent issue discussions

The Committee shall direct the order of the discussion. Normally

the proposer of the subject shall speak first, and a representative of the Federal Policy Committee shall speak last.

9.5 Who may speak

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

- 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.

9.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees

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

9.7 The selection of speakers

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

9.8 The length of speeches

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

9.9 Where to speak from

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

Standing orders continued

10. Voting at conference

10.1 The method of voting

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

10.2 Counting of votes

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

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

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

10.3 Separate votes

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

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

11. Points of order

11.1 Making a point of order

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

12. Procedural motions

12.1 Next business

- a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.
- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.
- d) The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the

time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

12.2 Reference back (moved by a representative)

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

12.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

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

Standing orders continued

next meeting of the conference, circulate its reasons for acting under this section and its comments on the motion and any amendments thereto accepted for debate.

12.4 Separate vote

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

12.5 Counted vote

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

12.6 Suspension of standing orders

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

12.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

13. Reports

13.1 Which reports are tabled

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

13.2 Submission and selection of questions

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

13.3 Whether questions are in order or not

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

13.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered

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

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

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

Standing orders continued

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

14. Amendment of standing orders

14.1 Amendment of standing orders

These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds

majority of members of conference voting on a motion duly submitted and selected in accordance with standing orders. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from meeting to meeting.

15. The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

15.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

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

The Federal Party

Officers of the Federal Party

Leader	Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
President	Simon Hughes MP
Chair of FFAC	Cllr Duncan Greenland
Treasurer	Lord Clement-Jones
Vice President (England)	Brian Orrell
Vice President (Scotland)	Audrey Findlay
Vice President (Wales)	Lembit Öpik MP
Chief Executive	Chris Rennard CBE

Federal Executive

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

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

Federal Finance and Administration Committee

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

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

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

Federal Policy Committee

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

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

Federal Conference Committee

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

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

The members of the FCC are shown on page 2.

Nick Clegg MP, speaking to the 2007 Liberal Democrat Local Government Conference at the Birmingham Convention Centre.

The conference is joint with ALDC and the LGA Lib Dems drawing together all the strands of local government.

2008 will be on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th June.
Book your place soon.

*Nick's up
for the
May elections
— are you ready?*

Friday 7 March, 10.00pm

Local Government Reception - featuring The Council Group of the Year Awards.

Baroness Ros Scott, Cllr Richard Kemp (Liverpool), Julia Goldsworthy MP, Princes Suite, Crowne Plaza

Saturday 8 March, 8-9.15pm

Leadership Centre Reception: Next Generation and more

Julia Goldsworthy MP, Tim Farron MP, Joe Simpson (LCLG), Cllr Erica Kemp (Liverpool) Princes 2, Crowne Plaza

A full programme of activity and support - for more advice come to our exhibition stands
ALDC Stand 5
LGA Lib Dem Stand 26



Local Government Association

I&DeA
Improvement and development agency



WWW.LGA.GOV.UK/LIBDEMGROUP