



spring conference

agenda and directory

birmingham 12th – 14th march 2010



change that works **for you**

BUILDING A FAIRER BRITAIN

the conference rally

building a fairer britain

Friday 12th March, 18.30–19.30, Auditorium, Hall 1, The ICC

Speakers: Nick Clegg, Paddy Ashdown, Shirley Williams, Tim Farron. Host: Lorely Burt.



Paddy Ashdown



Lorely Burt MP



Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP



Tim Farron MP



Shirley Williams

Photo © Brian Smith

At the next election only the Liberal Democrats will offer Britain the fresh start it needs. We are different because we believe in creating a fairer society and a better sort of politics, and we are now the only party that can deliver real change to build a fairer Britain.

At the Birmingham Rally Nick Clegg, Paddy Ashdown, Shirley Williams, Tim Farron and Lorely Burt will present the Liberal Democrat vision for a different, fairer Britain.

Conference photo pass required for entry – doors open 18.15

Exhibition, Sponsorship and Fringe

Exhibition

The diverse and vibrant exhibition provides reps with the opportunity to find out more about the services and activities of participating organisations. Whether it's health checks, a game of political coconut shy, a chance to test one's strength, or advice on the switch-over to digital (to name but a few!), there's something of interest to everyone in the exhibition halls.

Sponsorship

Conference features a wide range of unique opportunities for sponsorship. Lanyards, conference bags, stewards' uniforms, receptions and the Internet café are just a few of the sponsorship options available to organisations who want to bring their brand to the attention of the Liberal Democrats.

For more information on exhibition and sponsorship, please contact **Carol Caruana, Commercial and Exhibition Manager, 020 7227 1323, carol.caruana@libdems.org.uk.**

Fringe

A dynamic line-up of fringe events at conference sees a huge range of animated discussions taking place around the clock. The fringe gives reps the opportunity to mingle with MPs, Peers and other leading Party members, attend receptions and take part in a series of lively debates. Sometimes controversial, never dull, there is always food for thought in the fringe programme.

For more information on hosting your own fringe event, please contact **Siân Jenkins, Assistant Conference Organiser, 020 7227 1348, sian.Jenkins@libdems.org.uk.**



Photographs © Manny Begum 2008

Welcome to the Liberal Democrat spring conference 2010.

We are delighted to be holding the conference in Birmingham, for the first time for a Lib Dem conference.

The city has a long association with Liberal history; in 1877 the inaugural conference of the National Liberal Federation (the forerunner of today's party organisation) was held there, in recognition of the success of Birmingham Liberals in building a mass membership and an efficient electioneering organisation in the wake of the significant extension of the franchise in 1867.

In 1969 the Ladywood by-election saw an early triumph for community politics campaigning, and in 2005 the Liberal Democrats gained two seats in and near the city – Birmingham Yardley's John Hemming has written us an introduction to the city for this agenda, while Solihull's Lorely Burt will be hosting the conference rally on the Friday evening.

The main task for us at this conference will of course be to present our programme for the 2010 general election, so much of the agenda will be taken up with motions on manifesto themes proposed by the Federal Policy Committee. But we never forget that we are a democratic party, unlike our competitors; these motions contain important new developments of party policy that will be open to you to debate and vote on.

See you in Birmingham!

Duncan Brack

Chair, Federal Conference Committee



Duncan Brack is Chair of Federal Conference Committee

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For conference details and registration online:
www.libdems.org.uk/springconference

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the federal conference committee is here to serve you!



Duncan Brack,
Chair



Justine McGuinness,
Vice Chair



Geoff Payne,
Vice Chair,
English rep



Andrew Wiseman,
Vice Chair



Adrian Beavis,
Chief Steward,
co-opted



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Scottish rep



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Tessa Munt



Ruth Polling



Ian Walton,
Welsh rep



Erlend Watson,
FE rep

Ex officio:

Simon Hughes MP, Chief Whip's substitute.

Ros Scott, Party President.

Chris Fox, Acting Chief Executive (non-voting).

If you need to find any of the members of the FCC throughout the weekend, you should be able to identify them easily by the larger photo pass holder with the words 'Federal Conference Committee' written on it.



ready for the general election

by Nick Clegg MP

The general election is now just weeks away and the Liberal Democrats are in great shape, ready for the challenges ahead.

We have a fantastic set of candidates, campaigners and staff, who have all been working around the clock to prepare us for the campaign to come. When Gordon Brown finally fires the starting gun for this election, we will be ready to take the fight to both the other parties.

The Liberal Democrats will play an absolutely crucial role in this election – as the media have already realised. They know that only we have consistently called it right on Britain's biggest challenges – fixing the economy, asking the tough questions on Afghanistan, fighting for action on the environment and being the only party to understand the need for a total clean-up of our politics.

For myself, I'm relishing the chance to take on both Gordon Brown and David Cameron in the Leaders' Debates – because when people hear the Liberal Democrat message, they like it.

The debates at this conference will be central to that message, especially those about the outline of our manifesto. Along with the Federal Policy Committee and the Parliamentary Party, I've been working hard to deliver a manifesto which remains true to our values and beliefs and can still be delivered despite the difficult financial position our country is in. I am in no doubt that our manifesto does this.

It is a manifesto which I am proud to say puts fairness at its very core.

A fair deal on the tax system, making sure no one pays any tax on the first £10,000 they earn, so four million of the lowest earners pay no income tax at all and the average earner gets a £700 tax cut – with the richest paying their fair share.

A fair deal for the millions of people struggling to find work or a place to live through our massive green jobs and homes package.

A fair deal for children by making education our priority, so that each of them gets the very best start in life, and by preserving our environment for the next generation.

And a fair electoral system which ensures that all votes count and count equally, that lets voters remove corrupt MPs and that gets big money out of politics.

This is the vision for real change – change that really works – that our country needs. And it is these policies that mark us out from the other two parties.

Continued on page 4

The Liberal Democrats will play an absolutely crucial role in this election



© David Angell, NickClegg.com

ready for the general election continued from page 3

Labour have had thirteen years in government to make the country a fairer place and they have failed. And it is clear that the Tories can't be trusted to make it any better. Never has the Liberal Democrat alternative been more needed.

This general election is a huge opportunity for us to continue our progress over the last twenty years and for us to open up the failed two-party system which has blighted the country for too long. I have every confidence we will take that opportunity.

I hope you have a fantastic conference. Thank you again for everything you do for our party – and best of luck for the general election ahead!



Nick Clegg MP
Leader of the Liberal Democrats 

Never has the Liberal Democrat alternative been more needed

libdems.org.uk/act

ACT - The online Lib Dem community

- Organise events
- Join discussion groups
- Connect with friends
- Campaign online



Conference Daily

Make sure you pick up a copy of *Conference Daily* from the Information Desk as you enter The ICC each morning.

Conference Daily contains information, updates and changes, including amendments and emergency motions, which is vital to your understanding of the day's business.

twitter

During conference week, we will be tweeting live from the auditorium.

For updates on who's speaking, when agenda items are about to start and how conference has voted, follow us at:

www.twitter.com/LibDemConf

Subscribe to *Liberal Democrat News* for just £30 a year

Liberal Democrat News gives you the whole picture, covering news about the party that you will not find in the national media. Keep abreast of news and policy and also join in party debates and gossip.

www.libdems.org.uk/ldn 020 7340 4954 ldnsubs@libdems.org.uk



keeping conference democratic

by Martin Kettle

Like all political journalists, I go to a lot of party conferences. The three main autumn conferences, of course. Sometimes, especially in election years, the spring conferences too.

A few of us anoraks even make a point of sometimes taking in the conferences of the nationalists and the minor parties too. Mind you, the UKIP spring conference? I think even I would draw the line there.

If the only party conferences you have ever attended are Liberal Democrat conferences, you would get a shock if you ventured into a Labour or a Conservative one. Not just a political shock, but a procedural one too.

Nowadays, Labour and Conservative conferences have become little more than rallies, strictly controlled by the party leaderships. Everything is focused round the party leader and the main party spokespeople. Except when big names are making set speeches, not much of interest goes on in the conference hall. When delegates speak from the floor they are almost always heavily vetted and coached, especially at Conservative conferences.

Labour still has vestiges of the old rumbustious relationship between the floor and the platform — much of which it is well rid of — but the control freaks took over long ago.

That doesn't mean these conferences are a waste of time — far from it — but they are very much top-down affairs. Delegates go to listen, applaud and defer, but rarely to debate.

Let's be honest, Liberal Democrat conferences have moved a long way in

that direction too, as the party has grown and become more important. Control, deference and promotion of the leader all play their part here too.

But the reason I feel more at home in Liberal Democrat conferences is that, in spite of the modernisers and the strategists, they have always been and still remain argumentative and independent-minded affairs.

It's only at the Liberal Democrat conference that you can sit in the hall for a debate and sometimes get a story, or simply learn about a policy perspective you hadn't thought about. There are proper motions, and amendments. People debate the wording in the resolutions and reports. Nowadays, many of the delegates speak from experience too — it wasn't like that in the not-so-good old days.

I don't want to flatter you more than you deserve. Too many delegates wear suits and ties, even here. And the Liberal Democrats are not the only party that actually debates things.

The best party conference debate I heard last autumn was at the SNP conference in Inverness, where delegates argued over which currency they should adopt in an independent Scotland. Should it be the pound, or the euro, or perhaps the Norwegian krone or the Scots groat? Each position had its supporters.

Among the main UK-wide parties, however, Liberal Democrats are the only ones whose conference is not from beginning to end a stitch-up.

Call it the luxury of permanent opposition if you will. But I call it democracy and I hope you will never let it go.



Martin Kettle is a Guardian columnist and leader writer

Liberal Democrats are the only ones whose conference is not from beginning to end a stitch-up

welcome to birmingham

by John Hemming MP

Birmingham has more miles of canals than Venice.

The conference is based around the junction between some of those canals. In the 1970s I rode narrow boats through Gas Street basin and the changes are quite dramatic, as anyone who remembers the area over thirty years ago will confirm.

Back then the Liberals were in a clear third place, with only two councillors (out of 117) in 1983. Now, however, half of the city is a Lib Dem / Labour battleground and Labour could fall into third place on the council in May. We are now jointly running the City Council with the Conservative Party.

I was pleased to have been elected the first Liberal or Lib Dem MP for the city since Wallace Lawler won the Ladywood by-election in 1969 (the conference centre is in Ladywood). I have fought every general election since 1983 in a Birmingham seat – the last four times in Yardley. The Liberal Democrats are now the challengers against Labour in five of the ten city parliamentary seats.

Conference-goers tend to stay around the conference centre, of course. During the weekend, with the Museum and Art Gallery, Ikon Gallery and other local venues, there is too much to fill your time with beyond normal conference events – perhaps a longer stay is in order? A slightly longer walk brings in places such as Millennium Point with ThinkTank. People wanting

The political history of Birmingham includes a proud record of municipal activism

to go shopping can, of course, visit the Bull Ring on the way.

The political history of Birmingham includes a proud record of municipal activism. The city's municipal bank used to be based at the end of Broad Street near the Queensway (opposite Baskerville House) and the two halls on the other side of the Library and Paradise forum are known as the Water and Gas Halls because the water and gas companies, taken over by Liberal-controlled Birmingham Council in the 1870s, used to be operated from there.

Sadly, the current government has not been supportive of manufacturing, and although the 'city of a thousand trades' still has a considerable manufacturing base, it is much weaker than before. The Jewellery Quarter is also within walking distance of the conference, if people wish to take a short trip.

Going by my own experience of conference, however, most people will not find their way much further than the bars and restaurants of Broad Street and the fringe events of conference.

I hope you enjoy your stay in Birmingham and come back again for another look.



John Hemming is MP for Birmingham, Yardley



conference information

General information about this year's spring conference is listed below in alphabetical order.

The main conference sessions will take place in the **auditorium** in **Hall 1** on the first floor of **The ICC Birmingham** – see map on the **inside back cover** and *venues* and *plan of The ICC* on **page 11**. For information about the conduct of the business of conference, submitting amendments and appeals, speaking etc, see *auditorium information* on **pages 12–17**.

If you have any questions on-site, please ask a conference steward or go to the conference **Information Desk** in the Upper Foyer, at the top of the escalators in The ICC.

access

Access to the secure area of **The ICC** is possible **only with a valid, visible conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard**. You will be asked to show your pass at the bottom of the escalators up to the Upper Foyer in The ICC and you are required to wear the pass with the lanyard visible **at all times** within the secure area of the building.

Please allow time for security check queues at The ICC during key times – particularly after lunch and ahead of popular events.

If you are attending a fringe session in the **Crowne Plaza Birmingham Central**, conference photo passes are not necessary unless you are attending a party training session, where you may be asked to show a valid photo pass or party membership card.

accommodation

All accommodation at the conference hotel, the **Crowne Plaza Birmingham Central**, and alternative accommodation are now bookable directly via our local accommodation partner, the Birmingham Convention Bureau (BCB).

For more information on rates and how to book, call the BCB on 0121 202 5151 or visit:

www.libdemsinbirmingham2010.com

banking facilities

A cash machine is located next to the business centre in the **Mall** on the ground floor of The ICC.



© The ICC Birmingham

Please note, there is a £2.49 charge for this service. Alternative cash machines which issue no fee can be found on Brindley Place and Broad Street (see map on the **inside back cover**).

car parks

See parking under *transport and travel* on **page 20**.

cloakroom

Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the secure area of The ICC.

There is a cloakroom in the **Mall** on the ground floor of The ICC. A charge per item applies. As the cloakroom is outside the secure area, it will accept luggage on the last day of conference.

conference bags

Your biodegradable, environmentally-friendly conference bag will be available for collection from **Hall 10** off the Mall on the ground floor of The ICC. Please bring along your photo pass covering letter, which, if you register before **1st February**, you will receive before conference. Conference bag collection is open at the following times:

Friday	12th March	14.00 – 18.30
Saturday	13th March	08.30 – 17.30
Sunday	14th March	08.30 – 12.00

conference daily

Conference Daily will be published on **Saturday 13th** and **Sunday 14th March**. It will contain last-minute changes to the order of business, movers, amendments to motions, topical issues, emergency

conference information continued

motions for debate or the ballot, questions to reports, etc. and updates to information about the fringe and exhibition (it replaces the old *Daily Announcements*).

Conference Daily will be available at the start of each morning session from the **Information Desk** in the Upper Foyer of The ICC. Please make sure you collect your copy, as the information it contains will always be vital to understanding the day's business.

You can place an advert in *Conference Daily* to give up-to-date information about your organisation or event to conference-goers. Contact Carol Caruana, carol.caruana@libdems.org.uk, 020 7227 1323 or at conference via the **Information Desk** in The ICC.

Conference Extra is not published at spring conference – all the relevant information is contained in this *Agenda and Directory* or in *Conference Daily*.

consultative sessions

Consultative sessions take place on **Friday 12th March between 15.00 and 17.30**. See **page 34**.

disabled access and parking

Please see *access and facilities for disabled people* on **page 18**.

distribution of literature

Distribution of literature is not allowed inside, or directly outside, The ICC.

Exhibitors may only distribute material, sell raffle tickets, etc. directly from their stands. Gangways, stairways, entrances and catering areas must not be used for this purpose, and any fliers found in these areas will be removed.



© Mike Cooper 2009

Excessive distribution of promotional literature is not in line with the party's environmental policies. Any persons attempting to bring a large number of fliers into the conference centre may be prohibited from entering the secure area of The ICC and a dilapidation charge will be levied against any organisation or individual responsible for 'fly-posting'.

documents for conference

For registrations received after **30th January**, conference documentation cannot be mailed but can be collected at conference from **Hall 10** off the Mall on the ground floor of The ICC.

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

exhibition

The exhibition is located in **Hall 3** off the Upper Foyer of The ICC. See **pages 21–24** for opening times and exhibitor details.

fcc helpdesk

Do you have any questions on the conference agenda? Do you want any tips on filling in your speaker's card that'll make you more likely to be called to speak in a debate? Are you unclear about any aspect of conference procedure? If so, drop by the Federal Conference Committee's Helpdesk, where FCC members will be able to give you advice.

The FCC Helpdesk is next to the Information Desk, in the **Upper Foyer** on the first floor of The ICC, and will be open on the Saturday morning of conference, 13th March, from 08.30 to 12.30.

feedback

Conference feedback questionnaires are no longer available in hard copy form. Instead, after conference, representatives will be emailed a link to an online questionnaire.

Your feedback is important to us. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire as your answers provide important information that helps us to improve conference.



conference information continued

first aid

In the event of needing First Aid assistance, please approach a member of the stewarding team (either Lib Dem or ICC) or go to the **Information Desk** in the Upper Foyer of The ICC. The stewards will arrange for First Aiders to attend and/or request a paramedic.

fringe

For details of fringe meetings, see the *fringe guide* on pages 25–30.

The official fringe meeting venues are **The ICC** and the **Crowne Plaza Birmingham Central**. For locations of these and other useful venues, see the map on the **inside back cover**.

If you are attending a fringe session outside the secure area of The ICC, conference photo passes are not necessary, unless you are attending a party training session where you may be asked to show a valid conference photo pass or party membership card.

Headquarters' fringe events:

Conference Rally

Building a Fairer Britain

At the next election only the Liberal Democrats will offer Britain the fresh start it needs. Join Nick Clegg, Paddy Ashdown, Shirley Williams, Tim Farron and Lorely Burt, who will present the Liberal Democrat vision for a different, fairer Britain.

Friday 12th March, 18.30 – 19.30

Hall 1, The ICC

(Photo pass required for entry)

Doors open at 18.15

Glee Club

The traditional end-of-conference celebration of songs old and new.

Saturday 13th March, 22.00 – 02.00

Vista Suite, Crowne Plaza

information desk

The Information Desk, where members of the Conference Team can answer your questions, is located in the **Upper Foyer** on the first floor of The ICC, at the top of the escalators from the Mall.

The Information Desk is open at the following times:

Friday	12th March	14.00 – 18.30
Saturday	13th March	08.30 – 18.30
Sunday	14th March	08.30 – 13.30

To contact the Information Desk:

telephone: 0121 374 2075

email: conferenceinformation@libdems.org.uk

internet café

An Internet café is available in the exhibition in **Hall 3** off the Upper Foyer of The ICC, at a fee of £1 per 30 minutes; vouchers are available at the Internet café.

Wifi is available in all public areas of The ICC (apart from Hall 3) and is free of charge for delegates. To log on, use the following username and password:

Username: conference; Password: spring2010

lost passes

A replacement fee of £25.00 applies and photo passes are reissued at the discretion of the Registration Manager.

lost property

All items of lost property should be handed in to, and reclaimed from, the **Information Desk** in the Upper Foyer of The ICC.

photo passes

If you pre-registered for conference before **30th January 2010**, your photo pass will be mailed to you in mid to late February. We will also endeavour to mail out photo passes for registrations received between **30th January** and **12th February**.

If you have registered, but have not received your photo pass before conference, it will be available for collection from the **registration area** in Hall 9 off the Mall on the ground floor of The ICC, from **14.00 on Friday 12th March**.

prayer and meditation room

A multi-faith prayer and meditation room is located next to Café Vite on the **Mall** on the ground floor of The ICC.



© Marketing Birmingham, visitbirmingham.com

Registration is open at the following times:

Friday	12th March	14.00 – 18.30
Saturday	13th March	08.30 – 17.30
Sunday	14th March	08.30 – 12.00

security and safety

All security measures are taken in consultation with the police and The ICC management. Conference photo passes **must be worn visibly at all times within the secure zone of The ICC**. Anyone found in the secure area without a valid pass will be escorted from the building.

All bags will be searched at the bottom of the escalators in the Mall of The ICC.

Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the secure zone of The ICC. Any bag left unattended will be brought to the attention of the police and may be removed and/or destroyed.

smoking

All areas of The ICC are non-smoking.

stewards

The security team includes volunteer stewards who act under the direction of the Chief Steward, with advice from the local police, whose decision is final in any dispute regarding security.

telephone facilities

There are two public phones within The ICC, located in the Mall next to the Cloakroom.

training events

An extensive range of free training events for party members is taking place on **Saturday 13th March between 09.15 and 17.30**, in the **Crowne Plaza**.

Only party members may attend training events and a valid conference photo pass or party membership card must be shown for entry.

For details of the training courses see the **training programme** on **pages 29–30** or go to **www.libdems.org.uk/conference**.

recycling facilities

Recycling facilities for paper and plastic will be provided in The ICC. Please make use of the collection bins.

refreshments

Hot and cold snacks and a wide variety of beverages are available in the **Upper Foyer** and the exhibition area in **Hall 3** of The ICC. The Conference Office has worked closely with the professional catering team at The ICC to ensure that representatives can enjoy a wide variety of good food at reasonable prices.

registration on-site

On-site registration is available to representatives who have yet to register or need to query or change their current registration. The **registration area** is located in **Hall 9** off The Mall on the ground floor of The ICC.

On-site registration is a simple four-step process:

1. Complete the relevant registration form which is available in the registration area.
2. Have your party membership confirmed at the Membership Desk – please ensure you bring your membership card with you.
3. Pay any applicable charges at the Finance Desk.
4. Last stop, collect your conference pass from the Registration Desk – no need to bring a photograph as one can be taken on-site, free of charge.

If you have any questions, one of our Conference Team will help.



conference information continued

transport and travel

For information on transport to and around Birmingham, see **page 20**.

twitter

During conference, we will be tweeting live from the auditorium. For updates on who's speaking, when agenda items are about to start and how conference has voted, follow us at:

www.twitter.com/LibDemConf

website

For conference details online, please see:

www.libdems.org.uk/springconference

venues

The main conference venue is:

The ICC Birmingham
Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2EA
Telephone: 0121 200 2000
www.theicc.co.uk

The main conference sessions will take place in the **auditorium in Hall 1** of The ICC – see *plan of The ICC* below.

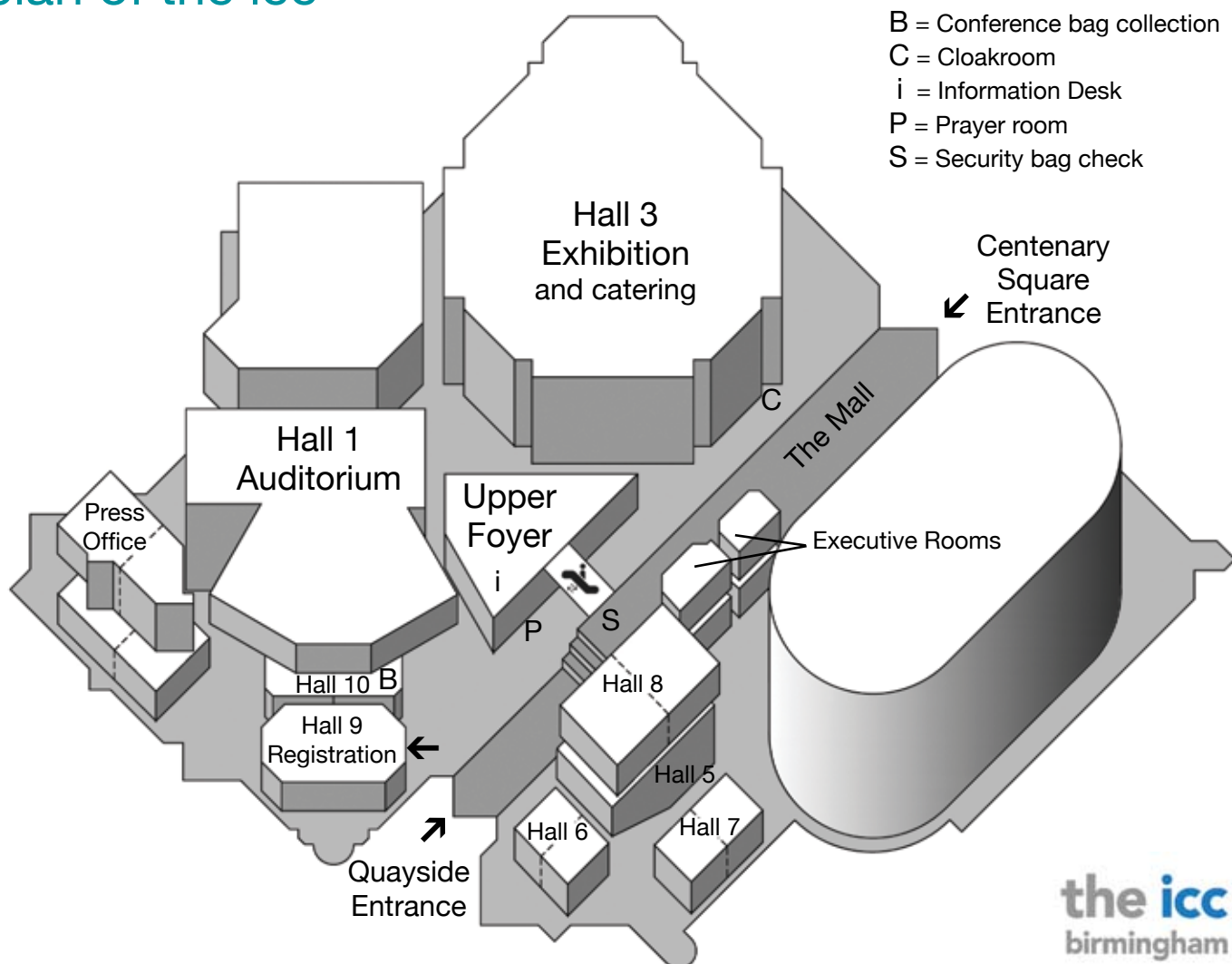
Conference / fringe hotel:

Crowne Plaza Birmingham Central
Holliday Street, Birmingham, B1 1HH
Telephone: 0870 400 9150
www.crowneplazabirmingham.com

A map of Birmingham town centre showing these venues is on the **inside back cover**.

information

plan of the icc



auditorium information

Everything you need to know concerning the main conference sessions in the auditorium at this year's spring conference is listed below in alphabetical order. For general conference information, see **pages 7–11**. If you have any questions on-site, please ask a steward or go to the **Information Desk** in the Upper Foyer on the first floor of **The ICC Birmingham**.

amendments to motions

All motions are 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 9th March**; they should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to **motions@libdems.org.uk**, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. Please use the standard form included with the agenda mailing (or a photocopy) or download a form from the *conference papers* page at **www.libdems.org.uk/springconference**.

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

You are also encouraged to use our drafting advisory service; the deadline for draft amendments is **12.00 on Tuesday 23rd February** and they should be sent to **motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk**.

All amendments accepted for debate will be detailed in Saturday's *Conference Daily* – see **page 7**.

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 Conference Committee was unaware when it made its original decision.

Appeals must be signed by ten 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 on Tuesday 9th March**. Appeals should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to **motions@libdems.org.uk**, or by 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* on **pages 33–52**.

auditorium

The main conference sessions will take place in the auditorium in **Hall 1** of The ICC, off the Upper Foyer on the first floor. See *plan of The ICC* on **page 11**.

The **Speakers' Table** is located at the front of the auditorium, to the left of the stage.

Sign language interpretation will be provided during all sessions held in the auditorium. Please be mindful of not obstructing sightlines to the signers when moving around the auditorium.

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

conference daily

Information about any changes to the order of business, details of amendments and emergency motions, etc, will be published in *Conference Daily*, available on Saturday and Sunday morning from the **Information Desk** – see **page 7**.

consultative sessions

Consultative sessions take place on **Friday 12th March between 15.00 and 17.30**. See **page 34**.

emergency motions

The slot at **F19** is reserved for emergency motions or topical issues (see also *topical issues* on **page 14**).

Emergency motion debates are debates with a vote, which make formal party policy like any other policy



auditorium information continued

motion, but which refer to a development since the **13th 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 on Tuesday 9th March**. Emergency motions should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to **motions@libdems.org.uk**, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. Please use the standard form in the agenda mailing (or a photocopy) or download a form from the *conference papers* page at **www.libdems.org.uk/springconference**.

You are encouraged to use our drafting advisory service; the deadline for draft emergency motions is **Tuesday 23rd February**, and they should be sent to **motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk**.

Emergency motions may be the subject of a priority ballot among voting representatives. Ballot papers and the ballot box will be available at the **Speakers' Table** in the auditorium. The poll will be held, if necessary, **between 09.00 and 13.00 on Saturday 13 March**. If there is a simple choice between two motions, a card vote will be held in the auditorium at **10.55 on Saturday 13th March**.

The emergency motions accepted for debate or the ballot will be detailed in Saturday's *Conference Daily*.

flash photography

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

interventions

There will be interventions during debates **F6, F12, F14, F20 and F22**. This procedure offers voting or non-voting representatives the opportunity to make concise (one-minute) speeches from the floor during the debate. Eligibility to make an intervention is the same as for making a speech (see *speaking at conference* on **page 14**).

There is one **intervention microphone** in the **lower tier of the auditorium** facing the stage. Those wishing to speak during interventions should sit in the designated seats behind the microphone and complete the form handed to them by the steward



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overseeing those seats. Three lights will be visible on either side of the stage: the green light comes on at the start of the intervention; the amber light will show after 40 seconds; the red light will come on at the end of one minute and the intervention must stop immediately.

question and answer session

The slot at **F11** is a Q&A session with the party leader. Any voting or non-voting representative may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) on any relevant topic, and, if selected by the chair of the session, will be asked to put the question from the **intervention microphone** in the auditorium.

Questions may be submitted on a card collected from and returned to the **Speakers' Table** in the auditorium no later than **13.00 on Saturday 13th March**.

Supplementary questions may also be asked by other voting or non-voting representatives, to follow up the original question. Anyone wanting to ask a supplementary question must sit in the **lower tier of the auditorium**, and should put their hand up when asked to do so; if chosen, they will be passed a hand-held microphone.

questions to reports

Any voting 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 questions to the reports of the Federal Committees is **12.00 on Tuesday 9th March**. Questions should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to

auditorium information continued

questions@libdems.org.uk, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. Please use the standard form included in the agenda mailing (or a photocopy) or download a form from the *conference papers* page at www.libdems.org.uk/springconference. Questions will be detailed in Saturday's *Conference Daily* – see **page 7**.

Questions on events occurring after the 9th March deadline may be submitted on speaker's cards at the **Speakers' Table** in the auditorium up until **one hour before the start of the session**.

The deadline for questions to reports of the Parliamentary Parties (**F10**) is **12.40 on Saturday 13th March**. Concise questions (maximum 25 words), on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the UK or European Parliaments, may be submitted on a form collected from and returned to the **Speakers' Table**. The chair will select which questions will be asked during the session.

separate votes

Requests for separate votes on parts of motions may be submitted in writing by any voting representative to the **Speakers' Table** in the auditorium.

Requests for separate votes must be submitted by the commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled, or, for debates scheduled for the first day of conference, by **12.00 on Tuesday 9th March**. They should be sent to the Policy Projects Team, preferably by email to motions@libdems.org.uk, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

speaking at conference

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

- Voting representatives (or substitutes), elected by their local parties or appointed ex-officio (e.g. MPs, PPCs, council group leaders, etc.), who have paid their full registration fee for the conference.
- Non-voting representatives who have paid their full registration fee for the conference (this does not include day visitors).
- Persons who have been given permission to speak by the Federal Conference Committee.

No other person may be called to speak in debates, including during interventions.

Anyone who is entitled and wishes to speak **must complete a speaker's card** to speak in the debate.

Speakers' cards can be obtained from the **steward** overseeing the block of seats in the auditorium in which you are sitting, from the **Information Desk** from 14.00 on Friday 12th March and from the **foyer** of the **Crowne Plaza** from Friday evening.

You must complete all sections of the speaker's card legibly. Hand the completed card to a **steward** in the auditorium before the beginning of the morning or afternoon in which the debate occurs. If this is not possible, hand it in well in advance of the debate.

Lengths of speeches for each debate are shown in the *agenda* (on **pages 33–52**) after each motion.

The speaker's rostrum in the auditorium 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.

topical issues

The slot at **F19** has been reserved for topical issues or emergency motions (see also *emergency motions* on **page 12**).

Topical issue discussions, unlike other debates at conference, will not make party policy, but are intended to allow 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.

Continued on page 17



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speaking in conference debates

Debates are the heart of federal conference: they're where the party sets its policy and decides its future direction. Unlike in the other parties, the Liberal Democrat conference is sovereign, and what it decides really matters.

Any party member can speak in debates: all you need is to be registered as either a voting or a non-voting representative. Then fill in and submit a speaker's card and wait to see if you're called in the debate.

Speaker's cards are available from the Speaker's Table and from the stewards in the auditorium. They can also be collected from the Information Desk in The ICC or the foyer of the Crowne Plaza.

There are three key points to remember to maximise your chances of being called:

1 submit your card well in advance

If you hand your card in late, in a popular debate you're virtually guaranteeing you won't be called. The chair and aide team for the debate always meet well in advance to plan the debate – sometimes the previous day.

2 fill in your card completely

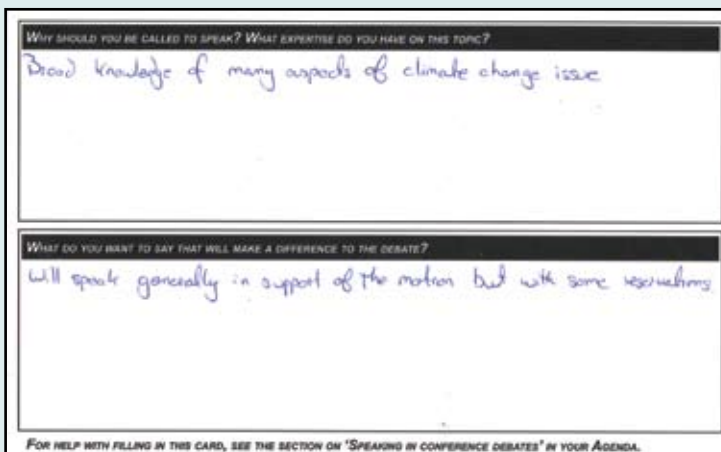
The second major mistake potential speakers make is not to fill in their card completely. As well as the information on the front of the card (name, local party, for or against the motion, etc.), there are two sections on the back, for relevant background (professional or consumer experience, party background, etc.) and for a brief outline of what your speech is going to be about.

These sections are needed for the chair and aide to balance the debate – to make sure that people with relevant experience are called (not necessarily to the exclusion of others, but professional or user backgrounds are always valuable), and to make sure that they don't call a whole string of people who'll make the same point.

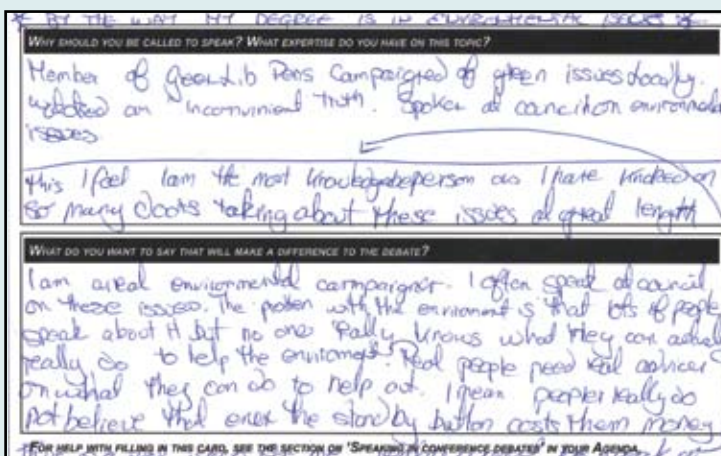
3 make sure it's readable!

Don't take this as an invitation to fill every square centimetre of the card; and don't write illegibly, or in very small letters, or in green ink ... the easier you make it for the chair and aide to read your card the more likely you will be to be called.

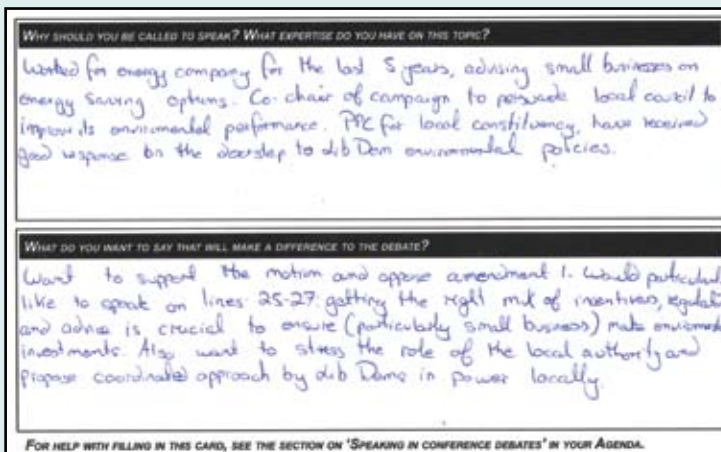
The wrong way to fill in a speaker's card (1): no useful information



The wrong way to fill in a speaker's card (2): too much information, but mostly neither helpful nor easily readable!

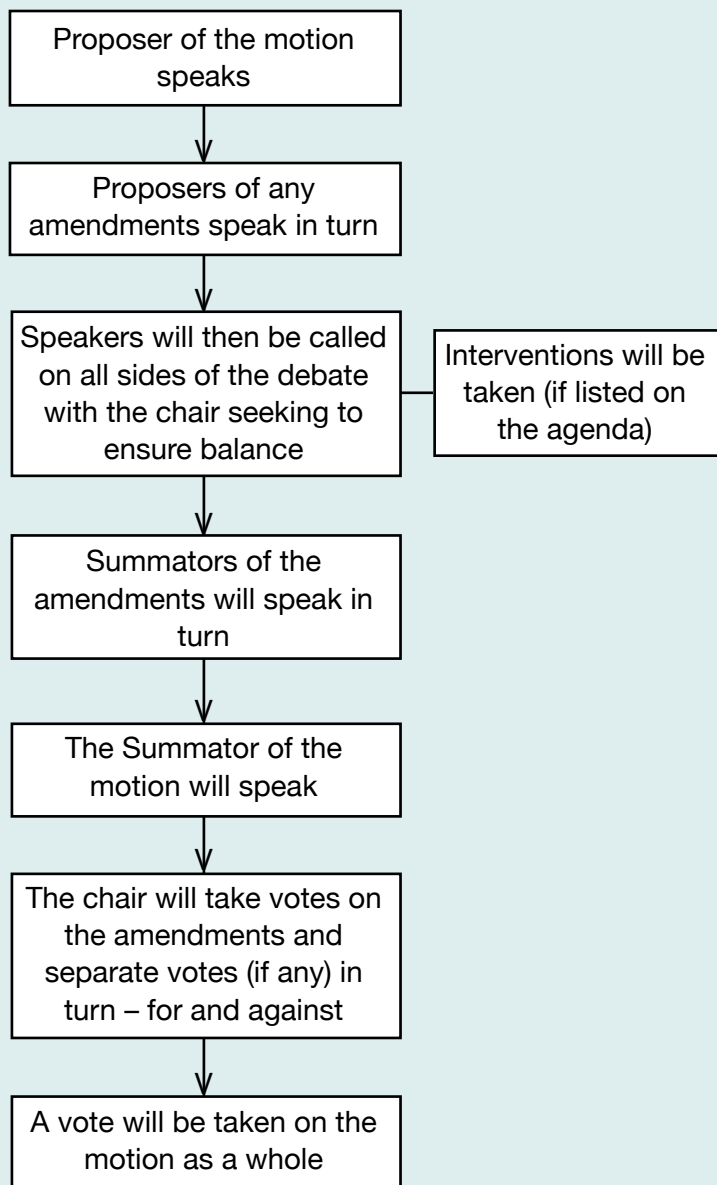


The right way to fill in a speaker's card: clear, concise, to the point, and probably different from anyone else's



the order of debate at conference

Policy and business motions: generally, conference will consider a motion in the following way:



Voting: decisions on the motion, on amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting.

Separate vote: any voting representative can submit a request for a separate vote – for procedure and deadlines see page 14. When a separate vote is taken, the chair shall ask conference to vote on whether to delete or retain the specified words or section.

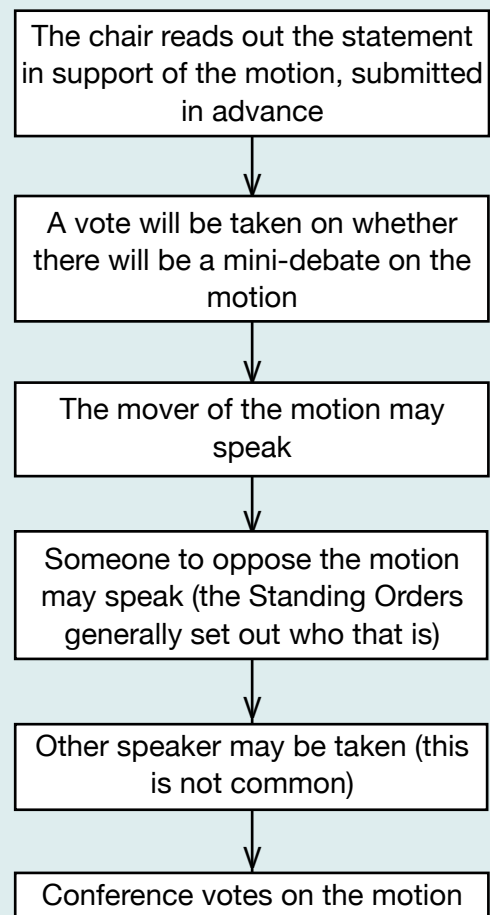
Counted vote: the chair of the session may decide that a vote is so close that it needs to be counted. Alternatively, if any voting representative wants a counted vote, they may request one from the floor; if fifty other voting representatives stand and show their voting cards in support, a count will be taken.

Procedural motions concern the procedure by which conference operates. They are:

- Reference Back (to stop debate and send the motion to a specified body for more work);
- Next Business (to stop debate and move to the next item of business on the agenda);
- Suspension of Standing Orders (to lift one or more of the rules governing the operation of conference).

They may be submitted by voting representatives in writing at the Speaker's Table together with a statement of reasons of 75 words or less.

They generally work in the following way (there are some exceptions – see Standing Orders on page 58 for specific guidance):



Voting: decisions on procedural motions are made by simple majority of those voting, except for the suspension of standing orders, which requires the support of two-thirds of those voting.



auditorium information continued

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any voting representative, and should be emailed to **motions@libdems.org.uk** by **12.00 on Tuesday 9th March**. Emails should include full contact details of the submitter and may include up to 100 words explanatory background.

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.

The topical issue to be discussed is chosen by officers of the Federal Conference Committee and Federal Policy Committee and will be detailed in Saturday's *Conference Daily* – see **page 7**.

The person submitting an issue that has been chosen 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.

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 written notification from the Returning Officer of your local party that you have been elected as a voting representative*; or
- 2 has already received written 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 informed them that s/he is unable to attend*; or
- 3 receives at the Membership Desk at conference (in Hall 9 off the Mall on the ground floor of The ICC) 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 have been received by Monday 1st February. Otherwise you will be sent a non-voting photo pass.

If you have received a non-voting photo pass and believe you are a 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 on Wednesday 24th February**, and bring a copy of this letter to the Membership Desk in the **registration area** in Hall 9 of The ICC at conference.

You may then collect the appropriate pass from the Membership Desk in the registration area.

Write to: Membership Services, 4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3NB
or email: **membership@libdems.org.uk**



Want a bigger role in conference?

Want to make new friends and be part of a close knit, hard-working and fun team?

Want to be part of the team that makes federal conference happen?

Join us!



If you want to experience a different side to conference or if this is your first time and you're a little unsure of what to expect, why not come as part of our Stewards Team?

Our fantastic team of stewards ensures the smooth-running of conference by helping with security, coordinating the auditorium, looking after our guests, assisting with registrations and much, much more! We provide a daily allowance, help with accommodation costs and offer free registration. So if you're keen to get more involved, we'd love to have you on board.

To find out more, visit **www.libdemstewards.co.uk**
or contact Adrian Beavis, Chief Steward:
adrianbeavis@talktalk.net

access and facilities for disabled people

birmingham

Birmingham has made every effort to make the city accessible and welcoming to visitors with a disability or restricted mobility. For information and useful tips for getting around Birmingham:

Shopmobility, tel: 0121 616 2942 or go to:
www.visitbirmingham.com/information/access_for_all

the icc birmingham

All rooms used at The ICC are accessible to **wheelchair users**, via ramps or lifts. However, due to the restriction imposed by implementing a secure zone within the centre, wheelchair routes to certain areas within The ICC may be different to those promoted to all conference representatives. A guide detailing wheelchair-friendly routes around The ICC is available to download from:

www.libdems.org.uk/springconference

Hard copies will be available on-site and our disabled access steward will be happy to organise a tour of the routes. Visit the **Information Desk** in the Upper Foyer of The ICC for further details.

Wheelchair users should access the auditorium via the Upper Foyer where there are clearly marked wheelchair positions. If you require ramped access to the stage, please ask a steward who will direct you to the backstage route. The chair of the session will ensure wheelchair users are called in plenty of time to access the stage.

There are unisex wheelchair-accessible **toilets** on all floors of The ICC.

An **induction loop** system, which can be linked to visitors' hearing aids, is operated in the auditorium.

Sign language interpretation will be provided during all sessions held in the auditorium. A number of seats are reserved for representatives using this service, to the right of the stage at the front of the auditorium.

For representatives who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a **visual impairment**, a small number of seats are reserved at the front of the auditorium.

Services For The Blind And Visually Impaired

A range of electronic versions of the Conference Agenda and Directory, Training Schedule and policy and consultation papers are available for download online. These include PDF files, plain text files for blind computer users and clear print versions (designed in line with RNIB guidelines). Download from the conference papers page at:
www.libdems.org.uk/springconference

If you are unable to access the Internet and would like any files emailed or posted to you, contact the Conference Office on 020 7227 1350 or at conferences@libdems.org.uk

For clear print copies of any papers whilst at conference (eg. Conference Daily), ask at the Information Desk.

Tactile signage is fitted in the majority of lifts in The ICC and **Assistance Dogs** are welcome.

crowne plaza birmingham central

Manual wheelchair users should be aware that the route between The ICC and the Crowne Plaza involves a sloped underpass. During peak fringe times, stewards will be stationed at the underpass



access and facilities for disabled people continued

should anyone require assistance getting up or down. If you require assistance outside these times, please ask at **reception at the Crowne Plaza** or at the **Information Desk** in The ICC where a member of hotel staff or a steward will be happy to accompany you.

All the meeting rooms used at the Crowne Plaza are wheelchair-accessible. Access to the first floor meeting rooms is via the lifts in the foyer. The first floor has a unisex wheelchair-accessible toilet.

car parking

For information on parking for Blue Badge holders in the Birmingham area, please call 0121 303 6644 or email: parking@birmingham.gov.uk.

At The ICC, parking is free of charge at or near the main entrance for vehicles displaying blue badges. Spaces should be booked in advance by calling 0121 780 4949.

rail

Birmingham New Street Railway Station has step-free access across the whole station with lift access to all platforms. If assistance is required at Birmingham station, please contact customer services of the relevant train operator at least 24 hours prior to travel so help can be tailored to individual needs and assistance given at each stage of the journey:

CrossCountry: 0844 811 0125
London Midland: 0800 092 4260
Virgin Trains: 08457 44 33 66

For further information on train services, see *transport and travel* on **page 20**.

Multi-faith prayer and meditation room

A multi-faith prayer and meditation room is located off the mall of The ICC, next to Café Vite.

The room is available all day throughout conference – please be respectful of others using the room.

taxis

See taxi services under *transport and travel* on **page 20**.

electric scooters

The Liberal Democrats have a limited number of mobility scooters available for conference representatives, free of charge, to use around and between The ICC and Crowne Plaza. They are available on a first come, first served basis and will need to be returned to The ICC each evening for charging. To request use of a mobility scooter, email conferences@libdems.org.uk.

other requirements

If you have any specific requirements that are not mentioned, please contact the Conference Office: email conferences@libdems.org.uk before **19th February** and they will endeavour to assist.

information and assistance at conference

Anyone who requires assistance should approach a conference steward or one of the staff at The ICC or Crowne Plaza.

Robert Littlehales is the **disabled access steward** at conference. You can contact him both in advance of and during conference:

telephone: 07712 667702
or email: rlittlehales@aol.com

or ask for him at the **Information Desk** in the Upper Foyer of The ICC.



Discount Vouchers

Meet Birmingham has kindly supplied all conference representatives with a discount booklet to use at a number of local shops, restaurants, bars and attractions.

Find yours in your delegate bag or pick one up from the Information Desk (*subject to availability*).

transport and travel

There is a map of Birmingham city centre on the **inside back cover**.

air

Birmingham International Airport is located 8 miles (13km) east of Birmingham City Centre and The ICC Birmingham, situated on the A45 (Coventry Road) only 1 mile from junction 6 of the M42.

The airport is served by a network of local buses. The main services 900 and 966 operate from early in the morning to late at night including weekends. During the daytime there are 9 trains per hour between Birmingham International and Birmingham New Street Station. Black cabs provide a 24/7 service from outside passenger terminals (journey time approximately 25 minutes).

More than 38 scheduled airlines link Birmingham International Airport to 75 business centres in the UK, Europe, North America and the Middle East.

bus and coach

The National Express coach terminal is located in Digbeth in Birmingham city centre. For further information on routes and timetable, visit:

www.nationalexpress.com

The ICC is approximately a 2 mile journey by taxi from Digbeth coach station. Black cabs are the safest way to travel and each vehicle carries 5 people with luggage.

The ICC can be reached by a great number of local bus services. Local bus information can be found at the following websites:

www.networkwestmidlands.co.uk
www.travelwm.co.uk

car

The ICC is situated in Birmingham city centre; its central location ensures it is at the hub of the UK motorway network. Visitors from any direction can travel to The ICC using the following motorways - M1, M5, M6, M6 Toll, M40 and M42.

For help planning your route, visit:

www.rac.co.uk/route-planner

If you are using a satellite navigation system, please enter the postcode B1 2EA to pinpoint The ICC.

Reduce congestion and pollution by using public transport or car-sharing where possible.

parking

Parking for The ICC is located within The **National Indoor Arena (NIA)**, and is just a short walk away from The ICC (see map on **inside back cover**). The NIA is signposted on motorways and major roads and is marked on most maps. Please be aware that the Sat Nav system will not direct you into The NIA car parks. Please follow the clearly signposted directions once in the vicinity of the venue. For details of parking charges, visit:

www.theicc.co.uk/delegate/travel/bycar

For disabled parking, see parking under *access and facilities for disabled people* on **page 18**.

taxi services

A phone located at The ICC's main entrance (Centenary Square) dials directly through to TOA taxis – a local reliable taxi company. All cars are wheelchair-accessible Hackney Cabs.

TOA Taxis
telephone: 0121 427 888
www.toataxis.net

train

As the UK's largest interchange rail station, Birmingham New Street offers regular services connecting with London (90 mins), Edinburgh (4h 20mins), Cardiff (2h) and most principal towns and cities throughout the UK. Book through the Liberal Democrats' affinity scheme to raise money for the party, at no extra cost to yourself:

www.libdems.org.uk/help_us_for_free.aspx

The city centre is also served by two further train stations: Birmingham Moor Street and Birmingham Snowhill (Chiltern Railways).

All stations are within walking distance/10 minute taxi journey from The ICC and Crowne Plaza.



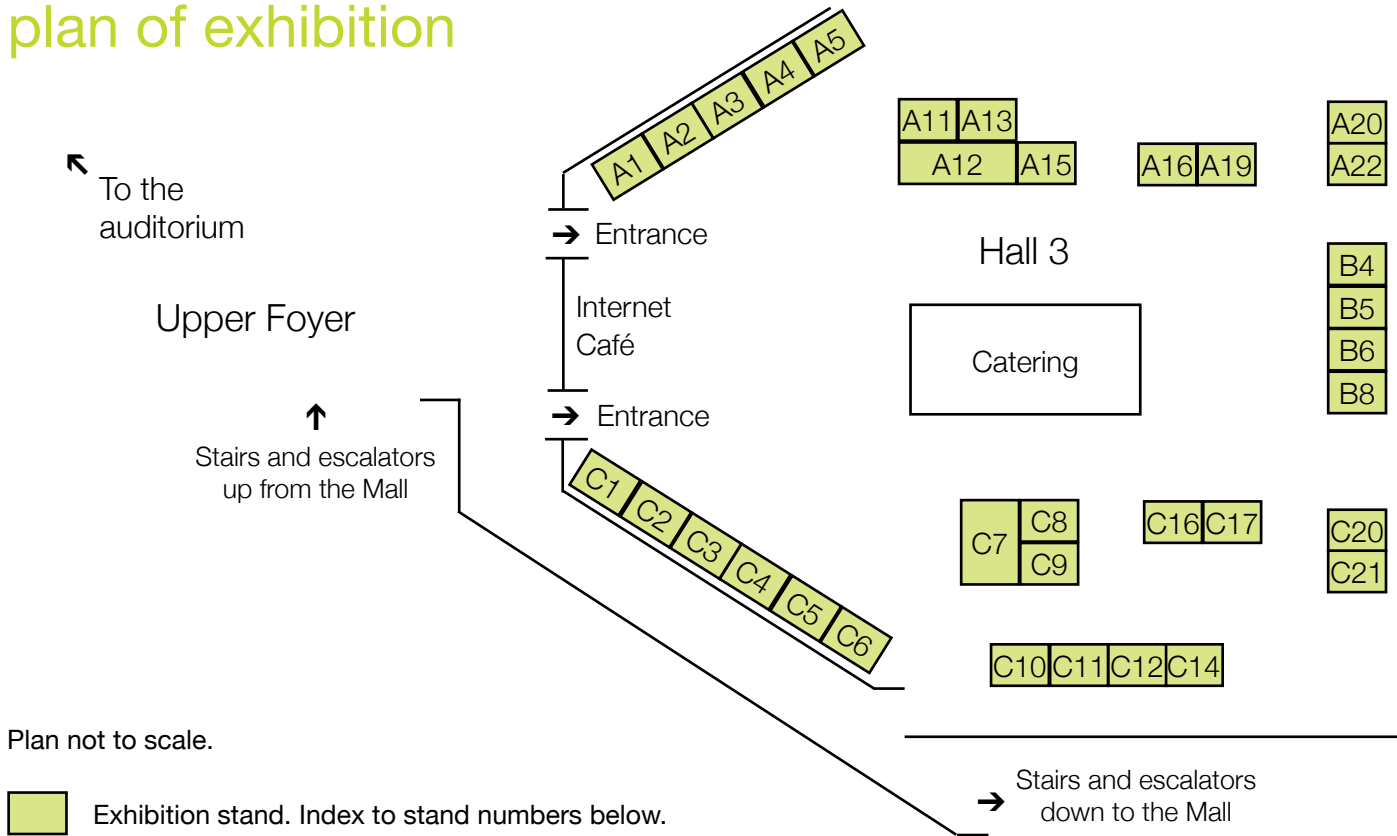
the exhibition

The exhibition is located in **Hall 3** off the Upper Foyer in the first floor of The ICC Birmingham. See *plan of exhibition* below and *conference venue plan* on **page 11**.

Exhibition opening times:

Friday	12th March	14.00 – 18.30
Saturday	13th March	08.30 – 18.30
Sunday	14th March	08.30 – 13.30

plan of exhibition



exhibitors listed by stand number

Stand	Organisation
A1	Liberal Youth
A2	<i>Liberator</i>
A3	Liberal Democrat European Group
A4	Liberal Democrat History Group
A5	Liberal Democrat Education Association
A11	ALDES – Engineers & Scientists
A12	pteg
A13	Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association
A15	LGA Liberal Democrat Group
A16)	Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors
A19)	and IDeA
A20	Harmsworth Printing Ltd
A22	Eaga
B4	EARS
B5	Birmingham Convention Bureau
B6	Leeds City Region
B8	Riso UK Ltd / Midshire Business Machines
C1	Liberal Democrat Christian Forum
C2	Liberal Democrat Disability Association
C3	Parliamentary Candidates Association (PCA)
C4	Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats
C5	Campaign for Gender Balance
C6	Women Liberal Democrats
C7	Liberal Democrat Image
C8	Green Liberal Democrats
C9	West Midlands Liberal Democrats
C10	Agents & Organisers Association
C11	Prater Raines Ltd
C12	CentreForum
C14	LGBT Lib Dems (DELGA)
C16	Liverpool Convention Bureau
C17	ALTER
C20	The Chard Group 1992
C21	Humanist and Secular Liberal Democrats

directory of exhibitors

Stand C10

Agents & Organisers Association



Advice, support and advocacy for all election agents and organisers. Come and meet us, get your questions answered, and get your hands on the 2010 *Agents' Manual!*

Stand A11

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 C17

ALTER

ALTER, the party's economic special interest group with a focus on sustainable tax. Discover more about the next generation 'Green Switch' here.



Stand A16 / A19

Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and IDeA

ALDC is here to help Liberal Democrats win local elections and to support them in their work. Our members are 3.5 times more likely to get re-elected than other Liberal Democrat candidates. Visit our stand for advice, information, resources and to join us. Again we're joined by colleagues from the IDeA who are available to provide advice to councillors.



Stand B5

Birmingham Convention Bureau



Birmingham is delighted to be hosting the spring conference and looks forward to welcoming you again in September 2011. Please visit our stand for accommodation and Birmingham visitor information.

Stand C5

Campaign for Gender Balance

The Campaign exists to support and encourage potential women parliamentary candidates. We provide training, mentoring and development opportunities for women throughout the approval and selection process.



Stand C12

CentreForum



CentreForum is an independent, liberal think-tank seeking to develop evidence-based, long-term policy solutions to the problems facing Britain.

Stand C20

The 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 A22

Eaga

Co-owned with 5000+ people, we work with all levels of government and private sector delivering solutions addressing climate change and social exclusion, managing national energy efficiency programmes and other initiatives.



Stand B4

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 C4

Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats

EMLD exists to develop the education, participation and representation of ethnic minorities within the party.



Stand C8

Green Liberal Democrats

We exist to ensure that green issues in general, and radical action on climate change in particular, are always top of our party's political agenda. Check out our stand C8 – More from Less.



Stand A20

Harmsworth Printing Ltd

Harmsworth Printing produce the weekly *LibDem News* and vast numbers of campaign tabloid newspapers for many constituencies. Visit our stand A20 for quotation.



Stand C21

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 B6

Leeds City Region

The pilot Leeds City Region is a partnership of eleven city region local authorities. Visit our stand to find out more about our pilot programme and innovative work.



Stand A15

LGA Liberal Democrat Group

LGA Liberal Democrats represent councillors throughout England and Wales. Booklets available from our stand on culture, tourism and sport and on improving the environment and tackling climate change.



Stand C14

LGBT Lib Dems (DELGA)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality: much has changed, plenty remaining to achieve. Find out about current LGBT issues, winning the LGBT vote and join or renew your DELGA membership!



Stand C1

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 C2

Liberal Democrat Disability Association

We want to help you win the votes of disabled people. Liberal Democrats take seriously ALL aspects of diversity and equality. Add your voice – join LDDA!

Stand A5

Liberal Democrat Education Association

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



Stand A3

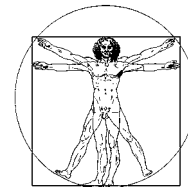
Liberal Democrat European Group

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 A4

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



Stand C7

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 A13

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 A1

Liberal Youth

Young people are vital to your campaigning and the future of your local party. Find out how to campaign for more young voters, activists and members.



Stand A2

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 C16

Liverpool Convention Bureau

Liverpool Convention Bureau is looking forward to welcoming the Liberal Democrat autumn conference this September. Visit us to discuss accommodation, venue finding and all you need to know about Liverpool!



Stand C3
Parliamentary
Candidates
Association (PCA)



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

Stand C11
Prater Raines
Ltd



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 A12
p teg



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

Stand B8
Riso UK Ltd / Midshire
Business Machines



Midshire have supplied Risos from Cornwall to Essex and Hampshire to Cumbria. Our expertise in the political arena is second to none. We also supply folders, guillotines and stuffing machines as well.

Stand C9
West Midlands Liberal
Democrats



Welcome to our region. Our fun-filled stand will give you an opportunity to win a 'Made in the West Midlands' souvenir and leave you with a pleasant memory of your Birmingham conference.

Stand C6
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.

exhibition

Get your message out at conference

You can promote your organisation, event or message to thousands of conference-goers by placing an advert or notice in one of the official conference publications.

Conference Daily –

containing essential last-minute information and changes to the agenda, amendments and emergency motions etc. – will be issued to all attendees each morning at conference.

To place an advertisement in *Conference Daily* at Birmingham, or in the *Conference Agenda* and *Directory* or in *Conference Extra** or *Conference Daily* at future conferences, contact Carol Caruana on 020 7227 1323, email carol.caruana@libdems.org.uk, or contact Carol at conference in Birmingham via the Information Desk in The ICC.

(**Conference Extra* is only published at autumn conference, not at spring conference.)

Free training for party members

An extensive range of training courses is taking place on Saturday 13th March, between 09.15 and 17.30 in the Crowne Plaza.

These courses are free to all party members – simply show either a valid conference photo pass or a current party membership card to gain entry.

For details of the training courses see the *training programme* on **pages 29–30** or go to **www.libdems.org.uk/conference**.



conference fringe guide

fringe meeting venues

The official fringe meeting venues are **The ICC Birmingham** and the **Crowne Plaza Birmingham Central**.

Access to fringe meetings in The ICC is possible only with a valid, visible conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard.

If you are attending a fringe session in the Crowne Plaza, conference photo passes are not necessary unless you are attending a party training session, where you may be asked to show a valid photo pass or party membership card.

All fringe events listed in the official venues are wheelchair-accessible. For fringe meetings booked outside these venues, the meeting organisers have

confirmed that the rooms are wheelchair-accessible. **If you experience any access difficulties, please let the Information Desk know or make a comment on your online feedback.**

key to fringe listings



Refreshments provided



Hearing loop provided



BSL signer provided



Members only



By invitation only

conference fringe friday 12th march

Friday 12th early evening 18.15 – 19.30

18.30 – 19.30

Conference Rally

Building a Fairer Britain

At the next election only the Liberal Democrats will offer Britain the fresh start it needs. Join Nick Clegg, Paddy Ashdown, Shirley Williams, Tim Farron and Lorely Burt, who will present the Liberal Democrat vision for a different, fairer Britain.

Hall 1, The ICC

(Photo pass required for entry)

Doors open at 18.15

Friday 12th mid evening 20.00 – 21.15

Lib Dem Friends of Co-operation

Lib Dem Friends of Co-operation launch event

For those interested in cooperative movements and who feel that co-operation and liberal democracy are in tune. An opportunity to talk to Co-operatives UK representatives and launch Lib Dem Friends of Co-operation.

The ICC, Executive Meeting Room 1



Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors

Climate change: keeping up the pressure

ALDC and Liberal Youth discuss how campaigners can keep up the pressure for real progress at Copenhagen 2. Speakers include Simon Hughes MP. Drinks provided.

The ICC, Hall 6



Continued on page 26

conference fringe guide continued

Friday 12th mid evening 20.00 – 21.15 continued

Liberal Democrat History Group

Red Guard vs. Old Guard? - a witness seminar
Chair: Tony Greaves; with testimony from Gordon Lishman, William Wallace and Terry Lacey. Speaker: Dr Matt Cole, Hansard Society. The influence of the Young Liberal movement on the Liberal Party in the 1960s and 1970s.

The ICC, Hall 7b

www.libdemvoice.org

Lib Dem Voice's general election campaign starts here
LDV will have an exciting programme of coverage and our own distinct campaigns during the general election. Join us for our launch and details of an exciting new project. For more information see www.libdemvoice.org
The ICC, Hall 8b

Liberal Democrat Education Association

Annual General Meeting
Chairman: Denys Robinson. All welcome.
Crowne Plaza, Room 6



West Midlands Liberal Democrats

West Midlands regional reception
Join MPs and Campaigners from around the region over a glass of wine at our reception. Kindly sponsored by Midshire Business Systems.
Crowne Plaza, Vista Suite 1



fringe

Friday 12th late evening 21.45 – 23.00

Liberal Democrat Group in the Local Government Association

Council Group of the Year Award 2010
The flowers, the tears, the champagne! Come and help us recognise the hard work of Lib Dem council groups as we head towards this year's local elections. With Baroness Ros Scott, Julia Goldsworthy MP and Lord Wallace.

Note: this event will start at 22.00 and end at 01.00
Crowne Plaza, Vista Suite



conference fringe saturday 13th march

Saturday 13th morning 07.15 – 08.30

Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

Morning Praise
Prayer and praise before the conference.

Note: this event will start at 08.15 and end at 08.45
Crowne Plaza, Room 6

Party training

Training events take place on Saturday 13th March from 09.15 to 17.30 in the Crowne Plaza Birmingham Central. For party members only, free entry. For details see *training programme* on pages 29 and 30.

Saturday 13th lunchtime 13.00 – 14.00

Electoral Reform Society

Now more than ever: we must reform our broken politics
At the General Election the voters will want to hear how we can fix our broken political system – and that means real electoral reform. How can the Lib Dems help to deliver the change we need?

The ICC, Executive Meeting Room 1



Green Liberal Democrats

The general election: campaigning on the environment
All parties claim to be Green, recognising the importance of the environment to winning electoral support. So how do we convince voters that our environmental policies are strongest? Speakers include Martin Horwood MP.
The ICC, Hall 6a

Continued on page 27



Saturday 13th lunchtime 13.00 – 14.00 continued

Jubilee Debt Campaign

Weathering the Storm – tackling global poverty and debt

Vince Cable MP has been asked to speak about the causes of global poverty and the extent to which they can be addressed through the world financial system. Nick Dearden, Director of the Jubilee Debt Campaign, is to respond.

The ICC, Hall 6b

CentreForum and LGA Lib Dem Group

Passing the buck or passing the reins? Developing power in an age of austerity

Chair: Alasdair Murray, CentreForum. Speakers: Julia Goldsworthy MP and Cllr. Richard Kemp, LGA Lib Dem Group Leader.

The ICC, Hall 7a



Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats

Religion in the workplace

Dr Ronan McCrea LLB of the Lawyers Secular Society, a European law expert and Cllr Ruth Polling, Executive member for Equalities Islington Council, explore challenges that arise when religion intrudes in the workplace.

The ICC, Hall 7b

Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors

Meet the Next Generation Councillors

ALDC invite you to meet councillors on the Next Generation programme for councillor development, over a bite to eat.

The ICC, Hall 8a



Marketing Birmingham

The importance of UK cities to tourism

A debate led by the UK's core cities, investigating the importance of tourism to our cities in terms of economic, cultural and social benefits. Giving consideration to the role this sector will play in helping the UK recover from the current economic downturn.

The ICC, Hall 8b



Bromsgrove Liberal Democrats

Voices of Experience

Speakers: Afsin Azizian; Jamila Al Sami, member of Chris Huhne's staff; John O, NCADC. Asylum seekers, members of NCADC and the legal profession speak about the struggle to survive detention and remain in this country.

Crowne Plaza, Room 3



Engineers and Scientists (ALDES)

Science, engineering and the environment

For more information visit the ALDES stand or see *Conference Daily*. Speakers to be confirmed.

Crowne Plaza, Room 6



Social Liberal Forum; One Society campaign

Politics of fairness: new approaches to reducing inequality

Chair: Matthew Sowemimo, Director, Social Liberal Forum. Speakers from The Equality Trust; Demos; the Quality of Life policy working group; Jo Swinson MP.

Crowne Plaza, Room 8



Liberal Youth / ALTER

Tax injustice and the young

Young People are 'IPOD': Insecure, Pressured, Over-taxed and Debt-ridden. What can be done about it? Speakers include Lynne Featherstone MP, libertarian property entrepreneur Don Riley and Ashley Seager, *The Guardian* (tbc).

Crowne Plaza, Vista Suite 2



Party training

Training events take place on Saturday 13th March from 09.15 to 17.30 in the Crowne Plaza Birmingham Central. For party members only, free entry. For details see *training programme* on pages 29 and 30.

Saturday 13th early evening 18.15 – 19.30

Liberal Democrat Rural Campaign

Campaign launch – ideas, information and resources

Speakers: Tim Farron MP; Lord Tony Greaves; Julie Pörksen. Campaigners in rural areas – we're compiling 'traditional ALDC' type web-based campaign materials on all kinds of rural issues – see what's on offer and share experiences.

The ICC, Executive Meeting Room 1

Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine

Talks and panel discussion – update on Gaza and the West Bank

Speakers: Clare Short MP; Arthur Goodman, Jews for Justice for Palestinians (JfJfP).

The ICC, Executive Meeting Room 8

Continued on page 28

Saturday 13th early evening 18.15 – 19.30 continued

Social Liberal Forum

Inaugural General Meeting

We're setting up a formal, membership-led organisation to expand our work. Come to join (free!), agree our new constitution and help us to plan our post-election activities for a fairer, greener and freer UK.

The ICC, Hall 6b



Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors

Winning in the wards

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

The ICC, Hall 7a

Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association

Contaminated blood products: justice and economics

Chair: Alistair Webster QC. Speakers: Vijay Mehan, Solicitor, Secretariat to the Archer Inquiry; Haydn Lewis, Campaigner with HIV/Hep C and liver cancer; Jenny Willott MP.

The ICC, Hall 7b



CentreForum

Lib Dem prospects at the 2010 General Election

Two steps forward, one step back or one step forward and two steps back? Chair: Neil Sherlock. Speakers: Chris Huhne MP, Sarah Teather MP and Prof Paul Whiteley, University of Essex.

The ICC, Hall 8a

Anti Academies Alliance

Academies, 'free' schools, can the market improve education?

Speakers include Alasdair Smith, National Secretary, Anti Academies Alliance. Academies, 'free' schools, 'independent' schools. All are claimed to be better than state schools. But can the market really improve education?

Crowne Plaza, Room 6

LGA Liberal Democrats

Reclaiming the protest vote for the Liberal Democrats

Chair: Steve Hitchins, Leadership Centre. Speakers: Sarah Teather MP (tbc); Cllr Abi Bell, Hull CC. Minor parties like the Greens, UKIP and BNP are winning more protest votes against the two biggest parties – time to reclaim these votes!

Crowne Plaza, Vista Suite 1



Diversity Engagement Group

Diversity Engagement Group (DEG) reception

An opportunity for key organisations and groups concerned with diversity issues within the Party to celebrate achievements since the last General Election, and look forward to what we can achieve after the next one.

Crowne Plaza, Vista Suite 2



Saturday 13th mid evening 20.00 – 21.00

Liberal Democrat European Group and Project 3

Liberals: leadership and power in Europe

Europe can lead the world and liberals hold the balance of power in Europe's Parliament. Come and hear Fiona Hall, Lib Dem Leader and Sharon Bowles, Chair of the influential European Parliament Economics Committee.

The ICC, Hall 5

CentreForum

Afghanistan: another just war or just another war?

Chair: Julian Astle, CentreForum. Speaker: Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon.

The ICC, Hall 6

Saturday 13th late evening 22.00 – late

Glee Club

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

Crowne Plaza, Vista Suite



Sunday 14th morning 07.15 – 08.30

Liberal Democrats Training Task Group

Training Task Group meeting

For members of the Training Task Group only.

Note: this event will start at 08.00 and end at 09.00

Crowne Plaza, Room 5



Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

Morning Praise

Prayer and praise before the conference.

Note: this event will start at 08.15 and end at 08.45

Crowne Plaza, Room 6

training programme saturday 13th morning



Free training events, **for party members only**, take place in the Crowne Plaza.

An appropriate conference photo pass or party membership card must be shown for entry.

09.15 – 12.30

Election Planning Workshop

For any seats that haven't been able to attend a regional EPW.

Richard Pinnock, Chris Leaman and Miranda Roberts (Campaigns Department).

Room 8, Crowne Plaza

09.15 – 10.45

Election law – nominations and postal voting

Unless you know this you won't have a campaign. Everything you need to know to ensure your candidate is nominated. Also covers the legal issues around postal voting.

Chris Keating (Agents & Organisers Association).

Vista Suite 1, Crowne Plaza

Campaign essentials – winning in the last week

All the things you need to do in the last week to make sure you win.

Mark Alcock (ALDC).

Vista Suite 2, Crowne Plaza

TV interview skills for candidates

(Invitation only – for more info, email candidates@libdems.org.uk)

David Walter (Parliamentary Candidates' Office).

Room 1, Crowne Plaza

09.15 – 10.45 continued

Candidates' briefing (*Invitation only*)

Hilary Stephenson and Victoria Marsom (Campaigns Department).

Room 3, Crowne Plaza

Surviving the General Election campaign – all welcome

Candy Piercy and Jon Neal (Campaign for Gender Balance).

Room 4 – Crowne Plaza

Membership data online

For Data Officers and Membership Development Officers. An introduction to the 'Membership Data Online' application followed by a more technical discussion for more advanced users.

David Nikel (Membership Department).

Room 5, Crowne Plaza

Campaigns essentials – finding and recruiting good and diverse council candidates

Making sure your last minute candidates are up to the job.

Steve Hitchins (for ALDC).

Room 7, Crowne Plaza

11.00 – 12.30

Election Law Returns Part 1

– donations and bank accounts

Vital for all agents who have not recently attended election law training. Covers the new rules on election expenses. Please come to Election Law Returns Part 2 as well.

Chris Keating (Agents & Organisers Association).

Vista Suite 1, Crowne Plaza

11.00 – 12.30 continued

Campaign essentials – maximising the postal vote

What you need to do to make sure you win as many postal votes as possible.

Anders Hanson and Claire Hudson (ALDC).

Vista Suite 2, Crowne Plaza

TV interview skills for candidates

(Invitation only – for more info, email candidates@libdems.org.uk)

David Walter (Parliamentary Candidates' Office).

Room 1, Crowne Plaza

What to do with your email addresses and phone numbers in the last 4 weeks

Will Howells and Austin Rathe (Campaigns Department).

Room 3, Crowne Plaza

Impromptu speaking practice - all welcome

Simon Bucknall (on behalf of Campaign for Gender Balance)

Room 4, Crowne Plaza

Making the national messages local

Jon Aylwin and Shaun Roberts (Campaigns Department).

Room 6, Crowne Plaza

Campaign essentials – inducting and mentoring new councilors

All you need to do to induct your new councilors after May's elections.

Erica Kemp and Abby Bell (for ALDC).

Room 7, Crowne Plaza

Free training events, **for party members only**, take place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

An appropriate conference photo pass or party membership card must be shown for entry.

14.30 – 15.45

Election Law Returns Part 2 – campaign expenditure

Vital for all agents who have not recently attended election law training. Covers the new rules on election expenses. Please come to Election Law Returns Part 1 as well. Chris Keating (Agents & Organisers Association).

Vista Suite 1, Crowne Plaza

Campaign essentials – running an effective polling day

How to run an effective polling day to give you as many votes as possible to make sure you win.

John Bridges (ALDC).

Vista Suite 2, Crowne Plaza

Make your candidate a star

Jon Aylwin and Dave McCobb (Campaigns Department).

Room 1, Crowne Plaza

Keeping it together as a candidate

Top tips for staying sane during the campaign.

(Parliamentary Candidates' Office).

Room 3, Crowne Plaza

What to expect as a first time candidate – all welcome

Candy Piercy and Ruth Bright (Campaign for Gender Balance).

Room 4, Crowne Plaza

14.30 – 15.45 continued

Maximising your membership during a General Election campaign

Aimed at local parties looking to recruit new members and engage with existing ones during the General Election campaign.

David Nikel (Membership Department).

Room 5, Crowne Plaza

Exploiting your opponents' weaknesses online

Will Howells and Austin Rathe (Campaigns Department).

Room 6, Crowne Plaza

Council budgets in the new era

Getting to grips with the new council finances – and how to make any cuts.

Howard Sykes (IDeA and ALDC).

Room 7, Crowne Plaza

Don't re-invent the wheel – what resources are available for you

Stuart Bray and Shaun Roberts (Campaigns Department).

Room 8, Crowne Plaza

16.00 – 17.30

Election Agents Q&A – with the Electoral Commission

Your chance to get answers to any questions about election law not covered in the training sessions.

Chris Keating (Agents & Organisers Association).

Vista Suite 1, Crowne Plaza

16.00 – 17.30 continued

Campaign essentials – 8 weeks to go!

Everything you need to do to win in the 2010 elections.

Andrew Stunell MP (ALDC) and Hilary Stephenson (Campaigns Department).

Vista Suite 2, Crowne Plaza

Maximising your personal impact as a candidate

Simon Bucknall (on behalf of Parliamentary Candidates' Office).

Room 3, Crowne Plaza

Q&A for candidates and their teams – All welcome

Candy Piercy and Lorely Burt MP (Campaign for Gender Balance) and Victoria Marsom (Campaigns Department).

Room 4, Crowne Plaza

Get out the student vote

Jon Neal and Alex Royden (Liberal Youth).

Room 5, Crowne Plaza

Organisers' briefing (*Invitation only*)

Dave McCobb and Shaun Roberts (Campaigns Department).

Room 6, Crowne Plaza

Managing a coalition

Looking at how you can work together and avoid the pitfalls of being in a coalition.

Gerald Vernon Jackson (IDeA and ALDC).

Room 7, Crowne Plaza

www.libdems.org.uk/conference

visit us online!

Our new look website contains all the conference information you need.

For detailed information on motions and voting, registration and accommodation, participating in our fringe and exhibition, and much more, visit

www.libdems.org.uk/conference.



conference diary pullout

If you don't want to carry all your papers, make sure you carry your Conference Diary pullout – an easy reference checklist for the whole weekend.

Pencil in the fringe meetings you want to attend, tick the conference sessions you must be there for, add the notes on who to meet and where and when.

conference diary friday 12th march

15.00–17.30 Consultative Sessions:
International Development; Localism

18.30–19.30 Conference Rally

Evening fringe

conference diary saturday 13th march

Morning fringe

09.00–09.10 Formal Opening of Conference, Liz Lynne MEP

09.10–09.25 Report: Federal Conference Committee
Report: Federal Policy Committee

09.25–09.55 Ending the Detention of Children in Immigration Centres

09.55–10.10 Speech: Danny Alexander MP

10.10–10.55 A Fair Start

10.55–11.40 Supporting Manufacturing

11.40–12.25 Climate Change After Copenhagen

12.25–12.40 Speech: Vince Cable MP

13.00–14.00 Lunchtime fringe

14.20–14.40 Reports and Q&A Session: Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats

14.40–15.25 Q&A Session: Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

15.25–16.25 Fair Tax

16.25–16.40 Speech: Sarah Teather MP,

16.40–17.40 *Free to be Young* (Youth Policy Paper)

17.40–18.00 Report: Federal Executive
Report: Federal Finance and Administration Committee

Evening fringe

conference diary pullout continued

conference diary sunday 14th march

Morning fringe

09.00–09.15	Report: Campaign for Gender Balance Report: Diversity Engagement Group
09.15–09.45	Emergency Motions or Topical Issues
09.45–10.40	Fair, Local and Responsive Politics
10.40–10.55	Speech: Chris Huhne MP
10.55–11.50	Growth that Lasts: A Fair, Green and Sustainable Economy
11.50–13.00	Party Awards Speech: Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats
13.00 (Approx.)	Close of Conference

diary

notes

conference timetable 2010

Saturday 18th – Wednesday 22nd September 2010

Liverpool

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	12.00	Wednesday	16th June 2010
Motions deadline	12.00	Wednesday	30th June 2010
Drafting advice deadline (amendments emergency motions)	12.00	Monday	23rd August 2010
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	12.00	Monday	6th September 2010



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Sunday 14th March

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09.45	F20 Fair, Local and Responsive Politics	49
10.40	F21 Speech: Chris Huhne MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary	50
10.55	F22 Growth that Lasts: A Fair, Green and Sustainable Economy	50
11.50	F23 Party Awards	52
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Your views are important to us!

Conference feedback questionnaires will no longer be available in hard copy.

Instead, following conference, representatives will be emailed a link to an online questionnaire.

Please take the time to complete the questionnaire as your answers provide important information that helps us to improve conference.

Glee Club

15% off all bar items!*

Where? Vista Suite, Crowne Plaza Hotel

When? Saturday 13th March, 10pm to late



*Join us for
the ultimate
end-of-conference
celebration!*



Pick up your copy of the *Liberator* songbook and come and 'raise the roof'!

*except bottles of champagne and shots

friday 12th march

15.00 Consultative Sessions
– 17.30

International Development

Hall 8a	Chair:	David Hall-Matthews
The ICC	Rapporteur:	Dan Murch

Localism

Hall 8b	Chair:	Lord Wallace of Saltaire
The ICC	Rapporteur:	Debbie Enever

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.

Each session 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. Consultative papers for the sessions are included with the agenda mailing.



09.00 Formal Opening of Federal Conference

Chair: Baroness Scott of Needham Market (President of the Liberal Democrats)
Aide: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F1 Speech of Welcome from Liz Lynne MEP

09.10 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball
Aide: Erlend Watson

F2 Federal Conference Committee Report

Mover: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 9th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 13. Questions selected will be detailed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 09.00 on Saturday 13th March.

F3 Federal Policy Committee Report

Mover: Danny Alexander MP (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 9th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 13. Questions selected will be detailed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 09.00 on Saturday 13th March.

09.25 Policy Motion

Chair: Chris Maines
Aide: Justine McGuinness (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F4 Ending the Detention of Children in Immigration Centres

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Chris Huhne MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary)
Summation: Dr Evan Harris MP

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
- 2 i) Around 2,000 children are detained at Yarl's Wood detention centre and elsewhere in the UK
3 each year, for an average of two weeks.
- 4 ii) In June 470 children, most of them under five, were being held in detention centres, and a
5 third were held for longer than 28 days.
- 6 iii) Children are not just detained immediately before they are removed from the UK – 889
7 children have been held in detention centres for longer than a month during the last five years

saturday 13th march continued

- 8 and a large proportion of detained children are eventually released.
- 9 iv) Conditions in detention centres cannot be monitored by campaigners and have been
- 10 described as 'prison-like'.
- 11 v) Medical Royal Colleges, children's groups and refugee groups are united in their condemnation
- 12 of this practice and of the detrimental effect it has on young minds and bodies.
- 13 vi) In 2009, the Children's Commissioner raised serious concerns about the nutrition and
- 14 healthcare children and nursing mothers receive in detention centres and called for the
- 15 immediate end to the detention of children.

16 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

- 17 a) Creating an immigration system that is firm but fair.
- 18 b) The humane treatment of all children, regardless of their immigration status.
- 19 c) The British tradition of open-heartedness and generosity to those most in need.
- 20 d) This country's proud history of providing sanctuary to the world's persecuted.

21 Conference therefore calls for:

- 22 1. The immediate end to the detention of children under 18 in immigration detention centres.
- 23 2. The incorporation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into UK law.
- 24 3. Alternative systems such as electronic tagging, stringent reporting requirements and
- 25 residence restrictions to be used on adults in families considered high flight risks.
- 26 4. The long-term development of alternative methods of securing compliance with immigration
- 27 decisions, such as those found in Sweden, Canada and Australia.
- 28 5. Responsibility for the asylum system to be taken away from the Home Office and given to a
- 29 Canadian-style independent agency.

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 page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 12. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'separate votes' on page 14.

09.55 Speech

Chair: Erlend Watson
Aide: Qassim Afzal

F5 Speech by Danny Alexander MP, Chair of the Manifesto Group

10.10 Policy Motion

Chair: Dee Doocey AM
Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)



F6 A Fair Start

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: David Laws MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families)

Summation: Carol Woods

1 Conference recognises that Labour and Conservative education policies over many years have
2 failed to offer opportunities to all to develop their talents and realise their opportunities, have failed
3 to create the educated workforce that Britain needs to compete, and have helped to ensure that
4 Britain has become one of the most unequal societies in the developed world.

5 Conference calls for an education system which offers a fair start to all, attacking inequality and
6 opening up opportunities.

7 In particular, Conference regrets that under this Labour Government:

8 A Performance at school is still too often determined by the financial circumstances of a child's
9 family.

10 B The poorest children currently fall behind before they even start school and often fail to
11 catch up – they are only half as likely as their better-off classmates to get five good GCSEs
12 including English and maths.

13 C Many students will be starting their working lives with a debt burden of over £20,000 – this
14 will create serious problems for people at the age when they want to settle down, move into
15 their own homes and start families.

16 Conference further regrets that:

17 i) The Conservatives will not provide new money to the schools system.

18 ii) The Conservatives have no answer to the problem of student debt.

19 Conference believes that:

20
21 a) Unequal societies function badly, for all their people, with poorer standards of health and
22 education, higher levels of crime and weaker communities and political institutions.

23 b) We will only achieve a fairer society if we break the link between social background and
24 academic performance so that all children can learn skills and get qualifications so they can
25 get on in life, and every child should be given a fair chance to succeed in a school which has
26 the capacity to help them realise their potential.

27 c) The state should not be encouraging people to get into a lifetime burden of debt.

28 Conference therefore calls for:

29 1. An extra £2.5 billion investment in schools to reduce class sizes, improve discipline and
30 provide more one-to-one tuition to help struggling pupils, paid as a pupil premium to schools
31 for each of the poorest 1 million children they teach.

32 2. The scrapping of tuition fees for first undergraduate degrees, whether studied full or part-
33 time, over six years.

Applicability: England.

saturday 13th march continued

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 14.

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 this motion. See 'interventions' on page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 12. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'separate votes' on page 14.

10.55 Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr James Gurling
Aide: Chris Maines

F7 Supporting Manufacturing

West Midlands and Burnley

Mover: Cllr Jerry Evans

Summation: Lorely Burt MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Business Minister)

1 Conference:

- 2 A Notes with concern that manufacturing has declined significantly as a share of the economy
3 during the period of the current and previous governments.
4 B Notes that this has resulted in an increasing over-reliance on the financial services sector.
5 C Condemns the failures in financial management under successive governments that have
6 made many businesses and employees victims of capital shortages and short-termism.
7 D Notes with concern the ageing profile of skilled engineers in the UK and the risk of serious
8 skills shortages.
9 E Acknowledges the challenges facing manufacturers in developing ideas from concepts
10 through to commercial production.
11 F Recognises the necessity of a diverse and revitalised engineering sector which is able to
12 embrace the opportunities presented by technological advances in materials, processes and
13 applications.
14 G Nevertheless celebrates the innovation, creativity and resilience shown by the British
15 manufacturing sector which competes, and frequently leads, in the global manufacturing
16 market.

17 Conference believes that:

- 18 i) Manufacturing is critical to creating a balanced economy and will remain an important source
19 of wealth creation.
20 ii) Increased emphasis needs to be given to improving the quantity and quality of skills entering
21 the employment market.
22 iii) It is necessary to build on the foundations of our engineering heritage by seeking to create



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23 a sector in which skills move beyond the traditional, enabling us to lead the world in cutting-
24 edge manufacturing and products.
25 iv) Manufacturing should be encouraged and supported to build the skills and capacity needed
26 to re-engineer the infrastructure of the UK as it makes the transition to a low-carbon
27 economy.

28 Conference welcomes the party's commitment, set out in policy paper 92, *Thriving in a Globalised*
29 *World*, to:

- 30 a) Create a better skilled and more flexible workforce by developing apprenticeships.
- 31 b) Spread economic opportunities across the UK.
- 32 c) Promote research and development.

33 Conference calls for the following steps to enable Britain to rebuild a diverse manufacturing sector
34 and support an entrepreneurial economy:

- 35 1. The creation of Local Enterprise Funds and Regional Stock Exchanges to provide equity
36 finance and facilitate development of ideas from concept into commercial products.
- 37 2. The focus of government support and investment on markets of the future such as those
38 arising from the transition to a low carbon, green economy.
- 39 3. Formulation of an integrated approach to the deployment of new technologies, combining
40 academic research and practical knowledge to create real-world products and processes,
41 generating global competitive advantage for the sector.
- 42 4. Alignment of the educational system with the needs of business to ensure the supply of
44 the relevant skills including facilitating co-operation between universities, businesses and
45 entrepreneurs.
- 46 5. Encouragement and enabling of young people to learn employment and business skills by
47 removing unnecessary institutional and bureaucratic barriers to them taking part-time paying
48 jobs.
- 49 6. Empowerment of local authorities to co-operate in regional or sub-regional economic groups
50 to create business support systems appropriate to the sectoral and local business needs of
51 their area.

Applicability: Federal; except 4 (lines 42–45), 6 (lines 49–51) and the part of 1 referring to Local Enterprise Funds (in line 35) which are England-only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 12. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'separate votes' on page 14.

11.40 Policy Motion

Chair: Arnie Gibbons
Aide: Cllr Ruth Polling

F8 Climate Change After Copenhagen

Ten conference representatives

Mover: Fiona Hall MEP (Leader of the Liberal Democrat European Parliamentary Party)

Summation: Simon Hughes MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change)

1 Conference recalls and reaffirms its commitment to the motion passed at the 2009 Autumn
2 conference, *Energy and Climate Change*.

3 Conference records its deep disappointment that the fifteenth conference of the parties to United
4 Nations Framework on Climate Change (CoP 15) held in Copenhagen in December 2009 did not
5 result in a legally binding global agreement on limiting the increase in global temperature to below
6 2 degrees Celsius.

7 Conference regrets the limited scope of the Copenhagen Accord but notes some areas of
8 progress, including:

- 9 a) The declaration of intent to enhance long-term cooperative action to combat climate change,
10 recognising the scientific view that increase in global temperature should be below 2 degrees
11 Celsius.
- 12 b) Agreement that developed countries shall provide adequate, predictable and sustainable
13 financial resources, technology and capacity-building to support the implementation of
14 adaptation action in developing countries, especially the most vulnerable, namely least
15 developed countries, small island developing states and Africa.
- 16 c) The reporting of mitigation actions by non-Annex I parties, every two years.
- 17 d) International measurement, reporting and verification of mitigation actions which are receiving
18 international support.
- 19 e) The immediate establishment of a mechanism to enable the mobilisation of financial
20 resources from developed countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest
21 degradation ('REDD-plus').
- 22 f) The commitment by developed countries to provide new and additional resources
23 approaching USD 30 billion by 2010–12.
- 24 g) The commitment by developed countries to mobilise jointly USD 100 billion a year by 2020,
25 with a significant portion of such funding to flow through the Copenhagen Green Climate
26 Fund.
- 27 h) In the assessment of the Accord to be completed by 2015, consideration of strengthening
28 the long-term goal referencing various matters presented by the science, including in relation
29 to temperature rises of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

30 Conference regrets that the association of all states to the Accord was achieved at the price of
31 lowering the ambition of the Accord to the lowest common denominator.

32 Conference reaffirms its commitment to action and leadership in tackling climate change.
33 Conference therefore:

- 34 1. Supports the 10:10 campaign to reduce carbon emissions in the UK by 10% in 2010.
- 35 2. Commits to reducing carbon emissions in the UK by over 40% of 1990 levels by 2020 and to
36 phasing out fossil fuel and industrial greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with at least 75% of
37 these cuts being achieved domestically.



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- 38 3. Calls for the EU to move unilaterally and immediately to an EU emissions reduction target of
39 30% by 2020.
- 40 4. Calls for the EU to engage with major emitters, in order to ensure better preparation
41 in advance of the UNFCCC meeting in Bonn in June 2010 and of CoP 16 in Mexico in
42 December 2010.
- 43 5. Calls on the UK government to take the lead in the creation of an international organisation
44 with the authority to negotiate binding commitments for states to cut their greenhouse gas
45 emissions, and for this organisation to sit in permanent session until such a deal is made and
46 afterwards continue to make decisions on matters of importance to the global environment.
- 47 6. Calls for a deepening of diplomatic cooperation between the EU and Africa, and the UK and
48 all other Commonwealth countries and the development in these and other ways of effective
49 international action on climate change.
- 50 7. Calls for a process of negotiation to align the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) with
51 other emerging carbon trading markets in order to create a global carbon market.
- 52 8. Calls for consideration of the introduction of a floor price for carbon in order to stabilise the
53 carbon market and ensure greater predictability with regard to the funding for adaptation and
54 mitigation derived from the EU ETS.
- 55 9. Calls for consideration of the introduction of a regulator of the carbon market to ensure its
56 transparency and smooth operation.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 12. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'separate votes' on page 14.

12.25 Speech

Chair: Justine McGuinness (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F9 Speech by Dr Vincent Cable MP, Liberal Democrat Deputy Leader and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer

12.40 Lunch

14.20 Party Business

Chair: Tessa Munt
Aide: Arnie Gibbons

F10 Reports and Q & A Session: Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats

Commons: Paul Burstow MP (Chief Whip) and Lorely Burt MP (Chair of Parliamentary Party)
Lords: Lord McNally (Leader) and Lord Shutt (Chief Whip)
Europe: Fiona Hall MEP (Leader) and Chris Davies MEP (Chief Whip)

Each of the three reports will be moved briefly, and voted on at the end of the session, but the bulk of the session will be used to allow conference representatives to put questions on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the UK or European Parliaments to the panel.

Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Saturday 13th March. The chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See 'questions to reports' on page 13.

14.40 Question and Answer Session

Chair: Duncan Brack (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Susan Gaszczak

F11 Question and Answer Session with Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

A chance for conference representatives to put questions, on any topic, to the leader of the Liberal Democrats in a 'Town Hall' style event. Representatives may submit questions to the Speakers' Table up until 13.00 on Saturday 13th March, and may also ask supplementary questions during the session – see 'question and answer sessions' on page 13.

15.25 Policy Motion

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

F12 Fair Tax

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Julia Goldsworthy MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government)

Summation: Farid Ahmed

- 1 Conference recognises that Labour and Conservative policies over many years, including their
- 2 taxation policies, have between them ensured that Britain has become one of the most unequal
- 3 societies in the developed world.



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4 Conference believes that unequal societies function badly, for all their people, and that reform of
5 the tax system is essential to achieving the Liberal Democrat goal of a fairer society.
6 In particular, Conference regrets that under this Labour Government:

- 7 A Britain's tax system is grossly unfair with the poorest fifth of the population paying a greater
8 share of their income in tax than the richest fifth.
- 9 B Even a person working full time earning the minimum wage sees nearly £1000 taken from
10 them in income tax.
- 11 C Loopholes exploited by the wealthiest have not been closed.

12 Conference also recognises that:

- 13 I The Conservatives' only tax-cutting policy is a rise in the Inheritance Tax threshold which will
14 only benefit the wealthiest 6%.
- 15 II The Conservatives introduced the Council Tax, an unfair tax which bears no relationship to
16 the ability to pay.
- 17 III The Conservatives' plans to recognise marriage in the tax system are deeply unfair,
18 disproportionately benefiting the richest and offering nothing to working couples.

19 Conference believes that:

- 20 a) The tax system should be radically rebalanced by increasing the income tax threshold to
21 take low earners out of tax and reduce the burden of income tax on low and middle earners,
22 shifting the burden towards those who are better able to bear it.
- 23 b) The Council Tax is an unfair tax which should be scrapped and replaced with a fair tax based
24 on the ability to pay; that it is necessary to pilot Local Income Tax to resolve any practical
25 issues of implementation before it is rolled out nationally, and that therefore local councils
26 should be invited to put themselves forward to be involved in the piloting phase in the second
27 year of a Parliament.

28 Conference therefore calls for:

- 29 1. An increase in the threshold at which people start paying income tax from current levels
30 to £10,000, cutting the average working age person's income tax bill by £700 and cutting
31 pensioner's income tax bills by £100 – these plans will mean that almost four million people
32 on low incomes will no longer have to pay any income tax at all.
- 33 2. The rate of capital gains tax to match income tax; tax relief of pension contributions only to
34 be paid at the basic rate; a crackdown on tax evasion; and the introduction of a mansion tax
35 on homes over £2 million.
- 36 3. These policies to be implemented in the first Budget of a Liberal Democrat government.

Applicability: Federal; except b) (lines 23–27) which is England-only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 14.

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 13.

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The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 12. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'separate votes' on page 14.

16.25 Speech

Chair: Qassim Afzal
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

F13 Speech by Sarah Teather MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Housing Minister

16.40 Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Ruth Polling
Aide: Cllr James Gurling

F14 Free to be Young (Youth Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Lynne Featherstone MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Equalities Minister)

Summation: Linda Jack (Chair of the Working Group)

1 Conference regrets that in Britain today many young people are denied the opportunity to thrive
2 and, according to a UNICEF survey in 2007, that British children are the unhappiest in Europe.

3 Conference condemns Labour's target-driven attitude which seeks to force young people to
4 conform to the Government's own model, rather than freeing them to fulfil their potential.

5 Conference believes that young people should be free, so far as possible, to make the decisions
6 which affect their own lives.

7 Conference further believes that in a time of recession, we have a particular duty to ensure that
8 many young people are not condemned to be part of a lost generation.

9 Conference reaffirms the commitment in the Party Constitution to build a fair, free and open
10 society, where people of all ages are freed from poverty, ignorance and the obligation to
11 conform.

12 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 96, *Free to be Young*, as a statement of the party's
13 key policies for young people and its particular emphasis on freedom. Conference especially
14 welcomes:

15 1. Proposals for education, inside and outside of the classroom, including:

16 a) Providing young people with access to specialist support and advice on everything from
17 their legal rights and responsibilities to the effects of drugs and alcohol.



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- 18 b) Safeguarding public playing fields by closing the loophole which means that fields lose
19 their protection if they are boarded up for five years.
- 20 c) Working with the creative industries and young people to promote legal downloading
21 websites that give both producers and consumers a fair deal.
- 22 2. Proposals on families and relationships, including:
- 23 a) Giving schools and colleges a duty to involve and correspond with both parents equally,
24 unless there is a court order to prevent this.
- 25 b) Recognising that those people who drink alcohol should do so responsibly and
26 encouraging parents to provide a good example.
- 27 c) Providing more support and information to teenage parents and teenagers who have
28 had abortions to tackle the number of unwanted second pregnancies.
- 29 3. Proposals for youth employment, including:
- 30 a) Ensuring the same minimum wage rate is paid to everyone in work, regardless of age.
- 31 b) Creating new opportunities in education, training and the workplace and funding 15,000
32 more college based foundation degree places this year.
- 33 c) Introducing a new 'Paid Internship' scheme for the twelve months after the 2010 general
34 election, paying anyone undertaking such an internship a 'training allowance' of £55 a
35 week (£5 more than Jobseeker's Allowance); and providing minimum standards for all
36 internships, including reasonable expenses and maximum lengths.
- 37 d) Ensuring that no one under 24 claims Jobseeker's Allowance for more than three months
38 without a right of access to training, apprenticeships, work experience, internships or
39 specialist back-to-work support.
- 40 e) Supporting schools, colleges and apprenticeship schemes to promote opportunities for
41 disabled children and young people to address the disproportionate number of disabled
42 young people who are not in education, employment or training.
- 43 4. Proposals to strengthen young people's rights and freedoms, including:
- 44 a) Providing full political rights at age sixteen.
- 45 b) Setting up a cross-departmental (junior minister level) young people's committee to
46 ensure a joined-up approach to youth issues in government.
- 47 c) Guaranteeing academic freedom and defending free expression on university campuses,
48 removing unjustified restrictions.
- 49 d) The immediate removal from the National DNA Database of all DNA samples taken from
50 children under 16, bar those convicted of either a violent or sexual offence.
- 51 e) Incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into UK legislation.
- 52 f) Abolishing 'mosquito devices' and unnecessary restrictions on the assembly of young
53 people.
- 54 g) Introducing a 'Code of Service' which includes a specific duty to treat young customers
55 and service users with equal respect.
- 56 5. Proposals to provide more support when young people are vulnerable, including:
- 57 a) Encouraging more integrated working between schools and social workers to ensure
58 that more support is available to young people when they leave or move school at 11,
59 16 or 18.

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- 60 b) Encouraging local authorities to provide additional support, for example suitable
61 accommodation, to those young people with particular needs, such as young people
62 with disabilities, young offenders leaving prison and care leavers.
- 63 c) Preventing the use of altered and enhanced images in advertising aimed at under 16s,
64 through changes to Advertising Standards Authority rules.
- 65 d) Campaigning on body confidence, challenging the broadcast and print media to take
66 more responsibility for the issue and including body confidence in the relationships
67 curriculum.
- 68 e) Campaigning for social networking sites to make it easier for young people and their
69 families to report offensive posts, requiring social networking sites to remove offensive
70 material within six hours of any such report.
- 71 f) Tackling homophobic and disability-based bullying with better training and guidelines for
72 teachers and youth workers.
- 73 g) Ensuring that public service provision is accessible and does not exclude or discriminate
74 against disabled children, young people and their families so they can enjoy the same
75 opportunities as their peers.
- 76 h) Introducing forums for disabled children, young people and their families to influence
77 issues around disability.
- 78 6. Proposals to tackle negative images of young people, including:
- 79 a) Campaigning for more positive images of young people in the media.
- 80 b) Recommending the Press Complaints Commission updates its Code of Practice to
81 make it clear that the media should not demonise young people.
- 82 c) Making sure that all public policy is 'young people proofed' with youth impact
83 assessments as part of the Equality Impact Assessment process.
- 84 d) Tasking the Children's Commissioner with a duty to carry out an annual review to monitor
85 the wellbeing of young people in the country.
- 86 7. Proposals to encourage young people to become active participants in society by:
- 87 a) Making Youth Services a statutory responsibility for local authorities.
- 88 b) Encouraging local authorities to:
- 89 i) Provide youth services in partnership with young people and the voluntary sector
- 90 ii) Consider the needs of young people in all areas of service delivery
- 91 iii) Abolish or discount charges for services such as leisure and transport for young
92 people.
- 93 c) Merging funding for out-of-school activities for all young people into one easy-to-access
94 fund and guaranteeing youth projects their funding, where appropriate, for 3–5 years,
95 subject to satisfactory safeguards.
- 96 d) Introducing an optional contributory insurance scheme to provide cover for school trips
97 and other youth activities to ensure such opportunities can go ahead.

Applicability: England-only; except 1 c) (lines 20–22), 2 b) (lines 25–26), 3 c) (lines 33–36), 4b)–d) (lines 45–50), 4 f) (lines 52–53), 5 b) (lines 60–62) and 6 c) (lines 84–85) which are England and Wales; and 3 a) (line 30), 3 d) (lines 37–39), 4 a) (line 44), 4 e) (line 51), 4 g) (lines 4–55), 5 d) (line 64–67), 6 a) and b) (lines 79–80) and 6 d) (lines 84–85) which are Federal.

Mover and summation: 11 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 14.



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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 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 12. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'separate votes' on page 14.

17.40 Party Business

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Justine McGuinness (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F15 Report of the Federal Executive

Mover: Baroness Scott of Needham Market (President of the Liberal Democrats)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 9th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 13. Questions selected will be detailed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.40 on Saturday 13th March.

F16 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 9th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 13. Questions selected will be detailed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.40 on Saturday 13th March.

18.00 Close of Session

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09.00 Party Business

Chair: Dee Doocey AM
Aide: Qassim Afzal

F17 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance

Mover: Jo Swinson MP

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 9th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 13. Questions selected will be detailed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 18.00 on Saturday 13th March.

F18 Report of the Diversity Engagement Group

Mover: Vince Cable MP (Chair, Diversity Engagement Group)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Tuesday 9th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 13. Questions selected will be detailed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 18.00 on Saturday 13th March.

09.15 Policy Motion

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Tessa Munt

F19 Emergency Motions or Topical Issues

Note: The deadline for emergency motions and topical issues is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March, to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'emergency motions' on page 12 and 'topical issues' on page 14. Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

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

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 14.



09.45 Policy Motion

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

F20 Fair, Local and Responsive Politics

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Susan Kramer MP
Summation: Katie Gordon

1 Conference recognises that the current crisis of public confidence in the UK's political institutions
2 in Westminster and Whitehall requires urgent political reform, to transform the style and character
3 of British government, the relationship between the executive and the legislature, and between
4 central and local government.

5 Conference regrets the failure of the Labour Government, over 12 years in office, to press forward
6 with plans to introduce a fairer voting system, to strengthen Parliament's ability to check the
7 executive, or to reverse the centralisation of public services and administration. Conference
8 has no confidence that a Conservative government would reduce the dominance of the central
9 executive over British politics, or rebuild public trust.

10 Conference therefore commits the Liberal Democrats to a programme of constitutional reform in
11 Westminster, including:

- 12 a) A fairer voting system in which every vote counts and safe seats for life become a thing of the
13 past.
- 14 b) The right for voters to sack an MP who has been found to behave corruptly, through a power
15 of recall.
- 16 c) The introduction of four-year fixed-term Parliaments.
- 17 d) The introduction of a robust, transparent, and independent system of Parliamentary
18 expenses, with tough penalties for those who deliberately abuse the system.
- 19 e) A requirement that those who wish to stand for Parliament, sit in the House of Lords or
20 donate to British political parties should pay tax in Britain.
- 21 f) An elected second chamber.
- 22 g) A sharp reduction in the government's payroll vote in Parliament, and in the longer term a
23 reduction in the number of MPs by 150.
- 24 h) Executive powers such as early dissolution of Parliament, senior government appointments,
25 and reorganisation of ministerial departments, to be subject to parliamentary approval.
- 26 i) Strengthen devolution to Scotland and Wales, by implementing the recommendations of
27 the Calman Commission to give significant new powers and responsibilities to the Scottish
28 Parliament and give primary legislative powers and wider responsibilities to the National
29 Assembly of Wales.

30 Conference also believes that vibrant local communities and effective local decision-making are
31 crucial to the prosperity, safety and well-being of neighbourhoods throughout the country.

32 Conference therefore calls for a long-term programme for the decentralisation of political power,
33 giving people the local institutions they need to put life back into their neighbourhoods, including:

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- 34 1. Setting local people, and their elected representatives, free to make the key decisions about
35 their area and about improving local services, with real powers and responsibilities.
36 2. Ending the expensive and corrosive targets and auditing regime, and abolishing many of the
37 unelected quangos that New Labour has created to run people's lives.
38 3. Giving local people more control over local health and police services through elected
39 boards.
40 4. Rebuilding the local banking and lending infrastructure that is so effective in Europe and the
41 USA – including a new Postbank.
42 5. Keeping local business rates local, rather than being siphoned off by Whitehall.

Applicability: Federal; except 1, 2 and 3 (lines 34–39) and 5 (line 42) which are England-only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 14.

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 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 12. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'separate votes' on page 14.

10.40 Speech

Chair: Susan Gaszczak
Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F21 Speech by Chris Huhne MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Home Secretary

10.55 Policy Motion

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

F22 Growth that Lasts: A Fair, Green and Sustainable Economy

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Simon Hughes MP (Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change)

Summation: Dr Jo Crotty

- 1 Conference recognises that under Labour and Conservative governments Britain has not followed
2 a sustainable path, either economically or environmentally, leaving jobs, homes and businesses
3 vulnerable to a severe recession and failing to tackle the urgent threat of climate change.



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- 4 Conference calls for radical reform of government economic policies, with the aim of creating an
5 economy which:
- 6 I. Is fair, offering opportunities for all to make the best of their talents.
7 II. Ensures sustainable growth that lasts and stability in government finances.
8 III. Meets the urgent challenge of climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and
9 creating green jobs and infrastructure.
- 10 Conference believes that both the Labour and Conservative parties:
- 11 A Cannot be trusted to sort out the nation's finances, because they continue to make large
12 numbers of unfunded spending commitments and refuse to spell out how they would make
13 savings.
14 B Cannot be trusted to rebalance the economy, because they want to return to business as
15 usual in the City and banking system.
16 C Do not have the political will or beliefs to drive through radical action to tackle climate
17 change.
- 18 Conference instead believes that a fair and sustainable economy means delivering growth that
19 lasts, through:
- 20 i) Immediate investment in infrastructure to help create jobs now and the right environment for
21 sustainable growth for the long term.
22 ii) Honesty about the tough choices needed to cut the deficit and put the public finances back
23 in order without damaging vital public services.
24 iii) A long-term strategy to secure the necessary investment to transform the economy.
- 25 Conference therefore calls for:
- 26 1. The creation of tens of thousands of green jobs through immediate investment in renewable
27 energy, insulation of public buildings, bringing empty homes back into use and an 'eco cash-
28 back' scheme to reward people who make green investments in their own homes.
- 29 2. A credible and responsible plan to reduce the deficit, including for example:
- 30 a) A 10% levy on banks profits as long as they are underwritten by the taxpayer.
31 b) No like-for-like replacement of Trident, and cancelling the Government's Child Trust Fund
32 scheme.
33 c) A £400 cap on all public sector pay increases.
- 34 3. Rebalancing the economy by reforming the financial system and instead investing in the real
35 economy in the nations and regions of Britain by:
- 36 a) Splitting up the UK banking system between investment and retail banks.
37 b) Creating local enterprise funds and regional stock exchanges to facilitate investment in
38 local businesses.
- 39 4. Long-term investment in the nation's infrastructure, including in sustainable public transport
40 and renewable energy, through the creation of a UK Infrastructure Bank.

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- 41 5. Action in the UK to deliver by 2020 a 40% reduction in UK greenhouse gas emissions and
42 a 30% energy efficiency saving (from 1990 levels) with 40% of UK electricity to come from
43 clean sources, and by 2050 a zero-carbon Britain, including:
- 44 a) Development of a dynamic UK electricity grid that can better connect and integrate new,
45 clean energy technologies.
- 46 b) A minimum of 33 gigawatts (GW) of offshore energy and at least 11GW more onshore
47 wind energy by 2020.
- 48 c) A UK Emissions Performance Standard to ensure that new coal-fired power generation
49 plants must use carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, with a CCS regime
50 phased in for all industrial emissions from 2020.
- 51 d) A 'Warm Homes' programme co-ordinated nationally and delivered locally.

Applicability: Federal; except the empty homes and building insulation aspects of 1 (in line 27), the local enterprise fund aspect of 3b) (in line 37) and 5 d) (line 51) which are England-only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speaking at conference' on page 14.

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 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments to motions' on page 12. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 12.00 noon, Tuesday 9th March; to the Policy Projects Team, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'separate votes' on page 14.

11.50 Party Business

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

F23 Party Awards

Including the Leader's Shield and the President's Shield.

F24 Speech by the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

13.00 Close of Conference (approx.)



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 motions. Emergency motions must be brief.*

Emergency amendment

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

Full session

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

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.

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 order amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

Secondary standing order amendment

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

Topical issue discussion

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

Voting member

A 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:

- One or more consultative sessions; save that the Committee may decide not to hold any consultative sessions at a spring conference.
- 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 Finance and Administration Committee, the Federal Policy Committee and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, reports from any other body the Committee considers appropriate, accounts, the annual report, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments.
- Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers).
- Emergency motions.
- Topical issue discussions.
- 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

- Reports to conference may be submitted only by the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).
- Business motions (including amendments and emergency business motions and amendments),

constitutional amendments and secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal 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.

- Motions accompanying policy papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- Policy motions (including amendments, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives.
- Proposals for topical 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, amendments, reports and questions to reports must be submitted

The Committee shall specify:

- The closing date for the receipt of policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers), business motions, constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders, which shall be at least eight weeks before the start of conference.
- The closing date for the receipt of amendments to motions published in the agenda and emergency



standing orders continued

motions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.

- c) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with the agenda. Any supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference with the permission of the Committee.
- d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- e) Notwithstanding 1.5(d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(d). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference

1.6 Notification of 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 agenda. Two or more such sessions may be held simultaneously.

2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

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

2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

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

3. The agenda

3.1 The shortlisting of motions

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

3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

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

4. Selection of motions and amendments

4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

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

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

4.2 Selection of amendments

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

4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

- a) Similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate or ballot at the same meeting of

conference.

- b) Similar in effect to a motion that has been rejected at either of the last two meetings of conference.
- c) In the case of amendments to the constitution, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of the constitution which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- d) In the case of amendments to standing orders, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of standing orders which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- e) Ambiguous.

4.4 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

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

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

4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.4, must be placed either on the agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection by Conference. The Committee may hold separate ballots to select which of a range of emergency policy motions and which of a range of emergency business motions to debate. If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the 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.

4.6 Emergency amendments

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

4.7 Topical issue discussions

The choice of subjects for topical issue discussions shall be made by the 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.

5. Special Meetings

5.1 Timetabling of special meetings

The Committee shall, as soon as practicable after the requisitioning of a special meeting of the conference,

fix a date for the meeting, draw up the agenda and, if appropriate, specify a date for the submission of amendments. The meeting shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of requisition save that the Committee may allow time for emergency motions and for business which is formal or, in its opinion, uncontentious.

5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

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

6. Appeals

6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

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

6.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference

Any person excluded from conference by a decision of the Chief Steward shall have the right of appeal to the Committee at the next of its regular meetings. The exclusion shall remain in force pending the appeal. 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.

7. The Chair

7.1 Who chairs conference

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

7.2 The chair's aide

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

8. Conduct of Debate

8.1 Variation in the order of business

The Committee may propose to the conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the agenda. Such



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

8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

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

8.3 The order of debate

The Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments and options will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments and options (or their nominees) shall have the right of reply in the same order, 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.

8.4 Topical 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.

8.5 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.

8.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees

Provided that the Federal Policy Committee is not proposing the motion or any of the amendments to be taken in a debate on a policy motion or on motions relating to the policy-making processes of the Party it shall have the right to nominate a person to report its views on the subject before the conference. The Federal 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.

8.7 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.

8.8 The length of speeches

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

8.9 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.

9. Voting at Conference

9.1 The method of voting

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

9.2 Counting of votes

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

- a) If the Committee has so directed.
- b) If the chair so directs.
- c) As the result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.5 below.

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

9.3 Separate votes

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

- a) On the direction of the Committee.
- b) At the discretion of the chair.
- c) As a result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.4 below.

10 Points of Order

10.1 Making a point of order

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

11 Procedural Motions

11.1 Next business

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

11.2 Reference back (moved by a 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.

11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

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

11.4 Separate vote

A voting member of conference may request that the chair take a separate vote on a part of a motion or amendment provided that such a request is in writing and received by the commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled. If the debate is scheduled for the first day of conference, the request must be received in writing by the same deadline as that for emergency motions. The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to take a separate vote. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair of the debate shall have discretion to accept a request for a separate vote if it is received in writing after this deadline.



11.5 Counted vote

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

11.6 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.

11.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

12 Reports

12.1 Which reports are tabled

The business session or sessions of the conference must include consideration of reports from the bodies listed in Standing Order 1.1(b).

12.2 Submission and selection of questions

A voting member may submit questions to any report

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

12.3 Whether questions are in order or not

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

12.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered

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

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

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

12.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies

Any report tabled by a body other than a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for receipt by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move not to receive the report, by submitting a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report. A move not to receive a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between more than one move not to

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receive the same report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

13 Amendment of Standing Orders

13.1 Amendment of standing orders

These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of conference voting on a motion duly submitted and selected in accordance with standing orders.

Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from meeting to meeting.

14 The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

14.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

At its first meeting after a new election the Committee shall elect a Chair, who must be a member of the Committee directly elected by conference, and at least one Vice Chair, who must be members 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	Baroness Scott
Chair of FFAC	Cllr Duncan Greenland
Treasurer	Lord Clement-Jones
Vice President (England)	Jonathan Davies
Vice President (Scotland)	Audrey Findlay
Vice President (Wales)	John Last CBE
Acting Chief Executive	Chris Fox

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 representatives; and fifteen members directly elected by conference representatives. It must be chaired by one of the five MP members, and is currently chaired by the Leader.

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 representatives; and fifteen members directly elected by conference representatives.

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 representatives, 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 representatives; two representatives from the FE and two from the FPC; and twelve members directly elected by conference representatives. It elects its own chair (currently Duncan Brack), who must be one of the directly elected representatives.

The members of the FCC are shown on page 2.

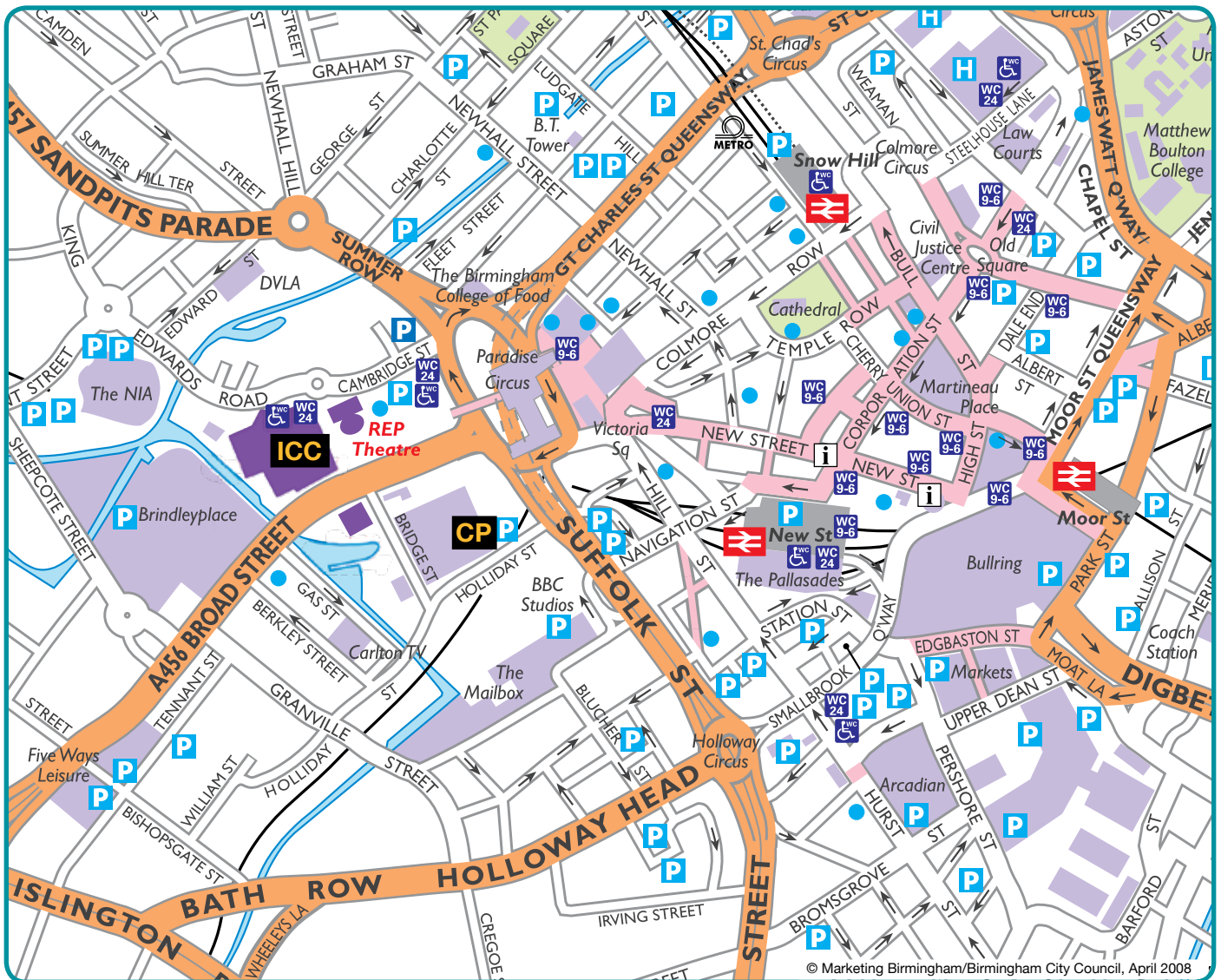
Federal Finance and Administration Committee

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 (currently Cllr Duncan Greenland), Party Treasurer and five other members (elected by the FE); the Party President; three state party representatives; and the Chief Executive and



map of birmingham city centre



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Key

- ICC** The ICC – main conference venue
- CP** Crowne Plaza Birmingham Central – conference / fringe hotel
- Metro Line and station
- P** Parking
- Blue badge disabled parking bay
- Disabled toilets (24 hrs)
- Toilets (24 hrs)
- Disabled toilets (open 9am–6pm only)
- Restricted access

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BUILDING A FAIRER BRITAIN



spring conference

agenda and directory

birmingham 12th – 14th march 2010

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