

Spring Conference

York Saturday 18th March 2017

Conference Daily



Updates to the *Conference Agenda & Directory*, information from the Federal Conference Committee, timings for conference sessions, amendments, emergency motions and questions to reports; detailed information for Saturday 18th March and advance information for Sunday 19th March. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda & Directory*.

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Conference Daily, the *Agenda & Directory* and other conference publications are available online in PDF and plain text formats:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers



or ask at the Information Desk in the York Barbican.

Please keep hold of this *Conference Daily* throughout conference, and make sure you pick up a copy of Sunday's *Conference Daily* from the literature collection points in the York Barbican on Sunday 19th March.

Open, tolerant and united.

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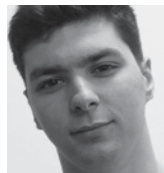
Elaine Bagshaw



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Nassar Kessell



Caron Lindsay



Gordon Lishman



Victoria Marsom



Joyce Onstad



Mark Pack



Pauline Pearce



Candy Piercy



Alice Thomas



Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Non-Voting:

Anood Al-Samerai, LGA Rep
Tom Brake MP, Chief Whip (Commons)
Mike German, Federal Treasurer
Tim Gordon, Federal Chief Executive
Al Ghaff, Staff Rep

Federal Board helpdesk

The FB helpdesk is situated by the Information Desk in the York Barbican. Members of the Federal Board will be available to have strategic conversations with members at the following times:

| | | |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| Saturday | 18th March | 10.30-12.30 |
| Saturday | 18th March | 14.00-16.00 |
| Sunday | 19th March | 10.30-12.30 |

The Federal Conference Committee



Andrew Wiseman, Chair



Zoë O'Connell, Vice Chair



Geoff Payne, Vice Chair



Baroness Sal Brinton



Robert Adamson



Qassim Afzal



Victor Chamberlain



Nicholas Da Costa



Alexander Hegenbarth



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Susan Juned



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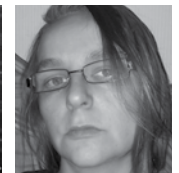
Liz Lynne



Chris Maines



Mary Reid



Jennie Rigg



Paul Tilsley



Heidi Worth



Tom Brake MP, Chief Whip, ex-officio



Mike Ross, Chief Steward, co-opted

Non-Voting:
Tim Gordon,
Federal Chief Executive

FCC helpdesk

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

| | | |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| Friday | 17th March | 17.00-18.00 |
| Saturday | 18th March | 09.00-10.30 |
| Saturday | 18th March | 14.00-16.00 |

Spokespeople Q&A sessions

There will be a series of Q&A sessions during conference, where you can come along and ask questions of our spokespeople. A fantastic opportunity for members to find out more about what our Parliamentarians are up to.

All sessions take place in the Lendal Room in York Barbican.

Saturday 18th March

11.30–12.15 Education
with John Pugh & Sue Garden

12.30–13.15 Housing
with John Shipley & Kath Pinnock

Sunday 19th March

10.00–11.00 Brexit
with Tom Brake, Sarah Ludford & Nick Clegg

Conference App

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

To download the App visit App Store or Google Play



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



The Federal Policy Committee



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Chair



Duncan Brack,
Vice Chair



Jeremy Hargreaves, Vice
Chair



Sarah Ludford,
Vice Chair



Belinda Brooks-
Gordon



Catherine
Bearder MEP



Baroness Sal
Brinton



Sally Burnell



Christine Cheng



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Tony Greaves



Antony Hook



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Elizabeth
Jewkes



Susan Juned



Heather Kidd



Norman Lamb
MP



Alisdair
McGregor



Jonny Oates



Geoff Payne



Peter Price



Catherine
Royce



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Andrew Wiseman, FCC Chair
Ciaran Morrissey, YL Observer
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SMALL
BREWERIES,
BIG
TASTES



Fringe update

Additions and amendments to listings in the fringe guide in the Agenda & Directory.

Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15–19.15

Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine

50 years on – the reality of the Israeli occupation of Palestine

Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine invite you to a fringe meeting about The Balfour Declaration of 1917 (or how Britain established Israel). We shall be exploring why it was made, what it achieved and the problems it has left behind. Above all we shall be asking the question: what should Britain do about it in 2017? We shall be showing the film Britain in Palestine, 1917–1948, produced by 'The Balfour Project' of which Tom Brake is a patron. Tom will introduce the film and there will be opportunity for discussion.

Please note a change in speaker from Mark Williams MP to Tom Brake MP.

Novotel, Meeting Room 5



Glee Club

Join us for the ultimate end-of conference celebration!

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

Saturday 22.00–02.00
Novotel, Fishergate Suite

Left luggage

On Sunday 19th March please store your luggage at your hotel after checkout. Alternatively, there is a secure, complimentary luggage service in operation at the Novotel in Meeting Rooms 5 & 6. There will be a charitable box if you wish to donate to one of the hotel's chosen charities.

Autumn conference

Visit Stand 3 in the Barbican foyer to book your accommodation for the 2017 Autumn conference in Bournemouth.

BusinessEventsBournemouth

Right place. Right fit. Right feel

TOWARDS A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

Join Lib Dems Against Trident and CND to discuss what we can really do as Liberal Democrats to scrap the Trident nuclear missile system.

When? Saturday 18th March 13:00-14:00

Where? The Woolpack Inn, Fawcett Street, York

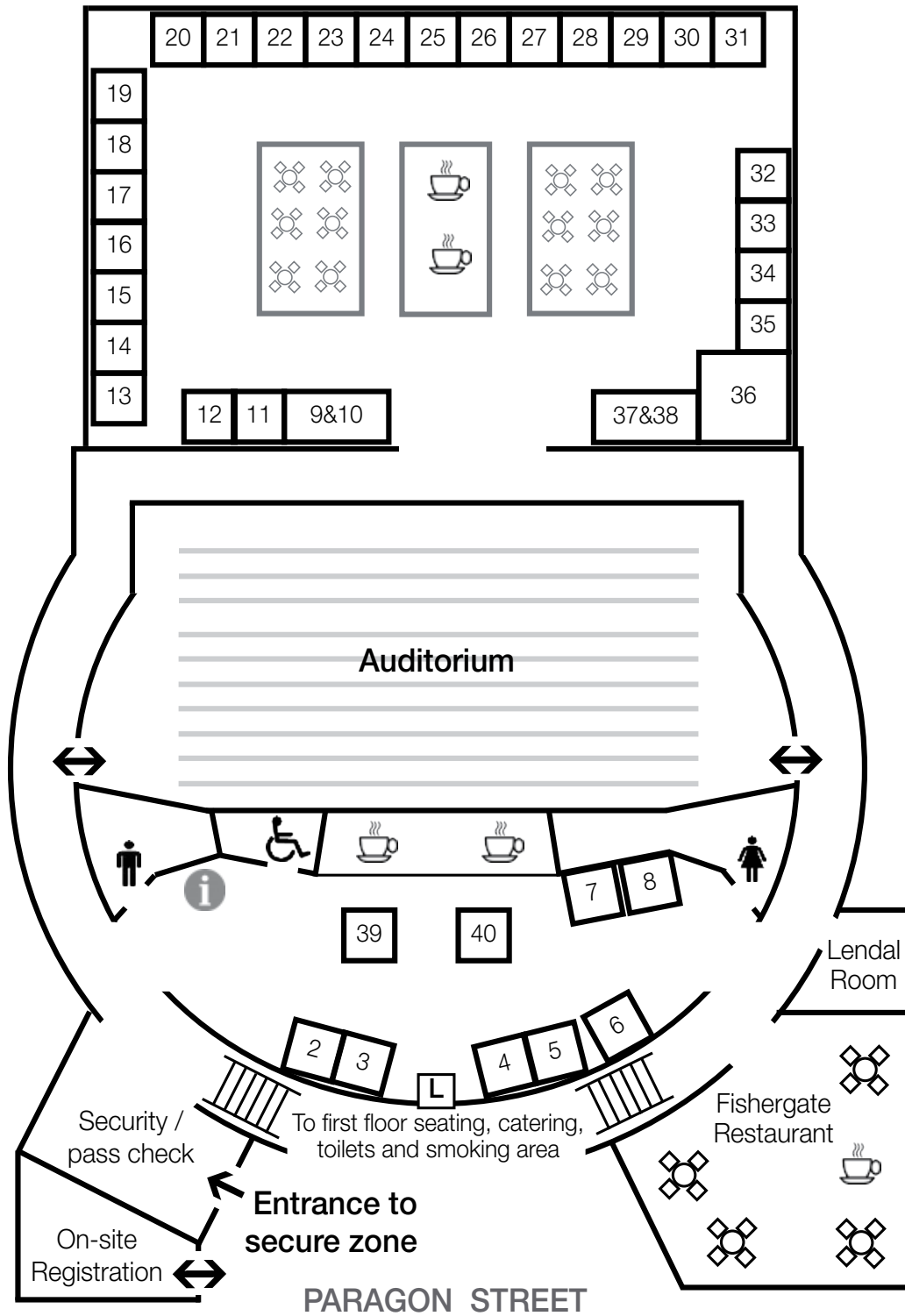
Who? Julian Huppert, PPC for Cambridge,
David Webb, CND Chair, David Grace,
Tessa Munt, PPC for Wells
Chaired by Kelly-Marie Blundell, PPC for Lewes



Lib Dems Against Trident 
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Conference venue

York Barbican



Key to venue plan

| | | | | | |
|--|------------------|--|-----------------|--|--|
| | Information desk | | Female toilet | | Stairs |
| | Catering | | Male toilet | | Lift |
| | Seating area | | Disabled toilet | | Exhibition stand – key to stand numbers on page 6. |

The exhibition

The exhibition will be open at the following times:

| | | |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| Friday | 17th March | 16.30–18.15 |
| Saturday | 18th March | 09.00–18.00 |
| Sunday | 19th March | 09.00–12.00 |

Exhibitors listed by stand number

| | |
|-------|---|
| 2 | Green Liberal Democrats |
| 3 | Business Events Bournemouth |
| 4&5 | Carryon Clothing |
| 6 | Visit York |
| 7&8 | Berber Leather |
| 9&10 | ONEPOST |
| 11 | Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats |
| 12 | Social Liberal Forum |
| 13 | Prater Raines |
| 14 | Young Liberals |
| 15 | Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform |
| 16 | Liberator |
| 17 | Liberal Democrat Christian Forum |
| 18 | Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists |
| 19 | Rights-Liberties-Justice (LDLA) |
| 20 | Ask an Expert |
| 21 | Liberal Reform |
| 22 | Liberal Democrat Education Association |
| 23 | ALTER |
| 24 | Election Workshop |
| 25 | Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary |
| 26 | Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine |
| 27 | Liberal Democrat Women |
| 28 | Prospect Magazine |
| 29 | Liberal Democrat History Group |
| 30 | English Review Group |
| 31 | Lib Dem Disability Association |
| 32 | Midshire |
| 33&34 | ALDC – Liberal Democrat Campaigners and Councillors and LGA Liberal Democrats |
| 35 | Parliamentary Candidates Association |
| 36 | Liberal Democrat Image |
| 37&38 | Pulmonary Hypertension Association UK |
| 39 | ALDE Party |
| 40 | LGBT+ Liberal Democrats |

Exhibition update

The following changes to the Exhibition update the information given in the Agenda & Directory.

Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats have withdrawn, and stand 25 is now Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary only.

ALDE Party at stand 39 and LGBT+ Liberal Democrats at stand 40 are additional exhibitors.

Directory of exhibitors



ALDE Party

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party is the party for liberal democrat values in Europe. It consists of 59 member parties including the Liberal Democrats and thousands of individual members.

www.aldeparty.eu

40



LGBT+ Liberal Democrats

LGBT+ Lib Dems are the party body for gender & sexual minorities, including lesbian, gay, bi and trans people.

<https://lgbt.libdems.org.uk>

39



Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary

LD4SOS believe in standing up for asylum seekers in the UK and treating them with compassion, humanity and respect.

www.ld4sos.org.uk

25

FREE WIFI

Network name: **Barbican Free**

No password required



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We **know** what it takes for Lib Dem campaigns to succeed online.

We can help you use **websites**, **social media** and **emails better** and **easier**.

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ARTICLE SHARING

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LIB DEM WEBSITES

Talk to us on Stand 13 in the exhibition.

**www.praterraines.co.uk
info@praterraines.co.uk
0345 363 7163**

Saturday 18th March

Timetable for Saturday 18th March

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|---|----|
| 09.00–09.10 | F1 | Opening of conference by Baroness Brinton | |
| 09.10–09.30 | F2 | Report: Federal Conference Committee | |
| | F3 | Report: Federal Policy Committee | 10 |
| 09.30–10.30 | F4 | Policy motion: A Rational Approach to Harm Reduction | 10 |
| 10.30–11.15 | F5 | Policy motion: Tackling Overcrowding in the Prison System | 10 |
| 11.15–11.35 | F6 | Speech: Baroness Featherstone | |
| 11.35–12.40 | F7 | Emergency motion: Britain and the EU | 12 |
| 12.40–14.20 | | Lunch break | |
| 14.20–15.20 | F8 | Policy motion: The Crisis in Health and Social Care | 13 |
| 15.20–16.05 | F9 | Question and answer session: Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats | |
| 16.05–16.25 | F10 | Speech: Baroness Kramer | |
| 16.25–17.40 | F11 | Policy motion: Towards a World Free of Nuclear Weapons | 13 |
| 17.40–18.00 | F12 | Reports: Parliamentary Parties | |

Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated.

Voting members wishing to speak in any of the debates are requested to fill in and submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.

If no page number is indicated next to a session or item of business, there are no changes or additional information to that in the Conference Agenda & Directory.

Help Jackie Pearcey and the Lib Dem team in Manchester

Visit the campaign HQ:

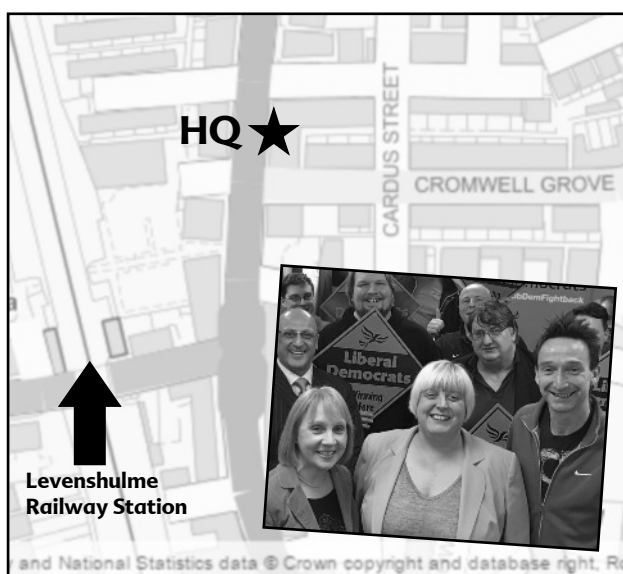
**HQ: 815 Stockport Road,
Levenshulme, Manchester M19 3BS**

The office is open every day from 9.30am till 8.30pm and is incredibly well connected.

There is plenty of parking, including a free council car park opposite the HQ at the side of Hennigan's Sports Bar, M19 3AD.

The 192/197 bus stops are right outside the HQ on Stockport Road. (stop name: Levenshulme Carrill Grove East)

Levenshulme Railway Station is three minutes walk, with regular services from Manchester and Stockport.



Published and promoted by J Skipworth on behalf of J Pearcey and Jane Brophy (Liberal Democrats), all at 815 Stockport Road, Manchester, M19 3BS.

www.jackiepearcey.org.uk

Saturday 18th March

Additions and updates to the Agenda for Saturday 18th March.

F3 Federal Policy Committee Report

Q1 Submitted by: Malcolm Mitchell

For the 2 Consultation Papers at the Autumn Conference, 38 days were permitted following the close of that Conference to submit Comments, thus allowing Local Parties to be able to discuss these Consultation Papers. Why are only 12 days permitted after the close of this Conference for the submission of Comments for the 4 Consultation Papers at this Conference, thus limiting discussion by Local Parties.

Q2 Submitted by: Jonathan Brown

Can work start on the party's BME manifesto now so that there is proper time to consult EMLD & party members and for its work to feed into other policy papers in advance of a frantic pre-election period?

F4 A Rational Approach to Harm Reduction

Amendment One

Merton

Mover: Simon McGrath

Summation: To be announced

- 1 *In 4. (line 48), after 'system' insert 'except for past convictions for kerb crawling'.*

Background briefing

This motion and the accompanying policy paper update and develop policy on sex work. In particular, they call for the decriminalisation of consensual sex work, new laws to address coercion, additional support for those trying to leave sex work, the rollout of a 'Merseyside+' model to all police forces, the quashing of past convictions, and opposition to some proposals in the Digital Economy Bill regarding pornography. Existing policy is set out in policy motions *Towards Safer Sex Work* (2014), *Confronting Prostitution* (1994) and *Prostitution* (1992).

F5 Tackling Overcrowding in the Prison System

The Federal Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:

- 1 *After a) (line 26), insert:*
- 2 b) While the change in Government rhetoric concerning the purpose of prisons and the need for them
- 3 to be places of education and rehabilitation is welcome, the fact remains that the Government's
- 4 ambitions on education and rehabilitation will fail unless active steps are taken to tackle overcrowding
- 5 by ensuring that fewer people are sent to prison.
- 6 *After d) (line 39), insert:*
- 7 e) The effect of prisoners being locked up in their cells for very long hours each day with far too
- 8 little purposeful activity has been disastrous and has seriously impeded prisoners' successful
- 9 rehabilitation.

Saturday 18th March

Amendment One

Kingston Borough

Mover: David Ryder-Mills

Summation: To be announced

1 *After viii) (line 22), insert:*

2 ix) Currently the re-offending rate of adults released from prison is 44.7% (2014-2015) and the re-
3 offending rate of those leaving a prison sentence of 12 months or less is closer to 60%.

4 x) By contrast, those serving a community sentence, suspended sentence or on licence, under the
5 supervision of the Community Rehabilitation Companies have a re-offending rate of 32% (2014-
6 2015).

7 *After f) (line 44), insert:*

8 g) An effective and well resourced after-care service is at least as important in the prevention of re-
9 offending as work done within a well ordered prison.

10 h) There are inconsistencies across the country in the way in which prisoners are passed from the
11 prison service to the National Probation Service or Community Rehabilitation Companies on release.

12 *In 2. (line 50), after 'prison officer' delete 'beyond the extra 2500' and insert 'and other staff beyond the
13 additional resource promised by the current Government'.*

14 *In 2. (line 51), after 'ratio' insert 'and to increase the quality and effectiveness of work done with the
15 inmates of the prisons'.*

16 *After 2. (line 51) add:*

- 17 3. The development of a comprehensive, well-resourced and mandatory education programme within
18 all prisons, suited to the different categories of prisoner and matched to their needs.
- 19 4. A smooth transition into better-funded National Probation Service or Community Rehabilitation
20 Companies for all released prisoners.
- 21 5. A presumption against short custodial sentences of under six months.
- 22 6. Where a short custodial sentence is deemed necessary, offenders who meet the safety requirements
23 for release should be offered opportunities for earlier release through good behaviour and co-
24 operation, and should then serve the remainder of the sentence under the supervision of a
25 Community Rehabilitation Company; the supervision time should be set by the court at the time of
26 sentencing.

Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on prisons. In particular, it calls for a boost in prison officer numbers, the decriminalisation of possession of drugs, a shift towards prevention of re-offending and away from punishment, a drastic overhaul in sentencing policy, and the conditional release of all prisoners serving indeterminate sentences who have served their minimum tariff. Existing policy is set out in the policy paper *Doing What Works to Cut Crime* (2014) and in policy motions *Rehabilitation Revolution* (2012), *Taking Responsibility* (2011).

Saturday 18th March

F7 Britain and the EU: Negotiating the Future – Next Steps for Brexit

10 members

Mover: Tom Brake MP (Shadow Foreign Secretary)

Summation: Baroness Sarah Ludford (Europe Spokesperson)

1 Conference welcomes the fact that Liberal Democrats are the only party that has consistently
2 championed Britain's membership of the European Union, because we believe that Britain's best chance
3 to succeed is within the EU.

4 While respecting the outcome of the referendum held in June 2016, Conference believes that Britain is a
5 more prosperous country when part of the world's largest economy, and stronger politically when working
6 in partnership with our closest neighbours and allies to tackle the biggest challenges.

7 Conference believes that the British people, not politicians, should have the final say on our future
8 relationship with the European Union, and calls for the government to give the British people a vote on the
9 final deal at the end of the negotiation process.

10 Conference rejects the Hard Brexit approach of the Conservative government, in particular its
11 determination to leave the Single Market and the Customs Union, and its shameful failure to guarantee
12 promptly the rights of current EU Citizens resident in the UK.

13 Conference notes the passage of the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017.

14 Conference regrets the abject weakness of the official Opposition in failing to stand up to the Tory Brexit
15 Government and commends those Parliamentarians of other parties who were prepared to put Country
16 before Party during the course of the Article 50 Bill.

17 Conference acknowledges that the struggle now moves on to the proposed 'Great Repeal Bill', through
18 which the Government intends to repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and incorporate much
19 existing EU law into UK law while arrogating to itself the power to choose what to keep in the longer term.

20 Conference calls on Liberal Democrat Parliamentarians and others to fight to:

- 21 1. Retain vital environmental and consumer protections, freedom to travel, study and work, employment
22 rights, research exchanges and funding, security co-operation arrangements and other benefits of
23 existing EU legislation.
- 24 2. Strictly limit the scope for the Government to give itself powers to change legislation through 'Henry
25 VIII' powers, and secure the maximum Parliamentary oversight of powers given to ministers.
- 26 3. Respect the rights of the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland over
27 legislation within their competence.

28 Conference urges the Government to act with transparency, openness and due regard to Parliamentary
29 scrutiny throughout the negotiation process.

30 Given that the terms of Brexit will have a huge impact on jobs, security and the opportunity to travel and
31 live abroad, Conference demands that the Tory Brexit government should be made to put their deal to the
32 British people before it is finalised.

Saturday 18th March

Background briefing

This motion updates policy in light of recent developments including the passage of the EU (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017. Existing policy is set out in policy motion *Britain in the European Union* (2016).

F8 The Crisis in Health and Social Care

The Federal Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:

- 1 *In 2. (line 56), after ‘all out of hospital care’ insert ‘particularly the national roll out of ‘Pharmacy First’ which*
- 2 *primarily benefits those entitled to free prescriptions to visit their pharmacist and receive prescription*
- 3 *medicines for a limited range of minor conditions without a GP appointment,’.*

Amendment One

North East Cambridgeshire and South East Cambridgeshire

Mover: Connor Docwra

Summation: Charlotte Cane

- 1 *After 3. (line 60) add:*
- 2 4. Urgent action to secure the necessary levels of current and future staffing in the NHS, including an
- 3 expansion of training opportunities, reinstatement of the nursing bursary, and addressing the causes
- 4 of premature retirement and of experienced staff leaving the NHS.

Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on health. In particular, it tackles the emerging crisis in health and social care. It calls for the establishment of a cross-party NHS and Care Commission, additional emergency funding for health and care services to be delivered over the next year, and a guaranteed right to live and work in the UK for all EU citizens working in NHS and care services. Existing policy is set out in the 2015 Manifesto *Opportunity for Everyone*, as well as policy motions *Keep the Social Care Cap and Fund our Social Care System Properly* (2015), *Public Health Service* (2015) and *Protecting Public Services and Making them Work for You* (2014).

F11 Towards a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

Amendment One

138 members

Mover: Dr Julian Huppert

Summation: David Grace

- 1 *Delete b) (lines 38–42) and insert:*
- 2 b) The UK can best protect its population, dependents and allies by strengthening its drastically
- 3 underfunded conventional forces.

Saturday 18th March

4 *Delete c) (lines 43–47), and insert:*

- 5 c) The current external risks to the UK do not justify maintaining the UK nuclear deterrent, the
6 effectiveness of which is open to serious doubt and the costs of which would be better spent on
7 conventional defence.

8 *Delete I. and II. (lines 48–53) and insert:*

- 9 Conference further believes that a submarine-based delivery system cannot be guaranteed to be safe,
10 defensible and undetectable over the lifetime expected for the Successor programme, given current and
11 future developments in both cyber warfare and undersea drones.

12 *Delete c) i) and ii) (lines 72–78) and insert:*

- 13 i) Phase out the current Trident system and cancel the Successor programme.
14 ii) Prepare for alternative use of submarines already constructed when Trident is phased out.

15 *Delete 1. 2. and 3. (lines 81–89).*

16 *Delete lines 94–96 and insert:*

- 17 Conference approves the policy paper's analysis of current threats and the inadequacy of our nuclear
18 weapons to address them but rejects the paper's conclusion which does not follow from that analysis.

Background briefing

This motion and the accompanying policy paper update and develop policy on nuclear weapons. In particular, they call for the maintenance of a minimum nuclear deterrent, the establishment of a medium-readiness responsive posture, and the continued pursuit of multilateral disarmament. Existing policy is set out in policy motion *Scrapping Trident* (2015) and policy paper *Defending the Future* (2013).

Sunday 19th March

F14 Federal Board Report

Q1 Submitted by: Simon McGrath

Following the Electoral Commission fine in 2016 and the news of a further investigation in 2017, what steps are being taken to ensure the party's compliance processes are fit for purpose?

Q2 Submitted by: Simon McGrath

Following the revelation last year that the Federal Levy is only applied to England, what progress has been made in applying it to Scotland and Wales?

Q2 Submitted by: Teena Lashmore

BAME (Black Asian Minority Ethnic) singles out a cultural group and therefore places a hierarchy within the political movement for race equality. Will the Federal Board consider standardising our party's literature to BME which places our anti-racism commitments back in line with the broad anti racist movement while at the same time encouraging better equality among ethnic groups?

F16 The Role of Faith in State-Funded Schools

The Federal Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendment to the motion:

- 1 *In line 41, delete 'faith'.*

Amendment One

48 members

Mover: Chris Ward

Summation: Dr Julian Huppert

- 1 *In B. (line 6), delete 'against the wishes of their parents'.*
- 2 *Delete i) and ii) (lines 17–20).*
- 3 *Delete v) (lines 28–30) and insert:*
- 4 v) Religious instruction should not take place in state-funded schools.
- 5 *In vi) (line 31–32), delete '(other than those who are mainly or exclusively responsible for providing religious*
6 *instruction)'.*
- 7 *Delete 1. a) (line 44) and insert:*
- 8 a) Does not contain any religious instruction.
- 9 *In 2. (lines 49–52), delete all words after 'basis of merit'.*
- 10 *In 3. (lines 53–57), delete 'Allows state-funded schools to hold acts of worship and provide religious*

Sunday 19th March

- 11 instruction' and insert 'Allows children to choose freely whether or not they wish to engage in acts of
12 worship of their choice'.
13 *Delete 4. (lines 58–62).*

F17 Associate Citizenship of the European Union

Amendment One

Brussels and Europe Liberal Democrats

Mover: Catherine Bearder MEP

Summation: Giles Goodall

- 1 *After 3. (line 31) add:*
- 2 4. The rights of EU citizens in the UK are guaranteed, noting that without a guarantee on EU citizens'
3 rights, EU Member States and the European Parliament may refuse a reciprocal arrangement for
4 British citizens to keep their EU citizenship.
- 5 *In a) (line 18) after 'citizenship' insert 'as well as British citizens in other EU countries,'.*
- 6 *In b) (line 21) after 'anyone' insert 'including those British citizens denied a vote due to their residence in
7 another EU country for over 15 years'.*

Sunday 19th...

BIG PUSH!

By-Election Rally

with Sarah Olney MP

Hear from Sarah Olney MP and Cllr Keith Aspden, Deputy Leader of City of York Council from 10am to 10:30am

Come along and help from 9:30am until 1:30pm, coffee, tea and biscuits will be available

- 1. Help deliver our Brexit Focus**
- 2. Knock on doors with our residents' survey**
- 3. Help us with clerical tasks**

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Emergency motions ballot

There will be a single ballot to select one of the following items to be taken at F13 at 09.00 on Sunday 19th March. Ballot papers should be returned to the ballot box in the auditorium before 12.40 on Saturday 18th March.

Emergency Motion 1: Cuts to Housing Benefit for Young People

11 members

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
 - 2 A. The Government laid regulations on 3rd March 2017 to remove housing benefit for young people
 - 3 aged 18–21 from April 2017 with certain exemptions.
 - 4 B. This income is a critical lifeline for many young people who receive it and protects them from
 - 5 homelessness or situations of physical and emotional abuse.
 - 6 C. The removal of this benefit will reduce mobility in the workforce as young people may be unable to
 - 7 move for work and will increase inter-generational inequality.
 - 8 D. Long term funding for supported housing including homeless shelters is under threat due to a
 - 9 proposed cap to housing benefit of up to the Local Housing Allowance rate from April 2019, and a
 - 10 mandatory 1% rent reduction from April 2017.
 - 11 E. The availability of social and affordable housing is woefully inadequate and will be made worse by the
 - 12 Government's decision to sell off higher value homes to fund the extension of Right to Buy to housing
 - 13 associations.
- 14 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:
 - 15 i) Minimising risk of homelessness and unemployment to vulnerable young people by retaining housing
 - 16 benefit for 18–21 year olds.
 - 17 ii) Protecting supported housing provision through a clear, long-term funding plan which enables those
 - 18 who need additional care alongside accommodation to have access to it.
 - 19 iii) Increasing the amount of social and affordable homes through additional funding including the lifting
 - 20 of the borrowing cap for councils.
- 21 Conference calls for:
 - 22 1. An immediate reversal of the decision to ban young people aged 18–21 from receiving housing
 - 23 benefit.
 - 24 2. The publication of a long-term plan for funding supported housing including homelessness services.
 - 25 3. The lifting of the borrowing cap currently imposed on councils to enable them to build more
 - 26 affordable homes.

Applicability: Federal except 2.(line 24) which is England only.

Emergency Motion 2: Downgrading Donald Trump's State Visit to the UK

Beaconsfield and Wycombe

- 1 Conference notes that:
 - 2 a) Donald Trump has been invited to carry out a state visit to the UK in 2017.
 - 3 b) A state visit is distinct from a regular official visit; a state visit is an exceptional honour, which includes

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- 4 a carriage procession and a state banquet – state visits are usually only granted to leaders who
5 have been in office for years.
- 6 c) No President of the USA has ever been granted a state visit in their first year in office. Barack
7 Obama and George W. Bush were invited on regular diplomatic visits in their first year in office, and
8 were only granted state visits in their third year in office.
- 9 d) Lord Ricketts, the former head of the Foreign Office, has called for Trump to receive only a regular
10 official visit in 2017.

11 Conference believes that:

- 12 1. The UK should maintain a close working relationship with the USA, but that does not mean giving
13 special political favours to Donald Trump.
- 14 2. Trump's statements before and during his presidential campaign, and his actions in the first two
15 months of his presidency, mean that it would be highly inappropriate to grant him a special honour.
- 16 3. For the UK to grant Trump a special honour would damage the UK's international reputation and its
17 ability to maintain an independent foreign policy.

18 Conference calls for Donald Trump's state visit to the UK in 2017 to be downgraded to a regular official
19 visit.

Applicability: Federal.

Emergency Motion 3: Protecting Small Businesses and Pubs – Response to Government Budget

St Albans, Lewes, ALDC and 41 members

- 1 Conference notes with concern that business rates rises effective from 5 April 2017 will:
- 2 I. Disproportionately impact some small businesses and have the potential to irreversibly damage the
3 character of our high streets, particularly pubs that account for around 0.5% of total turnover but
4 pay 2.8% of the total rates bill.
- 5 II. Create an extra financial burden for local community organisations where the local authority does
6 not offer discretionary relief.
- 7 III. Create a huge tax inequality between small businesses and giant multinationals (e.g. pubs vs
8 supermarkets).
- 9 Conference regrets that:
- 10 A. The business rates consultation in 2016 lasted only 4-weeks rather than the 3-month consultation
11 period recommended by the Cabinet Office.
- 12 B. There was no regional impact assessment carried out which would have highlighted the flaws from
13 the start.
- 14 C. The current Conservative-only Government scrapped the Business Rates review commissioned by
15 the Lib Dems in coalition in March 2015.
- 16 Conference further notes with concern that the Government's Discretionary Business Rates Relief
17 Scheme of £3.6bn (announced in the Budget on 8 March 2017) to compensate businesses who will lose
18 the most from the change:
- 19 i) Was only announced following the threat of legal challenge from 13 business groups, including the
20 Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

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- 21 ii) Has simply been taken from other companies that were led to believe they had gained from the
22 original changes.
- 23 iii) Is only a temporary measure meaning that some businesses could still have to pay an increase of
24 more than £600 a year.
- 25 iv) Is likely to have little effect and for licensed premises will certainly not off-set the rise in alcohol duty
26 that will likely be passed to the consumer.

27 Conference believes that:

- 28 a) Business rates are a broken system that are unfit for the 21st century.
- 29 b) Uniform Business Rate should be abolished and replaced with a site value basis, as per our 2015
30 manifesto commitments.

31 Conference welcomes the Liberal Democrats' Expert Panel led by Vince Cable to look at business
32 taxation across the board and rebalance the system so there is a playing field between tech and
33 traditional business, small and large businesses and giant multinationals and British based companies.

34 Conference calls on the Government to adopt the following interim measures without delay pending a
35 proper review:

- 36 1. A new 'pub cap' of 12.5% on Public Houses, restaurants, hotels and cafes as exists in Scotland.
- 37 2. Give local authorities the ability to pilot site value rating (SVR).

38 Conference also calls on the Government to re-instate the comprehensive business rates review
39 commissioned by the Liberal Democrats in coalition in March 2015.

Applicability: England only.

Emergency Motion 4: Second Scottish Referendum

11 members

1 Conference notes the statement by Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on Monday 13th March that
2 she would seek a further referendum on the union in light of the UK government's imminent moving of the
3 Article 50 notice of withdrawal from the EU.

4 Conference further notes that leaving the EU is a significant and material change in Scotland's
5 constitutional position, given the assurances made by the UK government in the 2014 referendum about
6 continued membership of the single market.

7 Conference believes that there are significant political consequences across the UK as a result of a further
8 independence referendum.

9 Conference supports the Scottish party in seeking to maintain its manifesto commitment to oppose this
10 further referendum at Holyrood, but does not believe that mandates the wider UK party.

11 Conference believes that the Westminster parliament should not block any demand by the democratically
12 elected Scottish parliament under section 30 of the Scotland Act as this would be constitutionally
13 inappropriate and would be counterproductive because it would be seen as external interference in
14 Scottish affairs and fuel nationalist sentiment in favour of separation.

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- 15 Consequently conference calls on the Westminster parliamentary party not to oppose the section 30
16 order when it comes to a vote.

Applicability: Federal.

Emergency Motion 5: Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children

10 members

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 A. More people have been internationally displaced by conflict and crisis than at any time since World
3 War II; many of the displaced are currently seeking refuge in Europe. From Syria alone, three million
4 have been displaced by conflict and crisis.
- 5 B. In 2015 over 90,000 unaccompanied minors applied for asylum in Europe – many tens of thousands
6 more have reached Europe but not claimed asylum.
- 7 C. The Government continues to obstruct efforts to create safe and legal routes for refugees arguing
8 that this creates ‘pull factors’, an argument that has not been evidenced.
- 9 D. Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, which established a scheme to allow the resettlement of
10 unaccompanied child refugees, was passed as an amendment to the Act (known as the ‘Dubs
11 Amendment’) with cross party support after a groundswell of public support and campaigning.
- 12 Conference notes with concern that:
- 13 i) In February 2017, the Government announced the closure of the resettlement scheme expecting to
14 take only 350 child refugees via this route – predominantly from Calais.
- 15 ii) The Government cited limitations in council capacity to accommodate unaccompanied child
16 refugees contrary to evidence suggesting that councils had spare capacity and would be willing to
17 take more unaccompanied minors from Europe.
- 18 iii) A recent amendment which, if accepted, would have obliged councils to identify their capacity to
19 accommodate unaccompanied child refugees, was defeated in the Commons by a very slim majority.
- 20 Conference believes that:
- 21 a) The decision to close the resettlement scheme is a betrayal of the wishes of the British people.
22 b) Government should live up to the spirit of the Dubs amendment.
23 c) It is the responsibility of central government to provide funding for the resettlement of
24 unaccompanied child refugees to ensure councils are able to deliver on the UK’s obligations to act as
25 a sanctuary for those in need.
- 26 Conference calls for the Government to:
- 27 1. Reopen the Dubs scheme immediately.
28 2. Re-engage with local authorities to establish actual capacity for resettlement, and publish this
29 capacity.
30 3. Continue to work with European and other international partners to establish safe and legal routes to
31 resettlement.

Applicability: Federal except 2. (lines 28–29).

Emergency motions ballot paper

Please vote by indicating your preferences in order (1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

| | Emergency motion | Preference |
|----------|---|------------|
| 1 | Cuts to Housing Benefit for Young People | |
| 2 | Downgrading Donald Trump's State Visit to the UK | |
| 3 | Protecting Small Businesses and Pubs – Response to Government Budget | |
| 4 | Second Scottish Referendum | |
| 5 | Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children | |

Please return this ballot paper to the ballot box in the auditorium before 12.40 on Saturday 18th March.

Please note that you will need to show your voting member's photo pass when submitting the ballot paper.