

# Spring Conference

9–11 March 2018, Southport



## Conference Daily, Sunday



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Sunday 11 March and report back for Saturday 10 March. Please read in conjunction with the *Conference Agenda & Directory* and Saturday's *Conference Daily*.

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### Timetable for Sunday 11 March

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11.00–11.45	F18	Policy motion: NHS at 70	4
11.45–13.00	F19	Speech: Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats	

*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.*

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



[www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)  
or ask at the Information Desk in the STCC.

### Q&A sessions 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)**

## Liberal Democrats

30 years fighting for a fair, free and open society



# Report back for Saturday 10 March

F2	Report: Federal Conference Committee	Approved
F3	Report: Federal Policy Committee	Approved
F4	Policy motion: Local Government and Housing	Passed (Amendment One passed)
F5	Policy motion: Exit from Brexit	Passed
F7	Policy motion: <i>Every Child Empowered: Education for a Changing World</i> (Education Policy Paper)	Passed (Amendment One defeated, Amendments Two, Three & Four passed)
F8	Policy motion: <i>A Rural Future: Time to Act</i> (Rural Communities Policy Paper)	Passed
F10	Report: Federal Board	Approved
F11	Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	Approved
F12	Constitutional Amendment: General Data Protection Regulations Implementation and Risk Management	Passed
F13	Business motion: Reforming our Party's Disciplinary Processes	Referred back
F14	Constitutional amendment: Macdonald Review Implementation	Referred back

Emergency motion: Fixing Rail Franchising will be debated as item F17 at 10.10 on Sunday 11 March.

For the text of motions and amendments, please refer to the Spring 2018 Conference Agenda & Directory and Conference Daily for Saturday 10 March 2018.

## 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**



# Sunday 11 March

*Daily announcements and updates to the Agenda 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.

## **F16 Report: Parliamentary Parties**

Aide: Chris Maines.

## **F17 Emergency motion: Fixing Rail Franchising**

*13 members*

Mover: Baroness Randerson (Spokesperson on Transport).

Summation: Christine Jardine MP.

- 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 disruption,  
7 with the National Audit Office in January describing the franchise as having “the worst  
8 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.



# Sunday 11 March

- 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.*

## Background Briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on rail franchising in light of the recent announcement that Virgin Trains East Coast will cease operating. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*. The last full policy paper on rail transport was policy paper 85, *Fast Track Britain* (2008).

## F18 Policy motion: The NHS at 70

*The Federal Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendments 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.

*There will be a separate vote on 1. (lines 46–48) and 8. (lines 89–93).*

## Background Briefing

This motion updates policy on health and social care and makes new policy on community pharmacies and the use of health data. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future* and policy motion *The Crisis in Health and Social Care* (2017).





# Conference Appeal Southport 2018

Your gift will help the Party to build on its capacity for digital campaigning, and so work towards an Exit from Brexit. Most importantly, your gift will be helping to protect the fundamental values that we all believe in.

I would like to donate (cash/cheque):

£1000	<input type="checkbox"/>	£100	<input type="checkbox"/>	£25	<input type="checkbox"/>
£500	<input type="checkbox"/>	£75	<input type="checkbox"/>	£10	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**If you are making a donation of more than £500 or more you must fill in your name and address details or we will not be able to accept your donation (Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000). Thank you.**

### Leaving a Legacy

Our party relies on gifts in wills – we couldn't do as much as we do without them. If you are interested in finding out more about this tax-efficient way of funding our campaigning, please tick this box. We treat all information in the strictest confidence, and you don't need to tell us if you have left a gift in your will.

Please tick the box if you would like more information. Thank you for your support!

### Liberty Network

The Liberty Network is a group for our most passionate supporters. It lies at the heart of the Party and our varied events programme ensures there is plenty of opportunity to network with like-minded supporters and senior Party figures.

Please tick the box if you would like more information.