

Spring Conference

9–11 March 2018, Southport



Conference Daily, Saturday



Updates to the *Agenda & Directory*, information from the Conference Committee, amendments, emergency motions and questions to reports. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda & Directory*.

Conference Daily and other conference publications, in PDF and plain text formats, are available online

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers



or ask at the Information Desk
in the STCC.

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Please keep hold of your copy of this *Conference Daily* throughout conference, and make sure you pick up a copy of Sunday's *Conference Daily* when you enter the STCC on Sunday – it will be vital to your understanding of the day's business.

Liberal Democrats

30 years fighting for a fair, free and open society



The Federal Board



Baroness Sal Brinton, Chair, Party President



Neil Fawcett, Vice Chair



Vince Cable MP, Party Leader



Liz Leffman, Chair of the English Party



Sheila Ritchie, Scottish Party Convener



Carole O'Toole, Chair of the Welsh NEC



Alistair Carmichael MP, MP Rep



Lord Strasburger, Peer Rep



Catherine Bearder MEP, MEP Rep



Chris White, Principal Local Authority Councillor



Simon McGrath, English Party Rep



David Green, Scottish Party Rep



Cadan ap Tomos, Welsh Party Rep



Andrew Wiseman, FCC Chair



Jeremy Hargreaves, FPC Vice-Chair



Robert Woodthorpe Browne, FIRC Chair



James Gurling, FCEC Chair



Peter Dunphy, FFRC Chair



Miranda Roberts, FPDC Chair



Helena Cole, FASC Chair



Thomas Gravatt, Young Liberals Chair



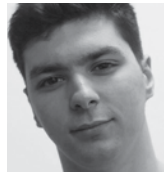
Elaine Bagshaw



Dinesh Dhamija



Helen Flynn



Nassar Kessell



Caron Lindsay



Gordon Lishman



Victoria Marsom



Joyce Onstad



Mark Pack



Pauline Pearce



Candy Piercy



Alice Thomas



Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Non-Voting:

Terry Stacy, LGA Rep
 Alistair Carmichael MP, Chief Whip (Commons)
 Mike German, Federal Treasurer
 Nick Harvey, Federal Chief Executive
 Will Dyer, Staff Rep

Federal Board helpdesk

Members of the Federal Board will be available at the Federal Committess helpdesk in the Lower Foyer of the STCC at the following times:

| | | |
|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Saturday | 10 March | 10.30-12.30 and 14.00-16.00 |
| Sunday | 11 March | 10.30-11.30 |

The Federal Conference Committee



Andrew Wiseman, Chair



Zoë O'Connell, Vice Chair



Geoff Payne, Vice Chair



Baroness Sal Brinton



Sally Burnell



Victor Chamberlain



Nicholas Da Costa



James Gurling



Alexander Hegenbarth



Cara Jenkinson



Susan Juned



Jenni Lang



Liz Lynne



Chris Maines



Tahir Maher



Mary Reid



Jennie Rigg



Paul Tilsley



Heidi Worth



Mike Ross, Chief Steward, co-opted

Non-Voting:
 Nick Harvey,
 Federal Chief Executive

FCC helpdesk

Members of the FCC will be available at the Federal Committess helpdesk in the Lower Foyer of the STCC at the following times:

| | | |
|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Friday | 9 March | 17.00-18.00 |
| Saturday | 10 March | 09.00-10.30 and 14.00-16.00 |



The Federal Policy Committee



Vince Cable
MP, 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



Richard Cole



Tony Greaves



Antony Hook



Kamran
Hussein



Qurban
Hussein



Elizabeth
Jewkes



Susan Juned



Heather Kidd



Norman Lamb
MP



Alisdair
McGregor



Jonny Oates



Geoff Payne



Peter Price



Catherine
Royce



Paul Tilsley



David Weston



Chris White



Jim Williams

Non-Voting:
Richard Kemp, LGA Rep
Andrew Wiseman, FCC Chair
Ciaran Morrissey, YL Observer
Marisha Ray, EMLD Observer

Whisky Tasting

with Alistair Carmichael MP

A unique opportunity to
taste, discuss and learn a
bit about malt whisky in a
friendly and relaxed
environment

Tickets: £30 (*numbers limited*)

Apply to libdemfow@gmail.com
or call 07469 714839

Proceeds to support campaigning
in Orkney and Shetland.

7:45pm - 9:00pm, Saturday 10th March

Marine Suite, Conference Centre



Stop school cuts.

The National Education Union is campaigning to stop school cuts.

Visit the NEU's exhibition stand to find out about the impact of funding cuts in your area and back our call for investment in children and young people.

www.neu.org.uk/funding

schoolcuts.org.uk

[#schoolcuts](https://twitter.com/schoolcuts)



Information update

Amendments and additions to the conference information in the Agenda & Directory.

Beach clean

Fancy getting some fresh air at Spring Conference?

Join Lib Dem MPs for a beach clean on Saturday in Southport and make a visible impact on ocean pollution.

Time: 11.00–12.30 Saturday 10 March.

Meeting point: Marine Drive Car Park (from STCC, cross Marine Way Bridge, turn left, and car park is on right hand side).

Food bank

Make sure you help Southport's food bank and #PackaTin for Conference.

Left luggage

The complimentary left luggage facility in the reception of the Ramada Plaza will operate from 8.00 on Sunday 11 March.

Spokespeople Q&A sessions

There will be a series of Q&A sessions during conference where you can ask questions of our spokespeople. A fantastic opportunity for members to find out more about what our Parliamentarians are up to. (Note change of venue for Brexit Q&A on Sunday.)

Saturday 10 March

10.15–11.15

Work and Welfare with Stephen Lloyd MP, Ben Stoneham and Christine Jardine (TBC).

STCC, Waterfront Suite 1

11.30–12.30

Foreign Affairs with Jo Swinson MP and Shas Sheehan.

STCC, Waterfront Suite 1

Sunday 11 March

10.00–11.00

Brexit with Tom Brake MP, Catherine Bearder MEP and William Wallace.

**STCC, Floral Hall Terrace
(next to the exhibition)**

Conference App

Liberal Democrats

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 visit www.libdemconference.org.uk

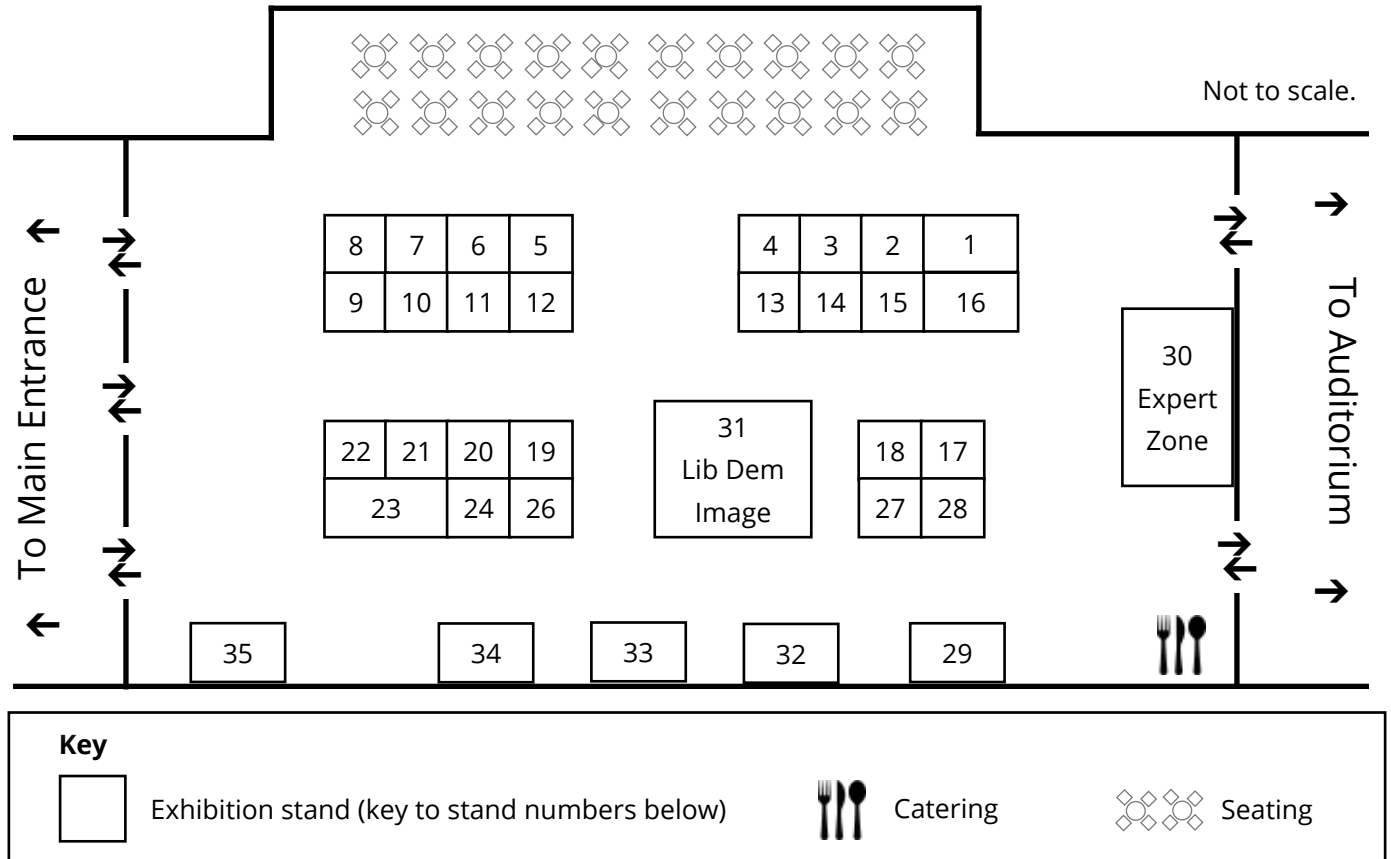


Exhibition update

Amendments and additions to the exhibition plan and listings in the Agenda & Directory.

Exhibition plan

Floral Hall, STCC



Exhibitors listed by stand number

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Social Liberal Forum | 20 | Liberal Reform |
| 2 | Green Liberal Democrats | 21 | LGBT+ Liberal Democrats |
| 3 | Liberator Magazine | 22 | Your Liberal Britain |
| 4 | Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform | 23 | Young Liberals |
| 5 | Prater Raines | 24 | Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists |
| 6 | Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats | 26 | Lib Dem Disability Association |
| 7 | ALDE Party | 27 | Liberal Democrat Education Association |
| 8 | Election Workshop | 28 | VisitBrighton |
| 9 | Prospect Magazine | 29 | Midshire Business Systems / RISO UK Ltd |
| 10 | Rights-Liberties-Justice (LDLA) | 30 | Ask an Expert |
| 11 | ALDC - Liberal Democrat Campaigners & Councillors | 31 | Liberal Democrat Image |
| 12 | LGA Liberal Democrats | 32 | Catherine Bearder MEP / ALDE |
| 13 | Parliamentary Candidates Association | 33 | Southport Foodbank |
| 14 | ALTER | 34 | Debatable TV |
| 15 | Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary | 35 | National Education Union |
| 16 | Liberal Democrat History Group | | |
| 17 | Visit Southport | | |
| 18 | Liberal Democrat Christian Forum | | |
| 19 | Liberal Democrat Women | | |
- Lower Foyer
Federal Committees helpdesk
Information Desk



Directory of exhibitors

The following exhibitors are additional to those listed in the Agenda & Directory.



Catherine Bearder MEP / ALDE

Meet with Catherine Bearder MEP to find out more about her work in the European Parliament.

www.bearder.eu

Stand 32



Debatable TV

Book Debatable TV to film your fringe, training session or campaign video. Stop at the stand to find out more about packages available - booking is now open for Autumn Conference!

Stand 34



National Education Union

The National Education Union is campaigning to stop school cuts. Visit the NEU's exhibition stand to find out about the impact of cuts in your area.

www.neu.org.uk

Stand 35



Southport Foodbank

Drop a donation and support the fantastic work done by Southport Foodbank.

www.southport.foodbank.org.uk

Stand 33

Training update

Update to Sunday Training Programme



Ask an Expert is the place to get one-to-one help on issues big and small, on a huge range of topics.

Ask An Expert is open throughout conference during exhibition opening hours. No need to book an appointment - just come along and speak with one of our team.

From fundraising to strategy, seat approval and selection - and much, much more! You can even get one-to-one tuition on Connect, NationBuilder and social media.

Whatever you need help with, our team of Liberal Democrat experts will be pleased to help you.

Please note that all training sessions on Sunday morning now take place between 09.30-10.45. Please find a summary of Sunday's training sessions below. Whilst the times and venues have changed, all other details are as printed in the Agenda & Directory. You can find out more about all of our training sessions in the Conference App or online on the Conference website.

Sunday 09.30-10.45 (UPDATED)

What a good digital campaign looks like

Campaigns Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 1

Running your local party

Membership Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 2

Raising the money to win

Campaigns Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 3

Be a councillor: Making candidate pools more diverse

ALDC with LGA Lib Dems

STCC, Waterfront Suite 4

New ways of fundraising in a Digital Landscape

Fundraising Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 5

Could you be an MP?

Diversity Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 6

The new Data Protection Regulations - Q&A

Compliance Team

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 2

Councillor training: Using the council to campaign

ALDC with LGA Lib Dems

Ramada Plaza, Exec Lounge



Fringe update

Amendments and additions to the listings in the fringe guide in the Agenda & Directory.

Fringe Saturday lunchtime 13.00–14.00

David Howarth and Bernard Greaves

Launch of the new book "Towards a Liberal Future"

Bernard Greaves and David Howarth introduce their restatement for contemporary society of core Liberal values and key policy themes of Liberalism in their new publication "Towards a Liberal Society". Guest speaker Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable.

Note: this event was incorrectly listed under Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust.

STCC, Waterfront Suite 1

Liberal Democrat Education Association

Parents' Experience of Today's Education System

Parents play a vital role in their children's education, yet their voice is seldom heard. Alison Worsley from charity "Ambitious about Autism" and parents' representatives will discuss admissions, attendance and the challenges facing parents of children with special educational needs.

Note: change of subject and speakers – swapped with Saturday early evening meeting.

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 3

Federal Board

Disciplinary Processes Review: Q&A with Lord Macdonald

Come and ask former Director of Public Prosecutions, Ken Macdonald, questions regarding the Disciplinary Processes Review and his recommendation of a standalone structure ahead of the Conference motion on Saturday afternoon.

Note: This event starts at 13.20.

Note: this event is additional to the listings in the Agenda & Directory.

Ramada Plaza, Marine Suite

Q&A sessions Saturday 10 March

10.15–11.15

Work and Welfare with Stephen Lloyd MP, Ben Stoneham and Christine Jardine (TBC).

STCC, Waterfront Suite 1

11.30–12.30

Foreign Affairs with Jo Swinson MP and Shas Sheehan.

STCC, Waterfront Suite 1

Fringe Saturday afternoon 16.00–17.30

Business Rates Review Group

Andrew Dixon has been asked by Sir Vince Cable MP to develop a policy proposal on Land Value Tax and reform of Business Rates. The Review Group would be delighted to discuss potential policy changes with any who are interested in how business property and other land can be more efficiently taxed.

Note: this event is additional to the listings in the Agenda & Directory.

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 2

Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15–19.15

Jo Swinson

Book Signing – "Equal Power: A Handbook for Men and Women"

Come along to the book signing by Jo Swinson, our deputy leader.

Note: this event is additional to the listings in the Agenda & Directory.

STCC, Waterfront Suite 4

Liberal Democrat Education Association

Key Issues in Education for 2018 and LDEA Annual General Meeting

Join Liberal Democrat Education Spokesperson Layla Moran MP to debate today's key issues in education. From early years policy to the funding of further education, the Liberal Democrats will have a distinctive voice this year. Meeting includes short AGM.

Note: change of subject and speakers – swapped with Saturday lunchtime meeting.

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 2



Fringe Saturday mid evening 19.45–21.00

Lib Dem Women

The MacDonald Review and The Parasram Report – the way forward from here

Confirmed speakers are: Isabelle Parasram, barrister and Co Vice Chair LDW and Dr Christine Cheng, lecturer in War Studies at King College, London. The panel will be chaired by Elizabeth Jewkes.

Note: this event is additional to the listings in the Agenda & Directory.

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 3



Timetable for Saturday 10 March

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|---|----|
| 09.00–09.10 | F1 | Opening of conference | |
| 09.10–09.30 | F2 | Report: Federal Conference Committee | 10 |
| | F3 | Report: Federal Policy Committee | 10 |
| 09.30–10.15 | F4 | Policy motion: Local Government and Housing | 10 |
| 10.15–11.00 | F5 | Policy motion: Exit from Brexit | 12 |
| 11.00–11.20 | F6 | Speech: Ed Davey MP | |
| 11.20–12.50 | F7 | Policy motion: <i>Every Child Empowered: Education for a Changing World</i> (Education Policy Paper) | 12 |
| 12.50–14.10 | | Lunch | |
| 14.10–15.35 | F8 | Policy motion: <i>A Rural Future: Time to Act</i> (Rural Communities Policy Paper) | 14 |
| 15.35–16.20 | F9 | Q&A session: Vince Cable MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats | 14 |
| 16.20–17.05 | F10 | Report: Federal Board | 14 |
| | F11 | Report: Campaign for Gender Balance | 16 |
| | F12 | Constitutional Amendment: General Data Protection Regulations Implementation and Risk Management | |
| 17.05–18.00 | F13 | Business motion: Reforming our Party's Disciplinary Processes | 16 |
| | F14 | Constitutional amendment: Macdonald Review Implementation | 17 |

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.

Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated. Members wishing to speak are requested to submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.

Save Our Seas Beach Clean

Saturday 10th March, 11.00-12.30 

Meeting point: Marine Drive Car Park, Southport

Special guest volunteers: Vince Cable and Alistair Carmichael



Let's make real change to protect our oceans



Saturday 10 March

Daily announcements and updates to the Agenda for Saturday 10 March.

F2 Report: Federal Conference Committee

Q1 Submitted by: Malcolm Mitchell

Why, when Early Bird Registration for this Conference became available in November, was it not made clear that Consultative Sessions would start on Friday Afternoon?

Q2 Submitted by: Theo Butt Philip

The report of the Campaign for Gender Balance states:

“...we only ran seven training modules at Federal Conference because of a lack of training slots - a massive drop since 2007 when we ran 32 workshops. Half of the 2007 workshops were open to all comers and were a vital part of our mission to improve the culture of the Party in order to make it more open and welcoming to women. Sadly we no longer have access to as many training rooms at Conference.”

Why has the Campaign for Gender Balance seen such a reduction in the number of training rooms it has access to?

Q3 Submitted by: Sarah Brown

What measures will FCC be taking to ensure that member submitted motions receive a fair hearing against the “Ashdown Prize” motion submission?

Q4 Submitted by: Jennie Rigg

How does entering the Ashdown Prize competition differ from using the Party provided drafting advice service?

F3 Report: Federal Policy Committee

Q1 Submitted by: David Grace

What steps has the committee taken to increase the transparency of the appointment of working groups and the opportunity for members across the whole country to participate whatever their financial circumstances? In particular how can members find out about such opportunities and are there any plans to reduce or share the financial burden, for example by the use of travel pools?

Q2 Submitted by: Jennie Rigg

What is FPC’s view on the Your Liberal Britain group?

F4 Policy motion: Local Government and Housing

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

- 1 In 6. (line 74), after ‘council housing’ insert: ‘and Section 106 agreements’.



Saturday 10 March

Amendment One

Haringey and Southwark

Mover: Nicholas da Costa.

Summation: to be announced.

1 *After D. (line 15) insert:*

2 E. That Conservative and Labour Councils are undertaking vast development projects, such as
3 the Haringey Development Vehicle, the Sunderland Development Vehicle and the Heygate
4 Estate in Southwark, which mean social housing is under threat and creates 'ghettoisation' of
5 council estates and developments.

6 F. That Liberal Democrat-controlled Sutton Council has developed a fully council-owned
7 development company which is delivering more social and affordable homes.

8 *In F. (line 19) after 'property' insert 'as local authorities are failing to deliver the number of social
9 homes required'.*

10 *After F. (line 19) insert:*

11 G. That modest income earners in the private and charity sectors have little opportunity to enter
12 into shared ownership schemes.

13 H. That many young people are unable to afford to buy their own homes and end up being part
14 of 'Generation Rent'.

15 *After viii) (line 51) insert:*

16 Conference condemns:

17 I. Housing developments that put residents under threat, without consultation, where private
18 developers are being given large swathes of land and property.

19 II. The practice of 'poor doors' on housing developments, where social tenants are segregated
20 within developments, which encourages 'ghettoisation'.

21 *After 6. (line 76) add:*

22 7. Legislation against 'poor doors' and similar segregation of social and affordable housing
23 residents in new developments.

24 8. Redevelopments not to result in the reduction of social housing.

25 9. A right to return for all residents on the same terms as their pre-regeneration tenancy.

26 10. A provision for shared ownership units to be built into development projects.

Background Briefing

This motion develops policy on the powers and responsibilities of local government over housing. In particular it strengthens their borrowing powers, their powers over the use of publicly owned land, and the use of receipts from the sale of council houses. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*, policy motions *An End to Homelessness* (2016) and *Building the Affordable Homes We Need* (2015) and policy paper 104, *Decent Homes for All* (2012).



Saturday 10 March

F5 Policy motion: Exit from Brexit

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

- 1 *After a) (line 16) insert:*
- 2 b) The European Commission has now released draft legal text of the Withdrawal Agreement,
- 3 based on outline agreement from December.

Background Briefing

This motion updates party policy on Brexit in light of the agreements reached between the UK and the EU27 last December and the release by the European Commission of the draft text of the Withdrawal Agreement. Existing policy is set out in policy motion *Opposing Brexit* (September 2017).

F7 Policy motion: *Every Child Empowered: Education for a Changing World* (Education Policy Paper)

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

- 1 *In line 24, delete 'the approach of'.*
- 2 *After 5. c) (line 57) insert:*
- 3 d) Introducing a new 'duty of candour' on all schools, including academies, free schools and Multi
- 4 Academy Trusts, similar to that which applies to suppliers of services in the NHS.
- 5 *In 6. a) (line 60) delete 'a broad and balanced curriculum' and insert 'a revised national curriculum'.*
- 6 *Delete 7. c) (lines 78-80) and insert:*
- 7 c) Scrapping mandatory SATs tests at KS2 and replacing them with a combination of a
- 8 moderated teacher assessment at the end of each phase and a lighter touch standardised test
- 9 to ensure consistency.

Amendment One

14 members

Mover: Gideon Amos.

Summation: Bill Revans.

- 1 *After 9. (line 103) add:*
- 2 Conference does not support proposals in the paper requiring all home educators to undergo
- 3 biannual visits by local authority representatives to ensure an appropriate education unless
- 4 concerns exist and in such cases a meeting in a neutral location or a written report, with an
- 5 opportunity to respond, must be offered as alternatives.
- 6 Conference reaffirms the policy, set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's*
- 7 *Future*, that a slimmed down national curriculum would only be required to be taught in state-
- 8 funded schools and not in the home, where parents must provide an education suitable to the age,



Saturday 10 March

9 ability, aptitude and to any special educational needs of the child.

Amendment Two

ALDC

Mover: Cllr Clare Campion-Smith.

Summation: Cllr Chris White.

1 *Delete a) (lines 51–53) and insert:*

2 a) Giving local authorities with responsibility for education the remit and resources to act as
3 Strategic Education Authorities for their area, including responsibility for places planning,
4 exclusions, admissions including in-year admissions, and SEND functions.

5 *In b) (line 54) after 'Commissioners' insert 'and give local authorities with responsibility for education*
6 *task of promoting high standards across the state sector'.*

7 *Delete 5. c) (lines 55–57) and insert:*

8 c) Creating a level playing field by requiring MATs to undergo external inspection and allowing
9 local authorities to open new Community Schools where needed.

Amendment Three

LGBT+ Liberal Democrats

Mover: Jess Insall.

Summation: Zoë O'Connell.

1 *After E. (line 15) insert:*

2 F. Restrictive school uniform policies followed by many schools reinforce negative gender
3 stereotypes, with girls often forced to wear restrictive and objectifying uniforms. This is
4 detrimental for pupils of all genders and severely detrimental and exclusionary for non-binary
5 and transgender pupils.

6 *After 9. (line 103) add:*

7 Conference also calls for schools to be required to provide inclusive, non-prescriptive, gender-
8 neutral school uniform policies and for adequate training for school staff on how to review and
9 improve their school uniform policies.

Amendment Four

17 members

Mover: Janet Grauberg.

Summation: Helen Flynn.

1 *Delete 1. a) (lines 29–30) and insert:*

2 a) Working towards parity of per-pupil funding between post-16 and 5-16 funding, and commit
3 to at least protect per-pupil funding in real terms from 5-19.



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Background Briefing

This motion and the accompanying policy paper substantially update and develop policy on education from early years to age 19. In particular they develop policies on reform of the school accountability system, the quality of teaching, the treatment of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and education funding. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*, policy paper 119, *Protecting Public Services and Making Them Work for You* (2014), and policy paper 110, *Learning for Life* (2013). Policy on grammar schools specifically is set out in policy motion *Young People and Grammar Schools* (2016) and policy on term-time holidays is set out in policy motion *Term Time Holidays* (2015).

F8 Policy motion: *A Rural Future: Time to Act* (Rural Communities Policy Paper)

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

- 1 *In line 30, delete 'the approach of'.*
- 2 *In 4. a) (lines 69–70) delete 'the context of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)' and insert*
3 *'agricultural policy'.*
- 4 *After a) (line 72) insert:*
 - 5 b) Replacing or reforming the Common Agricultural Policy to have a sustainable land
6 management policy, which would target public and private money to reward farmers and land
7 managers who invest in natural capital, as well as supporting the sustainable production of
8 high quality food.
- 9 *In b) (line 73) delete 'CAP' and insert 'farm'.*

Background Briefing

This motion and accompanying policy paper substantially update and develop policy on rural communities. In particular they propose measures to increase the availability of affordable housing in rural areas, protect and improve rural services, promote the rural economy and tourism and reform agricultural policy. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*, policy paper 113, *Prosperous, Sustainable and Secure* (2013), and policy paper 52, *Rural Futures* (2002).

F9 Question and Answer Session: Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Hall Aide: Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

F10 Report: Federal Board

Q1 Submitted by: Alisdair Calder McGregor

Can the Federal Board provide Conference with the conclusions of the review it was required to undertake by Article 21 of the Leadership Election Regulations, and in particular:

- A) Any consideration it has made into how GDPR will affect future leadership elections.
- B) The disparity between how an uncontested leadership election results in a coronation, while other uncontested party votes require a run-off versus a 'Re-Open Nominations' option.



Saturday 10 March

C) What the Federal Board's conclusion on diversity measures was.

Q2 Submitted by: Michael Meadowcroft

Will the General Election Review enable the evidence leading to his sacking as candidate for Bradford East to be given to David Ward?

Q3 Submitted by: Spencer Hagar

Could you please tell us whether the Federal Board, the FPC, and other elements of Party governance, are using scenario planning to devise strategy, as is happening increasingly among corporate and public bodies, as a way to survive and get ahead in a world that is increasingly disrupted, uncertain and complex. If so, could you mention one or two examples of its use by the Party.

Q4 Submitted by: Alisdair McGregor

On what basis is Party owned data and the use of email address lists provided to external organisations such as Your Liberal Britain?

Q5 Submitted by: Alisdair McGregor

The Electoral Commission website lists a £10,000 donation from the Party to Your Liberal Britain. What was the source of the donation, and what are the objectives and success/failure metrics of the donation?

Q6 Submitted by: Jennie Rigg

As Liberal Democrats we rightly champion democracy, openness, transparency and accountability. Can you tell me how those principles apply to the running of Your Liberal Britain, which styles itself as an independent grassroots organisation, yet is run by someone with an HQ staff pass, and appears from information on the electoral commission website to be heavily funded by HQ; and yet has no elected officers, and while it reports to FPDC (and some other party bodies in some circumstances) the reports and responses to them are not published, and none of those party bodies have any power over it?

Q7 Submitted by: Jennie Rigg

Over the last 18 months I have received multiple emails from party luminaries as diverse as Vince Cable, Sal Brinton and Dick Newby promoting Your Liberal Britain. How can SAOs such as LGBT+ Lib Dems access similar levels of promotion from HQ?

Q8 Submitted by: Jennie Rigg

The Electoral Commission website lists a £10,000 donation from HQ to Your Liberal Britain. How can SAOs such as LGBT+ Lib Dems access similar levels of financial support from HQ?

Q9 Submitted by: Theo Butt Philip

The report of the Campaign for Gender Balance states:

"We have also gone backwards in terms of budget. We had a budget of around £30,000 pa when we were first set up. Things are very different now. We have no dedicated budget from the Party. We have limited staff support from the excellent and hard working Natalie Chindipha as part of her Diversity remit. And we can bid for limited funds from the Diversity Team budget."



Saturday 10 March

Given that the 2005 motion to turn the Gender Balance Task Force into the Campaign for Gender Balance included the lines:

“Conference calls for...The Federal Executive to ensure the Campaign for Gender Balance is adequately funded in order to carry out its functions in finding, training and developing female candidates”.

Why does the CGB no longer have a dedicated budget from the party and does the Federal Board believe it is meeting the requirement placed upon it by conference to ensure the Campaign for Gender Balance is adequately funded?

Q10 Submitted by: Theo Butt Philip

Is the Party and/or the CGB in a position to publish in future reports to conference:

1. The number of women selected as PPCs, what this is as a percentage of selected PPCs overall and how this has changed since the last conference?
2. The number of women on the list of approved Westminster candidates and what this is as a percentage of the list and how this has changed since the last conference?
3. The number of women applying to be approved as Westminster candidates and what this is as a percentage of people applying to be approved as Westminster candidates?
4. An brief assessment of how the 2016 Electing Diverse MPs motion is being implemented by Federal, State and Regional and Local Parties in terms of gender balance?

F11 Report: Campaign for Gender Balance

Q1 Submitted by: Theo Butt Philip

When the Campaign for Gender Balance was set up it had clear targets of a least 40% of new MPs and at least 25% of total MPs to be women after the next (2005) General Election. Whilst those targets were not met at the subsequent (2010) General Election, they were exceeded at the most recent General Election (2017).

Are the CGB currently working to revised targets and if so what are they?

F13 Business motion: Reforming our Party's Disciplinary Processes

Amendment One

12 members

Mover: Margaret Joachim.

Summation: Margaret Joachim.

- 1 *In iv) (line 41) after 'adjudicators' insert 'and investigators'.*
- 2 *In 1. (line 46) delete 'less than 50' and insert 'fewer than 40'.*
- 3 *In 1. (line 49), delete 'report their appointment to Conference' and insert 'submit the list of names for*
- 4 *approval by a vote of Federal Conference'.*
- 5 *After 1. (line 49) insert:*
- 6 2. The Federal Board shall appoint a pool of no fewer than 15 investigators who shall be



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- 7 required to undergo an approval process and shall not sit on any regional, state or federal
8 party committee, and that the Federal Board shall submit the list of names for approval by a
9 vote of Federal Conference.

F14 Constitutional Amendment: Macdonald Review Implementation

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

- 1 *After line 1, insert:*
- 2 *In Article 3.1 (a), after 'gender,' insert 'gender identity,'.*
- 3 *In 22.9 (lines 161–162) delete 'the case shall be dismissed' and insert 'the original decision shall*
4 *stand'.*
- 5 *After 22.15 (line 251) insert:*
- 6 22.16 The civil burden of proof, 'balance of probabilities', shall be used for the purposes of these
7 disciplinary procedures.

Amendment One

12 members

Mover: Margaret Joachim.

Summation: Margaret Joachim.

- 1 *In 22.1 (line 50) delete '50' and insert '40'.*
- 2 *In 22.1 (line 52) delete 'This list shall be reported to Federal Conference' and insert 'No adjudicator*
3 *may serve concurrently as an investigator. One adjudicator shall be designated Lead Adjudicator;*
4 *this nomination shall be individually approved by a vote of the Federal Conference. The*
5 *adjudicators list shall also be approved by a vote of the Federal Conference.'*
- 6 *After section 22.1 (line 53) insert:*
- 7 22.2 There shall be an investigators list which shall consist of 15 investigators nominated by the
8 Federal Board, of whom at least three shall be members of each State Party. No investigator
9 may serve concurrently as an adjudicator. This list shall be approved by a vote of the Federal
10 Conference.
- 11 *In 22.2 (line 54), after 'adjudicator' insert 'and investigator'.*
- 12 *In 22.2 (line 66), after 'appointment.' insert 'Confirmation of such appointment shall be obtained by*
13 *a vote of the first Federal Conference following the appointment'.*
- 14 *After 22.4 a) (line 73) insert:*
- 15 b) An investigator is a person appointed from the investigators' list to carry out an investigation
16 into a complaint.



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17 *In 22.8 (line 141), delete from 'investigating' to the end of line 144 and insert 'appointing an*
18 *investigator to investigate the case and produce a written report. The investigator will present the*
19 *case to the Disciplinary Panel on behalf of the Party. The initial adjudicator shall not be permitted*
20 *to sit on any disciplinary panel relating to the case in question'.*

21 *In 22.13 (line 209) after 'the' insert 'initial'.*

22 *In 22.13 (line 210) delete 'A' and insert 'The investigator's'.*

There will be a separate vote on lines 36-41.

Sunday 11 March

Advance notice for Sunday 11 March.

F15 Party Strategy: Ambitious for our Country, Ambitious for our Party

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

- 1 *In lines 39–40, after 'open society,' insert 'social justice including'.*

Amendment One

52 members

Mover: Callum Robertson.

Summation: Joe Otten.

- 1 *Delete D. (lines 33–35) and insert:*
- 2 D. Working with those on all sides of politics who share goals with us to achieve them.

F18 Policy motion: The NHS at 70

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

- 1 *Delete e) (line 62) and insert:*
- 2 e) The re-establishment of the NHS bursaries for nursing students and students of allied health
- 3 professions.
- 4 *In 2. (line 73) after 'mental health care' insert 'are reduced to'.*
- 5 *After 6. (line 85) insert:*
- 6 7. Work to prevent people becoming ill by reversing the Conservative Government's £531
- 7 million cuts to local councils' Public Health Services since 2015, and work with local authorities
- 8 to tackle the social determinants of health over a range of issues including diet, drinking,
- 9 exercise, education, employment, the environment and housing.

Emergency motions ballot

One of the following motions will be selected by ballot to be debated as F17 at 10.10 on Sunday 11 March.

The ballot paper, attached to the back of this Conference Daily or available from the Information Desk in the STCC, should be returned to the ballot box in the Auditorium in the STCC between 09.00 and 12.50 on Saturday 10 March.

Emergency Motion 1: Escalation of Conflict in Syria

20 members

1 Conference deeply regrets:

2 A. The on-going civil war in Syria, in which 500,000 have been people killed, and over half the
3 population internally or internationally displaced.

4 B. The failure of the international community to prevent an escalation with new belligerents
5 entering the conflict since it began seven years ago, and failure to place sufficient pressure on
6 key actors in order to facilitate a single, unified negotiated peace process.

7 Conference condemns:

8 i) The recent re-escalation of violence across Syria, in particular the indiscriminate attacks by
9 the Syrian government on its own civilian citizens blockaded in Eastern Ghouta, and the illegal
10 attack by Turkish forces on the enclave of Afrin, with the consent of the Russian Federation.

11 ii) The Syrian Government's, and their Russian allies', refusal to adhere to a UN mandated
12 ceasefire, and their continued violation of international humanitarian law.

13 Conference notes UNSC Resolution 2401 (2018) of 24th February 2018 which provides for a
14 cessation of hostilities by all belligerents, and inter alia for humanitarian access and relief during
15 an initial 30-day period.

16 Conference supports:

17 a) A new UNSC resolution being proposed with greater sanctions on belligerents that are shown
18 to be non-compliant with UNSC 2401 (2018) in the Secretary General's report of 11th March
19 2018, proposing new international monitoring.

20 b) The 30-day ceasefire agreed in UNSC Resolution 2401 (2018) being followed by an extension
21 during which time there should be unification of peace negotiations under UN auspices.

22 c) The position that the ceasefire required by UNSC 2401 (2018) should include the Turkish
23 invasion of Afrin.

24 d) Working with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security
25 Policy to give effect to these positions.

26 Conference calls for the UK government to:

27 1. Comply fully with the letter and spirit of the provisions of UNSC 2401 (2018).

28 2. Provide urgent asylum in the UK to the most critically wounded civilians in need of evacuation
29 from Eastern Ghouta.

30 3. Continue to provide financial and technical support to countries in the region directly and
31 via the European Union, in particular Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, who are hosting the vast
32 majority of Syrian refugees.

Emergency motions ballot

Applicability: Federal.

Emergency Motion 2: Fixing Rail Franchising

13 members

1 Conference notes with concern that:

- 2 i) On 5 February, the Government announced that Virgin Trains East Coast had broken its
3 financial covenant and will cease operating within months.
- 4 ii) This is the third time in 11 years that the company operating the InterCity East Coast franchise
5 has collapsed due to financial difficulties.
- 6 iii) Passengers on the Southern, Thameslink and Great Northern lines continue to face
7 disruption, with the National Audit Office in January describing the franchise as having “the
8 worst performance on the rail network”.

9 Conference believes that:

- 10 a) Railways are run as a service to passengers, not as a cash cow for the Government.
- 11 b) Virgin Trains East Coast vastly overbid for the contract, as was recognised in the commercial
12 press at the time.
- 13 c) Network Rail failed to deliver on its commitments to improve the unreliable infrastructure on
14 the East Coast Main Line.
- 15 d) The fact that parent company Stagecoach has lost £200 million is of little compensation to
16 passengers who will view the early termination of the contract as a bailout.
- 17 e) It is absurd that the Government has no legal basis to sanction Stagecoach for failing to meet
18 the terms of its contract.
- 19 f) The repeated failures of the InterCity East Coast and Thameslink, Southern and Great
20 Northern franchises reveal weaknesses in the franchising system that need to be urgently
21 addressed.

22 Conference believes that the failures at Virgin Trains East Coast and at Govia Thameslink Railway
23 rise to the level of breach of contract and calls on the Government to pass control of both
24 franchises to the Government-run ‘operator of last resort’ as an interim measure.

25 Conference calls on the Government to reform the franchising system more widely by:

- 26 1. Awarding future franchises on a rolling basis, using the quality of previous franchises a
27 company has held as part of the evaluation of future bids.
- 28 2. Banning companies that substantially breach the terms of their contract from bidding for
29 future franchises for a period of time.
- 30 3. Allowing public sector bodies to bid for franchises and supporting mutual groups involving
31 staff and passengers to make bids in the near future.
- 32 4. Giving local authorities and city regions a greater role in commissioning or operating
33 franchises in their area, for example, by giving Transport for London responsibility for London
34 suburban rail services.

Applicability: England.



Emergency motions ballot

Emergency Motion 3: Small business and public procurement

10 members

- 1 Conference notes that the recent collapse of Carillion has exposed major problems with the
2 way current public procurement practices affect small businesses. These include late payments
3 to subcontractors by major government contractors, weak protection for subcontractors when
4 those major contractors fail, and above all the reliance of government procurement on large
5 multinational firms at the expense of small- and medium-sized companies (SMEs).
- 6 Conference notes with concern the specific implications of Carillion's collapse for thousands of
7 small businesses as reported by the media:
- 8 a) Carillion's collapse has left 30,000 small firms unpaid, with creditors only expected to recover
9 0.8 to 6.6 pence of every pound; Carillion's failure therefore threatens the viability of many
10 SME subcontractors.
- 11 b) Despite both being signed up to the voluntary Prompt Payment Code and bound to
12 government regulations for public sector contractors – both of which require payment to
13 subcontractors within 30 days – Carillion's average payment time was 43 days, with some
14 firms waiting up to 120 days for payment.
- 15 c) More generally, the Government is failing to meet its target of 33% spending on SMEs, with
16 the rate falling from 27% to 24% according to the latest official figures; this is reflected in the
17 disproportionate number of public contracts awarded to Carillion.
- 18 Conference therefore calls on the Government to make the following improvements to the public
19 procurement regime, so that small businesses are better protected when large contractors fail and
20 such failures are themselves less likely to occur:
- 21 1. Introducing ring-fenced "project bank accounts" for major government projects delivered by
22 the private sector, so that subcontractors are guaranteed prompt payment and do not have to
23 worry about the main contractors' financial health.
- 24 2. Requiring major government contractors to sign up to the Prompt Payment Code, alongside
25 their existing obligations under public sector procurement regulations; both sets of rules
26 should be rigorously monitored and enforced so that small suppliers are actually paid within
27 30 days; companies that repeatedly fail to meet their prompt payment obligations should be
28 barred from future public contracts.
- 29 3. Requiring major government contractors to appoint a non-executive director responsible for
30 the supply chain. If successful at improvement payment practices this requirement should be
31 extended to all firms above a certain size.
- 32 4. Improving the transparency and accessibility of the public procurement regime for SMEs;
33 central and local government should aim to increase the number of public contracts genuinely
34 accessible to small firms, by reducing bureaucracy; raising awareness; and, where necessary,
35 breaking up large contracts into small ones.

Applicability: Federal.



Emergency motions ballot

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

| | <i>Emergency motion</i> | <i>Preference</i> |
|----------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Escalation of conflict in Syria | |
| 2 | Fixing Rail Franchising | |
| 3 | Small business and public procurement | |

Please return this ballot paper to the ballot box in the auditorium in the STCC between 09.00 and 12.50 on Saturday 10 March.

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

