

Reports to Spring Conference 2011 Sheffield

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Federal Conference Committee

The Federal Conference Committee is responsible for organising the two Federal conferences each year. This includes choosing the agenda from amongst the policy and business motions submitted by conference reps, local, regional and state parties, specified associated organisations and Federal committees, and also 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 (or substitute); three state party reps; two reps from the FE and two from the FPC; and twelve members directly elected by conference reps. It elects its own chair (currently Andrew Wiseman), who must be one of the directly elected reps.

I was extremely pleased and honoured to have been re-elected both to Federal Conference Committee (FCC) and then to the position of Chair of FCC. At the recent elections there were a number of changes to the membership of FCC. We were all very grateful to the former members of FCC, Ros Gordon, Ruth Polling, Tessa Munt, Ros Scott, Mohammed Shafiq and Erlend Watson for all their hard work. At the first meeting of the new FCC Geoff Payne was re-elected as one of the two vice-chairs and Sal Brinton replaced Justine McGuinness who stays on FCC. I am grateful for all the help and assistance that Justine provided me while she was a Vice-Chair.

Security at Conference

As with Liverpool we will face increased security arrangements in Sheffield. This means you can expect it to take longer to get into the Conference Centre. Please ensure you leave yourself sufficient time to get through security before the start of a session you wish to attend.

The increased security includes metal detectors and bag searches. While we cannot avoid the increased checks we will do what we can to speed up the process. In particular, please think about what you bring into the conference centre, the less you bring the quicker the process will be.

Please see the relevant section in the Directory for the full procedures.

Motions

We continue to provide a drafting advisory service, and encourage all emergency motion and amendment submitters to make use of it. Those who have used it in the past have had a higher chance of having theirs accepted. The deadline for the advisory service for amendments is 22nd February and for motions to autumn conference is 22nd August; drafts should be sent to motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk.

Agenda

As with all spring conferences we have a limited amount of time. FCC has done its best to maximise the opportunities to debate motions and question the Government. As well as policy papers on volunteering and youth justice, we have a number of policy motions - a debate on Party strategy and another on diversity. FCC have organised a Q&A session with both the Deputy Prime Minister and with members of the BIS team.

Conference rally

The Conference rally on Friday evening promises to be an interesting event providing representatives with the opportunity to hear about what Liberal Democrats are doing at both a local and national level. Do make sure you come along on Friday evening.

Future venues

This spring we are very pleased to be organising our first-ever Conference in Sheffield and look forward to having our first Autumn Conference in Birmingham.

The current size of the conference and the scale of public interest it draws make it an attractive event for many towns and cities to host, but also restricts the number of venues with adequate facilities.

In 2012 will be going the Newcastle / Gateshead for our spring conference and Brighton in the autumn. Dates will be confirmed in my Report to Conference in the Autumn.

Access

The Conference Access Group, convened by Robert Adamson, continues to make conference as accessible for all as possible, expanding its work to tackle obstacles facing those with a broader range of disabilities. If you are interested in the work of the Group, please feel free to contact Robert on Robert@Robertadamson.info.

Stewards

As always, Conference can only take place due to the massive contribution and efforts of the volunteer stewards team, who look after the exhibition, fringe, information desk, stage and auditorium, and ensure that we all get the most out of Conference. We are grateful to all the stewards' team for their hard work. If you would like to become a steward, why not have a word with a member of the team.

Federal Conference Committee

FCC members are here to help you make the most of Conference . do feel free to ask us any questions you may have relating to the agenda and how to speak in debates. You can identify us by the larger badges we wear, with FCC prominently displayed; there are also pictures of us on the inside front page of the Agenda. We also run an FCC helpdesk, where FCC members will be available to answer any questions you might have about conference procedures such as advice on filling in speaker cards, submitting motions to future conferences, and so on is available. Details on the opening time can be found in the agenda, do feel free to make use of it.

FCC members are also assigned to the state and English regional parties, and SAOs, to liaise with them during the year, provide advice and assistance on submitting motions or otherwise getting involved in conference, and appear at particular conferences to answer your questions. See the contact details at the end of this report, and don't hesitate to get in touch with the relevant FCC member.

Thanks

The vast majority of the hard work falls on the professional staff at Party HQ. The Conference Office team, led by Lucy Billingsley, does an amazing job. Lucy, Sian Jenkins and Emma Price deserve our grateful thanks. This year the team has also been supported by Sonia Goodland who gives her time so generously to the Conference Office.

I would like to express my thanks to all the others who make Conference possible: all the members of FCC; the Chief Executive Chris Fox, Ben Stoneham the HQ Director, Christian Moon, the Policy Team and all the stewards.

I look forward to seeing you in Sheffield.

Andrew Wiseman
Chair, Federal Conference Committee

Region	
Devon & Cornwall	Justine McGuinness
East of England	Susan Gaszczak
East Midlands	Arnie Gibbons
London	Dee Doocey
Northern	Sal Brinton
North West	Qassim Afzal
South Central	Sandra Gidley
South East	Chris Maines
Western Counties	Justine McGuinness
West Midlands	Linda Jack
Yorkshire & the Humber	Robert Adamson

SAO	
Agents & Organisers	James Gurling
ALDES	Jeremy Hargreaves
ALDC	Jon Ball
DELGA	Arnie Gibbons
WLD	Dee Doocey
Liberal Youth	Geoff Payne
PCA	Sal Brinton
Liberal Democrat Lawyers	Geoff Payne
EMLD	Qassim Afzal & Linda Jack

Federal Policy Committee

The Federal Policy Committee is responsible for researching and developing policy and overseeing the 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, four other MPs, the Party President, one peer, one MEP, three councillors, three state party reps and fifteen members directly elected by conference reps. It must be chaired by one of the five MP members and is currently chaired by Norman Lamb MP.

New Vice-Chairs

Since the last conference, the FPC has been through an election and this is the first report of the new committee. While I am continuing as Chair and Jeremy Hargreaves has been re-elected by the Committee as a Vice-Chair, there are two newly elected Vice-Chairs: Dr Evan Harris and Dr Julian Huppert MP. The FPC would like to take the opportunity to thank the two retiring Vice-Chairs, Danny Alexander MP and Professor Richard Grayson, for all the good work they have done in the past.

Policy Development

Since the Liverpool Conference policy papers on Youth Justice and the Voluntary Sector have been produced and are presented for debate at Sheffield.

The Localism Working Group has also produced a draft paper. However it was agreed at the request of the Federal Conference Committee to delay this paper until the Autumn Conference in order to manage time pressure on the Sheffield Agenda. The group will take the opportunity of this delay to further develop their ideas.

There will be consultation sessions to discuss the work of the Facing the Future, Inequality and Information Technology Working Groups on the afternoon of Friday 11th March 2010 in Sheffield. All these groups will present full policy papers to the Autumn Conference taking into account the outcome of the consultation sessions and other input from both within and outside the party.

The Quality of Life working group continues its work and will bring proposals to the Autumn 2011 conference.

The FPC is very grateful for the contribution made by the chairs and members of working groups who voluntarily give a great deal of time to assist the Party's policy development process.

Facing the Future

The FPC has started a major review of Party policy following the general election in order to map out priorities in policy development for this Parliament. This exercise, entitled *Facing the Future* and chaired by myself, is holding a consultation session at Sheffield and will bring its final report to Conference in Autumn 2011. The final report will set out the programme of policy papers that the FPC expects to commission for the rest of the Parliament. The FPC

will new working groups for the Spring 2012 Conference in advance of this, based on the interim conclusions of Facing the Future.

The table below sets out the latest schedule of policy development work:

Conference	Consultation Papers	Policy Papers
Spring 2011	Inequality and Social Exclusion	The Voluntary Sector Youth Justice
Autumn 2011		Quality of Life Inequality and Social Exclusion Facing the Future Information Technology & Intellectual Property Localism

The Policy Process during Coalition

The FPC has had a number of discussions on the implications for its role and the Party's policy-making of our new status as a party of government. The FPC is very clear that the Party's complete independence in policy-making shall continue. The Committee will be developing new ways of working both to ensure the maximum Liberal Democrat policy input into the Coalition Government, and also to continue to ensure a separate Liberal Democrat policy identity. In particular the FPC is developing a close working relationship with the Parliamentary Party Committees of MPs and peers established in the major policy areas. The FPC has also had a series of meetings with Liberal Democrat ministers to discuss the implementation of Liberal Democrat principles in government, and this will continue.

The FPC has also established a small working group led by Jeremy Hargreaves to review the way policy working groups function and another led by Evan Harris to review how FPC relates to the Parliamentary Committees.

Regional Links

To encourage policy debate across the party we have FPC representatives taking responsibility for promoting policy debate within each of the regions of England and to attend regional conferences where appropriate.

Region	
Devon & Cornwall /Western Counties	Julie Smith
East of England	Geoff Payne/Linda Jack
East Midlands	Lucy Care
London	Dinti Batstone/Jeremy Hargreaves
Northern	TBC
North West	Stan Collins
South Central	Sandra Gidley/Gareth Epps
South East	Susan Gaszczak
West Midlands	Phil Bennion
Yorkshire & the Humber	Sal Brinton

The FPC has also decided to appoint representatives to Party SAOs:

SAO	
ALDES	Lucy Care
ALDC	Lucy Care
DELGA	Evan Harris
WLD	Susan Gaszczak
Liberal Youth	Gareth Epps
PCA	Julie Smith
Liberal Democrat Lawyers	Geoff Payne
EMLD	Linda Jack
LDDA	Sal Brinton

Policy Staffing

The Policy Unit consists of Christian Moon (Head of Policy), Verity Harding (Senior Policy Manager), Jonathan Vita (Senior Policy Manager) and Bess Mayhew (Correspondence Manager). Ian Sherwood is a long term volunteer. We have also benefited from the support of a secondee from pwc, Charles Tarvin, and the following interns: Nick Lane, Ed Brown, Alex Bos, Siobhan Gibney and Chris Fairbank.

The FPC is grateful for the hard work of all staff, both paid and voluntary.

Norman Lamb MP Chair of Federal Policy Committee

Federal Executive

The Federal Executive 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 (see below) 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, two other MPs, one peer, one MEP, two councillors, three state party reps and fifteen members directly elected by Conference reps.

Since Autumn Conference the FE has met on three occasions . twice with Baroness Scott as chair and once with myself as chair.

Diversity

At Autumn Conference the FE was commissioned to carry out work on candidate diversity, with Federal Conference agreeing to two pieces of work. Dinti Batstone carried out the report on external political reform, reporting to Baroness Scott and Nick Clegg, whilst the FE received Baroness Brinton's report on candidate diversity and a motion will be submitted to this conference. Both pieces of work have consulted widely, incorporating feedback from within and outside the Party, giving us practical and timely recommendations to make progress in this area.

General Election Review

The Campaigns & Communications Committee has spent considerable time this year reviewing the General Election campaign and talking to a broad cross section of the Party. Following a interim report to the FE, the CCC have produced a series of recommendations covering campaigns, candidates, policy, messaging, communications, leaders' tour, political warfare, diversity & fundraising. Action is underway on these and the CCC will be monitoring progress on delivery.

Strategy

The FE has also given significant consideration to Party Strategy, following the Consultation Session at Autumn Conference. Given this it has identified the following outcomes & themes as vital for the Party to achieve in the run up to the next General Election. These are:

- TARGET 2015: To be in power with more seats and votes.
- FOUR YEARS OF ELECTIONS: Create a platform for 2015 by building teams and winning elections.
- 2011: Play a key role in winning the AV vote, build strength in Scotland and Wales as well as in key councils.
- CLEAR IDENTITY within the Coalition with minimal Party dissent.
- BOUNDARIES: Deliver the best possible outcome.
- DIVERSITY: Ensure that by 2015 the party's institutions, elected representatives and members better represent the diversity of the communities where we are active

The five themes are:

- Ensuring credibility in Government and as a Party so that our role in the Coalition is judged a success;
- Developing an effective master narrative and a communications cutting edge;

- Winning elections . starting in 2011 through the Referendum to the 2015 General Election;
- Fundraising effectively, building on our recent improvements;
- Increasing capacity and widening the Liberal Democrat community . building capacity, membership and support & increasing diversity.

The FE has also incorporated these in the Strategic Plan 2015 & the Business Plan 2011. The FE has also agreed the Federal Party budget for 2011 in line with both these documents.

Chief Officers' Group

Following the Party Reform Commission Chief Officers Group has proved to be useful opportunity for different parts of the Party to meet and discuss various issues, such as resourcing across the entire Party and development. This group will now be meeting on a quarterly basis to ensure that the discussion is both strategic and feeds into the Party in Government.

Party Headquarters

The FE has also agreed to advertise the Party Headquarters (which are leased) to see whether the Party can relocate within the Westminster area to a more suitable building and has agreed a whistle blowing policy for staff & volunteers.

Performance

As part of its regular business the FE has regularly reviewed KPIs, focussing on membership, elections, fundraising, staffing & Conference attendance. The FE has also decided to have a standing item to review government progress against the Coalition Agreement.

Topical issues, such as education funding, boundary reviews, and the Comprehensive Spending Review have all been issues on which the FE has given a strong feedback to the Party in Government.

Sub-Committees

The FE has also received regular reports from the President, Federal Finance & Administration Committee (which reports separately), the Diversity Equality Group, the Campaigns & Communications Committee, the International Relations Committee and Chief Officers Group.

Both the FE and its sub-committee, the Campaigns & Communications Committee, have received an update on the Fairer Votes campaign from the Chair of the Campaign, John Sharkey. The update has covered preparation, strategy, polling and support.

As part of these reports the FE has agreed to establish Lib Dems Abroad. This initiative will allow branches to be set up around the world and contribute fully to Party activities.

The FE has approved the Liberal Democrat Friends of the Armed Forces as an Associate Organisation, and will be reviewing all organisations with AO & SAO status ahead of Autumn Conference.

Thanks

Finally I would like to pass on my thanks to Richard Klein, Duncan Borrowman, Monica Whyte, Erlend Watson, David Walter, Robin Teverson, Kate Parminter, Tessa Munt, Ros

Gordon and Tim Clement-Jones for their work on the FE and particularly Ros Scott for her outstanding work and commitment to this Party over the last two years.

Tim Farron MP
Party President
January 2011

Federal Finance and Administration Committee

The Federal Finance and Administration Committee 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 normally also reports directly to the Federal Conference.

The FFAC has 14 voting members: the Chair (currently Duncan Greenland), Party Treasurer and five other members (all elected by the FE), the Party President, three state party reps, the Chief Executive and two other members of HQ and Parliamentary staff.

A) 2010 results

As reported to Autumn conference in Liverpool, the Party's move into government has significantly changed the structure of the Party's finances. Without the receipt of Short & Cranborne monies (paid only to opposition parties) much of the reason for keeping POLDC (Parliamentary Office of the Liberal Democrats) finances separate from the Federal Party's has disappeared and this report therefore covers both the Federal Party and POLDC financial positions. However POLD remains a separate accounting unit and will therefore produce its own annual accounts.

At the start of 2010 the Federal Party and POLD had a combined accumulated surplus of £174,000 after allowing for a deficit of £127,000 on the party's final salary pension scheme (which closed in 1989).

Provisional results for 2010 suggest a combined deficit of around £1.25m against a budgeted deficit of £322,000 on a turnover of almost £9.3m. The net position is therefore expected to be an accumulated deficit of £1-1.1m as at the end of 2010. The actual amount will depend upon the valuation of the closed pension scheme, which is expected to have improved due to the merger of the scheme with another that had assets of around £250,000 but no members.

The shortfall in Short & Cranborne monies of £1.3m in year was partially offset by a restructuring of POLD staffing, at a cost of £104,000, producing a reduction of £500,000 in staff costs in year (£900,000 on an annualised basis).

The deficit was further reduced by better than budgeted conference income, net of costs, of £473,000 and Federal levy of £106,000.

The larger than expected deficit on campaigns is due to the delay in receiving certain income and the on-going costs of maintaining the network of campaigns officers and initial costs of the Oldham East & Saddleworth by-election (further costs were incurred in 2011 and have been budgeted for).

B) 2011 budget

Direct comparison of the 2010 to 2011 budgets is complicated by the budgeting in 2010 for the effects of the General Election and the restructuring that has been necessary since the Party moved into government.

The general election accounted for £3,919,000 of income and £4,165,000 of expenditure in the 2010 budget and explains much of the reduction in turnover. This does not, however, mean there has been a reduction in activity at Headquarters of this scale!

Also on the income side the budget no longer includes the receipt of Short & Cranborne monies of £1,944,000. This has been partly offset by an increase in expected fundraising and conference income.

Staff costs have been reduced by over £900,000 a year as a result of the restructuring of POLD staffing. The budget includes a provision of £150,000 for further restructuring of staffing or operations.

Non-staff costs would have reduced more significantly from the 2010 budget level but 2011 includes £40,000 to upgrade the party's IT infrastructure and £10,000 to enhance premises security.

Central costs are expected to be lower as the additional payments made into the closed pension scheme to reduce its deficit have stopped following the merger referred to above. However higher Conference receipts have the negative effect of leading to higher bank charges, which also includes the cost of the interest payable on the Party's overdraft facility.

Overall the budget is for a surplus of £200,000 to reduce the accumulated deficit. This would have been higher had it not been for the non-recurring expenditure on restructuring (£150,000), IT infrastructure (£40,000) and security (£10,000).

The accumulated deficit will be further reduced by the expected receipt of the settlement of the Methuen Funds. Budgeted surpluses and the Methuen funds should allow the deficit to be cleared by mid-2013.

The budget is included in appendix 1 attached.

C) Grants to Party bodies

	2011 budget	2010 budget
	£	£
ALDC	93,753	100,837
LY	16,000	16,000
WLD	4,000	4,000
EMLD	2,000	2,000
Total	115,753	122,837

The small reduction in the ALDC grant is part of a drive to increase ALDC income by encouraging all councillors to join the organisation through group membership. This work is being supported by the Federal Party and has been agreed with ALDC.

D) Staffing levels

The size of departments at the end of 2010 was:

Department	31 December 2010 FTE
Campaigns	12.5
Chief Executive, office facilities & training	7.0
Commons Whips	2.0
Compliance	1.5
Conference	3.0
Diversity	1.0
Finance	3.0

Fundraising Unit	2.0
International	2.0
Leaders Office	4.0
Liberal Democrats Calling	5.5
Lib Dem News	1.3
Lords Whips	1.0
Membership & fundraising	8.0
Policy & Research	3.0
Press	6.5
Total	63.3

FTE = Full time equivalent established posts

These figures should be compared with the average number of staff employed by Conservative Central Office in 2009 of 275 and Labour of 225.

E) PPERA

This May will see the testing for the first time on a UK wide basis the final piece of the original PPERA jigsaw with the Referendum controls being used for the first time in a UK-wide referendum. There will also need to be a referendum return in Wales for the Assembly powers referendum and returns in Scotland and Wales for the elections to the Parliament and Assembly.

Many of the Electoral Commissions sanctioning powers changed from criminal to civil sanctions in December which will make it easier for them to fine Local Parties who miss the deadlines or report donations late.

Consolidated Local Party Accounts (including branches) for the 2010 calendar year that exceeded £17,500 should be approved by the Local Party Executive and submitted to Party Headquarters before 15th March in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Electoral Commission.

The declarations of donations made to the Party, statements of accounts submitted and the Party's campaign expenditure return are all made public and can be viewed on the Electoral Commission's website at <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/regulatory-issues/>

F) Membership and Fundraising Services

Liberal Democrat Membership grew by 10% during 2010. The biggest period of growth was obviously during the general election period itself, but growth continued after polling day through into the summer. This compares with a slight fall in membership during the last General Election year of 2005.

There was also substantial growth in the wider community of Liberal Democrats who interact with the Party through email and social media channels. Contact numbers more than doubled during the year. Again, the fastest period of growth was during the election campaign, but numbers continued to grow throughout the year.

Two new web services have been introduced to improve party administration. One of these is a website that allows Local Party Treasurers to make their PPERA donation reports on-line, rather than through periodic paper reports. The other new website provides regional officers with an on-line source of contact information for local party officers in their region. These new tools will be developed further during 2011.

Work is continuing on further development of the Members website with the aim of providing more personalised, local and topical content. As well as improving on-line communications, the number of the special all-member editions of Liberal Democrat News is being increased.

G) Party's Pension Fund

Over the past fifteen years the Party has been trying to resolve the future of three historic Trusts, set up to support staff costs in the Party over ninety years ago. The 1924 HQ Retirement Fund was resolved in October 2010, and £260,000 was transferred with the permission of the Pension Regulator into the 1975 HQ Retirement Fund, which is the sole remaining Party Pension fund. The 1975 HQ Retirement Fund is closed to new members, but has been in deficit for a number of years. It is expected that the Triennial valuation completed in April 2010 will now show the 1975 Fund is back in surplus.

H) Cowley Street

Following the review of the Party's organisation after the General Election, it has been decided to start a search for an alternative office premises to Cowley Street, and to find a means of ending the lease ahead of its current termination date of February 2016. The Party is seeking an open-plan, single floor office in the vicinity of Westminster, which will provide more appropriate office space and facilitate more efficient operations. This work is at an early stage. It is not yet certain that the objective can be achieved, but there are reasons to be cautiously optimistic at this stage.

I) Office Facilities

All existing office contracts have been reviewed after the General Election to achieve both improvements and savings. The major decision has been taken to outsource IT facilities and to install new virtualised servers outside Cowley Street to improve operational effectiveness and security.

J) Office Restructuring and Reorganisation

In January 2011 a restructuring of the Cowley Street staff organisation was completed, and Cowley Street was reorganised to locate the Campaigns, Policy and Media teams all on the same floor.

Duncan Greenland
FFAC Chair
January 2011

Appendix 1

2010 budget and draft out-turn and 2011 budget

Liberal Democrat Combined Federal & POLD			
2011 draft budget			
	Budget 2010 £	Forecast 2010 £	Budget 2011 £
Income			
Direct mail appeals and standing orders	407,000	402,500	403,000
Ministerial tithes	0	6,500	40,000
LDCalling	165,000	203,000	220,000
Campaign fund	3,918,750	3,982,000	0
Fundraising income	70,000	191,000	749,000
Short Money	1,706,587	572,000	0
Cranborne Money	237,126	85,500	0
POLD restricted income	218,620	164,000	120,000
Federal levy	827,029	933,500	940,625
Conference	1,005,500	1,566,500	1,716,000
Lib Dem News	140,000	135,000	125,000
Cross charges to state parties	446,829	444,500	446,829
Policy Development Fund	457,000	467,000	457,000
WFD Admin fees	75,000	77,000	60,000
ELDR Grant income	18,000	18,000	18,000
Affinity	39,500	38,500	32,500
London Rent	5,250	10,500	10,500
Regional draws	11,000	11,000	11,000
Interest Receivable	265	300	0
	9,748,456	9,308,300	5,349,454
<u>Cost of sales</u>			
Fundraising costs	(262,660)	(260,500)	(120,000)
Conference	(531,843)	(620,000)	(562,525)
Lib Dem News	(112,000)	(115,500)	(115,000)
	(906,503)	(996,000)	(797,525)
<u>Net income</u>	8,841,953	8,312,300	4,551,929
Expenditure			
<u>Staff costs</u>			
Campaigns	574,061	576,500	538,486
Chief Executive's department	292,513	353,000	375,540
Compliance	54,308	54,500	53,911
Conference	128,951	143,000	123,558
Diversity	24,000	31,500	35,688
Finance	127,865	128,000	128,121
Fundraising Unit	82,340	97,000	104,360
International	70,989	73,000	81,734
LDCalling	128,000	123,500	158,000
Lib Dem News	38,029	39,000	38,029

Membership	278,696	279,500	278,365
Press	451,048	328,500	206,722
Policy	481,474	297,000	184,840
Leader's Office	392,820	274,000	29,968
Commons Whips	84,763	75,500	71,603
Lords Whips	236,126	87,500	0
Admin support to Deputy Leader	16,380	12,000	0
Restructuring costs	0	104,000	150,000
	3,462,363	3,077,000	2,558,925
<u>Departmental non-staff costs</u>			
Campaigns	103,000	112,000	129,600
Insurance, legal & professional	16,500	30,000	16,500
Office costs	179,500	201,500	189,000
Premises	339,500	331,500	367,500
Compliance	1,500	1,000	1,000
Conference	17,500	12,000	15,000
Diversity	20,000	24,000	16,000
Finance	12,400	11,500	10,700
Fundraising	0	0	1,000
International	4,000	3,500	3,000
LDCalling	11,000	13,000	11,000
Membership	46,200	46,500	42,000
Press	84,600	73,500	64,300
Policy	45,000	24,500	36,550
Leader's Office	57,700	36,000	15,100
Commons Whips	14,400	12,000	10,300
	952,800	932,500	928,550
<u>Campaigns & Development</u>	0	0	0
<u>Campaigns & elections</u>	4,164,843	5,031,000	363,100
<u>Central costs</u>			
Depreciation	1,500	1,500	1,500
Organisational staff costs	42,300	16,500	23,200
Communications	49,690	47,000	49,190
1975 Pension scheme	123,500	78,000	40,800
Audit fees	18,700	19,500	19,500
Bank charges	40,950	50,800	72,000
Irrecoverable VAT	48,000	48,000	45,000
Committee expenses	24,000	23,000	16,500
Services to MPs	30,000	34,000	33,500
Grants to party units	159,837	160,500	154,753
Grants to Scotland & Wales	45,000	45,000	45,000
	583,477	523,800	500,943
Total expenditure	9,163,483	9,564,300	4,351,518
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(321,530)	(1,252,000)	200,411

Parliamentary Party (Commons)

Introduction

When I last reported to Conference, I was looking back at the General Election and celebrating the first few months of the Coalition Government and the opportunity to embed liberalism in everything that the machinery of Government does.

That process is now underway and Liberal Democrats across Government . and on the backbenches . are working tirelessly, putting Liberal Democrat policies into practice. Government is not easy . and tough decisions have to be made . but Liberal Democrat MPs are delivering key manifesto commitments across the board.

Liberal Democrats in Government

Liberal Democrats in Government are taking real decisions that will make a real and positive change to the lives of real people.

Sarah Teather, our Children's Minister is giving our children a head-start by delivering improved early years education funding, with two free hours of education per child from the age of two. Sarah has also been instrumental in delivering our pledge on the Pupil Premium; investing an extra £2.5bn into educating children from the most disadvantaged families in our communities.

Steve Webb, as Pensions Minister has begun a comprehensive reform of pensions; delivering our commitment to restore the earnings link to the state pension with from April this year.

Danny Alexander, as Chief Secretary to the Treasury has already delivered the first instalment of our tax threshold commitment; raising the income tax threshold to £10,000 by the end of this five year Parliament. At Conference last year, Danny announced a £900m crackdown on tax avoidance and evasion, expected to raise billions each year by 2014/15 from those who currently avoid paying their fair share of tax.

Nick Clegg, as Deputy Prime Minister has led the Constitutional Reform agenda . with legislation for the AV referendum, a reduction in the number of MPs and the creation of Fixed Term Parliaments passing through the Commons. Nick reminded us that new politics means reform and these Bills (Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Bill and Fixed Term Parliaments Bill) underpin the fundamental principles of fairness, choice and correcting the injustices in how people elect their MPs.

Consistent with our manifesto, Nick announced the end of child detention; the scrapping of Identity Cards (now enshrined in law following Royal Assent); announcing an overhaul of the benefits system and putting in to place a system which encourages and rewards work; investing £1.4 billion in the Regional Growth Fund to drive local, sustainable growth; doubling UK investment in maternal health and child mortality in the developing world.

At the Home Office, Lynne Featherstone, our Minister for Equalities has secured the right to request flexible working for all employees. Alongside Nick, Lynne helped to realise our policy for shared parental leave; allowing fathers and mothers to decide their own arrangements and giving fathers the chance to spend time with their new-born children.

Norman Baker, as Minister for Transport, recently announced plans to invest in sustainable, local transport . allocating an extra £560 million from his Department to a new local sustainable transport fund.

Ed Davey, in the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills has brought legislation through the Commons to protect the Post Office and offer a sustainable and long-term future to the Royal Mail . even enshrining into law protection of the Queen's face on all our stamps!

Each and every one of our Ministers is working assiduously to ensure that Liberal Democrat thinking and policy informs everything the Coalition Government does. In a Coalition Government, everything is inevitably a compromise but by working hard, we are ensuring that we, as a Party, get the best possible deal for the people of this country.

Taking difficult decisions together

Our decision to enter into Government was taken in the national interest. The previous Labour Government left the country with the largest ever peace-time deficit and the scale of the work needed to get us back to a healthy economy is phenomenal. This work began with the Comprehensive Spending Review in October where the roadmap for the next five years in Government was laid out.

It is never easy to announce spending cuts; and if we had had a choice, I for one would much rather have come into Government with a healthy chequebook and spending wish list. But we did not. We came into Government at a time when the markets believed that a hung Parliament would create a double-dip recession and the Liberal Democrats were untested, unreliable Governors.

The Spending Review marked the first real opportunity for the Liberal Democrats to demonstrate to the public that we were able to take the tough decisions, while delivering on the promises we had made: a fairness premium for poorer families; investment in growth and low-carbon technologies; an increase in the income-tax threshold; a clamp down on tax-evasion and avoidance; the integration of health and social care to allow more people to stay at home for their care.

Taking difficult decisions has not always been easy, and I could not report back to Conference without acknowledging the most difficult decision for Liberal Democrats since Autumn Conference: Higher Education funding. Our manifesto was explicit in committing to scrapping tuition fees over the course of a Parliament; we even had a carefully costed proposal, which took money from elsewhere and targeted it at paying for students to attend universities for free.

Every member will have their own opinion as to whether they believe the Coalition Government's funding system is right but with no other viable option, I believe Vince Cable delivered the best Higher Education funding system that he could, in the circumstances available to him. We could not have met our manifesto commitment to scrap tuition fees . we didn't win the election! A Coalition is a compromise and the Programme for Government set out the Coalition Government's plan for Higher Education:

We will await Lord Browne's final report into higher education funding, and will judge its proposals against the need to:

- . increase social mobility;
- . take into account the impact on student debt;
- . ensure a properly funded university sector;
- . improve the quality of teaching;
- . advance scholarship; and

. attract a higher proportion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

If the response of the Government to Lord Browne's report is one that Liberal Democrats cannot accept, then arrangements will be made to enable Liberal Democrat MPs to abstain in any vote.

Every Liberal Democrat MP was aware of the sensitivities and difficulties surrounding the votes. We are all appreciative of the tremendous progress Vince Cable has made to make higher education fairer and more progressive as Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. I am proud to be able to report to Conference the professional, thoughtful and sensitive manner in which our Parliamentary Party conducted itself throughout what was a stressful time for all. There will be other difficult decisions ahead, but I am confident and trusting in my colleagues' ability to work together, with integrity and openness. Only together are we able to manage these challenges, with mutual support and respect.

The successes of the Parliamentary Party

Liberal Democrat backbench MPs have continued to work effectively with their Ministerial colleagues and in the House of Commons to ensure that Liberal Democrat policies are highlighted, debated and fed into the machinery of Government. We have seen both individual and collective accomplishments as a result of our strong and indispensable backbenchers.

The Parliamentary Party Committees are now fully established working to provide a distinct Liberal Democrat force in Parliament. Each Committee meets regularly to discuss the work of respective Government Departments, working closely with Ministerial colleagues to be consulted on, and to influence the work of Government. The work of these Committees has proven to be hugely successful so far, with Liberal Democrats maintaining distinctive coverage in the Commons Chamber as well as effectively representing the party's views within Government Departments.

Tom Brake, David Ward and Don Foster have each introduced Ten Minute Rule Bills this session: In September, Tom introduced his Bill to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act by seeking to include additional agencies under the Act. David Ward used his opportunity to present a Bill to save the cheque, and in December, Don Foster sought to bring forward legislation to allow safe standing at football grounds . a key Liberal Democrat policy.

The introduction of the House of Commons' Backbench Business Committee has allowed many of our backbenchers to propose topics for debate in Parliament. Greg Mulholland was able to secure a debate in Westminster Hall on the future of pubs; and Annette Brooke brought forward a motion on Park Homes and led a full debate on the need for better regulation. The Backbench Business Committee has allowed Members from across the House to choose what they wish to discuss and has been a cornerstone of the Reforms of the House of Commons, introduced by the Coalition Government . and with more than a little help from our Deputy Leader of the House, David Heath.

Above all, our backbenchers have shown enormous integrity, and strong resistance to the tired and bitter Labour opposition. It is an inconvenient truth for the Labour Party that the Liberal Democrat Party is achieving things . in Government and in the House.

Conclusion

The Liberal Democrats are achieving and delivering in Government. It is as simple as that. We have achieved a huge amount and I have not been able to delve beneath even the tip of the iceberg. As a Party, Government was never going to be easy . but our Parliamentary Party will continue to work as it has done during the first few months of Coalition: by working

together in the promotion of liberal values, openly, honestly and supportively of one another, we will continue to flourish.

Alistair Carmichael
Chief Whip, Parliamentary Party (Commons)
January 2011

Parliamentary Party (Lords)

Ministers and Whips

In the Ministry of Justice, our Leader, **Tom McNally** has responsibility for a range of matters including human rights, civil liberties, freedom of information, data protection and law reform. He is responsible for all MoJ business in the House of Lords.

Tom has been working to extend the scope of the Freedom of Information Act and he is also reinforcing the government's commitment to human rights. He is also working hard to fulfil the Party's commitment to reform English libel laws and will publish a draft Defamation Bill in the spring. He is also working with other MoJ ministers on criminal justice reforms.

Jim Wallace has returned to government as Advocate General for Scotland, providing legal advice across Government on a wide range of issues including human rights, European and constitutional law as well as Scots law. Jim speaks in the Lords on Scotland and Wales, and on matters relating to the Attorney General.

I am the party Chief Whip and the Government spokesperson in the Lords on Northern Ireland, Wales and transport, as well as being Deputy Chief Whip.

William Wallace, Lindsay Northover and **Sue Garden** assist me in my whipping duties and speak for a number of departments in the Lords. William is responsible for the MoD, the FCO and security and policing within the Home Office. He will assist in taking the Armed Forces, European Union and Police and Social Responsibility Bills through the Lords. Lindsay, the only Lib Dem within DfID, is government whip for the Department of Health, MoJ and DfID, and on Equalities and Women's Issues. She will assist in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill. Sue is government whip for DCMS and the Department of Education, and for Higher Education within BIS. She will assist in the passage of the Pensions Bill.

The 9 peers introduced in the summer have now been joined by a further 15: **Sal Brinton, Dee Doocey, Jonathan Marks, Susan Kramer, Claire Tyler, Qurban Hussain, Paul Strasburger, John Sharkey, Monroe Palmer, Nicol Stephen, Mike Storey, Judith Jolly, Ben Stoneham, Raj Loomba** and **Jenny Randerson**.

Parliamentary Party Committees

Lib Dem peers are fully integrated into the Parliamentary Party Committees (PPCs) set up by the Party after the formation of the Coalition. With her Co-Chair of the DCMS PPC, Don Foster, **Jane Bonham-Carter** successfully negotiated for BBC funding to be guaranteed for six years, for a future for S4C and the World Service, and for more support for high speed broadband.

Robin Teverson, Co-Chair of the DECC PPC, used his position to raise concerns about the Energy Bill, including strengthening the obligations on private landlords to improve energy efficiency and incorporating adequate safeguards against mis-selling. **Kate Parminter** has argued for a stronger reporting element in the Bill.

Legislation

Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Bill

Jim Wallace and **Tom McNally** are steering this Bill through the Lords. It will reform our electoral system by providing a referendum on AV, reducing the number of MPs and equalising the size of constituencies.

The Bill is facing a difficult time in the Lords. Before Second Reading, Labour proposed a motion to send it to the parliamentary Examiners to consider whether it was a hybrid

affecting private as well as public interests. The motion was defeated. Before Committee stage Labour tabled another motion to split the Bill in two. This was not pushed to a vote. The Bill has already spent 11 days in Committee in the Lords- 3 days longer than in the Commons Committee stage, including one all-night sitting and another until 3am- with a further two days scheduled. Labour has called votes on several amendments, all but one of which were defeated. The sole exception provides that the referendum must take place before 31st October 2011, which does not prevent its being held on 5th May.

Public Bodies Bill

Bob Maclennan, Anthony Lester, Ros Scott, Archy Kirkwood and Tony Greaves participated in debates on this Bill. It is controversial because of the limited scope for scrutiny of future changes to the public bodies affected. Contributions from Lib Dem Peers have been sceptical, but the team is working closely with officials and ministers to improve the Bill.

Identity Documents Bill

Abolishing identity cards and the National Identity Register was the main purpose of this Bill, which became law on 21 December 2010. **Andrew Phillips, Sally Hamwee, John Shipley and Bob Maclennan** participated in the debates. **Tom McNally** represented the Government.

Local Government Bill

This Bill, which put a stop to the restructuring of councils in Norfolk, Devon and Suffolk, became law on 16 December 2010. **Robin Teverson, Chris Rennard, Ros Scott, Graham Tope, John Burnett and Paul Tyler** participated.

Superannuation Bill

This Bill, which became law on 16 December 2010, reforms Civil Service pensions. **Bob Maclennan** and **Dick Newby** spoke in the debates. **William Wallace** represented the Government.

Terrorist Asset Freezing etc Bill

This Bill, which also received Royal Assent on 16 December 2010, replaces the previous temporary asset-freezing provisions with a permanent framework. **Sally Hamwee, Kishwer Falkner, Anthony Lester** and **Alex Carlile** took part in the debates, while **William Wallace** represented the Government.

Budget Responsibility and National Audit Bill

Dick Newby and **Matthew Oakeshott** spoke in debates on this Bill, which would establish on a statutory footing the Office for Budget Responsibility and its functions. It goes to Report stage next, on a date to be appointed.

The following are Private Members' Bills sponsored by Lib Dem Peers:

House of Lords Reform Bill

David Steel's Bill, being debated for the fourth time since 2007, had wide support at Second Reading, with only two dissenting speeches. It would, amongst other things, establish an appointments commission, abolish by-elections for hereditary Peers, allow members to retire and exclude those convicted of serious criminality.

Defamation Bill

Anthony Lester's Bill would amend defamation law so as to, in Anthony's words, give better protection to free expression, while ensuring fairness and responsibility in journalism, and necessary protection of the right to a good reputation. The Bill has passed its Second Reading.

Dog Control Bill

Rupert Redesdale's Bill would move the focus of dog control from particular breeds onto irresponsible dog owners.

Rehabilitation of Offenders (Amendment) Bill

Navnit Dholakia sponsors this Bill, which would amend the rehabilitation periods for certain convictions.

Demonstrations in the Vicinity of Parliament (Removal of Authorisation Requirements) Bill

Paul Tyler's Bill would remove the authorisation requirements for demonstrations near Parliament. Second Reading is yet to be scheduled.

Live Music Bill

This session, **Tim Clement-Jones** reintroduced his Bill, which would reduce the bureaucracy around small live music performances. Second Reading has yet to be scheduled.

The following were designated 'Money Bills' and therefore received only a brief Second Reading debate in the Lords:

Equitable Life (Payments) Bill

This Bill, which passed into law on 16 December 2010, authorised a payments scheme for Equitable Life policyholders. **Archy Kirkwood** spoke in the debate.

Finance (No. 2) Bill

This Bill cleared certain technical tax provisions of Labour's last Budget before the election. It became law on 16 December. **Dick Newby** contributed to the debate.

Savings Accounts and Health in Pregnancy Bill

This Bill brought to an end the Child Trust Fund, the Saving Gateway and the Health in Pregnancy Grant. In the debate, **Dick Newby** said that these grants were untargeted and failed to meet their objectives. Royal assent was given on 16 December 2010.

Loans to Ireland Bill

This Bill authorised the Treasury to loan up to £3.25bn to Ireland, and contains an order-making power to increase this limit subject to affirmative procedure in the Commons. Royal assent took place on 21 December. No Lib Dem Peers took part in the debates.

Other debates

Strategic Defence and Security Review (12 November 2010)

John Lee agreed that the defence budget should reflect new cyber and terrorist threats, and supported the decision to review Reserve Forces in order to meet new strategic demands. **Sue Miller** emphasised the Review's greater transparency, which she thought would help the case for disarmament. **John Burnett** criticised the decision to decommission HMS Ark Royal, arguing that air support might be needed to protect shipping lanes. **Dominic Addington** praised the broad thrust of the review, but highlighted the need for reform of the government's procurement program. **David Chidgey** and **Jenny Tonge** both supported the SDSR's understanding of the importance of aid in preventing further conflict, but warned that aid must be transparent and must not become militarised.

Common Agricultural Policy - (18 November 2010)

This debate was led by **Tony Greaves**. In common with all the Lib Dem peers who followed, Tony highlighted in particular the need for the CAP to address environmental challenges as well as the need for food security. **Hugh Dykes** asked whether the CAP should be part-nationalised, and proposed the introduction of more market-driven policies to avoid overproduction. **Sue Miller** concentrated on the environmental benefits of a greener CAP, pointing out the massive potential for carbon sequestration in well-managed soil. **Mike German** encouraged reform to recognise that food security and environmental security go hand-in-hand. He praised the CAP for encouraging diversity, supporting small producers and ensuring high-quality produce.

Active Citizenship (18 November 2010)

This debate attracted no fewer than eleven Lib Dem speakers- more than half of those taking part. **Bob Maclennan**, leading off, asked the Government to preserve from the spending cuts those public institutions which support active citizenship. He said that citizenship education was essential, and advocated a reduction in the voting age to sixteen to encourage participation in the political process. **Martin Thomas** urged the Government to support the income of voluntary institutions, illustrating his remarks with an account of his experiences with the Gresford Trust. **Joan Walmsley** focused on the need for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) in schools. **Julia Neuberger** welcomed the big society and called for the preservation of the citizenship survey and the lowering of administrative barriers to volunteering. **Margaret Sharp** spoke about adult education and its capacity to encourage participation by the less privileged in society. **John Shipley** drew the House's attention to active citizenship at the neighbourhood level, including through participatory budgeting and planning, and local volunteering. **Dominic Addington** concentrated on the benefits of participation in voluntary sports clubs, urging a reduction in regulatory burdens. **Tim Clement-Jones** identified the big society as essentially a Liberal idea, and encouraged the Government to increase core funding for voluntary groups. **Liz Barker** emphasised the importance of local government in underpinning a coherent and active society. **Tony Greaves** urged changes in decision-making structures to allow increased involvement by the public, citing the example of public participation in planning committees. **Paul Tyler** highlighted the importance of the state's role in empowering volunteers.

Debates introduced by LibDem peers

Eric Avebury . statement of changes to immigration rules

Bill Bradshaw . the bus industry

Staffing

Following the withdrawal of Cranborne money immediately after the General Election, the office unfortunately had to make half its staff redundant. The remaining three, **Carolyn Rampton, Elizabeth Plummer (previously Hanna) and Tom Kiehl**, covered the same amount of work. In October, Elizabeth was made Special Adviser to Tom McNally in his role of Deputy Leader in the Lords and Justice Minister- a well-deserved promotion and a source of great support for the office. Thanks to the generosity of almost all the peers, the office is now securely funded. This has allowed us to take on very welcome new members of staff: **David Macpherson** joined as Office Administrator in December and **Tom Gault** as Research Intern in January. **Jill Clements** continues her invaluable back-up role helping in the office and the peers. We continue to be well served by all our staff who work well in a very swift changing environment.

David Shutt
Chief Whip, Parliamentary Party (Lords)
January 2011

Parliamentary Party (Europe)

In the European Parliament the ALDE (Liberals and Democrats) Group continues to punch above its weight; its position determining the outcome in the vast majority of contested votes. Its leader, former Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt, has added to these statistical triumphs by ensuring that the Group is known for being innovative and fresh-thinking, introducing new ideas and initiatives . not least with regard to the promotion of financial reform, European integration, and a strengthened role for the European Parliament . that often become central to political debate.

Within the Group, the LDEPP is the second largest national delegation of Liberals and its leader, Fiona Hall, has the task of bringing coherence to the very different interests of its 12 MEPs. The diversity of their work is illustrated by this report. Fiona has herself taken steps to ensure that, with regard to financial transparency relating to parliamentary expenses, the Liberal Democrat MEPs are second to none. She has been closely involved in discussions with Westminster colleagues about EU budget matters, while as our energy spokesperson is pressing for Europe's 2020 energy efficiency targets to be made mandatory.

The priority attached to financial reform and improved economic management has continued to give a central role to Sharon Bowles, as chair of the ECON Committee; indeed. She was recently placed 20th on a list of the most influential people in the world of finance, beating the British Chancellor of the Exchequer. Her role has given her a pivotal position in the shaping of legislation relating to bankers' bonuses, hedge funds, the stability of the Eurozone and the coordination of EU budgets.

Having been instrumental in bringing the ALDE Group into being, and having provided the European Liberal family with political leadership for more than 7 years, Graham Watson has taken advantage of a temporary lull in his agenda to chronicle Liberal achievements within Europe over the past 20 years. His book, *Building a Liberal Europe: the ALDE Project* has been published by John Harper, and must now be regarded as required reading for all with an interest in European politics. Graham also leads the Parliament in its relations with India and on matters concerning Moldova.

Our champion of European integration, Andrew Duff, is campaigning to secure greater recognition for Europe-wide political parties and is seeking support for the election of an additional 25 MEPs through a transnational party list. He is outspoken in his criticism of the Coalition Government's EU Bill, arguing that it will obstruct the further constitutional evolution of the Union.

In her role as a Vice President of the Parliament, Diana Wallis has negotiated agreement with the European Commission for establishment of a joint lobbyists' register. She was rapporteur for the European Citizens' Initiative which now allows citizens anywhere in Europe to propose legislative ideas to the Commission. She has been active on issues to do with the Arctic, in promoting a single contract to facilitate cross border trade, and to strengthen rights for online shoppers.

Edward McMillan-Scott, our other Vice President and specifically responsible for democracy and human rights, has focused on China which he describes as 'a terror state'. He represented the Parliament at the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony, despite attempts to secure a boycott for the award being presented to imprisoned human rights activist Liu Xiaobo. Edward has established a cross party group to try and inject new ideas into the debate about whether the Parliament should continue to meet in both Brussels and Strasbourg.

LDEPP spokesman on development issues, Bill Newton Dunn, has been pressing for greater coordination to enhance use of the UK's development aid and that of the 26 other Member States. He has continued to campaign for more effective EU measures to counter cross-border organised crime.

Having steered through the Parliament's recommendations for changes to the Common Agricultural Policy, George Lyon now await the Commission's formal proposals. Meanwhile he has represented Liberal Democrats and the Parliament at farming conferences across Europe, while also working on animal welfare issues and to protect Scottish jobs by successfully opposing a Europe-wide ban on deep sea oil drilling.

Catherine Bearder has taken steps to try and ensure that timber from African countries has been legally harvested, and has been working to raise awareness about the rapid extinction of primates in the world, Sarah Ludford is working on measures to give suspects arrested anywhere in the EU information on their rights and the case against them, this being part of her campaign to raise criminal justice standards across a Union that now makes much use of the European Arrest Warrant.

Liz Lynne has secured support for a landmark resolution regarding long term care and the risk of abuse to the elderly; it includes a call for a voluntary charter for the rights of older people. Her work involves detailed scrutiny of EU legislation in employment matters, including the Working Time Directive, Pregnant Workers' Directive, Electromagnetic Fields Directive and proposed legislation on muscular skeletal disorders.

For my part I maintain involvement in climate change and other environmental issues, and have taken a role in pressing for a new measure to promote more effective implementation of EU laws. I recently formed the cross party 'Fish for the Future' group to press for radical reform of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Chris Davies MEP
Whip

Campaign for Gender Balance

The Campaign for Gender Balance was established by the Federal Executive in response to the conference debate on gender balance in September 2001, and is now being run within the strategic framework of the Diversity Unit at Cowley Street. It continues to form a key central initiative for supporting potential women candidates within the Party, and it implements a range of training, mentoring and support activities in order to increase the number of women standing for Parliament. The Campaign is chaired by Rosalyn Gordon.

Current approval / selection figures (as of 24th January 2011):

1060 approved, 278 women: 26% women

No Westminster selections have taken place for this electoral cycle yet

One of our key aims in 2011 is to ensure that women who intend to go for target seats, once the Westminster selections commence, have all the skills and support required not only to win selection as PPC but to become the elected MP for that seat as well. We intend to continue to work closely with Campaigns, Candidates Office and Leaders Office to ensure that this happens as it is not something that the Campaign can do in isolation.

Current and planned activities

- The annual **Future Women MPs Weekend** took place on 22nd/23rd October 2010. Sixteen women attended this intensive residential weekend, which included training in key leadership skills and expert advice on competitive Parliamentary seat selections.
- An **MP Shadowing Day** is being planned for potential candidates in February 2011.
- We are providing mentoring and support for women selected for **Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly seat and list selections**.
- We are constantly liaising with representatives across all regions to **identify potential candidates for Westminster seat selections**, and ensuring that they are fully prepared when the approval and selection processes begin again after the General Election.
- **Letters have been sent to new women party members** in January 2011 to encourage them to get more involved in the Party.
- One of our key aims in 2011 is to **increase our pool of mentors** (both men and women) within the Party who can assist women with approval and selection.
- We have followed up with **women who have requested application forms** for approval to offer help and encouragement.
- **A full training programme** has been run at Federal Conferences in Autumn 2010 and Spring 2011. These sessions focus on key information and skills that help potential candidates with approval and selection.
- **An e-mail newsletter** is sent out every month to 892 subscribers, including details of training events, relevant news items and seat adverts.
- The **CGB online 'Resource Centre'** provides an additional source of advice and support, containing downloadable documents that may be useful to candidates, such as sample manifestos, hustings speeches and tips on becoming a PPC.
- The Campaign actively participates in the Party's **Diversity Engagement Group**
- We have provided significant **input into the recent FE candidate diversity review, and fully support the recommendations of the report**.
- The Campaign continues to closely **monitor information regarding approval and selection figures**, to gain an accurate picture of the gender balance within the Party.

Sincere thanks goes to our previous Vice-Chair, Baroness Jane Bonham-Carter, who has stood down from the post to concentrate on her expanded role in the House of Lords.

Thanks also to Candy Piercy, who is Head of Training for the Campaign; Dinti Batstone who has been re-elected as Vice Chair and Tamora Langley who we welcome as our new Vice Chair; and all our mentors, trainers and volunteers who generously give their time in support of the Campaign. We are also delighted to welcome the new Diversity Projects Coordinator, Roxana Cimpeanu, who will join Vicky Booth in the Diversity Unit and help to coordinate CGB activities.

Rosalyn Gordon
Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance
January 2011

Diversity Engagement Group Report

The Diversity Engagement Group (DEG) was set up to oversee the achievement of the Party's equality and diversity priorities. The group brings together nominated Champions from all sections of the Party in leading the strategic and accountable body responsible for delivering our diversity agenda and for reporting back to FE.

DEG acts as a steering group for a dedicated Diversity Unit based at Cowley Street HQ. This Unit works closely with departments, groups and committees across the Party, including internal organisations concerned with diversity, the Membership Department, Department for Elections and Skills, the State Parties, Federal Executive, and Regional and local parties. This approach is vital in order to ensure that objectives are shared and implemented in all areas of the Party.

Current and planned activities

- **Regional Diversity Champions** have been appointed by each region and will work in partnership with the National Diversity Unit to encourage, promote and support the diversity of the local parties and candidates in the region.
- The Diversity Unit will continue to provide advice, mentoring, training and on-going support for all Diversity Champions. Four **training sessions for Diversity Champions** have been held since May 2010, and further training will be held at all Federal Conferences.
- **Teams will be formed within each region**, led by the Diversity Champions, who will be responsible for driving through action plans. Champions will report back on progress in each region at Diversity Engagement Group meetings.
- The Unit continues to oversee the **New Generation initiative** and **Campaign for Gender Balance**, which provides targeted training, mentoring and support for potential BAME and women candidates (see attached report for further details).
- **Mentoring and support will be offered to Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, and GLA candidates from under-represented groups** in the lead-up to May 2011.
- The Unit will provide **additional leadership training and advice** for candidates from under-represented groups who wish to stand for Westminster target seat selections.
- Approval and selection data is regularly **monitored and analysed** in order to gain an accurate picture of candidate diversity within the Party.
- Three **training sessions on widening participation and encouraging diversity within local parties** have been held at Federal and Welsh Conferences.
- **Written guidance for local parties** regarding diversity and widening participation will be published by September 2011.
- Representatives from SAOs concerned with diversity have been meeting with the Diversity Officer and member of the Media Team in order to **increase their media profile and level of outreach work amongst specific groups outside the Party**.
- A **reception for all Diversity Engagement Group members** was held at 2010 Autumn Conference in Liverpool.
- The **next meeting will be held at Spring Conference 2011** in Sheffield.

We are delighted to welcome Roxana Cimpeanu to the team at Cowley Street, who has recently been recruited as the new Diversity Projects Coordinator within the Diversity Unit. She joins Vicky Booth (National Diversity Officer) and will be responsible for supporting the work of the Unit, particularly the activities across the English regions.

Dr Vince Cable MP
Chair – Diversity Engagement Group
July 2010