

Spring Conference

Agenda & Directory Liverpool 13th – 15th March 2015



Stronger Economy. Fairer Society.
Opportunity for Everyone.

Conference Rally

Ready to go

Featuring Party President **Sal Brinton** and Chair of the General Election Campaign **Paddy Ashdown** plus other special guests.

Friday 13th: Main Auditorium 18:30–19:30

Stronger Economy. Fairer Society.
Opportunity for Everyone.



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insider's guide
to Liverpool

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of the city we love

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Stronger Economy. Fairer Society.

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Welcome to the *Agenda and Directory* for the Liberal Democrat Spring 2015 Federal Conference.

If you have any questions whilst at conference please ask a conference steward or go to the Information Desk, located in the Galleria in the ACC.

Conference venue

Arena & Convention Centre
Liverpool (ACC)
Kings Dock, Liverpool, L3 4FP
www.accliverpool.com

Further information, registration and all conference publications (including plain text and large print versions) are available at:

libdems.org.uk/spring_conference



Follow us on Twitter

@libdemconf #LDconf

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Liberal Democracy Creating Opportunity for Every



ats nity /one



Protect spending on nurseries, schools and colleges



Balance the budget by 2018



Cut income tax by another £400



Pass a new Nature Law to protect green spaces, trees, birds and animals



Equal care for mental and physical health

A record of delivery, a promise of more

by Nick Clegg MP

I'm delighted to welcome Liberal Democrats from across the country to Liverpool and the last Conference before the General Election.

The next few days are an opportunity for our party to come together and prepare ourselves for the long, hard campaign ahead. It is our chance to further set out our vision for the country and explain to the British people how Liberal Democrats in government can make a positive difference to their everyday lives.

It is our job – more than any other – to offer people a vision of the future that is not steeped in the politics of fear, division and blame but instead has its foundations in the liberal British values of openness, tolerance and compassion.

The coming days are also the final opportunity of this parliament to come together and celebrate our achievements in Coalition. It is our chance to look back proudly over the last five years and reflect on the many millions of people who have benefitted from Liberal Democrats in Government.

We might not have had it all our own way. But when I look at all we have achieved together – despite the grim

financial odds, the naysayers and the stubbornness of our Conservative colleagues – we can say, without a shadow of a doubt, that Britain is now a more liberal, fairer and more prosperous country because of our time in office.

Whether it's investing £2.5bn to help disadvantaged pupils catch up with their classmates, cutting taxes for millions of working people, pushing through equal marriage, or blocking the so-called Snoopers' Charter.

Whether it's raising the state pension, a huge expansion of renewable energy, scrapping ID cards, making sure children get a healthy school lunch, or creating two million apprenticeships.

Whether it's giving parents more free childcare, getting the deficit down, bringing in the first ever waiting time targets for mental health treatments, or helping society's unsung heroes care for their frail loved ones – Liberal Democrats have made a positive difference to Britain and I couldn't be more proud of our party.

But this record is more than just a set of achievements, it is a concrete proof we can build a more liberal country.

Our record of action is what underpins our promise of more.

It shows we can balance the budget and do so fairly, continue to cut taxes for those on ordinary incomes, and tackle mental health problems with the same vigour as physical health problems. It proves we can properly fund our NHS, defend civil liberties, protect the environment and safeguard education spending from cradle to college.

We must take this record of delivery to the doorsteps, streets and townhalls and campaign on our promise of more. No one else will do it for us, so it is up to us to shout from the rooftops

that only with Liberal Democrats in Government can we build the stronger economy and fairer society we need to create opportunity for everyone.

I look forward to seeing you all around the venue.



**The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP is
Leader of the Liberal Democrats
and Deputy Prime Minister**



The Federal Conference Committee



Andrew Wiseman,
Chair



Sandra Gidley,
Vice Chair



Geoff Payne,
Vice Chair,
English rep



Jon Ball



Gareth Epps



Joanne Foster,
Welsh rep



James Gurling,
FE rep



Jeremy Hargreaves,
FPC rep



Linda Jack
FPC rep



Kavya Kaushik,
FE Rep



Jenni Lang,
Scottish rep



Liz Lynne



Zoe O'Connell



Chris Maines



Justine
McGuinness



Pauline Pearce



Mary Reid



Shas Sheehan



Paul Tilsley



Mike Ross,
Chief Steward,
co-opted

Ex officio:

Don Foster MP, Chief Whip.

Baroness Sal Brinton, Party President.

Tim Gordon, Chief Executive (non-voting).

Members of the FCC will be available to give advice at the Information Desk at the following times:

Friday	13th March	17.00–18.00
Saturday	14th March	09.00–10.30
Saturday	14th March	14.00–16.00

You can also contact the FCC via the Information Desk outside of these hours.

Carry on the conference at the Conference Bar!

Going out for dinner?

Join us later for
happy hour offers!

We're open until 2am!

Bar meals
and snacks
served 6pm-10pm

Real Ale
Available



Happy Hour
offers

Doubles bar
ONLY £4.50
inc mixer

Glass of house wine
Selected bottled beers
Single house spirit
& mixer

ALL £3.80
during happy hour

Available

Friday: 5:15pm - 5:30pm

Saturday: 7:15pm - 7:30pm

Friday & Saturday

8:45pm - 9:15pm

11:00pm - 11:15pm

The Conference Bar
is situated on the
Upper Level

Conference information

If you have any questions on-site, please ask a steward or go to the Information Desk in the ACC.

Please note that access to the ACC is only possible with a valid conference photo pass.

The conference auditorium is on the Upper Level of the ACC.

Be aware that flash photography is frequently used in the auditorium. Please ensure that all mobile phones are on silent before entering the auditorium.

Accommodation

Accommodation can be booked via Liverpool Convention Bureau:

libdems.org.uk/spring_conference

ATM

A Barclays cash machine is situated in the Galleria in the ACC and does not charge for withdrawals.

Cloakroom

Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the ACC.

A cloakroom is located in the Galleria where coats and small items may be left. A £1 charge per item applies. Please note items cannot be left in the cloakroom overnight.

Do not leave bags unattended at any point within the venue.

Conference Bar

From 17.00 until late on Friday and Saturday, ACC Liverpool will be hosting the conference bar on the Upper Level, outside the main auditorium. A range of wine, spirits and ales will be available, along with a variety of bar snacks, served until late.

Conference Daily

Conference Daily includes last-minute changes to the order of business; please ensure you collect your copy each morning from the literature collection points or view it online at:

libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

Disabled access

If you need assistance at the venue please contact the Information Desk where our dedicated steward will be on hand to help. If you need assistance or information in advance, please contact the Conference Team on conferences@libdems.org.uk or call 020 7227 1322.

Auditorium facilities

- Direct wheelchair access to the left of the stage: the chair of the session will ensure wheelchair users are called in plenty of time to access the stage.
- Infra-Red Hearing System: headsets can be collected from the Business Centre in the Galleria. Please ensure your hearing aid is switched to the 'T' position.

Conference information

- Sign language interpretation during all auditorium sessions: a number of seats are reserved for members using this service, at the front of the auditorium to the right of the stage.
- Reserved seats at the front of the auditorium for those who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual impairment.

Mobility aids

The Liberal Democrats have a limited number of electric scooters available for use around the ACC. They are free of charge and available on a first-come, first-served basis and will need to be returned each evening.

To request the use of an electric scooter contact the Information Desk or email conferences@libdems.org.uk in advance.

Distribution of literature

Distribution of literature (including leaflets / flyers) is not allowed within the secure zone or directly outside the

ACC other than through the official bookable channels.

Any persons attempting to bring a large number of fliers into the conference centre may be prohibited from entering and a dilapidation charge will be levied against any organisation or individual responsible for 'fly-posting'.

Excessive distribution of promotional literature is not in line with the party's environmental policies.

FCC helpdesk

Members of the FCC will be available to give advice at the Information Desk at the following times:

Friday	13th March	17.00–18.00
Saturday	14th March	09.00–10.30
Saturday	14th March	14.00–16.00

Food and drink

Outlets serving light snacks and hot and cold beverages are situated on all 3 levels of the ACC. Don't miss the Hot Dish of the Day, served in the exhibition hall between 11.30 and 14.30. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options are available, just ask a member of the catering team.

First Aid

In the event of needing First Aid, please speak to a conference steward or go to the Information Desk. The stewards will arrange for First Aiders to attend and/or request a paramedic.



© www.VisitLiverpool.com

Conference information

Information Desk

The main Information Desk is located in the ACC Galleria and is open as follows:

Friday	13th March	11.30–18.30
Saturday	14th March	08.30–18.30
Sunday	15th March	08.30–13.30

email:

conferenceinformation@libdemocrats.org.uk

telephone: 0151 706 4640

A smaller information point is available in the Lower Galleria during exhibition opening hours.

Internet access

The ACC offers free, unsupported Wi-Fi across all areas of the venue.

To access the Wi-Fi:

- Go to your internet settings and select the network 'Free_Wi-Fi'.
- This will take you to the ACC's landing page.
- Click the 'free access' button.
- You should now be connected to the internet.

The use of PCs and printing facilities is available at the ACC Business Centre in the Galleria. These facilities are subject to charges, please visit the Business Centre for details.

Left luggage

A left luggage facility will be available at the Jury's Inn (see map on the inside back cover) between 08.30 and 15.00 on Sunday 15th March. A nominal fee will apply.

Prayer and meditation room

A multi-faith prayer and meditation space is located in Room 15 on the Upper Level of the ACC. Please be respectful of others using the room.

Recycling facilities

Recycling facilities for paper, plastic and cans have been kindly provided by SITA UK throughout the ACC. Please make use of the collection bins.

Registration on-site

On-site registration is located in the Jury's Inn – see map on the inside back cover – and is open as follows:

Friday	13th March	11.00–18.00
Saturday	14th March	08.30–17.30

At busy times you may experience queues at on-site registration and we strongly advise all those wishing to attend conference to pre-register via www.libdemocrats.org.uk/conference.

If you have lost your conference photo pass, visit on-site registration to arrange a re-print. A replacement fee of £25 applies and photo passes are reissued at the discretion of the Registration Manager.



Conference information

Security and safety

Access to the ACC is possible only with a valid, visible conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard which must be worn visibly at all times in the secure zone. Anyone found in the secure area without a valid pass will be escorted from the venue.

All bags will be searched at the entry point to the ACC. Boxes and packages should be unsealed wherever possible. Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the ACC. Any bag left unattended will be brought to the attention of the police and may be removed and/or destroyed.

In order to ensure your process through the security measures is as quick as possible please only bring essential items into the conference venue. Please allow time for security check queues during key times – particularly after lunch and ahead of popular events.

Thank you for your patience and co-operation.

Smoking area

The Riverside Courtyard, accessible via the Galleria of the ACC, is a small outside area within the secure zone for smokers to use.

Please note that the use of electronic cigarettes is prohibited within the ACC.

Transport and travel

Just a short taxi or bus ride away from Liverpool Lime Street station, the ACC is just over two hours from London via direct train services. Other long distance, regional and local rail services also operate into Lime Street.

Bicycles can be left securely in the Liverpool Waterfront Car Park, adjacent to the ACC.

Taxis

Davy Liver Ltd	0151 709 4646
E2A Cabs	0151 229 1066
Mersey Cabs	0151 298 1234
	(credit card bookings)
	0151 298 2222
	(cash bookings)

All the above companies can provide wheelchair accessible vehicles; please specify the requirement for wheelchair access on booking.

During main conference opening hours, the ACC Guest Relations desk in the Galleria can order a taxi for you.

Parking

The nearest carpark is:

Liverpool Waterfront Car Park
Monarchs Quay, Kings Dock
Liverpool, L3 4FP

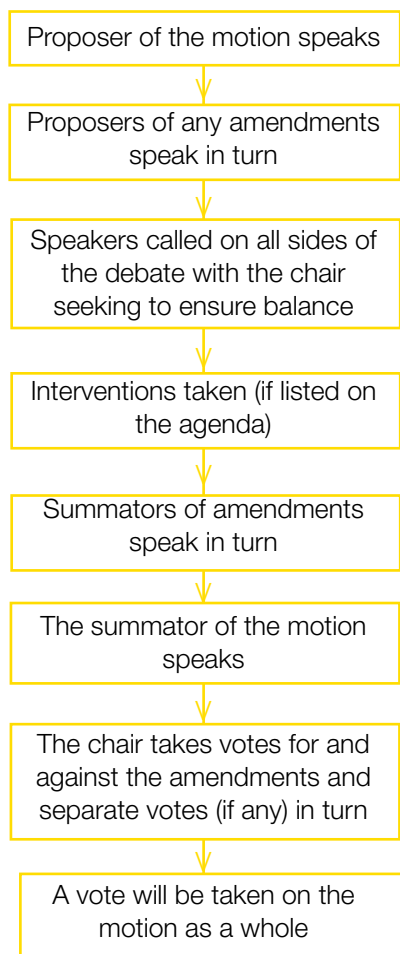
Fees operate on a sliding scale:

£2 for up to 1 hour
£4 for up to 2 hours
£6 for up to 5 hours
£9 for up to 9 hours
£12 for up to 24 hours

Debates and votes at conference

Debates on policy and business motions are at the heart of federal conference. It is through them that the party sets its policy and future direction. Unlike the conferences of the other parties, Liberal Democrat conference is sovereign, and what it decides really matters.

The structure of debate on policy and business motions:



Interventions: are concise (one minute) speeches made from the intervention microphone(s) on the floor of the auditorium, during debates where it is indicated in the *Agenda*.

Amendments: all motions except emergency motions are open to amendment; amendments accepted will be printed in *Conference Daily*.

Voting: decisions on most motions and on all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting (two-thirds majority for constitutional amendments). To vote, representatives must be seated on the ground floor of the auditorium and show their voting badge.

Separate votes: a vote on whether to delete or retain the specified words or section. A request for a separate vote may be submitted by any voting representative: by the start of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled, **or** by the deadline for emergency motions for debates scheduled for the first day of conference; using the online form at libdems.org.uk/conference_papers, by email to separate.votes@libdems.org.uk, **or** in writing to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium.

Counted vote: the chair of the session may decide that a vote needs to be counted. Any voting representative may request a count from the floor; if fifty voting representatives stand and show their voting cards, a count will be taken.

Speaking in conference debates

Length of speeches

The length of speeches is shown against each motion in the Agenda. Interventions are limited to one minute each.

There are three lights on the speaker's rostrum and visible either side of the stage. 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 allowed time (20 seconds before the end of an intervention). The red light is switched on when all the time is used up, and the speaker must stop immediately.

Eligibility to speak

The only people entitled to speak in debates and interventions at conference are:

- Voting representatives (or substitutes), elected by their local parties or appointed ex-officio, who have paid their full registration fee.
- Non-voting representatives who have paid their full registration fee (not day visitors).
- Persons who have been given permission to speak by the Federal Conference Committee.

Applying to speak

To make a speech in a debate you must complete a speaker's card, collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table at the front of the

auditorium, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk.

Completing a speaker's card

When completing a speaker's card, remember:

1 Submit your card well in advance.

The chair and aide team for the debate will meet well in advance to plan the debate – sometimes the previous day.

2 Fill in your card completely.

Complete the two sections on the back of the card as well as the front. These sections are needed for the chair and aide to balance the debate, so they can call people with relevant experience and avoid a string of people making the same point.

3 Make sure it's readable!

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

Interventions

To speak during interventions, representatives should complete an intervention form, collected from and returned to a steward in the auditorium. Speakers will be chosen by the chair of the session by random ballot.

Other conference sessions

Emergency motions and topical issue discussions

Emergency motions are debated and voted on and make formal party policy like other motions, but refer to a substantial development since the deadline for submission of motions.

Motions selected for debate, and/or for selection by ballot along with the ballot procedure, will be printed in Saturday's *Conference Daily*.

Topical issue discussions allow representatives and spokespeople to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference; they do not make party policy.

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

Question & answer sessions

Concise questions (maximum 25 words) on any relevant subject may be submitted by any voting representative. Questions will be selected by the chair and put by the submitter from the intervention microphones in the auditorium.

Questions may be submitted using the online form at libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions:

- by 17.00 Thursday 12 March.

Questions may also be submitted on a form collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium

- by 12.45 Saturday 14th March.

Reports

The reports of Federal Committees and Parliamentary Parties are printed in the separate reports document.

Any voting representative may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on these reports. The chair will select which questions will be asked. Questions to reports of the Parliamentary Parties may relate to any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the UK or European Parliaments.

Deadlines for questions to reports:

- Federal Committees – 13.00, Tuesday 10th March.
- Parliamentary Parties – 17.00, Thursday 12th March.

Questions may be submitted using the online form at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Questions received by the deadlines above will be printed in Saturday's *Conference Daily*.

Questions on events occurring after the deadlines above may be submitted on speaker's cards at the Speakers' Table up until one hour before the start of the relevant session.

Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals

Amendments and emergency motions

Amendments and emergency motions must be:

- signed by 10 voting representatives;
- **or** submitted by one or more of: a local party, state party, regional party in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisation or Federal Party Committee;
- and be submitted by 13.00, Tuesday 10th March.

Submitters should include:

- For amendments – a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment.
- For emergency motions – a short explanation of its emergency nature.

Topical issues

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any voting representative:

- by 13.00, Tuesday 10th March.

The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should not include an expression of opinion; please include full contact details of the submitter and up to 100 words explanatory background.

Drafting advice

Submitters are encouraged to use our drafting advice service: draft amendments and emergency motions should be submitted

- by 13.00, Tuesday 24th February.

Amendments, emergency motions and topical issues should be submitted to the Policy Unit:

- using the online form at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions
- **or** by post to Policy Unit, 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE.

Appeals

Appeals against the non-inclusion of emergency motions or amendments must be signed by the original drafting contact and should:

- be no longer than one side of an A4 sheet;
- give a contact name and telephone number;
- include a copy of the motion/ amendment to which they relate;
- give justification for the appeal and new information Conference Committee was unaware of when it made its decision;

and:

- be submitted by 08.00, Saturday 14th March,
- to appeals@libdems.org.uk



HUNGRY?

Grab some lunch in
the Exhibition Hall

Salads, soups
and sarnies

Meal deals
from £5.00

Hot dish
of the day

Served 11:30am - 2:30pm

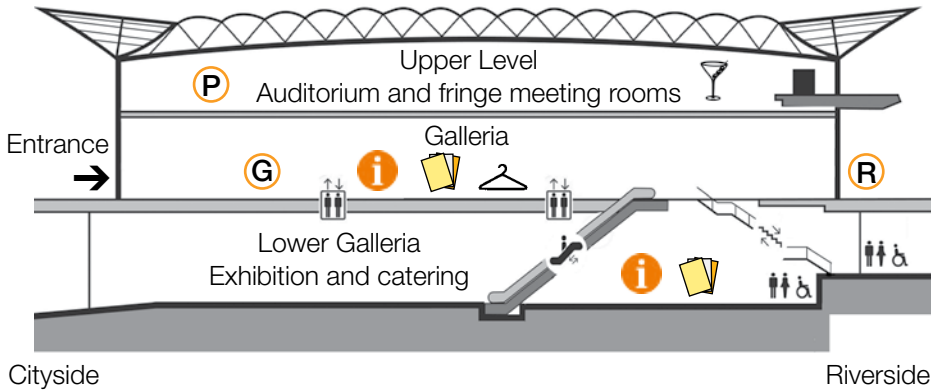
Vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options available



Centerplate

Conference venue plans

The ACC

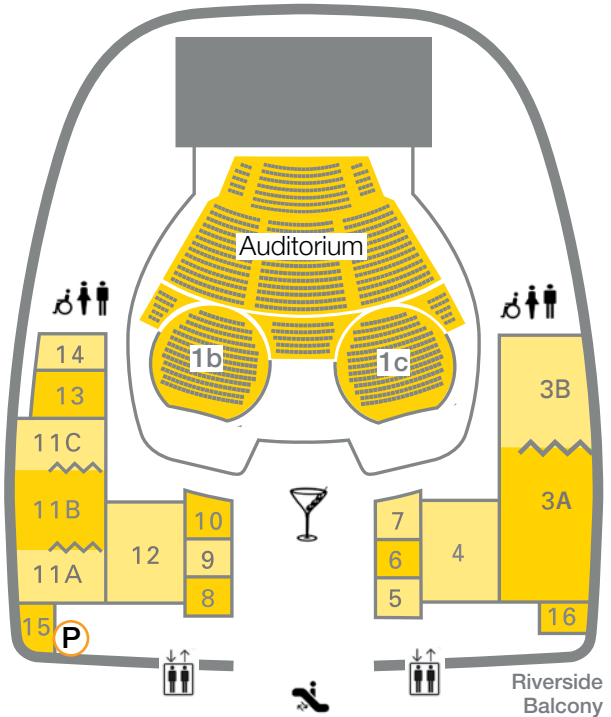


Key

- Toilets
 - Cloakroom
 - Literature collection point
 - Information Desk
 - Conference bar
 - ACC Guest Relations desk
 - Prayer and meditation room
 - Riverside Courtyard smoking area
 - Lifts
 - Escalators
- (not to scale)

Upper Level

Auditorium and fringe meeting rooms



Campaign Zone

Here to help your campaign

Digital and Field Teams

Come and meet the Digital and Field teams from LDHQ. Ask any questions you have about Connect, NationBuilder or campaigning on or offline.

Also, meet some of the great volunteers from Team2015 and find out how you can get involved to help us win in May.

Top Suppliers

Evolutionprint



PRINTECH
(EUROPE) LIMITED



**Find us at the front of the
Exhibition Hall**



fun & games to save the planet

Come and visit eco action games, an award-winning social enterprise, in the 'Green Zone' exhibition area for some interactive eco fun & games.

Take a break from serious speeches and policy making, and have fun playing eco action twist, eco snakes + ladders, eco action bingo, play your eco cards right and more. Discover our innovative, unique, proven to be effective, methods of educating and engaging people of all ages in environmental actions. Our clients include: schools, universities, corporates, councils, shopping centres, festivals and Age UK care homes.

Leave your business card to claim your free eco action game.

Visit: ecoactiongames.org.uk

The exhibition

The exhibition is located in the Lower Galleria of the ACC and is open at the following times:

Friday	13th March	15.00–18.15
Saturday	14th March	09.00–18.00
Sunday	15th March	09.00–12.00



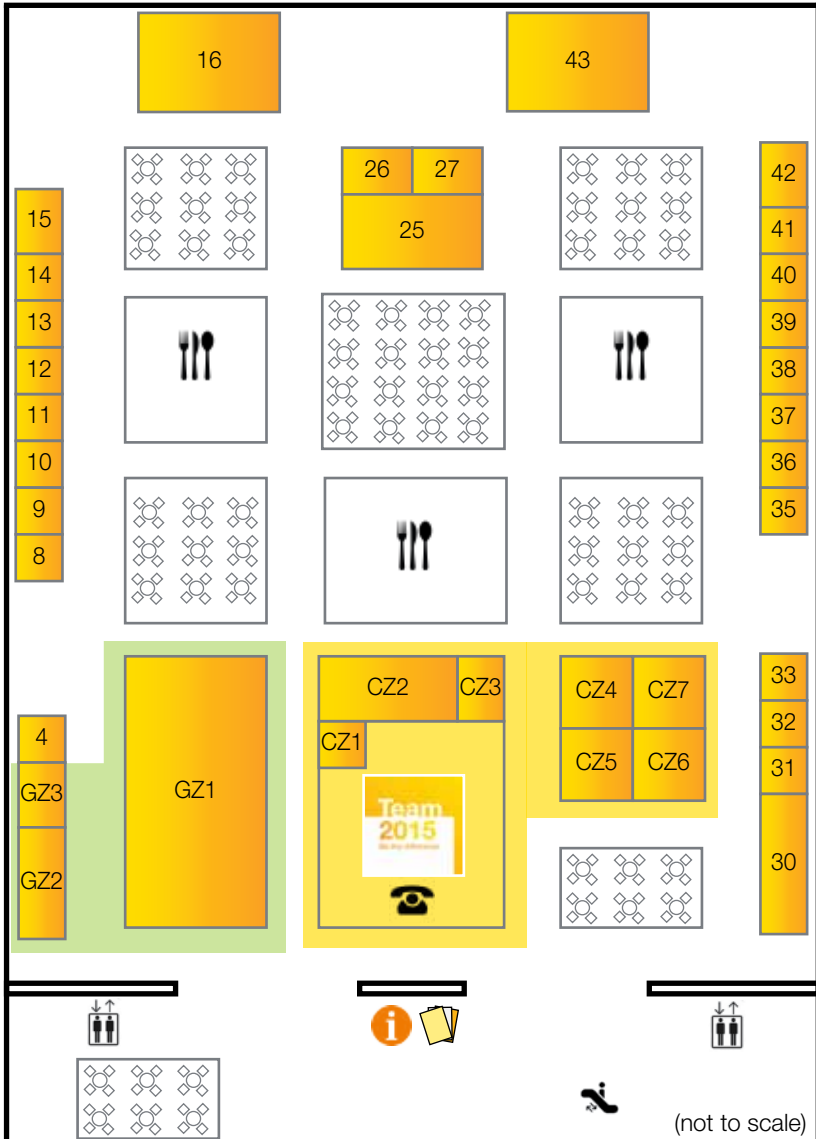
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@libdemconf #LDconf











Exhibitors listed by stand number

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| GZ1 | eco action games | 30 | Open Doors UK & Ireland |
| GZ2 | The Association for Decentralised Energy | 31 | Agents and Organisers' Association |
| GZ2 | sustainability hub | 32 | Prater Raines' Foci2 Websites |
| GZ2 | John Muir Trust | 33 | CentreForum |
| GZ2 | RSPB | 35 | Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform |
| GZ2 | The Wildlife Trusts | 36 | Association of Lib Dem Engineers and Scientists (Aldes) |
| GZ3 | Green Liberal Democrats | 37 | Business Events Bournemouth |
| 4 | Liverpool Liberal Democrats | 38 | Grant Thornton UK LLP – Debt Services |
| 8 | Remembering Srebrenica | 39 | Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association |
| 9 | Liberal Democrat History Group | 40 | <i>Liberator</i> |
| 10 | Parliamentary Candidates Association | 41 | Social Liberal Forum |
| 11 | Liberal Youth | 42 | Liberal Democrat Women |
| 12 | Airport Operators Association | 43 | The British Association for Shooting and Conservation |
| 13 | Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats | CZ1 | Liberal Democrats Team 2015 |
| 14 | Liberal Democrat Education Association (LDEA) | CZ2 | Liberal Democrat Image |
| 15 | LGBT+ Liberal Democrats | CZ3 | Connect, NationBuilder and Lib Dem Campaigns Teams |
| 16 | Guide Dogs | CZ4 | Evolution Print |
| 25 | Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and LGA Liberal Democrats | CZ5 | ONEPOST |
| 26 | Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats and Lib Dems for Seekers of Sanctuary | CZ6 | Printech Europe Limited |
| 27 | ALTER | CZ7 | RISO UK / Midshire Business Systems |
| 30 | Liberal Democrat Christian Forum | | Galleria: |
| 30 | FaithAction | | Liverpool Convention Bureau |

Exhibition plan



Key

	Exhibition stand		Information point		Catering
	Campaign zone		Literature collection point		Lift
	Green zone		Seating area		Escalator
			Phone bank		

Directory of exhibitors

Agents and 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 an *Agents' Manual!*
<http://ldagents.org.uk/en/>

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Airport Operators Association



The Airport Operators Association (AOA) is the trade association that represents UK airports. Its mission is to see UK airports grow sustainably.

www.aoa.org.uk

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ALTER



Promoting a more sustainable and just resource-based economic system in which no-one is enslaved by poverty, through taxing not work and jobs, but unearned income and wealth.

www.libdemsalter.org.uk

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The Association for Decentralised Energy



The Association for Decentralised Energy is the leading advocate of an integrated approach to delivering energy locally, designed around the needs of the user.

www.theade.co.uk

GZ2

Association of Lib Dem Engineers and Scientists (Aldes)



Aldes is the association providing the Liberal Democrat party with expertise and fellowship among scientists, engineers, technologists and medics.

www.aldes.org.uk

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Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and LGA Liberal Democrats

ALDC and LGA Lib Dems provide advice, support and resources for all local councillors, campaigners and activists. Join ALDC and get in touch with the LGA Lib Dems here.

www.aldc.org

www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk

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The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

Come and try the advanced simulator which allows you to 'shoot' in a realistic, safe and controlled environment. Professional BASC Coaches will be available to help you hit the target.

www.basc.org.uk

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Watch us on Youtube.com/LibDem

Directory of exhibitors

BusinessEventsBournemouth.org.uk

Right place. Right time. Right lead.

Business Events Bournemouth

Business Events Bournemouth is the new official accommodation booking service provider for the Autumn Conference 2015. Please visit our stand to speak to us about existing bookings and to book accommodation at the upcoming conference. We are at your service!

www.libdems.org.uk/autumn_conference_accommodation
www.bebesres.org.uk

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CENTREFORUM

CentreForum

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

www.centreforum.org

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Connect, NationBuilder and Lib Dem Campaigns Teams

Drop by to ask any questions about how to get the most from our key digital campaign tools Connect and NationBuilder as well as the latest materials and advice on campaigning.

www.libdems.org.uk/oskar

CZ3



eco action games

An award-winning, innovative, environmental education social enterprise. We re-invent retro, old school social games and give them an eco-twist to teach through fun. We work with schools, universities, corporates, communities.

ecoactiongames.org.uk

GZ1



Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats and Lib Dems for Seekers of Sanctuary

EMLD campaigns and works with ethnic minorities promoting the party objectives. LD4SOS believe in standing up for seekers of sanctuary in our country. @EMLibDems - @LD4SOS - facebook.com/groups/EMLibDems - facebook.com/ld4sos

emlibdems.org.uk

www.ld4sos.org.uk

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Evolutionprint



Evolution Print

Award winning B1 and B2 litho, digital and large format print specialists. Sunny Sheffield.

www.evolutionprint.co.uk

CZ4



FaithAction

FaithAction is a national network of faith-based and community organisations, serving their communities through social action and delivering public services. We support grassroots organisations and help them and government connect.

www.faithaction.net

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Grant Thornton UK LLP – Debt Services

Grant Thornton UK LLP is one of the UK's premier advisers on debt and personal insolvency. Grant Thornton has been helping individuals with debt problems for over 20 years.

www.grant-thornton.co.uk/iva

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Directory of exhibitors

Green Liberal Democrats

GLD are one of the Party's largest membership organisations. Our stand at this conference focuses on the key 'Green Issues' in the forthcoming General Election.

<http://greenlibdems.org.uk/en/> **GZ3**



LGBT+ Liberal Democrats

The party organisation committed to promoting equality for sexual and gender identity minorities, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, and to ensuring that the party's policies address their needs.

lgbt.libdems.org.uk **15**



Guide Dogs

Have you ever imagined what life without sight is like? Don a blindfold for our sensory experience with guide dog Delphi and catch up with the Guide Dogs campaigns team.

www.guidedogs.org.uk/campaigns **16**



Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats

For Liberal Democrats, of all faiths and none, who share our humanist or secularist values. Now campaigning on caste discrimination, humanist weddings, assisted dying and religion in schools.

www.hsld.org.uk **13**



Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

We are a Christian voice in the party and a voice of liberal democracy among Christians. We support Christians of all backgrounds in their constructive work in politics.

www.ldcf.org **30**



Liberal Democrat Education Association (LDEA)

'Education sets people free'. The LDEA's aims are to: • link Liberal Democrats working in education • develop Liberal Democrat approaches to education • promote Liberal Democrat values in education.

www.ldea.co.uk **14**



John Muir Trust

The John Muir Trust is a UK charity campaigning for improved statutory protection for our rapidly disappearing wild land and for an evidence-based National Energy Commission.

www.jmt.org **GZ2**



Liberal Democrat History Group

The past illuminates the present. Subscribe to the *Journal of Liberal History*. Buy our publications on the history of the party and its predecessors, including our new booklet, *Liberal Thinkers*.

www.liberalhistory.org.uk **9**



Directory of exhibitors



Liberal Democrat Image

Visit Liberal Democrat Image stand C22 in the exhibition to buy your campaigning materials for the 2015 General Election.

Mail order available at

www.libdemimage.co.uk

C22



Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association

For updates on our fringe meetings ('The Magna Carta, Then and Now' and 'How to improve the Inquiry System'), membership and our Human Rights Act Campaign.

Chair: Graham Colley.

www.LibDemLawyers.org.uk

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Liberal Democrat Women

With only a short time until the General Election, Liberal Democrat Women are supporting candidates throughout the country, mentoring, training and practical help. Our 'On the Road to Westminster' campaign needs your support.

womenlibdems.org.uk

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Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform

The group for electoral reformers within the party. We are campaigning to make local government electoral reform a priority in the 2015 manifesto. Visit our stand to find out more.

reformgroups.net/libdems

35



Liberal Democrats

Team 2015

Join Team 2015 in the Campaign Zone to learn about the Party's new nationwide volunteering programme. Meet the people who are making it happen.

www.libdems.org.uk/libdemsteam2015

CZ1



Liberal Youth

We are the youth and student wing of the Liberal Democrats. Come and find out more about our events, campaigns, policy work and much more!

liberalyouth.org

11

Liberator

Liberator continues to report on the realities of coalition. Read the latest from the Party's leading thinkers. As ever *RB* shines light on the dark corners of the Party.

www.liberator.org.uk

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Liverpool Convention Bureau

Liverpool welcomes the Liberal Democrats Spring Conference 2015! Come and see the Liverpool Convention Bureau team if you have any hotel or general destination questions.

www.liverpoolconventionbureau.com

Galleria

Directory of exhibitors

Liverpool Liberal Democrats

Liverpool Lib Dems will be selling you some Lib Dem and some craft souvenirs to remind you of our history and your visit. Expect some amusing items!

www.liverlibdems.org.uk

4

ONEPOST



ONEPOST commenced trading in July 2005. The business was established to maximise the opportunities of postal deregulation by helping mailers save money on their postage bills.

www.ONEPOST.co.uk

CZ5



Open Doors UK & Ireland

Open Doors is an international charity serving persecuted Christians in 58 countries. We seek to mobilise church and state to support the international right to freedom of religion or belief.

www.opendoorsuk.org

30

Parliamentary Candidates Association



For all aspiring MPs and MEPs, the PCA is the only organisation which represents your interests as a candidate. Please visit our stall and find out how to become a PPC.

www.libdempca.org.uk

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Prater Raines' Foci2 Websites

Proven Liberal Democrat online campaigning. Fast-loading, reliable UK hosting. Free unlimited phone & email support. Facebook & Twitter integration. Donation handling. Email & digests suite. Content sharing, petitions & more!

www.prateraines.co.uk

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Printech Europe Limited



Using the latest innovations & technology in print to deliver the best printed product at best market prices. Procurement expertise, professional consultancy, professional management throughout the print and mailing processes.

www.printechexpress.co.uk

CZ6



Remembering Srebrenica

Remembering Srebrenica raises awareness of the Srebrenica genocide and teaches UK citizens about the impact of hatred and intolerance with the aim of creating a cohesive society for all.

<http://srebrenica.org.uk/>

8



RISO UK / Midshire Business Systems

We are the largest supplier of Riso equipment and folding machines in the uk. Come and see the latest full colour mail merging Riso machine, we have machines for all budgets.

www.Midshire.co.uk

CZ7

Directory of exhibitors

RSPB

We are calling for a Nature and Wellbeing Act, with the world's first legally binding targets for nature's recovery. Come and find out what the campaign is all about!

@Natures_Voice

www.rspb.org.uk/ActforNature



GZ2

Social Liberal Forum

SLF promotes debate within and beyond the Liberal Democrats, to offer voters a Social Liberal vision of society in which none shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.

www.socialliberal.net



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sustainability hub

The sustainability hub is a collaborative initiative promoting engagement between political leaders, industry executives and third sector groups working towards a smarter, more sustainable future.

www.sustainability-hub.org



GZ2

The Wildlife Trusts

We are calling for a Nature and Wellbeing Act, with the world's first legally binding targets for nature's recovery. Come and find out what the campaign's all about! @Natures_Voice.

www.wildlifetrusts.org/ActforNature



GZ2

Conference sponsors

Gleeds

Established in 1885, Gleeds is a leading global property and construction consultancy. We provide independent and expert advice, working with clients to solve their challenges and realise their ambitions.

www.gleeds.com



SITA UK

SITA UK is a recycling and resource management company. Our purpose is to protect the environment by putting waste to good use.

www.sita.co.uk



National Asian Business Association

Nationally representing nine British Asian Business Associations to promote the United Kingdom as the best destination for inward investment, trade and encouraging world class enterprise.

www.nabauk.org



Autumn conference

Book your accommodation for 2015 autumn conference in Bournemouth at the Business Events Bournemouth stand, number 37, in the exhibition.

Conference App

Available 6th March

Download our Conference App for Spring Conference, with great features such as My Schedule (the easiest way to plan your Conference) and searchable Fringe & Training Guides.

To download the App visit the App Store or Google Play



For Blackberry/Windows Phone please visit www.libdemconference.org.uk





Finally, leaflets you don't have to deliver

Make sure to check the literature collection points located in the Galleria and Exhibition for up-to-date information each day.

Pick up your **Conference Daily** as well as flyers, magazines and brochures to make sure you're kept in the know.

Distribution of literature must be booked. Options available for leaflets, magazines and booklets. For more information please email: sian.waddington@libdems.org.uk



Business Lunch with Vince Cable MP Friday 13th March, Liverpool 2015

Join us for a networking buffet lunch and Q&A with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Vince Cable MP.

This lunchtime talk is a unique opportunity to discuss key business policies with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Vince Cable MP, ahead of the General Election in May.

The discussion will focus on the growth and development of British business, and particular challenges faced by regions such as Merseyside. There will then be a chance for questions and an open discussion.

To book your place please go to:
www.libdems.org.uk/conference to register for the Liberal Democrat conference and select the 'Business Day'.

Venue: ACC Liverpool

Time: 12.00 - 14.00

Tickets: Included in the price of a spring conference observer pass.

Places are limited so book now to avoid disappointment!

For more information please contact:

corporate@libdems.org.uk or
telephone 020 7227 1312



Kindly supported by the National Asian Business Association

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Fringe guide

Access to fringe meetings

All fringe meetings take place in the ACC – see page 17 for venue plans.

Access to the ACC is possible only with a valid, visible conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard.

All fringe events are wheelchair-accessible. If you experience access difficulties, please let the Information Desk know so they can assist.

We strive to make our conferences as accessible as possible and are providing hearing loops in all ACC rooms as standard.

Rooms 3a, 4a, 11b and 12 work on an Infra-Red system; please note that in these rooms hearing loops are worn around the

Key to fringe listings



Refreshments provided



BSL signer provided



Hearing loop provided



By invitation only

neck and are available for collection at the Guest Relations Desk. The remaining fringe rooms contain induction loops which feed directly into hearing aids. Hearing aids must be switched to the 'T' position.

BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION:

Visit:

[www.libdems.org.uk/
autumn_conference_accommodation](http://www.libdems.org.uk/autumn_conference_accommodation)

Telephone:

01202 816147

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS AUTUMN CONFERENCE



Bournemouth International Centre
19-23 Sept 2015

BusinessEventsBournemouth.org.uk

Right place. Right fit. Right feel

Fringe Friday 13th March

Fringe Friday afternoon 15.00–17.00

Federal Executive

Consultative session – Implementing One Member One Vote

A special session run by the Federal Executive. Last year, you voted to make our conference One Member One Vote. The FE will be presenting our constitutional amendments to you in the autumn – this is your chance to feed into this process.

ACC, Hall 1b



Conference Daily

Pick up *Conference Daily* each morning from the literature collection points or view it online at:

libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

Fringe Friday early evening 18.30–19.30

Conference Rally

Ready to go

Featuring Party President Sal Brinton and Chair of the General Election Campaign Paddy Ashdown plus other special guests.

ACC, Auditorium



Ministerial Q&A sessions

There will be a series of Ministerial Q&A sessions during conference, where you can ask questions of our Ministers on the issues relating to their responsibilities and their departments.

All sessions will take place in Room 12 on the Upper Level in the ACC.

Saturday 14th March

11.30–12.30	Health	Norman Lamb & Paul Burstow
15.00–16.00	Transport & DCLG	Stephen Williams & Susan Kramer
16.30–17.30	Treasury	Danny Alexander

Sunday 15th March

10.30–11.30	Pensions	Steve Webb
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Sessions are open to all, but party members will be given priority. Hearing loop provided.

Fringe Friday mid evening 20.15–21.30

CentreForum

Will the electorate ever love coalitions at Westminster?

Speakers: Don Foster MP, Deputy Chief Whip; Baroness Randerson; Professor Andrew Russell. Chair: Neil Sherlock.

ACC, Room 4 A



Green Liberal Democrats

Winning the Green Vote: campaigning at the margins?

What is the Party's General Election approach to environmental issues? The fringe will address the political, policy and campaigning perspectives being taken.

Speakers: Martin Horwood MP, Duncan Brack (Manifesto Working Group) and Steve Jolly, Party Campaign Team.

ACC, Room 7



Liberal Democrat History Group & ALDC

Community Politics and the Liberal Revival

The Liberal Party committed itself to community politics after the party lost half its seats in the 1970 election. Discuss the background and the relevance of the community politics approach today with Gordon Lishman and Mike Storey.

ACC, Room 13



CentreForum

Mental health and young people: meeting the challenge

Speakers: Paul Burstow MP and Norman Lamb MP, Minister of State, Department of Health.

ACC, Room 14



Fringe Friday late evening 22.00–23.30

Herefordshire Liberal Democrats

Fairer Funding for Rural Areas

Support our campaign to get a fairer funding formula for all rural areas. There will be a selection of Herefordshire refreshments available, showcasing some of the best the County has to offer.

ACC, Room 11 B



Parliamentary Candidates Association

PCA Reception for Candidates

A reception for all parliamentary candidates – a chance to meet up at Conference before the General Election. Hosted by the Parliamentary Candidates Association.

ACC,

Riverside Balcony



CentreForum and BVCA

Conference Reception

By invitation only.

ACC, Room 11 C



Like us on Facebook.com/libdems

Fringe Saturday 14th March

Fringe Saturday breakfast 08.00–09.00

Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

Official Conference Prayer Breakfast

All are welcome for breakfast and a time of conversation and prayer to start the day.

Open Doors and FaithAction will participate in leading prayers.

Note: this event starts at 07.45

ACC, Room 11 B



ActionAid, ChristianAid, Oxfam

A Tax Dodging Bill for 2015?

85% say that tax avoidance by large companies is morally wrong. Only 1 in 5 believe political parties have gone far enough in tackling the issue. More must be done by the next Government. Come support our campaign over breakfast.

ACC, Room 13



Fringe Saturday morning 09.30–10.30

Civic Voice, Campaign to Protect Rural England, National Association of Local Councils

Should we introduce a community right of appeal?

The introduction of a community right of appeal would help redress the current imbalance in the planning system between communities and developers giving communities greater confidence that their voice is heard and can make a difference.

Chair: Greg Mulholland MP.

ACC, Room 13



Ministerial Q&A sessions

Saturday 14th March

11.30–12.30

Health: Norman Lamb & Paul Burstow

15.00–16.00

Transport & DCLG:

Stephen Williams & Susan Kramer

16.30–17.30

Treasury: Danny Alexander

All sessions in ACC, Room 12

See page 32 for details of all sessions

Follow our Live Blog:
Libdems.org.uk/conferencelive

Fringe Saturday lunchtime 13.00–14.00

Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats and Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary

Asylum Seekers – Tell it like it is – Truth not Myths

Panel of speakers include: Ewan Roberts, Centre Manager, and Durani Rapozo, Complex Needs Social Worker from Asylum Link Merseyside. Chaired by Issan Ghazni, EMLD. Durani's been through the Asylum System and we can learn from his personal experience.

ACC, Room 4 A



Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats

Caste Discrimination: is the government blocking reform, and why?

The government was supposed to consult in summer 2014 on making caste discrimination unlawful. Why hasn't it happened? Why should it matter? With Julian Huppert MP, Meena Varma (Dalit Solidarity Network), Jo Swinson MP (invited). Chair: Gordon Lishman.

ACC, Room 7



Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association

The Magna Carta, Then and Now

Prof. Björn Weiler will outline the Magna Carta's medieval and lasting historical significance to Liberty and Rights.

James Sandbach, PPC Suffolk Coastal, and Simon Hughes MP will speak on its continuing importance at its 800th anniversary. Chair: Graham Colley.

ACC, Room 8



CentreForum and Liberal Reform

The F Word: what do we mean by 'fairness'?

Speakers: Kelly-Marie Blundell, PPC for Guildford; Kavya Kaushik, Liberal Reform; and Steve Webb MP, Minister of State,

Department of Work and Pensions. Chair: Tom Papworth, CentreForum.

ACC, Room 11 A



Science Council and Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists

Beyond evidence: should science expect to win the argument?

Speakers: Diana Garnham, CEO, Science Council (chair); Evan Harris; Prateek Buch, Director of Public Policy, Sense about Science. Expertise and evidence are key components in policy-making. But is relying only on quality evidence enough to drive changes in public policy?

ACC, Room 13



Civic Voice, Campaign to Protect Rural England, National Association of Local Councils

Localism Alliance: Making Localism Real

Neighbourhood planning, assets of community value ... are communities aware of local powers to help create better local places? Join the Localism Alliance to discuss how to give greater control to communities. Together we can make localism a national issue.

ACC, Room 14



Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors

Next Generation Councillors Alumni Reception

Join Lord Mayor of Liverpool Cllr Erica Kemp and Tim Farron MP along with current and previous participants for a reception to celebrate 10 successful years of the Next Generation programme for councillors. Invite only.

ACC, Riverside Balcony



Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15–19.15

Electoral Reform Society and Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform

Rally for Reform: securing democratic changes in the next Parliament

Scotland and the failure of a two party system to cope with six party politics means constitutional issues are back! Join ERS and LDER as we prepare to deliver wins for voters.

ACC, Room 3 A



Centre for Applied Intelligence

The Psychology of Electioneering

How do voters decide? The rich insights of brain science give us a better understanding of that essential behaviour change task: getting someone to vote for you. Our panel comprises Dr Mack Pack, Dr Tereza Capelos and Dr Neil Verrall.

ACC, Room 4 A



LGA Liberal Democrat Group

Demanding Devolution: A Local Liberal Democrat Vision

Chair: Erica Kemp (Lord Mayor of Liverpool), Chris White (LGA Lib Dem Deputy Leader), Richard Kemp (Group Leader, Liverpool). Launching a collection of local Lib Dem essays from around the country describing the opportunities and challenges of devolution in their community.

ACC, Room 4 B



Recycling

Please make use of the recycling collection bins for paper, plastic and cans that have been kindly provided throughout the ACC by SITA UK.

Liberal Democrat Education Association

The Liberal Democrat Education Offer for 2020

Join Rt Hon David Laws MP, Minister for Schools, to discuss the party's General Election education offer, including protecting schools funding, developing early years education and the importance of a qualified teaching workforce. Meeting also includes short AGM.

ACC, Room 7



Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association

An Inquiry system in failure? Chilcott, Hutton, Saville, Franks etc. Where next?

Lord (William) Wallace & Sir Alan Beith (invited) consider the lessons from Chilcott, Saville/Bloody Sunday (12 years and cost £195million), the Child Abuse Inquiry (mistrust of the 'establishment') and other Inquiries alleged to be 'cover-ups'. Chair: Graham Colley.

ACC, Room 8



Social Liberal Forum

Mental Health: Equality of esteem?

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Minister of State, Department of Health; Cllr Iain Brodie Browne, Chief Executive, Imagine, Mental Health Charity; A Mental Health Service User (name withheld). Can we deliver equality for mental health services?

ACC, Room 11 A



Liberal Reform

What should the government stop doing?

With austerity set to continue well into the next parliament, we ask our panel of politicians and economists what big items of spending can be cut altogether in order to protect the budgets that we value most.

ACC, Room 11 C



Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15–19.15

Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists and Green Liberal Democrats

A smarter grid: can real-time electricity tariffs reduce both CO₂ and bills?

Balancing electricity supply and demand leads to big price variations, aggravated by intermittent wind and solar. Would charging the real price incentivise users to shift demand? Speakers: Ed Davey MP; Brendan Devlin, European Commission; Peter Smith, National Energy Action.

ACC, Room 14



Campaign For Fairer Gambling

Campaign for Fairer Gambling drinks reception

Join the Campaign for Fairer Gambling for an informative drinks reception about its Stop the FOBTs campaign, an event to raise awareness about the most dangerous form of gambling, Fixed Odds Betting Terminals – the addictive roulette machines in betting shops.

**ACC,
Riverside Balcony**



Fringe Saturday mid evening 19.45–21.00

International Office

Radical Islamist Terror and Islamophobia on the Increase: Does Islam Need a Revolution?

Join the International Office and guest panellists for a heated debate on contemporary issues relating to Islam, ISIS, modernity, and many more. Speakers include: Martin Horwood MP; Majid Nawaz, PPC for Hampstead and Kilburn and author of 'Radical'. Others TBC.

Note: this event ends at 21.30

ACC, Room 4 A



Social Liberal Forum

Transforming Britain after 'The Storm' – 5 years as Liberal Democrat Business Secretary

Rt Hon Vince Cable MP (Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills) in conversation with Will Hutton (Principal, Hertford College, University of Oxford and Chair, The Big Innovation Centre). Chaired by Naomi Smith, Chair of the Social Liberal Forum.

ACC, Room 12



CentreForum

From cradle to college: a liberal vision for education

Janet Grauberg; Rt Hon David Laws MP, Minister of State, Department for Education; Professor Stephen Lee, CentreForum; and Lord Storey. Chair: James Kempton, CentreForum.

ACC, Room 4 B



Liberal Youth

Young People and Mental Health: Are we losing a generation?


We'll look at the ways we can better look after the ever evolving and diverse challenges posed by mental illness in the young with Norman Lamb and Lee Dargue of the Liberal Democrat Mental Health Association.

ACC, Room 14






If you have 1 minute



/LibDemsTeam2015
@LibDemsTeam2015



If you have 2 hours

Take part in our key objective and provide telephone canvassing support to our held and target seats, by making calls as part of our hugely successful, highly targeted phone banks. **It could be the most important call you ever make.**

If you have 5+ hours

Take part in weekly phone banks, and help organise events.

Host a phone bank event at your home and bring together Team 2015 members for an enjoyable evening, to make **the difference between a win or a lose in your nearest target seat.**

A little more time

Bring **new ideas** to Team 2015, and help with social media, graphic design, literature creation, event management, photography, filmmaking and fundraising.

Team 2015

Be the difference

What is Team 2015?

Team 2015 is the national volunteer programme from the Liberal Democrats for the general election. Run by volunteers, Team 2015 upskills, coordinates and mobilises a nationwide campaigning force.

Visit us in the exhibition this conference

Join our growing team and be the difference at www.libdems.org.uk/team2015



Fringe Saturday late evening 22.00–02.00

Glee Club

Where? ACC, Room 11

When? Saturday 14th March,
22.00 to 02.00

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

Cash bar.

Happy hour prices 22.00–22.30 and 23.30–00.00: Glass of house wine and selected bottle beers all £3.80.

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



Left luggage

A left luggage facility will be available at the Jury's Inn between 08.30 and 15.00 on Sunday 15th March. A nominal fee will apply.



Follow us on Twitter

@libdemconf #LDconf

Fringe Sunday 15th March

Fringe Sunday morning from 08.00

Parliamentary Candidates Association



Advice, briefing and support sessions for PPCs

A morning of different sessions to support PPCs outside held and target seats, covering all aspects of the campaign through to Polling Day. Full details of session timings on the PCA stand.

ACC, Room 8



Ministerial Q&A sessions

Sunday 15th March

11.30–12.30

Pensions with Steve Webb

In ACC, Room 12

See page 32 for details of all sessions

Conference training programme

Saturday 09.30–10.45

Developing your volunteer team

Lib Dem Team 2015 has developed a rigorous and effective method for finding and activating new volunteers. Attend this session to find out how to do this yourself. For volunteer team organisers. *Members & Supporters*.

ACC, Room 3A

Making the most of your ALDC membership

If you're an ALDC member, or thinking of joining, this session helps you find everything you get free as a member and where to access it. *ALDC*.

ACC, Room 4A

Top tips for first time candidates

Essential tips to help you plan how to use the next few weeks to assist your long term plans, overcome the challenges facing less-developed Parliamentary seats, and set and achieve goals that will help you, your local party and the party at large. *Daisy Cooper for the Candidates' Office*.

ACC, Room 4B

Legacies: Big income for a strong future

£1.9 billion is raised from UK legacies each year. Hear about successes and discover how our new Legacy Manager can help you develop a programme. *Belinda Brooks-Gordon*.

ACC, Room 7

Getting ready for polling day with Connect

Everything you need to know to run a successful polling day. *Digital Team*.

ACC, Room 11A

Winning in the last 7 days

How to make sure your campaign gets the votes into the ballot box in the last week. *Elections & Field*.

ACC, Room 11B

Meeting the General Election campaign challenges (*Women only*)

This session will provide practical advice, tips and tools to help you be organised, keep smiling and get the best from your election campaign. *Candy Piercy for LDW Campaign for Gender Balance*.

ACC, Room 14

Saturday 11.00–12.30

Election Law – changes and essential facts

Be sure you know the essential election law facts and are up to date on changes. Suitable for agents, organisers, treasurers and candidates at all levels. *Agents & Organisers Association and Elections & Field*.

ACC, Room 3A

Basic fundraising in the final weeks

Fundraising Team.

ACC, Room 4A

Coping with General Election challenges for PPCs

An essential guide on how to run an effectively managed campaign, including essential tips on how to enable you to maintain positive relationships with your local party members. *Margaret Joachim & Jeanne Tarrant*.

ACC, Room 4B

Winning the youth vote: what the Liberal Democrats are doing for young people

Calling all canvassers, candidates and any Liberal Democrat activists! This training session will focus on how to sell the Liberal Democrats and the key policies and campaigns of special interest to young people as we head into the General Election. *Liberal Youth / Diversity & Outreach Team*.

ACC, Room 7

Conference training programme

Saturday 11.00–12.30 cont.

How to host your own local phone bank (Team 2015)

We need experienced party activists to develop and organise regular local phone teams for canvassing and helper communications in their area. Attend this training to learn and share best practice with Lib Dem Team 2015. *Members & Supporters.*

ACC, Room 11A

Door knocking for victory

Knocking on doors will be more important than ever in the General Election – come along to find out why and how to maximize your doorstep campaign. *Elections & Field.*

ACC, Room 11B

Impromptu public speaking practice for women candidates (Women only)

A valuable opportunity to practice (or just polish!) your public speaking skills ready for impromptu requests during the General Election! *Candy Piercy for LDW Campaign for Gender Balance.*

ACC, Room 14

Saturday 14.30–15.45

Getting your message out from full council meetings

This session looks at how to make the most of full council meetings (whatever your numbers are). *Howard Sykes & Alan Connett (on behalf of ALDC & LGA Lib Dems).*

ACC, Room 4A

Effective performance at a hustings

Tips for PPCs on how to prepare for campaign hustings meetings with other party candidates. *Candidates Office.*

ACC, Room 4B

Minimising unconscious bias

Looking at how unconscious bias develops and how it affects us all. The course will help you manage the impact that bias has on attitudes, decisions and on behaviour in life and in politics. *HQ Diversity & Outreach Team.*

ACC, Room 7

The top 3 things you need to know on Connect for the General Election

Whether you are fighting to win a constituency, your local ward or to build for the future come along to find out the things you need to know for the General Election. *Digital Team.*

ACC, Room 11A

Messaging – linking national and local

Many areas are facing the challenge of local council elections and general election on the same day. Raised media profile and higher turnout mean it has never been more vital to run a fully integrated campaign. Check out your planning by attending this session. *Elections & Field.*

ACC, Room 11B

Your digital campaign for the last 6 weeks

Covering social media, web and email for the short campaign. *Bess Mayhew & Austin Rathe, Members & Supporters.*

ACC, Room 13

Managing your campaign team – for women PPCs (Women only)

Top tips on getting the most from your team during the General Election campaign! *Candy Piercy for LDW Campaign for Gender Balance.*

ACC, Room 14

Conference training programme

Saturday 16.00–17.30

Making the most of the last 50 days of the campaign

A week by week guide to what you need to be doing between now and May to give yourself the best possible result in your local and general election campaign. *ALDC & Elections & Field.*

ACC, Room 4A

Making the most of the media in the final weeks

How to perform successfully on local radio and use local papers to your advantage. *Candidates Office.*

ACC, Room 4B

Effective squeeze – presenting a clear choice to voters

Presenting a clear choice between two parties and persuading voters away from your third and minor parties may well be the difference between winning and losing in your area – come along to find out how. *Elections & Field.*

ACC, Room 7

Getting ready for polling day with Connect

Everything you need to know to run a successful polling day. *Digital Team.*

ACC, Room 11A

Core message – the Liberal Democrat offer

How to maximise your vote by selling our achievements in government and our positive plans for a fairer Britain. *Elections & Field.*

ACC, Room 11B

Election Law – changes and essential facts

Be sure you know the essential election law facts and are up to date on changes. Suitable for agents, organisers, treasurers and candidates at all levels. *Agents & Organisers Association and Elections & Field.*

ACC, Room 13

Keeping your campaign focused and dealing with unexpected issues (*Women PPCs only*)

An opportunity for women candidates to get advice on any specific concerns or problems which you might have in the lead up to May 2015. *Candy Piercy for LDW Campaign for Gender Balance.*

ACC, Room 14



Follow us on Twitter

@libdemconf #LDconf

Conference timetable Autumn 2015

19th–23rd September 2015, Bournemouth

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00	Wednesday	17th June 2015
Motions deadline	13.00	Wednesday	1st July 2015
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00	Tuesday	25th August 2015
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00	Monday	7th September 2015

Need a babysitter?

Liberal Democrats Conference 2015

Your local Tinies is here to help!

Tinies candidates are:

- Qualified or have childcare experience (including First Aid Certificates)
- Personally interviewed by a Tinies consultant
- DBS checked (formally known as CRB checked)
- Reference checked
- Available for Temporary & Permanent placements

Call Tinies North West today on **08453 301 419**

In an emergency (7:30am to 7:30pm) call us on **07929 037 530**

Visit tinies.com or email northwest@tinies.com

Costs:
£20 booking fee
+ £10 per hour




Tinies
A whole world of childcare



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A photograph of two men high-fiving. The man on the left is wearing a dark suit jacket, and the man on the right is wearing a green sweater. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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Saturday 14th March

09.00 Party business

Chair: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats)
Aide: Kavya Kaushik
Hall Aide: Joanne Foster

F1 Formal opening of Federal Conference by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool Cllr Erica Kemp CBE

09.05 Party business

Chair: Cllr Paul Tilsley CBE
Aide: Jenni Lang
Hall Aide: Mary Reid

F2 Report of the Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 10th March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Saturday 14th March. See page 14 for further information.

F3 Report of the Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Bruce MP (Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 10th March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Saturday 14th March. See page 14 for further information.

All conference sessions take place in the auditorium on the Upper Level of the ACC.

Saturday 14th March

09.25 Policy motion

Chair: Gareth Epps
Aide: Shas Sheehan
Hall Aide: Liz Lynne

F4 Mental Health

10 conference representatives

Mover: Rt Hon Paul Burstow MP
Summation: Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 A. Those suffering mental ill health have always faced discrimination in
3 society and in the provision of NHS services.
- 4 B. According to the organisation 'Time to Change', one in four people at
5 any one time experience mental health problems.
- 6 C. Only a quarter of people with a common mental health problem get
7 treatment, mostly in the form of medication.
- 8 D. 2.3 million people with a mental health condition are out of work and
9 mental health conditions are the primary reason for claiming health-
10 related benefits.
- 11 E. Mental health costs the economy an estimated £100 billion but only £1
12 in every £9 the NHS spends is on specialist mental health services.
- 13 F. Maintaining good mental health has a vital impact on a person's
14 wellbeing – those who experience mental health problems are more
15 likely to face unemployment, housing problems, physical health
16 problems; to have reduced opportunities to improve their education
17 and skills; and to be caught up with the criminal justice system.

18 Conference welcomes the achievements of the Liberal Democrats in
19 Government in tackling the discrimination against people with mental
20 health problems:

- 21 i) Enshrining equality for mental health in law, and in the government's
22 mandate to the NHS.
- 23 ii) Increasing access to talking therapies, with £400m investment.
- 24 iii) Introducing the first ever access and waiting time standards for mental
25 health.

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- 26 iv) Providing £150m investment to improve support for young people with
27 eating disorders.
- 28 v) Funding the anti-stigma campaign 'Time to Change' to tackle
29 outdated attitudes to mental health and drive this issue up the political
28 agenda.
- 29 vi) Introducing new standards in crisis care across the country, including
30 ending the use of police cells for children who have not committed a
31 crime and developing new mental health services in A&E departments,
32 police stations and courts.

33 Conference therefore calls for:

- 34 1. £500m extra investment per year to drive progress towards parity of
35 esteem for mental health in the NHS.
- 36 2. Continued funding for 'Time to Change' to carry on the journey in
37 tackling mental health stigma.
- 38 3. A combined strategy between DWP and the Department of Health to
39 help people with mental health problems to remain in, or find, work.
- 40 4. A 'whole life approach' to preventing mental health problems and
41 increasing access to support for people experiencing mental health
42 problems including:
 - 43 a) Improved perinatal mental health services to support pregnant
44 women, those who have experienced miscarriage or still birth, and
45 new parents.
 - 50 b) Implementation of the proposals resulting from the Children and
51 Adolescent Mental Health Services taskforce to improve services
52 for children and young people including those affected by self-
53 harm and eating disorders.
 - 54 c) A continued focus on the implementation of action plans
55 developed through the Crisis Care Concordat to ensure no-one in
56 crisis is turned away from treatment.
 - 57 d) Collection and publication of improved data on mental health
58 service access and waiting times, quality of care and outcomes of
59 treatment.
 - 60 e) A comprehensive roll out of access and waiting time standards in

Saturday 14th March

- 61 line with proposals in *Achieving Better Access to Mental Health*
62 *Services*.
- 63 f) Improved support for people with mental health problems to get
64 into work.
- 65 g) A renewed drive to increase access to talking therapies, including
66 more online access through NHS choices and setting ambitious
67 targets to increase access to talking therapies.
- 68 5. Investment in research into the causes and treatments of mental health
69 problems to aid the development of better interventions.

Applicability: England, except 5. (lines 68–69) which is Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 15 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 12 – is 13.00, Tuesday 10th March; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

10.25 Speech

Chair: To be announced
Aide: Joanne Foster
Hall Aide: James Gurling

F5 Speech by Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

@dannyallexander #LDconf



10.45 Policy motion

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Sandra Gidley (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Hall Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F6 Stronger Economy, Fairer Society, Opportunity for Everyone

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Summation: Rt Hon David Laws MP (Chair, Manifesto Working Group)

- 1 Conference believes that only the Liberal Democrats will create
- 2 opportunity for everyone by building a stronger economy and a fairer
- 3 society.

- 4 Conference resolves that the Liberal Democrat General Election Manifesto
- 5 should set out a positive agenda for a Liberal Democrat Britain, building
- 6 on the Pre-Manifesto policy paper 121, *Stronger Economy, Fairer Society*,
- 7 and based on the Liberal Democrat principles of:
 - 8 i) Empowering every person to fulfil their own potential, regardless of
 - 9 their background, where necessary taking measures to promote
 - 10 equality and tackle discrimination on the grounds of gender, ethnicity,
 - 11 sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability.
 - 12 ii) Upholding individual freedoms and human rights, at home and abroad.
 - 13 iii) Dispersing political power and bringing decision making as close as
 - 14 practicable to communities.
 - 15 iv) Putting environmental sustainability at the heart of all we do.
 - 16 v) Working positively with international partners to solve problems that
 - 17 individual countries cannot tackle effectively, including by constructive
 - 18 engagement within the EU.

- 19 Conference specifically calls for Manifesto commitments to:
 - 20 1. Deliver a stronger economy by measures including:
 - 21 a) Balancing the cyclically-adjusted current budget by 2017/18, on
 - 22 time and fairly, protecting the economic recovery and bringing
 - 23 down Britain's debt as a share of national income.
 - 24 b) Cutting income tax by £400 for low and middle earners, easing the
 - 25 squeeze on household budgets.
 - 26 c) Investing to make the UK a world leader in green and hi-tech
 - 27 manufacturing, continuing the Regional Growth Fund and
 - 28 expanding apprenticeships.

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- 29 d) Solving the housing crisis within a generation by massively
28 increasing housebuilding and helping people afford a home.
29 e) Cutting energy bills and creating jobs through a national
30 programme to insulate homes, with a Council Tax cut if you take
31 part.
32 f) Passing ‘Five Green Laws’ to protect green spaces, trees and
33 wildlife, improve energy efficiency and resource efficiency, reduce
34 waste, promote clean green transport and ensure Britain leads the
35 fight against climate change.

36 2. Create a fairer society by measures including:

- 37 a) Guaranteeing equal care and waiting times for mental health as for
38 physical health, by meeting the financial needs of the NHS.
39 b) Ensuring every child is taught by a qualified teacher, raising
40 educational standards to world class levels and protecting
41 spending on nurseries, schools and colleges.
42 c) Giving 16–21 year olds two-thirds off their bus fares so they can
43 afford to travel to college or work.
44 d) Guaranteeing pensioners the best ever system for increasing the
45 state pension by legislating for our ‘triple lock’ of uprating by the
50 higher of earnings growth, prices growth or 2.5%.
51 e) Introducing a new Carer’s Bonus so carers can take a proper
52 break every year.
53 f) Bringing back proper border checks so that immigration can be
54 managed fairly.

55 3. Reform politics and defend liberties by measures including:

- 56 a) Passing a Digital Bill of Rights, to define and enshrine the digital
57 rights of every citizen, protect people from unacceptable intrusion
58 by the state and other organisations, and give people more control
59 over their own data.
60 b) Delivering on the promises made to Scotland and the rest of the
61 UK and transfer more powers from Westminster and Whitehall to
62 the nations and communities of the UK.
63 c) Reforming party funding, the electoral system and the House of
64 Lords.

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- 65 4. Promote our liberal objectives around the world by measures
66 including:
- 67 a) Working to secure binding global agreement on cutting
68 greenhouse gas emissions, and a commitment within the EU to a
69 50% reduction by 2030.
- 70 b) Leading international action to ensure global companies pay fair
71 taxes in the developing countries in which they operate.
- 72 c) Campaigning to end Female Genital Mutilation at home and
73 abroad within a generation.

Applicability: Federal, except 1. e) (lines 29–30) and 2. a)–c) (lines 37–43), and some aspects of 1. f) (lines 32–35), which are England only.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 13.

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 page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 15 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 12 – is 13.00, Tuesday 10th March; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

12.25 Speech

Chair: Lisa Smart (PPC for Hazel Grove)
Aide: Gareth Epps
Hall Aide: Zoë O'Connell

**F7 Jo Swinson MP, Minister for Women and Equalities,
and Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs**

@joswinson #LDconf



12.45 Lunch break

Saturday 14th March

14.15 Policy motion

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Sandra Gidley
Hall Aide: Mary Reid

F8 Five Green Laws

Kingston

Mover: Rt Hon Ed Davey MP
Summation: Dan Rogerson MP

- 1 Conference welcomes green achievements introduced by Liberal
- 2 Democrats in Government such as:
 - 3 i) Securing European Union agreement to reduce carbon emissions by
 - 4 at least 40% by 2030.
 - 5 ii) The publication of the National Pollinator Strategy.
 - 6 iii) Planting a million trees.
 - 7 iv) Funding the opening of the remainder of the English coastal path.
 - 8 v) The introduction of a levy on plastic bags in England.
 - 9 vi) The creation of the Zero Carbon Home Standard.
 - 10 vii) Significant investment in research and development for Ultra Low
 - 11 Emission Vehicles.
 - 12 viii) The creation of a low carbon electricity market, with renewable
 - 13 electricity generation and investment more than doubling.
 - 14 ix) Establishing the world's first Renewable Heat Incentive scheme.
- 15 Conference notes:
 - 16 A. Successive Conservative Secretaries of State proposed the sell-off of
 - 17 public forests and the merger of Natural England with the Environment
 - 18 Agency, removing the independent voice for nature, proposals blocked
 - 19 by the Liberal Democrats.
 - 20 B. Opposition by Conservatives to onshore wind and other renewable
 - 21 electricity projects.
 - 22 C. The attempts by Conservatives to water down the commitments made
 - 23 in the Fourth Carbon Budget.

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24 Conference believes that:

- 25 I. Access to nature can improve both physical and mental health as well
26 as providing space for recreation and relaxation.
- 27 II. Protecting biodiversity, green spaces, clean air, water and rivers is
28 essential for our wellbeing.
- 29 III. We still live in a 'throwaway society' with too much material discarded
28 that could be reused or recycled.
- 29 IV. Transport is a major source of pollution and more must be done to
30 keep heavily polluting lorries out of town centres, for example through a
31 rail freight strategy.
- 32 V. Carbon dioxide is the most significant contributor to climate change
33 and emissions must be dramatically reduced domestically and
34 internationally.
- 35 VI. Home energy efficiency can save money as well as reducing harmful
36 emissions.

37 Conference calls for the next Government to legislate for 'Five Green
38 Laws' including:

39 1. A Nature Act, to improve access to nature by:

- 40 a) The placing of the Natural Capital Committee on a statutory
41 footing.
- 42 b) Publication of a 25-year plan for recovering nature, including how
43 to reverse the decline of UK species and their habitats and ensure
44 that bees and other insects are able to fulfil their important role as
45 crop pollinators.
- 50 c) The introduction of a new Public Sector Sustainability Duty.
- 51 d) A package to protect the world's oceans and marine environment.
- 52 e) Implementation of the findings of the Independent Panel on
53 Forestry by creating a new public body, free from political
54 interference and securely funded, to build the estate's public value.

55 2. A Zero Waste Britain Act, to create a 'circular' economy by:

- 56 a) Setting a sustainable water abstraction regime, with all
57 unsustainable licences revoked.
- 58 b) Introducing measures like open tendering to help local authorities
59 keep the cost of waste collection down.

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- 60 c) The introduction of a National Waste Brokerage Service, based on
61 the Scottish model, where businesses bid for collection of certain
62 materials from a range of public service providers such as Local
63 Authorities, the NHS and schools.
- 64 d) Increased penalties for waste crimes, moving from an average fine
65 of £50,000 to £75,000 and from an average sentence of 12 to 18
66 months.
- 67 e) The creation of an Office of Resource Management working with
68 Defra, DCLG and BIS to ensure that policies relating to waste
69 are consistent, green and do not place too much burden on
70 individuals or businesses.
- 71 f) Introduction of a recycling target of 70% for waste in England.
- 72 3. A Green Transport Act, to reduce air and noise pollution by:
- 73 a) Setting a statutory target of 2030 by which time all major, regularly
74 used rail routes will need to be electrified.
- 75 b) Ensuring that every new bus and taxi is Ultra Low Emission from
76 2030 and banning high emission vehicles from the road after
77 2040.
- 78 c) The creation of Low Emission Zones with a national air quality plan
79 including a legal requirement targeted at the most polluted towns
80 and cities.
- 81 d) Giving local authorities the power to reduce speed limits outside
82 schools to 10mph.
- 83 e) Ensuring that all new rail franchises include a stronger focus on
84 customers.
- 85 4. A Zero Carbon Britain Act, to combat climate change by:
- 86 a) Introducing a new legally-binding target for Zero Carbon Britain
87 by 2050, to be monitored and audited by the Climate Change
88 Committee.
- 89 b) Implementing a 2030 power sector decarbonisation target of
90 50–100g per kwh and a ban on coal power generation (without
91 Carbon Capture and Storage) by 2015.
- 92 c) Giving full borrowing powers to the Green Investment Bank, to
93 boost further investment in low carbon technologies.
- 94 d) Establishing an Office for Accelerated Low Carbon Innovation,
95 to support the fast-tracking of green technologies including tidal

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96 power, renewable heat, ultra-low emission vehicles, energy storage
97 and Carbon Capture and Storage.

98 5. A Green Buildings Act, to make our homes and buildings greener by:

- 99 a) Introducing a Council Tax discount for significant improvements in
100 energy efficiency in homes.
- 101 b) Setting ambitious targets for all social and private rented homes to
102 reach Energy Performance Certificates Band C by 2027.
- 103 c) Bringing forward a new legal framework to require regulators to
104 facilitate the development of deep geothermal heat, large-scale
105 heat pumps, waste industrial heat and energy storage systems.
- 106 d) Introducing new energy efficiency and heat saving regulations to
107 reduce energy use.

Applicability: 1. a)–c) (lines 40–50) and 1. e) (lines 52–54) are England only; 1. d) (line 51) is Federal; 2. a)–d) (lines 56–66) and 2. f) (line 71) are England only; 2. e) (lines 67–70) is Federal; 3. a) (lines 73–74) and 3. c)–d) (lines 78–82) are England only; 3. b) (lines 75–77) is Federal; 3. e) (lines 83–84) is England and Wales; 4. a)–e) (lines 85–97) are Federal; 5. a)–b) (lines 99–102) are England only; and 5. c)–d) (lines 103–107) are Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 15 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 12 – is 13.00, Tuesday 10th March; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

15.10 Speech

Chair: To be announced
Aide: Shas Sheehan
Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley CBE

**F9 Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for
Business, Innovation and Skills**

@vincecable #LDconf



Saturday 14th March

15.30 Question and answer session

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Kavya Kaushik
Hall Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves

F10 Question and answer session with Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and the Deputy Prime Minister

Conference representatives may put questions, on any topic, to the leader of the Liberal Democrats in a 'Town Hall' style event. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website until 17.00 on Thursday 12th March, or to the Speakers' Table in the Auditorium by 12.45 Saturday 14th March. See page 14.

16.15 Policy motion

Chair: Liz Lynne
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball
Hall Aide: Zoë O'Connell

F11 A Better Deal for Britain's Workforce

17 conference representatives

Mover: Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP
Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference notes with approval the role that Liberal Democrats have
- 2 played in rescuing the economy and creating the conditions for growth
- 3 and a jobs rich recovery. In particular conference notes that:
 - 4 i) The UK currently has the fastest growth among G7 economies.
 - 5 ii) The deficit has been halved as a share of GDP.
 - 6 iii) There are more people in work than ever before – an increase of 1.7
 - 7 million since May 2010.
 - 8 iv) More than 2 million apprenticeships have been created.
 - 9 v) Wages are starting to increase with total pay growth above the rate of
 - 10 inflation.
 - 11 vi) There have been above inflation increases in the minimum wage.
 - 12 vii) More than 27 million people have benefitted from a tax cut worth £825

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13 for the typical basic rate tax-payer as a result of an increase in the
14 personal allowance, the largest income tax cut of modern times which
15 the Conservatives said was unaffordable.

16 Conference believes that this would not have been possible without
17 the Liberal Democrats in Government to insist on a balanced, fair and
18 successful economic policy.

19 However Conference also notes that there is still more work to be done
20 to narrow the gap between rich and poor; tackle employment abuses,
21 including through the misuse of zero-hours contracts; and increase
22 protection for those in flexible and/or insecure employment, including
23 through effective trade union representation.

24 Conference believes that:

- 25 A. Government should continue to foster a strong and sustainable
26 economy that encourages wealth creation, develops to the maximum
27 the skills of individuals to the benefit of all, justly distributes the rewards
28 of success, and increases democracy, participation and the co-
29 operative principle in industry and commerce.
- 28 B. Trade unions can play a vital role in the creation of a fairer, stronger
29 economy by defending the rights of ordinary working people, making
30 their voice heard, and striving for better pay, working conditions and
31 equality.
- 32 C. Partnership between government, employers and trade unions,
33 widespread in the EU, is a more effective approach than the
34 adversarial relationship which characterises some businesses in the
35 UK.

36 Conference welcomes:

- 37 I. The contribution made by union representatives in workplaces across
38 the UK in representing their members collectively and individually,
39 in working to deliver greater equality and improved training, and
40 negotiating fairer outcomes in pay, conditions of service, redundancy
41 and many other matters.
- 42 II. The efforts of Liberal Democrats in Parliament to oppose Conservative
43 attempts to undermine the role of trade unions.

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- 44 III. The steps that have been taken to provide opportunities for greater
45 dialogue between Liberal Democrats and trade unions.
- 50 Conference calls upon Liberal Democrats in government to:
- 51 1. Continue to support a more collaborative model of industrial
52 partnership between companies and their workforce, including
53 recognising the role played by effective trade union representation
54 in the workplace and supporting representation of the workforce on
55 company boards and remuneration committees.
- 56 2. Defend the 'check off' method of collecting union subscriptions.
- 57 3. Make sure that the law enables unions to represent their members
58 effectively including consideration of:
- 59 a) Thresholds for entitlement to statutory recognition.
60 b) Recognition in smaller companies.
61 c) The ability for employees to meet union representatives at their
62 place of work.
63 d) Encouraging wider participation in trade union ballots, including
64 electronic voting.
65 e) Statutory rights for trade union equality representatives.
66 f) The role of ACAS in promoting collective bargaining.
- 67 4. Further strengthen enforcement of the National Minimum Wage and
68 review the remit of the Low Pay Commission.
- 69 5. Lead by example, ensuring that every infrastructure project provides
70 opportunities for apprenticeships and support greater use of
71 framework agreements with the TUC and individual unions learning
72 from the success of the London Olympics.
- 73 Conference calls on all party members to encourage and support
74 increased engagement with trade unions at local, regional and national
75 level.

Applicability: Federal, except 5. (lines 69–72) which is England only.

Saturday 14th March

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 15 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 12 – is 13.00, Tuesday 10th March; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

17.00 Party business

Chair: Sandra Gidley (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: James Gurling
Hall Aide: Joanne Foster

F12 Parliamentary Parties Reports

Commons: Rt Hon Don Foster MP (Chief Whip)
Lords: Lord Wallace (Leader) and Lord Newby (Chief Whip)
Europe: Catherine Bearder MEP (Leader)

Each of the 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 Westminster and European Parliaments to the panel.

Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 12.45 on Saturday 14th March. Questions may also be sent via the website until 17.00 Thursday 12th March. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See page 14.

17.25 Party business

Chair: Chris Maines
Aide: Pauline Pearce
Hall Aide: Liz Lynne

F13 Report of the Federal Executive

Mover: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Saturday 14th March

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00 Tuesday 10th March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 16.00 Saturday 14th March. See page 14 for further information.

F14 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee

Mover: Peter Dunphy (Chair, Federal Finance and Administration Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00 Tuesday 10th March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 16.00 Saturday 14th March. See page 14 for further information.

F15 Report of the Diversity Engagement Group

Mover: Lord Dholakia (Chair, Diversity Engagement Group)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00 Tuesday 10th March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 16.00 Saturday 14th March. See page 14 for further information.

F16 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance

Mover: Candy Piercy

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00 Tuesday 10th March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 16.00 Saturday 14th March. See page 14 for further information.

18.00 Close of session

Sunday 15th March

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves
Aide: Zoë O'Connell
Hall Aide: Jenni Lang

F17 Emergency motions and/or topical issue discussion

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or discussion of a topical issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions of topical issues is 13.00 Tuesday 10th March; see page 15. Motions selected for debate and/or for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 7 minutes; summation 4 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 page 13.

09.45 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball
Aide: Pauline Pearce
Hall Aide: James Gurling

F18 Freedom of Expression in Europe and Beyond

20 conference representatives

Mover: To be announced
Summation: Dr Evan Harris

- 1 Conference condemns without reservation:
 - 2 i) The appalling attacks on journalists and others in Paris in January and
 - 3 believes there can be no justification for any such acts of violence.
 - 4 ii) The atrocities committed by Islamist extremist terrorists in Nigeria and
 - 5 in the Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

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6 iii) Attacks on and persecution of journalists in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and
7 elsewhere for expressing their right to free expression.

8 Conference reaffirms its commitment to tackling Islamophobia, anti-
9 Semitism and other forms of prejudice directed against people as
10 individuals or groups.

11 Conference believes that:

- 12 A. While no-one has the right to directly abuse, to harass, threaten or
13 intimidate others, people do have the right to offend others.
- 14 B. Those who are offended by the lawful words or actions of others do
15 not have the right to prevent such free expression by acts of violence
16 or intimidation.
- 17 C. In a free and open society no belief system or ideology should have
18 any protection from criticism including satire and lampooning, and
19 there is no basis for privileging religion over other forms of belief or
20 ideology.
- 21 D. Journalists play a particularly important role through their work in
22 upholding human rights and enhancing democracy.
- 23 E. There is no place for restrictions on acts of blasphemy in law or by
24 intimidation leading to self-censorship.
- 25 F. There is a difference between Islamophobic words and actions
26 directed against people and words and actions that amount merely
27 to sacrilege, blasphemy or apostasy in the eyes of others and that
28 freedom of expression and freedom of belief in a democratic and free
29 society requires blasphemy, sacrilege and apostasy to be unfettered.
- 28 G. The attacks were in no way a true reflection of mainstream Islamic
29 beliefs and that it is unacceptable to seek to hold Muslims in general
30 or Islam in particular in anyway responsible for these criminal acts.

31 Conference notes the proud record of Liberal Democrats in protecting
32 free expression in these areas and in particular the role played by Liberal
33 Democrats in:

- 34 I. Amending section 5 of the Public Order Act to remove 'insulting'
35 words as an ingredient of the crime.
- 36 II. Abolishing the UK's own blasphemy laws in the last Parliament, as well
37 as the laws on seditious libel.

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38 III. Blocking an over-broad religious hatred law in the last Parliament
39 which would have censored legitimate speech.
40 IV. Calling for judicial oversight to protect journalistic sources when RIPA
41 powers are being considered and for public interests defences in law
42 for certain criminal offences like hacking.

43 Conference further notes the need to protect journalistic freedom and
44 recognises the vital role played by the European Convention on Human
45 Rights and the Strasbourg Courts in protecting those freedoms for
50 example in the area of protection of sources.

51 Conference rejects the recent attack by the Culture Secretary on the
52 European Convention on Human Rights and the Strasbourg Court as
53 a threat to journalistic freedom in this country, and attempts by the
54 Conservatives and Labour to introduce disproportionate and untargeted
55 surveillance powers which would rob us of the freedoms that terrorists
56 seek to threaten.

57 Conference applauds the continuing role played by the Deputy Prime
58 Minister and other Liberal Democrats in:

- 59 a) Defending the ECHR and the Human Rights Act.
- 60 b) Blocking attempts to introduce a so-called 'Snooper's Charter'.
- 61 c) Stopping the Home Secretary's push to introduce 'banning orders'
62 which would give her the power to put ASBO-style constraints on
63 people who say unpleasant but lawful things.

64 Conference calls for:

- 65 1. Solidarity with journalists and writers threatened or attacked for
66 exercising their rights world-wide.
- 67 2. Progress with the abolition or repeal of blasphemy laws in Europe, the
68 Commonwealth and the rest of the world.
- 69 3. Opposition to attempts to introduce national, transnational or UN laws
70 on the 'defamation of religion'.
- 71 4. Continued opposition to the scapegoating of the Muslim community
72 by extremists and political opportunists in relation to terrorist acts.

Applicability: Federal.

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Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 10th March; see page 15. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 12 – is 09.00 Saturday 14th March.

10.30 Speech

Chair: Jane Dodds (PPC for Montgomeryshire)
Aide: Linda Jack
Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley CBE

F19 Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Minister of State for Care and Support

@normanlamb #LDconf



10.50 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Maines
Aide: James Gurling
Hall Aide: Gareth Epps

F20 Education Funding

12 conference representatives

Mover: Cllr Clare Champion-Smith
Summation: Cllr John Howson

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 i) Liberal Democrats in the Coalition Government have protected funding
- 3 for schools in this parliament, as well as introducing the pupil premium
- 4 and investing more in early years education than any previous
- 5 government.

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- 6 ii) While this action has been beneficial for schools and early years
7 settings, 16–19 education including in school sixth forms has come
8 under serious pressure and the lack of a fair funding formula means
9 some local areas still miss out.
- 10 iii) Labour have failed to rule out cuts to education budgets in the next
11 Parliament, and the Conservatives have set out plans to cut the
12 schools budget by an estimated 7% in real terms.
- 13 iv) If a majority Conservative government implemented their plans to
14 offer unfunded tax cuts while cutting public spending by more than is
15 necessary to balance the books, unprotected areas in the Department
16 for Education (DfE) would lose a quarter of their budget.
- 17 v) This would mean taking £775m from early years support – the
18 equivalent of 58,000 3–4-year-olds and 66,000 2-year-olds from low
19 income families losing their free childcare entitlement; and £1.6bn from
20 DfE's 16–19-year-old budget, ending funding for 405,000 young adults
21 with severe consequences for many secondary schools.

22 Conference believes that:

- 23 A. Well-funded schools, early years settings and colleges are crucial to
24 building a stronger economy and a fairer society, with opportunity for
25 all.
- 26 B. If funding for schools were to be cut, this would present a serious
27 threat to efforts to raise school standards and eliminate the attainment
28 gap – with serious consequences for British businesses, families and
29 individual life chances.
- 28 C. The recruitment, training and professional development of outstanding
29 teachers is also dependent on a well-funded education sector.
- 30 D. The further expansion of high quality early years education is crucial to
31 building social mobility.

32 Conference therefore calls for Liberal Democrats in the next parliament to:

- 33 1. Prioritise public spending on education.
- 34 2. Protect the education budget, in real terms, from cradle to college
35 – including schools, early years and the Department for Education's
36 16–19 budget.
- 37 3. Extend the free early years entitlement to all two year olds and
38 overhaul qualifications in the early years by implementing the
39 recommendations of the Nutbrown Review.

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- 40 4. Introduce a fair national funding formula, to ensure areas that are
41 currently underfunded get their fair share.

Applicability: England only.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 10th March; see page 15. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 12 – is 09.00 Saturday 14th March.

11.40 Party business

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Sandra Gidley (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Hall Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F21 Presidential Handover

11.45 Speech

F22 Speech by the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and the Deputy Prime Minister

@Nick_Clegg #LDconf



13.00 Close of conference

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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.

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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:

- a) One or more consultative sessions; save that the Committee may decide not to hold any consultative sessions at a spring conference.
- b) A business session or sessions for the consideration of reports from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords, the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament, the Federal Executive, the Federal 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.
- c) Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers).
- d) Emergency motions.

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- e) Topical issue discussions.
- f) Any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate.

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

1.2 Conference or council of state parties

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

1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).
- 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.
- c) Motions accompanying policy papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) 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.
- e) The Parliamentary Party in the House

of Commons may submit a motion relating to supporting a government containing members of the other parties, in accordance with article 15 of the constitution.

- f) 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:

- a) 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.
- b) The closing date for the receipt of amendments to motions published in the agenda and emergency 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

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listed in the agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference, except for questions to the reports of the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament, where the closing date shall be at least one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.

- 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.

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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 organise the debates on the motions in the order chosen by

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conference in the ballots.

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

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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 (except that where an amendment or option has not been opposed during the debate, the chair of the session shall have the right to direct that its movers shall not exercise their right of reply), 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

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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.

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

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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

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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

Standing orders for Federal Conference

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 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 Sal Brinton
Chair of FFAC	Peter Dunphy
Treasurer	Sir Ian Wrigglesworth
Vice President (England)	Steve Jarvis
Vice President (Scotland)	Craig Harrow
Vice President (Wales)	John Last CBE
Chief Executive	Tim Gordon

Federal Executive

The FE is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Federal Party, including strategy, campaigning, organisation and staffing. The Campaigns and Communications Committee and FFAC 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 15 members directly elected by conference representatives.

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 Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. It is responsible to the FE, but also reports directly to Federal Conference.

The FFAC has 14 voting members: the Chair (currently Peter Dunphy), Party Treasurer and five other members (elected by the FE); the Party President; three state party representatives; and the Chief

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

Federal Policy Committee

The FPC is responsible for researching and developing policy and overseeing the Federal Party's policy-making process, including 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.

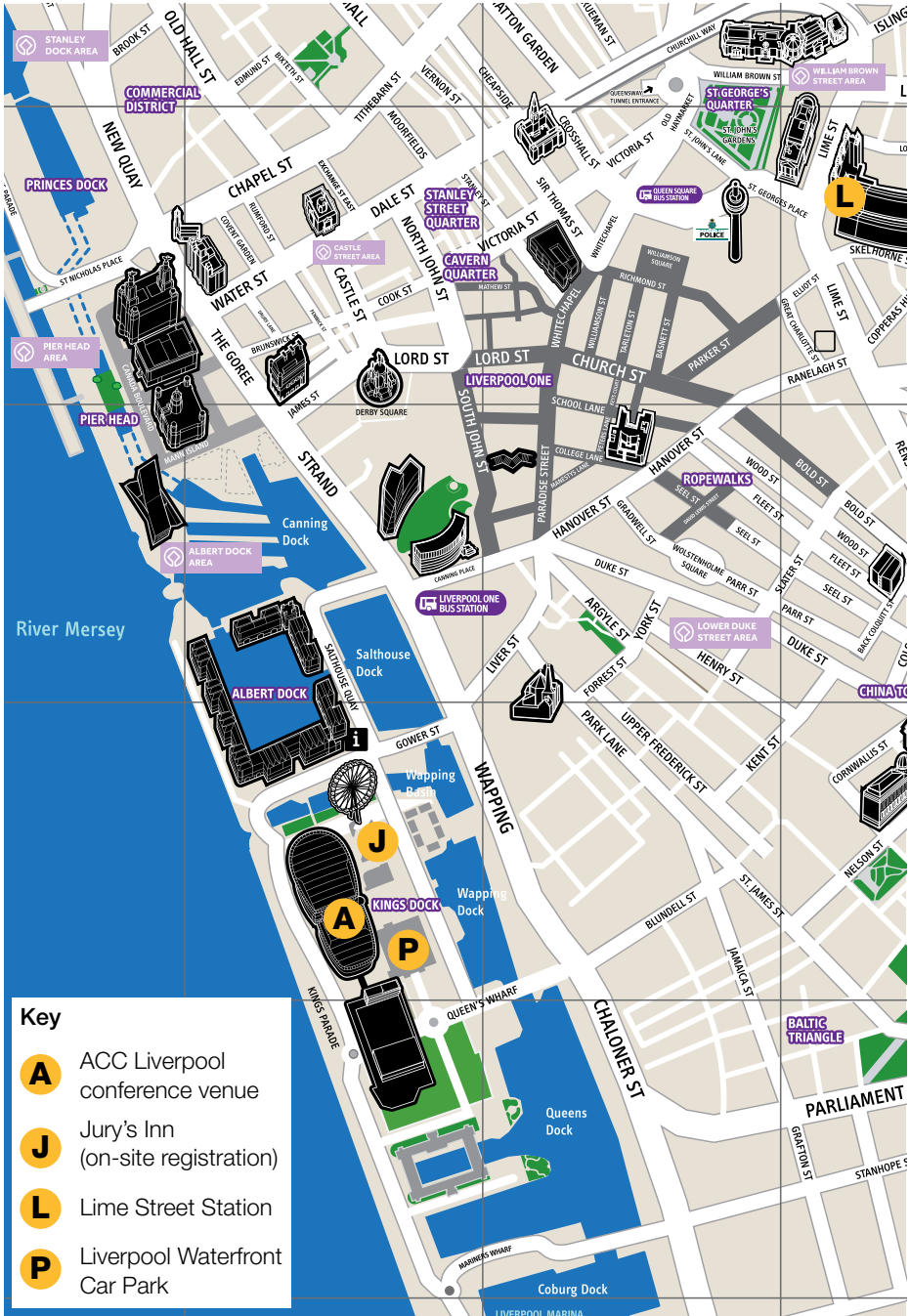
The FPC has 29 voting members: the Party Leader and four other MPs; the Party President; one peer; one MEP; three councillors; three state party representatives; and fifteen members directly elected by conference representatives. It must be chaired by one of the five MP members, and is currently chaired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

Federal 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 venues, registration rates and other 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 Andrew Wiseman), who must be one of the directly elected representatives – see page 6 for the members of the FCC.

Map of Liverpool city centre



Opportunity for Everyone.



Spring Conference

Agenda & Directory

Liverpool 13th–15th March 2015