

# Spring Conference

York 11th–13th March 2016



“

Against the politics of division, our message of  
**hope & optimism**  
is needed now more than ever

Tim Farron

”



Liberal Democrats

**IN**

**#IN**together

*Join the fight now!*

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

*Pick up the International EU Agenda for more information*

Welcome to the Agenda & Directory for the Liberal Democrat spring 2016 federal conference.

If you have any questions whilst at conference please ask a conference steward or go to the Information Desk in York Barbican.

## Conference venue

York Barbican  
Paragon Street  
York YO10 4NT

The conference venue will open at 16.30 on Friday 11th March.

## Conference hotel

Novotel York Centre  
Fishergate  
York YO10 4FD

## Official fringe venue

Hilton York  
1 Tower St  
York YO1 9WD

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



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

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Front cover – you told us why you're a LibDem – from photo wall, autumn 2015 conference.





# Civic Drinks Reception



Members are invited to join Councillor Sonja Crisp, The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of York, and Councillor Keith Aspden, Deputy Leader of City of York Council (Lib Dem), for welcome drinks before the Conference Rally.

**Friday 11th March, 17.15–18.00, York Barbican**



# Conference Rally

*IN together*

With  
Catherine Bearder,  
Tim Farron  
and special guests



**Friday 11th March 2016, 18.30 – 19.30. York Barbican, Auditorium**



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# Conference App

Available early March

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](http://www.libdemconference.org.uk)



# Liberal, compassionate, optimistic - the Britain we will fight for

by Tim Farron MP

Friends, I want to welcome you to York and to our Spring Conference.

This year we gather at conference with a renewed purpose and a spring in our step.

Since last May we have had a string of by-election results throughout the country and we have seen some real progress from Loch Ness to Torbay. Our work and action is paying off.

The community politics that I, and so many of you, espouse is starting to show dividends at the ballot box and we now can start delivering for those communities.

That being said we are all aware of the coming challenges – but there are opportunities too.

The Tories are rampant but divided.

They are about to pour salt into the sore of Europe, a wound first laid bare back in 1992 with the Maastricht Treaty, but in the meantime they are unpicking progressive achievements of the Coalition.

My message to this conference is clear – our party will challenge them wherever their decisions undermine people and their ability to get on with their lives.

We need to lay out a positive case. A clear, unashamed Liberal vision and programme for Britain. And we will be a constructive, credible and effective opposition. Because, frankly, without us there is no real national opposition.

Labour cannot and will not do that.

Under Jeremy Corbyn, Labour have taken themselves off the pitch. He is more interested in securing his power in the Labour Party rather than trying to win the power to change Britain.

Friends, I do not feel the same. I am committed to delivering Liberal outcomes through any means I can



and that means winning power across local government, but in national government too.

My vision for our country is whether you are a teacher, a policeman or someone planning their own business, government and local government should help you up, not hold you back. An active, enabling state that supports you and your endeavours.

A government that talks you up, not down and doesn't pick fights with you, or try and turn neighbours against each other simply for headlines.

Britain is greatest when we stand together and look outwards. In the face of the politics of division where other parties try to set one community against another, our message of hope and optimism is needed more than ever.

Britain needs an alternative to this Government.

And the path to that alternative is clear. The Conservatives majority is tiny. Winning just seven seats from them will bring an end to this Government. Our first test of this is in May.

We need to take the fight to them in May like never before - door by door, street by street, town by town.

And we must win those fights and regain power in council halls across the country so we can deliver for our communities.

And that applies to the international stage too.

We are unashamedly pro-European and the referendum on Britain's future in Europe must be won. We will proudly campaign for Britain to continue to play our role in leading in Europe and the world.

This May we can show Britain there is a Liberal, compassionate, optimistic alternative to this Government.

This weekend will be about this, and much more. I hope you enjoy conference and let us, together, lay out the Liberal vision for Britain we will fight for.

### **Tim Farron is MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale and Leader of the Liberal Democrats**

#### **Meet the Party Bodies**

Come and meet the Party Bodies, get to know them better and find out about the work they do. In addition to the party bodies exhibiting for the whole weekend, you can come and meet the following on Friday 11th March from 17.00–21.00 in the Lendal Room at the York Barbican:

- Your Liberal Britain
- Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary
- Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists
- Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association
- Liberal Reform
- Action for Land Taxation & Economic Reform
- Liberal Democrat History Group
- The Liberal Democrat Disability Association
- The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors
- Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine

# The Federal Conference Committee



Andrew Wiseman,  
Chair



Zoë O'Connell,  
Vice Chair



Geoff Payne,  
Vice Chair,  
English rep



Jon Ball



Gareth Epps



Joanne Foster,  
Welsh rep



Sarah Gidley



James Gurling,  
FE rep



Jeremy Hargreaves,  
FPC rep



Linda Jack,  
FPC rep



Jenni Lang,  
Scottish rep



Liz Lynne



Chris Maines



Justine  
McGuinness



Pauline Pearce



Mary Reid



Shas Sheehan



Paul Tilsley



Mike Ross,  
Chief Steward,  
co-opted

Ex officio:

Tom Brake MP, Chief Whip.

Baroness Sal Brinton, Party President.

Tim Gordon, Chief Executive (non-voting).

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

Friday	11th March	17.00–18.00
Saturday	12th March	09.00–10.30
	and	14.00–16.00

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

# YORK BARBICAN

## Liberal Democrat Spring Conference

*Great value food, available throughout the entire event.*

### Breakfast Menu

Served All Day

**Cumberland Sausage or Streaky**

Bacon £2.50

In a toasted bun

Add Fried Egg 50p

**Scrambled Eggs (v) £3.50**

On toasted bread

With smoked salmon £5.80

With bacon £4.80

**Berry Fruit Salad with yogurt £2.80 (v)**

Organic English yogurt berries &

honey

### Lunch Menu

**Beetroot Salad (v) £3.50**

Mixed with walnuts & feta cheese in a balsamic vinegar dressing

**Tuna Salad £3.90**

Light mayo, celery, cucumber & baby leaf lettuce

**Chicken Caesar Salad £4.80**

Grilled chicken, lettuce, parmesan cheese, croutons all tossed in a classic Caesar sauce.

**Avocado, bacon & spinach salad £5.80**

Streaky bacon, avocado, baby spinach & baby leaf lettuce

**Selection of Cold Sandwiches served on white or wholemeal bread**

(Served with a side salad or chips)

Ham Salad £3.90

Cheese & Pickle (v) £3.90

Tuna Mayonnaise & Cucumber £3.90

Egg Mayonnaise (v) £3.90

Smoked Salmon & Cream Cheese £4.90

Bacon & Avocado £4.90

**Salt & Pepper Oven Baked Jacket Potato**

(Served with a side salad)

Cheese Savoury (v) £4.90

Baked Beans & Cheese (v) £4.90

Prawn Mayonnaise £4.90

Tuna Mayonnaise £4.90

Chicken & Bacon £5.00

Chicken Salad £5.00

**Soup of the Day £2.90**

Served with a crispy bread roll

### Sides

French Fries £2.00

Sweet Potato Fries £3.00

Mixed Salad £2.50

Coleslaw £1.50

**Deserts and refreshments will also be available.**

# Conference information

If you have any questions on-site, please ask a steward or go to the Information Desk located in the main foyer of York Barbican.

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

Access to York Barbican is only possible with a valid conference pass.

## Access Fund

We have established a Conference Access Fund to improve accessibility for members attending conference. The fund is made up of donations from party members.

Any contributions made by party members are ring-fenced for this purpose only and, where applicable, any unused donations will be carried over to the next conference.

For details please see:

[www.libdems.org.uk/access-fund](http://www.libdems.org.uk/access-fund)

## Accommodation

Accommodation can be booked via our local partner, Visit York, on 01904 550080.

## Banking facilities

There is no ATM available at this venue or in the immediate vicinity.

## Cloakroom

York Barbican does not have a cloakroom; however rails will be available for attendees to leave coats at their own risk. Do not leave bags unattended at any point within the venue.

Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into York Barbican.

## Conference Daily

Conference Daily includes last-minute changes to the order of business; collect your copy on Saturday and Sunday morning from the Information Desk or view it online at:

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

## Disabled access

If you need assistance at the venue please contact the Information Desk where our dedicated steward will be



## Conference information

on hand to help. If you need assistance or information in advance, please contact the Conference Office:

[conferences@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferences@libdems.org.uk)

### Auditorium facilities

- A wheelchair ramp at the right of the stage; the chair of the session will ensure wheelchair users are called in plenty of time to access the stage.
- An induction loop system, which can be linked to hearing aids.
- Sign language interpretation during all auditorium sessions – a number of seats are reserved at the front of the auditorium to the left of the stage.
- Reserved seats at the front of the auditorium for those who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual impairment.

### Mobility aids

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

To request the use of an electric scooter, tick the appropriate box when registering or contact the Information Desk at conference. Or if you have registered already please email:

[conferences@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferences@libdems.org.uk)

### Distribution of literature

Distribution of literature is not allowed inside or directly outside York Barbican.

Excessive distribution of promotional literature is not in line with the party's environmental policies. Any persons attempting to bring a large number of fliers into the conference centre may be prohibited from entering and a dilapidation charge will be levied against any organisation or individual responsible for 'fly-posting'.

### FCC helpdesk

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

Friday	11th March	17.00–18.00
Saturday	12th March	09.00–10.30 and 14.00–16.00

### FE helpdesk

The FE helpdesk is situated by the Information Desk. Members of the Federal Executive will be available to have strategic conversations with members at the following times:

Saturday	12th March	10.30–12.30 and 14.00–16.00
Sunday	13th March	10.30–12.30

### First Aid

In the event of needing First Aid, please speak to a conference steward or go to the Information Desk. The

## Conference information

stewards will arrange for First Aiders to attend and/or request a paramedic.

### Information Desk

The Information Desk is located in the main foyer of York Barbican and is open as follows:

Friday	11th March	16.30–18.30
Saturday	12th March	08.30–18.30
Sunday	13th March	08.30–13.30

Contact: 01904 310005.

[conferenceinformation@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferenceinformation@libdems.org.uk)

### Left luggage

On Sunday 13th March your hotel should be able to store your luggage for you after checkout. Alternatively, you will be able to leave your luggage at the Novotel where a charge of £1 per item will apply.

### Prayer and meditation room

Unfortunately, due to venue restrictions, we are unable to provide a



prayer and meditation room at this event. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

### Registration on-site

On-site registration is located in the Box Office of York Barbican and is open at the following times:

Friday	11th March	16.30–18.30
Saturday	12th March	08.30–17.30

At busy times you may experience queues at on-site registration and we strongly advise all those wishing to attend conference to pre-register via:

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

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

### Security and safety

Access to York Barbican is possible only with a valid, conference pass worn with the official lanyard. Conference photo passes must be worn visibly at all times within the secure zone. Anyone found in the secure area without a valid pass will be escorted from the building.

Random bag searches will take place at the entry point to York Barbican. Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the secure zone. Any bag left unattended

## Conference information

will be brought to the attention of the police and may be removed and/or destroyed.

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

## Transport and travel

York Barbican is 20 minutes walk from York train station or a short taxi ride.

## Bus Tours offer

York City Sightseeing Hop-On Hop-Off bus are offering 50% off tour prices. Present your conference pass to the driver and enjoy 24 hours of unlimited use for £6 over conference weekend.

Details of route and timings:

[www.city-sightseeing.com/tours/united-kingdom/york.htm](http://www.city-sightseeing.com/tours/united-kingdom/york.htm)

## Q&A sessions

### Saturday 12th March:

11.30–12.15 Foreign Affairs  
12.30–13.15 DEFRA & DECC

### Sunday 13th March:

10.00–11.00 Health  
All in York Barbican, Lendal Room  
See page 36 for details.

## Taxis

Streamline Taxis are offering an exclusive 10% discount off all city taxi journeys. Present your photo pass to the driver at the start of your journey to claim your discount.

## Parking

The nearest car park is Q park on Kent Street (YO10 4AH), just behind York Barbican.

Q Park has 5 dedicated disabled parking spaces. Please note, these are not blue badge parking – for information on blue badge parking in York visit:

<http://bit.ly/1nMYIZu>



## Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists

**Liberal Democrats** “We will promote scientific research and innovation and will harness technological change to human advantage.”  
—Preamble to the Liberal Democrat constitution

**Founded over 20 years ago**, Aldes is the group for party members to debate, learn and campaign on policy matters in science, technology, engineering and medicine.

We welcome members whether they have studied STEM subjects at University or college; work in the science, engineering, technology or medical sector; or simply have an interest in science, engineering or evidence-based policy.

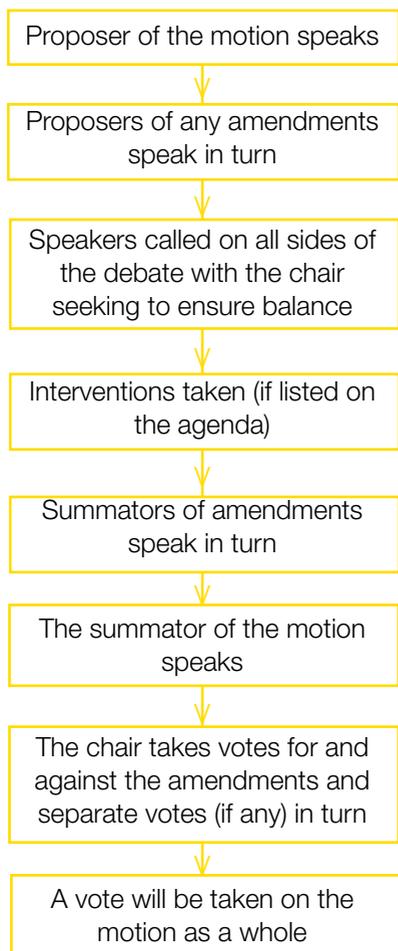
[@AldesLibDems](https://twitter.com/AldesLibDems)

**Join online at [aldes.org.uk](http://aldes.org.uk)**

## Debates and votes at conference

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

### The structure of debate on policy and business motions:



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

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

**Voting:** decisions on most motions and on all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting (2/3 majority for constitutional amendments). To cast their votes, voting members must be seated on the ground floor of the auditorium and show their voting badge.

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

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

# Speaking and voting in conference debates

## Eligibility to speak and vote

All party members are entitled to speak and vote in conference debates, providing they are:

- attending conference as a party member (and not eg an exhibitor or observer); and
  - registered for the entirety of conference, not as a day visitor.
- Party members fulfilling these criteria are known as ‘voting members’.

The Federal Conference Committee may also give permission for other persons to speak (but not vote) in conference debates.

## Length of speeches

The length of speeches is shown against each motion in the Agenda.

There are three lights on the speaker’s rostrum and visible either side of the stage. The green light is switched on at the beginning of the speech. The amber light is switched on 60 seconds before the end of the allowed time (20 seconds before the end of an intervention). The red light is switched on when all the time is used up, and the speaker must stop immediately.

## Applying to speak

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

auditorium, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk.

## Completing a speaker’s card

When completing a speaker’s card, remember:

### 1 Submit your card well in advance.

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

### 2 Fill in your card completely.

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

### 3 Make sure it’s readable!

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

## Interventions

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

# Other conference sessions

## Emergency motions and topical issue discussions

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

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

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

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

## Leader's question & answer session

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

Questions may be submitted using the online form at [libdems.org.uk/conference\\_submissions](http://libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions):

- by 17.00, Thursday 10th March.

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

- by 12.40, Saturday 12th March.

## Reports

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

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

Deadlines for questions to reports:

- Federal Committees – 13.00, Tuesday 8th March.
- Parliamentary Parties – 17.00, Thursday 10th March.

Questions may be submitted using the online form at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_submissions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions)

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

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

# Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals

## Amendments and emergency motions

Amendments and emergency motions must be:

- signed by 10 party members; **OR**
- submitted by one or more of: a local party, state party, regional party in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisation or Federal Party Committee.

Amendments and emergency motions must be submitted by 13.00, Tuesday 8th March.

Submitters should include:

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

## Topical issues

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any party member:

- by 13.00, Tuesday 8th March.

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

## Drafting advice

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

- by 13.00, Tuesday 23rd February.

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

- using the online form at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_submissions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions)
- **or** by post to Policy Unit, 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE.

## Appeals

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

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

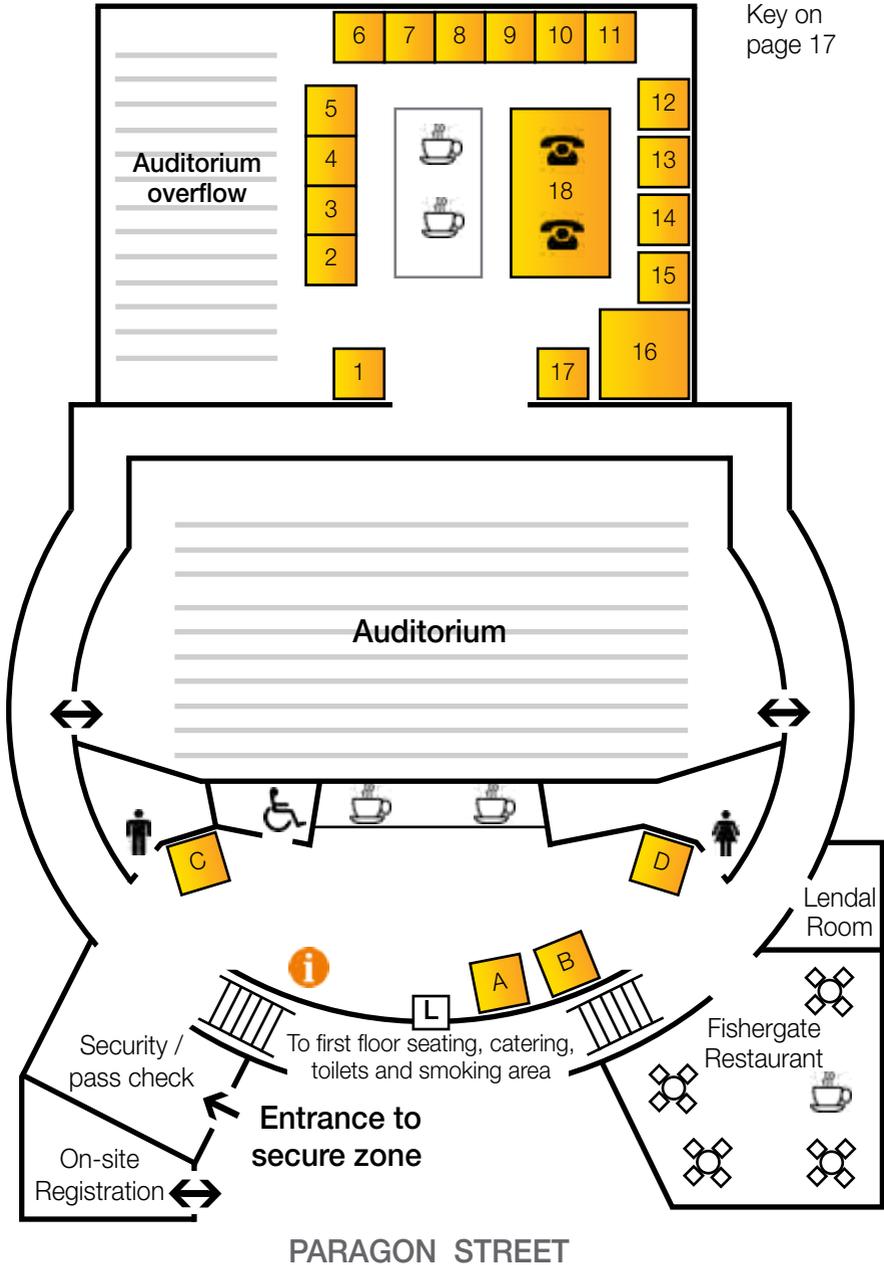
and:

- be submitted by 09.00, Thursday 10th March,
- sent to [appeals@libdems.org.uk](mailto:appeals@libdems.org.uk)

# Conference venue

## York Barbican

Information



# The exhibition

## Key to venue plan

-  Information desk
-  Female toilet
-  Male toilet
-  Disabled toilet
-  Catering
-  Phone bank
-  Seating area
-  Stairs
-  Lift
-  Exhibition stand – key to stand numbers on right.

The exhibition will be open at the following times:

Friday	11th March	16.30–18.15
Saturday	12th March	09.00–18.00
Sunday	13th March	09.00–12.00

## Exhibitors listed by stand number

- A Visit York
- B Visit Brighton
- C #INtogether EU referendum campaign
- D Leave.EU
- 1 Social Liberal Forum
- 2 & 3 ALDC – Liberal Democrat Campaigners & Councillors and LGA Liberal Democrats
- 4 Green Liberal Democrats
- 5 Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform
- 6 Liberal Democrat History Group
- 7 Liberal Democrat Education Association
- 8 Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats
- 9 Liberal Democrat Christian Forum
- 10 Prater Raines' Foci2 Websites
- 11 RISO UK Ltd / Midshire Business Systems
- 12 Liberal Youth
- 13 Liberator
- 14 EMLD
- 15 Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine
- 16 Liberal Democrat Image
- 17 PCA
- 18 Connect

[www.aldc.org](http://www.aldc.org)



Liberal Democrat  
CAMPAIGNERS & COUNCILLORS

# YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

- Templates
- Advice

- Training
- Support

Everything you need to campaign in your community

aldc.org/join

# Directory of exhibitors

## #INtogether EU referendum campaign



Come along for advice, guidance and literature straight from the heart of the EU referendum campaign.

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

C



## ALDC – Liberal Democrat Campaigners & Councillors and LGA Liberal Democrats

ALDC and LGA Lib Dems provide advice, support and resources for local campaigners and councillors. Get in touch and join ALDC for just £3.41 a month here.

[www.aldc.org](http://www.aldc.org)

[www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk](http://www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk)

2 & 3

## Connect

Visit the Connect stand for practical demonstrations on using our campaign database. You'll receive assistance from Team 2016 volunteers, who are in York this March to assist activists with using phone canvassing effectively.

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## EMLD

Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats (EMLD) exist to promote race equality in the party and work for increased Black Asian and Minority Ethnic political representation at all levels.

[www.facebook.com/groups/EMLibDems](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EMLibDems)  
[twitter.com/EMLibDems](https://twitter.com/EMLibDems) [emld@email.com](mailto:emld@email.com)  
<http://emlibdems.org.uk/>

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## Green Liberal Democrats

GLD are one of the Liberal Democrats largest membership organisations. Our stand focuses on the *Keep it in the Ground* campaign, with a focus on the issue of Fracking.

[greenlibdems.org.uk](http://greenlibdems.org.uk)

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## Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats



For Liberal Democrats who believe that the state should not discriminate on the grounds of religion or belief. Recent campaigns include caste discrimination, humanist weddings and religious discrimination in schools.

[www.hslid.org.uk](http://www.hslid.org.uk)

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## Leave.EU



Leave.EU is a non-partisan and independent campaign that aims to provide the public with the facts surrounding the upcoming referendum. We believe a Britain in the know will vote to 'Leave'.

[www.Leave.eu](http://www.Leave.eu)

D



## Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

We are a Christian voice in the Party and a voice of liberal democracy among Christians. We support Christians of all backgrounds to engage positively and constructively in politics.

[www.ldcf.org](http://www.ldcf.org)

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# Directory of exhibitors

## Liberal Democrat Education Association



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

[www.ldea.co.uk](http://www.ldea.co.uk)

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## Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine



The Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine exist to fight for the rights of the Palestinian People through the medium of the Liberal Democrat Party.

[www.ldfp.eu](http://www.ldfp.eu)

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## Liberal Democrat History Group



The past illuminates the present. Subscribe to the *Journal of Liberal History*. Buy our party history publications – including *British Liberal Leaders* and *Liberalism: the ideas that built the Liberal Democrats*.

[www.liberalhistory.org.uk](http://www.liberalhistory.org.uk)

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## Liberal Democrat Image



Join us at the Liberal Democrat Image stand in the exhibition and find election materials for your campaign. Order online at [www.libdemimage.co.uk](http://www.libdemimage.co.uk) and find us on facebook.

[www.libdemimage.co.uk](http://www.libdemimage.co.uk)

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## Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform



The home for Lib Dems who support a fairer and more effective voting system, working to ensure the party gets the arguments and the politics right, to make reform happen.

[lde.org](http://lde.org)

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## Liberal Youth



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

[www.liberalyouth.org](http://www.liberalyouth.org)

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## Liberator

Read the latest from the Party's leading thinkers. As ever *RB* shines light on the dark corners of the Party.

[www.liberator.org.uk](http://www.liberator.org.uk)

13

## PCA



Run by candidates for candidates, the PCA provides help for Lib Dems who want to run for election to parliament. We know what it's like because we've done it ourselves!

[www.libdempca.org.uk](http://www.libdempca.org.uk)

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# Directory of exhibitors



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[www.riso.co.uk](http://www.riso.co.uk)

11



## Social Liberal Forum

Campaigning for the adoption of policy – by Liberal Democrats and the government – that seeks to promote social justice and actively narrows gaps in power and opportunity between rich and poor.

[www.socialliberal.net](http://www.socialliberal.net)

1

## Bus tours offer

York City Sightseeing Hop On Hop Off bus tours are offering conference-goers 50% off their tour prices.

Present your conference photo pass to the driver for 24 hours unlimited use for just £6 over the conference weekend.

Information from the literature points or

[www.city-sightseeing.com/tours/united-kingdom/york.htm](http://www.city-sightseeing.com/tours/united-kingdom/york.htm)



## VisitBrighton

We look forward to welcoming you back to our city in September. Come and visit us to book your hotel accommodation and find out all that Brighton has to offer.

[www.visitbrighton.com](http://www.visitbrighton.com)

B



## Visit York

A warm welcome to York! 2016 is an extra special year for us with lots of exciting events happening in the city. For more information visit us on stand A.

[www.visitryork.org](http://www.visitryork.org)

A



## Reclaiming Liberal Economics: a new strategy for an independent party

Friday, 11 March, 8:15-9:30pm  
Novotel Meeting Room 1+2

### Speakers

**Gordon Lishman**

**Dr Prateek Buch**

**Martin Wheatcroft**

**Chair: Sarah Green**

Co-hosted with Social Liberal Forum

# Conference sponsors



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### Conference Daily

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[libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

Exhibition

# York Welcomes the Liberal Democrats Spring Conference

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THE HILTON YORK MEETINGS & EVENTS



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## Novotel York Centre

Fishergate, Fewster Way, York, YO10 4FD

Tel: 01904 611660 – Fax: 01904 610925 – Email: [h0949-sb@accor.com](mailto:h0949-sb@accor.com)



Novotel York is a five minute walk from the Barbican where the main event is being held so an ideal place to meet for refreshments.

### Restaurant Opening Times

Breakfast: 6.30am-10.00am

Lunch: 12.30pm-2.00pm

**Special Lunch offer - 3 course hot & cold buffet £13.00 per person**

Dinner: 6.00pm-10.00pm

### Bar

Celebrate the conference in style with a 15% discount in draft beer and house wine 7.30pm – 8.30pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> March

### Grab and Go

Tea or coffee takeaway £1.80

Tea, coffee & choice of pastry £2.50

Crispy bacon baps £3.50

Sandwich & crisps £5.00

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# Fringe guide

## Fringe meeting venues

All official fringe meetings take place in the Novotel or Hilton Hotel; hotel locations are shown on the map on the inside back cover.

## Access to fringe meetings

All fringe events listed in the official venues are wheelchair-accessible. For fringe meetings booked outside these venues, the meeting organisers have confirmed that the rooms are wheelchair-accessible. If you experience access difficulties, please let the Information Desk know or make a comment on your online feedback.

## Key to fringe listings



Refreshments provided



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By invitation only



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Remember, for more information about Brighton, visit: [www.visitbrighton.com](http://www.visitbrighton.com)

# Fringe Friday 11th March

## Fringe Friday afternoon 14.30–18.00

### ONEPOST

*Discover how ONEPOST can save you money on your postal mailings*  
Over afternoon coffee and biscuits, find out how ONEPOST work with the Liberal Democrats to provide high quality, cost effective production and postal solutions.

**Note: this event starts at 14.30 and ends at 16.30**

**Novotel, Riverside Room**



### Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

*Evensong at York Minster*  
Kick conference off with a trip to choral evensong at York Minster with fellow conference attendees. A choir-led service in the beautiful surrounds of the Minster.

**Note: this event starts at 17.15 and ends at 18.00**

**York Minster, Church House, York, YO1 7JN**

## Fringe Friday early evening 18.30–19.30

### Conference Rally

*IN together*

With  
Catherine Bearder  
Tim Farron  
and special guests

**York Barbican, Auditorium**



## Fringe Friday mid evening 20.15–21.30

### LGA Liberal Democrat Group, ALDC and York Lib Dems

*Lessons from York – and how to learn along the way*

Hear how the Lib Dem team in York merged local parties, adopted a targeting strategy and plan to keep campaigning whilst in administration in the City. Chair: Cllr Howard Sykes. Speakers include Cllr Keith Aspden, Deputy Leader, City of York.  
**Novotel, Meeting Room 3**



### Social Liberal Forum & ALTER

*Reclaiming Liberal Economics: a new strategy for an independent party*

Speakers: Gordon Lishman, Acting Chair, SLF; Lord John Shipley, Lords spokesperson on Communities and Decentralisation; Dr Prateek Buch, author of SLF 'Plan C for Economic Renewal'.  
Chair: Sarah Green, Head of Comms, SLF.  
**Novotel, Meeting Room 1+2**

## Fringe Friday mid evening 20.15–21.30

### Liberal Democrat History Group

*The ideas that built the Liberal Democrats*  
What do Liberal Democrats believe? And what stems from our historical legacy? Against the background of the 'Agenda 2020' review of values and beliefs, discuss the party's ideological inheritance with David Boyle, Teena Lashmore and Nick Thornsbey. Chair: David Howarth.  
**Novotel, Meeting Room 4**

### Liberal Democrat Education Association

*AGM with John Pugh MP, followed by discussion on 'Education & Europe'*  
Join Commons Education spokesman John Pugh MP for an update on topical educational issues, following a brief AGM. Then discuss the benefits of the EU for education with Antony Hook, 2014 MEP candidate and EU Editor of Lib Dem Voice.  
**Novotel, Meeting Room 5**



## Fringe Friday late evening 22.00–23.30

### Liberal Youth

*Liberal Youth Reception*  
A reception welcoming all Liberal Youth members to Spring Conference.  
**Novotel, Riverside Room**



### Conference Quiz

The Quiz is back after a roaring debut in Bournemouth. It's sure to be a good night so come along and flex some cerebral muscle. Spaces are limited and allocated on a first-come first-served basis!  
**Note: this event starts at 22.15**  
**Novotel, Fishergate Suite**

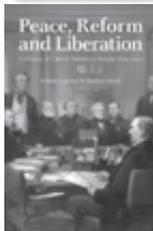
### Liberal Democrat History Group

*'Santayana once said that those who won't learn their history are condemned to repeat it. The Lib Dem History Group exists to make sure that we can so we don't.'*  
**Paddy Ashdown**

#### The Liberal Democrat History Group:

- Promotes the discussion and research of topics relating to the histories of the Liberal Democrats and its predecessor parties, the Liberal Party and the SDP, and of Liberalism
- Publishes the quarterly *Journal of Liberal History*
- Organises regular discussion meetings and seminars
- Publishes books and booklets on Liberal history, including *Peace, Reform and Liberation: A history of Liberal politics in Britain, 1679–2011* – the best single-volume history of the party available
- Provides research resources at our website, [www.liberalhistory.org.uk](http://www.liberalhistory.org.uk)

*The only organisation for the study of Liberal Democrat, Liberal and SDP history*



### Liberal Reform Sharing Economy Fringe Event

**Saturday 12th March, 6.15-7.15pm**  
**Hilton - Bootham Room**

#### PROGRESS THROUGH DISRUPTION: THE LIBERAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE SHARING ECONOMY

The rise of the so-called 'sharing economy' has been fast, with technology disrupting industries as varied as transport, banking and hotels.

#### Is such disruption to be welcomed or treated with caution?

We debate with a panel of economists and policy-makers.

**You are also invited to join Liberal Reform for drinks after this event**

# Fringe Saturday 12th March

## Fringe Saturday breakfast 08.00–09.00

### Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

*Housing the homeless: enterprising solutions beyond just bricks and mortar*  
Thousands sleep rough in the UK every year. Do solutions lie in building or is there more to it? Discuss over breakfast with Baroness Bakewell (housing spokesperson), founder of Green Pastures (national social enterprise working to tackle homelessness) and more.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 1+2**



### Q&A sessions

#### Saturday 12th March:

11.30–12.15 Foreign Affairs  
12.30–13.15 DEFRA & DECC

#### Sunday 13th March:

10.00–11.00 Health  
All in York Barbican, Lendal Room  
See page 36 for details.

## Fringe Saturday lunchtime 13.00–14.00

### LGA Liberal Democrat Group and ALDC

*Standing up and campaigning for Private Renters*

Do private renters get a fair deal? And what can Liberal Democrats do to ensure they do? Chair: Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson, LGA Lib Dem Group. Speakers Betsy Dillner, Director, Generation Rent (tbc); Greg Mulholland MP (tbc).

**Novotel, Meeting room 1+2**



### Liberal Democrat Women

*2020 Vision: Equality in the Parliamentary Party*

The complete lack of women in the Parliamentary Party must be addressed. Come and join our campaign for change, and discuss what we can do to make it happen. Open to everyone wanting us to be a more representative party.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 4**



### Social Liberal Forum and Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary

*Safe at Last? Syrian Refugees in the UK*  
Zrinka Bralo (Executive Director, Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum) and Baroness Sally Hamwee (Home Affairs spokesperson in the House of Lords). Chair: Mark Blackburn (Acting Director, SLF).

**Novotel, Meeting room 3**

### Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats

*Can we end religious discrimination by the state?*

We can't end prejudice, but can we at least ensure that the state treats people equally, whatever their religion or belief may be? How does the state discriminate, and why? Panel discussion, chaired by Gordon Lishman. Speakers to be announced.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 5**



Like us on [Facebook.com/libdems](https://www.facebook.com/libdems)

**Rights-Liberties-Justice (Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association)**

*International Human Rights and Human Rights Defenders*

Rights-Liberties-Justice are having two meetings on human rights. This meeting concentrates on the international aspects and the role of 'human rights defenders'. Speakers will include Academics, International human rights defenders and party representatives. Chair: Graham Colley. Updates at [http://bit.ly/RLJ\\_Updates](http://bit.ly/RLJ_Updates)

**Novotel, Meeting Room 6**



**Pro PR Pact**

*Calling for a Pro Proportional Representation Electoral Pact; our 2020 Vision!*

A presentation and discussion about how an electoral pact of the opposition parties, campaigning together on the single policy of 'Bring in proportional representation and then immediately call a re-election', would win in 2020 and usher in radical electoral reform.

**Hilton, Micklegate Room**

**Social Democrat Group**

*Where now for the centre-left?*

Both the Liberal Democrats and moderate Labour had a terrible 2015. What next? Speakers to be announced. Organised by the Social Democrat Group. A Lib Dem group to engage with social democrats both inside and outside the party.

[www.facebook.com/SocialDemocratGroup](http://www.facebook.com/SocialDemocratGroup)

**Hilton, Library Suite**

**Green Liberal Democrats**

*The true cost of Fracking – the real health, wealth and political costs.*

What does the Tory 'dash for fracking' really mean for communities? Should we simply 'Keep it in the Ground'? Lynne Featherstone (GLD Vice-President) leads the discussion on the realities of fracking with contributions from those with firsthand and local experience.

**Hilton, Walmgate Room**



**Brussels and Europe Liberal Democrats (BELD)**

*EU referendum and immigration: turning the tide of opinion*

Immigration will be a decisive issue in the EU referendum. How can Liberal Democrats and Remain campaign develop a positive message that resonates with voters? Catherine Bearder, Sunder Katwala (British Future), Baroness Sarah Ludford, Alberto Nardelli (*Guardian*), George Cunningham (BELD Chair).

**Hilton, Minster Suite**



**#strongerIN Lib Dem EU Referendum Campaign**

*EU referendum strategy briefing*

An overview of key campaign objectives, messaging, strategy and planning.

**Hilton, Bootham Room**

**Saturday 12th March  
12.45–14.15**

Consultative Session:  
**Agenda 2020 – Your Liberal Britain**

What is the Liberal Democrats' vision for the future of Britain?

**York Barbican, Auditorium**  
*See page 45 for details*

# Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15–19.15

## Rights-Liberties-Justice (Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association)

*Mega-Meeting 'The Human Rights Act and the British Bill of Human Rights'*

The long-anticipated consultation was delayed, but it is coming. The aim – to scrap the Human Rights Act. Rights-Liberties-Justice are organising a mega meeting. Alistair Carmichael MP and Sir Simon Hughes (tbc) will lead the debate. For updates: [http://bit.ly/RLJ\\_Updates](http://bit.ly/RLJ_Updates)

**Novotel, Meeting room 4**

## Social Liberal Forum

*Vince Cable in Conversation with Richard Murphy: Tackling the Tax Dodgers*

Panellists: Sir Vince Cable (former Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills); Richard Murphy (Professor of Practice in International Political Economy, City University, and author of *'The Joy of Tax'*). Chair: Cllr Helen Flynn (SLF Council).

**Novotel, Meeting Room 1+2**

## Liberal Reform

*Progress through disruption: the liberal implications of the sharing economy*

The rise of the so-called 'sharing economy' has been fast, with technology disrupting industries as varied as transport, banking and hotels. Is such disruption to be welcomed or treated with caution? We debate with a panel of economists and policy-makers.

**Hilton, Bootham Room**

## Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine

*Palestinian Refugees, their Right of Return – The Challenge for Middle East?*

Speakers: Chair- Jonathan Fryer; A Representative of UN Relief & Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees; Baroness Kishwer Falkner. Should the Liberal Democrats stand up to the challenge

of finding a pathway for the stranded Palestinian Refugees back in to Palestine?  
**Hilton, Micklegate Room**



## Association of Lib Dem Engineers and Scientists (Aldes)

Fighting the floods: a look at the evidence Winter 2015 saw damage and disruption due to flooding across the country.

The government has been criticised for inaction, but what action is needed? Hear from experts in politics, research and on the front line. Dan Rogerson has been invited.

**Hilton, Walmgate Room**



## International Office

*Securing Britain's Future in Europe: International Perspectives on Winning Referendum Campaigns*

With the EU referendum fast approaching, join the International Office for a discussion on the dos and don'ts of referendum campaigning, with speakers including key figures from Ireland's 'Yes Equality' campaign and from liberal parties experienced in running referendum campaigns.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 3**

## Electoral Reform Society

*Paths to Democratic Renewal: a Constitutional Convention*

During this panel discussion Senior Liberal Democrats will address: What is a Constitutional Convention? Who would it involve? What would it discuss? How could it strengthen the UK's democratic settlement? The findings of our Citizens' Assembly pilots will be presented.

**Novotel, Riverside Room**

## Fringe Saturday mid evening 19.45–21.00

### Liberal Democrats for Peace & Security

*Syria – not in my name?*

What, if any, was the political objective and the military plan for bombing Syria?

What should we have done? Paul

Reynolds, Defence and Middle East expert.

Jonathan Fryer, writer, broadcaster, lifelong knowledge of the Arab world.

**Hilton, Walmgate Room**

### Liberal Youth

*Engaging young people in the EU referendum campaign*

How can those campaigning to keep Britain in Europe best engage young

people and communicate the issues at

stake? Catherine Bearder; Iain Gill (Director, LD Referendum Campaign); Michael Sani

(BitetheBallot); Lucy Thomas (Deputy Director, StrongerIn). Chair Laura Shields.

**Hilton, Bootham Room**

## Fringe Saturday late evening 22.00–02.00

### Glee Club

Join us for the ultimate end-of conference celebration!

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

**Novotel, Fishergate Suite**

Benenden welcomes the Liberal Democrats Conference to York



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We are a mutual community producing a range of different products that share the same powerful ethos. Our vision is to become the UK's leading healthcare and wellbeing mutual.

To find out more about Benenden, our products and services go to: [www.benenden.co.uk](http://www.benenden.co.uk)

# Conference training programme

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## Saturday 09.30 – 10.45

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### **Introduction to becoming an approved candidate**

This session will give you a general introduction to candidate assessment and the key skills and knowledge you need to pass your approval day. Amna Ahmad & Brian Orrell for the Candidates' Office.

**Meeting Room 3, Novotel**

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### **Thinking about becoming a candidate? (Women only)**

Come to meet with former candidates and ask your questions in a relaxed and informal environment about what it is really like to run for Parliament. Tessa Munt for LDW.

**Meeting Room 4, Novotel**

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### **A–Z of election law**

Dan Purchase & Darren Briddock for Agents & Organisers Association.

**Meeting Room 5, Novotel**

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### **Youth Recruit**

Liberal Youth.

**Meeting Room 6, Novotel**

---

### **Could you be a Lib Dem councillor?**

Lib Dems have a proud tradition of community politics and localism. If you've ever thought about being a local councillor come along and find out what's involved. Cllr Abi Bell for ALDC.

**Micklegate Room, Hilton Hotel**

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### **Making the fightback a reality**

Find out how local Lib Dems are turning the fightback into a reality in their communities and in by-election victories. Cllr James Baker, Lisa Smart (Hazel Grove) & Elaine Bagshaw for ALDC.

**Bootham Room, Hilton Hotel**

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### **Finding your message for May**

Hilary Stephenson for Elections & Claire Halliwell for ALDC.

**Walmgate Room, Hilton Hotel**

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### **Digital fundraising – how to raise money online**

Suitable for beginner or intermediate fundraisers in seats with large mailing lists and websites that can take donations.

Peter Martin for Membership & Jon Aylwin for Elections.

**Minster Suite, Hilton Hotel**

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## Saturday 11.00 – 12.30

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### **Successful selection**

This session will look at the key skills and knowledge required when going for selection. Antony Hook & Jane Brophy for the Candidates' Office.

**Meeting Room 3, Novotel**

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### **Public speaking (Women only)**

This session will help strengthen your public speaking skills. It will look at how to prepare your speech, feel and look confident and get a powerful message across. Sarah Green for LDW.

**Meeting Room 4, Novotel**

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### **Membership development**

How to recruit and retain your members. Al Ghaff for Membership.

**Meeting Room 5, Novotel**

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### **Engagement matters! Campaigning and engaging with diverse communities**

How to find more members, activists and voters from diverse groups. Explores the ideas behind community engagement and looks at widening participation and promoting diversity in your local party. Diversity.

**Meeting Room 6, Novotel**

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# Conference training programme

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## Getting started for new campaigners

A lively session which will help new campaigners get started building their own local campaigns and team. Cllr Howard Sykes & Cllr Alan Connett for ALDC.

**Micklegate Room, Hilton Hotel**

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## How to make the best use of ALDC campaign packs

ALDC's member-only campaign packs give you a head start on campaigning on local issues. Come along and find out what's available and how to use them. Claire Halliwell & John Bridges for ALDC.

**Bootham Room, Hilton Hotel**

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## Making the most of your 2016 elections in Scotland, Wales & London – panel discussion

Hilary Stephenson & Dave McCobb for Elections.

**Walmgate Room, Hilton Hotel**

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## Funds for the long run: Legacy giving and donor development for 2016 and beyond

Liz Pearman & Sue Evans for Fundraising.

**Library Suite, Hilton Hotel**

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## Saturday 14.30 – 15.45

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## Pictures are worth a thousand words – taking good photos (*Women only*)

A fantastic guide to planning, taking and using first-class pictures for selection and election campaign literature. Sarah Yong for LDW.

**Meeting Room 4, Novotel**

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## The membership database

Al Ghaff & Wasim Yunus for Membership.

**Meeting Room 5, Novotel**

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## Complying with the Data Protection Act

Darren Briddock for the Compliance Department.

**Meeting Room 6, Novotel**

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## Q&A for the 2016 council elections

With less than two months until this year's council elections come along for advice and any questions you have on getting it right between now and May 5th. Anders Hanson for ALDC & James Lillis for Elections.

**Micklegate Room, Hilton Hotel**

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## Campaigning on the council

Reap the dividend of your campaigning by taking it in to the council chamber and making an impact. Cllr Abi Bell & Cllr Gerald Vernon Jackson for ALDC.

**Bootham Room, Hilton Hotel**

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## How can we improve our training offering to the Party?

Dan Purchase & Laura Davies for Training and Volunteer Development.

**Walmgate Room, Hilton Hotel**

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## Campaigning with social media

Chris Lovell & Jon Aylwin for Elections.

**Minster Suite, Hilton Hotel**

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## Quick fix fundraising: Money for May using what you know now

Sue Evans for Fundraising.

**Library Suite, Hilton Hotel**

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## Saturday 14.30 – 17.30

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## Assistant Returning Officer training

This 3 hour session will give you the key tools and skills to become a Returning Officer. Upon successful completion you would, with the agreement of your Regional Candidates' Chair be able to manage straightforward selections for Westminster constituencies. Margaret Joachim & Sal Jarvis for the Candidates' Office.

**Meeting Room 3, Novotel**

# Conference training programme

## Saturday 16.00 – 17.30

### Planning and winning your selection (Women only)

An essential guide to all aspects of running an effective selection campaign for women who are hoping to stand as candidates in this electoral cycle. Lisa Smart for LDW.

**Meeting Room 4, Novotel**

### Advanced election law

Darren Briddock for the Agents & Organisers Association.

**Meeting Room 5, Novotel**

### Unconscious bias

How unconscious bias develops and how it affects us all. The course will help you manage its impact on attitudes, decisions and on behaviour in life and politics.

Diversity.

**Meeting Room 6, Novotel**

### Get ready for the 2017 council elections

In 2017, nearly 500 Lib Dem councillors are defending their seats. Make sure you get an early start on your plans for victory. Cllr Neil Fawcett for ALDC and Paul Trollope for Elections.

**Micklegate Room, Hilton Hotel**

### How to make the best use of ALDC literature templates

ALDC's members only PagePlus templates make producing your local leaflets easy. Come along and find out what's available and how to use them. Claire Halliwell & Cllr James Baker for ALDC.

**Bootham Room, Hilton Hotel**

### Planning your campaign

Elsbeth McCobb & Adam Williams for Elections.

**Walmgate Room, Hilton Hotel**

## Bite size sessions

### Library Suite, Hilton Hotel

#### **Saturday 09.30 – 10.00**

Winning the postal vote (Elections).

#### **Saturday 10.15 – 10.45**

Getting your candidate nominated (Elections).

#### **Saturday 16.00 – 16.30**

Completing your election returns (Elections).

#### **Saturday 16.30 – 17.30**

Winning in the last 4 weeks (Elections).

### Minster Suite, Hilton Hotel

#### **Saturday 11.00 – 11.30**

10 things to know about Libel laws (Elections).

#### **Saturday 11.30 – 12.30**

Winning 2 polling days (Elections).

#### **Saturday 16.00 – 16.30**

10 top tips to get people doing stuff! (Elections).

#### **Saturday 16.30 – 17.00**

Can your voters vote? Making sure your voters are registered (Elections).

#### **Saturday 17.00 – 17.30**

Boundary review – what you can do now (Elections).

### York Visitor Information Centre

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LDDA (Lib Dem Disability Association) has been in existence for 25yrs.

It is open to all members of the party, who may have disabilities, are carers, or be interested in disability. We campaign within the party to ensure that disability is thought about rather than an after thought. We have had representatives on the recent working group on Equalities, which had a policy paper discussed at Glasgow 2014.

Disability is not just about wheelchairs, and sticks. It is also about mental health, asthma, speech impairments, MS, ME, fibromyalgia, sensory impairments etc.

Our website is [www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk](http://www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk) you can join via PayPal on our website.

Contact Gemma Roulston, [gemmaoulston@uwclub.net](mailto:gemmaoulston@uwclub.net) (membership secretary), or write to Mrs G Roulston, 98 Colesmead Road, REDHILL RH1 2EQ to get membership and standing order forms, if you prefer to pay by cheque or standing order.

We also have a Facebook group, and a discussion egroup.

If Human Rights, Civil Liberties and Access to Justice are important to you  
- JOIN -



York Spring Conference Events  
Saturday 12 March:

13:0-14:00  
Novotel—Meeting Room 6

“International Human Rights and Human Rights Defenders”

18.15-19.15  
Novotel—Meeting room 4

Mega-Meeting :  
"The Human Rights Act and the British Bill of Human Rights"

Rights Liberties Justice Email: [Chair@Rights-Liberties-Justice.uk](mailto:Chair@Rights-Liberties-Justice.uk)  
[www.Rights-Liberties-Justice.uk](http://www.Rights-Liberties-Justice.uk)

Fringe



[www.LDFP.eu](http://www.LDFP.eu) / [info@ldfp.eu](mailto:info@ldfp.eu)

**Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine**

Palestinian Refugees, their Right to Return  
--- The Challenge for Middle East?

***Fringe Meeting***

Sat 12th 6.15pm, Micklegate, Hilton.  
**Refreshments / Coffee available**



**Conf. Stand 15**  
Subscribe to Newsletter  
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**Sign Our Petition for UK to Recognise the State of Palestine on LDFP Facebook**



**Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary (LD4SOS)**

WE BELIEVE in standing up for those who seek sanctuary in our country.

Look out for people wearing the LD4SOS sticker, come and meet us or contact us (details below):

- Friday 11 March 17.00–20.45 at the Party Bodies Drop in session and First Timers Reception (York Barbican)
- Saturday 12 March 13.00–14.00 ‘Safe at Last? Syrian Refugees in the UK’ joint fringe with SLF (Novotel mtg Room 3)

[www.ld4sos.org.uk](http://www.ld4sos.org.uk)  
[info@ld4sos.org.uk](mailto:info@ld4sos.org.uk)  
[facebook.com/ld4sos](https://facebook.com/ld4sos)  
[twitter.com/ld4sos](https://twitter.com/ld4sos)



## Finally, leaflets you don't have to deliver

Make sure to check the literature collection points located by the entrance / exits for up-to-date information each day.

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

Distribution of literature must be booked.

For more information please email: [aisha.zeina@libdems.org.uk](mailto:aisha.zeina@libdems.org.uk)

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Friday

# LEAVE.EU

**Leave.EU** is a cross party, grassroots campaign that aims to provide the public with the facts surrounding the upcoming referendum.

It's time to be a bigger part of the world rather than a smaller part of Europe. We believe Britain could do so much better outside of the EU.

**Visit **Stand D** and learn about the benefits of leaving the EU and how you can assist with our fight to win the referendum.**

Promoted by Elizabeth Binney, on behalf of Better for the Country Ltd. and The Know.EU both of Lysander House, Calbrain Lane, Cribbs Causeway, Bristol BS10 7TQ.



# Friday 11th March

15.00–17.30 Consultative sessions

## Liberty and Security

Meeting Rooms 1 and 2  
Novotel

Chair: Lord Paddick  
Rapporteur: Jimmy de Jonge

## Social Security

Meeting Room 3  
Novotel

Chair: Jenny Willott  
Rapporteur: Iain Porter

*There will be an additional Agenda 2020 consultative session at 12.45, see page 45, and a consultative session on the Governance Review at 18.00, see page 54, both on Saturday 12th March, in the main auditorium.*

*Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than full-scale conference debates for party members to participate in the Party's policy and decision making process. Each session examines a particular topic and hears contributions from party members and in some cases outside speakers.*

*Each session will be organised by the relevant Working Group. The conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final papers.*

Friday

## 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 and find out more about what our Parliamentarians are up to. All sessions take place in York Barbican, Lendal Room.

### Saturday 12th March:

11.30–12.15 Foreign Affairs with Tom Brake, Lindsay Northover, Judith Jolly

12.30–13.15 DEFRA & DECC with Kate Parminter and Lynne Featherstone

### Sunday 13th March:

10.00–11.00 Health with Norman Lamb

# Saturday 12th March

09.00 Party business

Chair: Pauline Pearce  
Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley  
Hall Aide: Jo Foster

## F1 Opening of Conference by Baroness Brinton, President of the Liberal Democrats

@salbrinton #LDconf



09.10 Party business

Chair: Chris Maines  
Aide: James Gurling  
Hall Aide: Jo Foster

## F2 Federal Conference Committee Report

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

## F3 Federal Policy Committee Report

Mover: Baroness Smith of Newnham (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

*The deadline for questions to these reports is 13.00, Tuesday 8th March. Questions selected will be detailed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Saturday 12th March. See page 14 for further information.*

09.30 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)  
Aide: Sandra Gidley  
Hall Aide: Baroness Sheehan

## F4 Liberal Democrat Economic Policy

*Burnley, Calderdale and 208 party members*

Mover: Sir Vince Cable  
Summation: Gordon Lishman CBE

- 1 Conference re-asserts the Liberal Democrats' continuing commitment to
- 2 sound public finances, social justice, an open economy in an open society,

## Saturday 12th March

3 and the principle of free markets whenever possible with intervention  
4 where necessary by an enabling state.

5 Conference notes:

- 6 a) The Liberal Democrats' effective record in Government in stabilising  
7 the public finances and major contributions in the fields of  
8 apprenticeships, banking regulation, the British Business Bank, the  
9 Green Investment Bank and the promotion of innovation through the  
10 Catapult network.
- 11 b) The fragile nature of economic recovery following the 2008 crash,  
12 evidenced by interest rates which are historically low and continued  
13 Eurozone uncertainty.
- 14 c) The growth of house prices carrying the threat of a price bubble and  
15 subsequent crash.
- 16 d) The Chancellor's unhelpful and arbitrary re-definition of the deficit,  
17 doubling the total by including capital spending, in his attempt to justify  
18 Tory spending cuts.
- 19 e) The medium-term risk to the UK economy posed by increasing and  
20 unsustainable private and household debt.
- 21 f) The threats to the UK economic prospects posed by Conservative  
22 approaches to UK membership of the European Union and  
23 immigration.
- 24 g) The International Monetary Fund's advice to reduce debt through  
25 growth not cuts.
- 26 h) The UK economy's over-dependence on London and the South-East.
- 27 i) The UK's bad record in allowing the growth of an increasing number of  
28 young people with low levels of education, training and aspiration.
- 29 j) Growing inequalities in wealth and income, coupled with unfair and  
30 regressive action against the poorest people in the country, now  
31 exacerbated by the assault on welfare spending.

32 Conference calls for effective measures to support and grow the UK  
33 economy, including by many established Liberal Democrat policies:

- 34 1. Increased investment, both directly by Government financed by public  
35 borrowing, and stimulated by Government, particularly in affordable  
36 housing including social housing and infrastructure to support  
37 balanced growth throughout the UK.
- 38 2. Support for planning reform, institutional lending to small builders  
39 and action by local authorities for planned development, including  
40 assembling land for auction.
- 41 3. Further measures to improve and regulate banking services by

## Saturday 12th March

- 42 promoting efficient lending, particularly to small and medium-sized
- 43 enterprises, encouragement of challenger banks and increased
- 44 personal accountability.
- 45 4. Strengthening takeover legislation to protect the country's science
- 46 base.
- 47 5. Reversing cuts in the development of green energy and promoting
- 48 investment in green business initiatives.
- 49 6. Further development of the Government's industrial strategy,
- 50 promoting co-operation and supply chain development in key sectors
- 51 for the long-term.
- 52 7. Re-balancing the economy towards manufacturing industry and
- 53 regions, based on the coherent and substantial devolution of political
- 54 and financial power.
- 55 8. Further reform of corporate governance to encourage 'long-termism'
- 56 and to discipline executive pay, including an employee role in
- 57 determining executive pay.
- 58 9. Renewed emphasis on vocational education and training, particularly
- 59 through effective apprenticeships and especially higher-degree level
- 60 and engineering and construction apprenticeships.
- 61 10. Coherent efforts across Government Departments to address the
- 62 needs of young people who are excluded from the labour market and
- 63 participation in wider society.
- 64 11. Addressing inequality through a renewed commitment across
- 65 Government and society to analyse and address Beveridge's Five
- 66 Giants in modern society.
- 67 12. Investigating sustainable ways of funding universal services, including a
- 68 cross-party, cross-society settlement on funding health and social care.
- 69 13. A new commitment to taxing unearned wealth, including Land Value
- 70 Taxation.
- 72 14. Measures to dampen the growth of asset bubbles in opposition to
- 72 Conservative approaches which tend to increase that growth.
- 73 15. Support for more diverse ownership models including worker
- 74 ownership, social enterprise, mutuality and co-operation.

*Applicability: Federal, except 2 (lines 38–40), 9 (lines 58–60), and 12 (lines 67–68), housing aspects of 1 (lines 34–37), and land tax aspects of 13 (lines 69–70) which are England only.*

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

# Saturday 12th March

*In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See page 13 for further information.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 15 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 12 – is 13.00, Tuesday 8th March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.*

## 10.30 Speech

Chair: Justine McGuinness  
Aide: Jenni Lang  
Hall Aide: Pauline Pearce

### **F5 Speech by Baroness Burt, Spokesperson for Business, Innovation and Skills**

@lorellyburt #LDconf



## 10.50 Policy motion

Chair: Gareth Epps  
Aide: Chris Maines  
Hall Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

### **F6 Fracking**

*24 party members*

Mover: Cllr Bill Winlow  
Summation: Duncan Brack

- 1 Conference applauds the international agreement reached in Paris in
- 2 December 2015, in which 195 countries agreed to act to avoid dangerous
- 3 climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C, and if
- 4 possible to below 1.5°C, above pre-industrial temperatures.
- 5 Conference reiterates its support for the Liberal Democrat aim of a zero-
- 6 carbon Britain by 2050, as a contribution to this international goal.
- 7 Conference condemns the Conservative Government's assault on
- 8 Britain's green industries, in particular renewable energy, which is not only
- 9 incompatible with the UK's commitment to the Paris agreement but is also
- 10 undermining a growing industrial sector with significant potential for jobs,
- 11 exports and prosperity.

## Saturday 12th March

12 Conference notes, in contrast, the Government's extensive support for  
13 the extraction of shale gas by hydraulic fracturing ('fracking'), including  
14 legislating to allow fracking under national parks and other protected  
15 areas, and being prepared to override local authorities' decisions not to  
16 give planning consent for fracking.

17 Conference believes that:

- 18 1. Since fracking in the UK is not projected to produce significant  
19 volumes of gas for at least 10–15 years, shale gas will not replace  
20 coal in electricity generation, as coal is being phased out in any case  
21 in line with the UK's climate targets and EU air quality rules.
- 22 2. The prospect of the extensive production of shale gas is highly likely to  
23 undermine the investment in renewable energy, particularly in renewable  
24 heating, which will be needed to meet the UK's climate targets.
- 25 3. Therefore fracking will undermine the UK's ability to decarbonise  
26 its economy and fulfil the requirements of the Paris agreement and  
27 the UK Climate Change Act, let alone the Liberal Democrats' more  
28 ambitious target.

29 Conference also believes that fracking operations pose potential local  
30 environmental risks to groundwater quality and water supplies, from waste  
31 and air emissions, to health and biodiversity and to the geological integrity  
32 of the areas involved, risks likely to be exacerbated by the Conservative  
33 government's cost-cutting and deregulatory approach to compliance with  
34 environmental standards.

35 Conference also notes that for these reasons and others, the governments  
36 of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have all announced, or declared  
37 their intention to announce, bans or moratoriums on fracking.

38 Conference calls on the Government to ban fracking in England, and  
39 to adopt an energy policy based primarily on renewables and energy  
40 efficiency, which supports the implementation of the Paris agreement.

*Applicability: England only.*

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

*In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make  
concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on  
the motion. See page 13 for further information.*

# Saturday 12th March

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 15 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 12 – is 13.00, Tuesday 8th March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday’s Conference Daily.*

## 11.45 Policy motion

Chair: Justine McGuinness

Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Hall Aide: Chris Maines

## F7 Regulatory Framework for Cannabis

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Norman Lamb MP (Spokesperson on Health and Care)

Summation: Lord Paddick (Lords Spokesperson on Home Affairs)

### 1 Conference notes:

- 2 i) That existing Liberal Democrat policy calls for those arrested  
3 with drugs for personal use to be diverted to treatment if they are  
4 problematic users or given education or Fixed Penalty Notices if they  
5 are not.
- 6 ii) That the aim of drugs policy should be primarily to reduce public  
7 health harms and, as such, responsibility for drugs policy should sit  
8 predominantly with the Department of Health.
- 9 iii) Existing Liberal Democrat policy enabling doctors to prescribe  
10 cannabis for medicinal use.
- 11 iv) The growing number of international examples of cannabis being  
12 legally regulated, including in Uruguay and four US states, legal  
13 cannabis use in Dutch coffee shops and Spain’s registered cannabis  
14 social clubs, decriminalisation in Portugal, and plans from the Liberal  
15 Government in Canada to legislate for regulation.
- 16 v) The report from the independent expert panel on cannabis regulation  
17 convened by Norman Lamb which recommends how a regulated  
18 framework for cannabis could be implemented in the UK, with a view  
19 to reducing public health harms.
- 20 vi) That economic analysis of the effect of legalising cannabis has found it  
21 could save the public purse £200–300 million per year in the criminal  
22 justice system and generate between £400 and £900 million in tax  
23 revenue, and that these figures were endorsed by the Treasury in a  
24 report commissioned by Liberal Democrat Ministers in the Coalition.

## Saturday 12th March

25 Conference believes that:

- 26 A. Debate around effective ways to reduce harm caused by drugs  
27 should be based on evidence of what works, not on political  
28 prejudice.
- 29 B. It is not right that every year tens of thousands of people receive a  
30 criminal record for recreational use of cannabis, leaving a devastating  
31 long-term impact on their education and employment chances.
- 32 C. As with all drugs, cannabis carries health risks and through legal  
33 regulation it is possible to make cannabis products far safer for use  
34 than when they are sold through an unregulated criminal market.
- 35 D. The Government should not miss out on hundreds of millions in tax  
36 revenue from sales of cannabis products while criminal gangs collect  
37 hundreds of millions of pounds in untaxed profits.

38 Conference calls for:

- 39 1. Government to develop a framework for the legal regulation of  
40 cannabis in the UK, taking account of the recommendations of the  
41 independent expert panel convened by the Liberal Democrats and  
42 taking into account evidence from international frameworks for the  
43 regulation of cannabis, including:
- 44 a) The establishment of an independent regulatory authority to  
45 oversee and license the production and sale of cannabis products.
- 46 b) Age restrictions on the sale of cannabis products and health  
47 information made available to all purchasers at the point of sale.
- 48 c) Clear limits on the strength of cannabis products made  
49 commercially available.
- 50 d) Clearly defined premises in which cannabis products can be sold,  
51 including the introduction of cannabis social clubs.
- 52 e) Clear restrictions around the packaging and marketing of cannabis  
53 products.
- 54 f) A system of taxation which is designed to discourage more harmful  
55 use.
- 56 g) The re-scheduling of cannabis to allow doctors the freedom to  
57 prescribe cannabis products as medicines to their patients where  
58 they consider it will be beneficial.
- 59 2. Government to increase expenditure on public health education  
60 programmes about the risks of drug use to ensure consumers are  
61 informed about the risks of consumption and to discourage harmful  
62 drug use.

# Saturday 12th March

*Applicability: Federal, except 2 (lines 59–62) which is England only.*

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

*In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See page 13 for further information.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 15 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 12 – is 13.00, Tuesday 8th March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.*

12.40–14.20 Lunch break

12.45–14.15 Consultative session

## **Consultative Session: Agenda 2020 – Your Liberal Britain**

Co-Chairs: Jim Williams  
and Duncan Brack (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

Rapporteur: Christian Moon

*What is the Liberal Democrats' vision for the future of Britain?*

*As part of the FPC's Agenda 2020 exercise, which is reviewing the party's basic approach and the challenges to which we need to respond, this session invites participants to debate the nature of the society that we want build in the UK.*

*A number of speakers from across the party will be invited to give short speeches laying out their visions. Attendees at the session will be invited to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor, in response to the prompt "For me, Liberal Britain is a country where..."*

*Attendees and speakers should consider:*

- *What motivates them individually to be Liberal Democrats.*
- *What distinguishes our vision from those of other parties.*
- *How a truly Liberal Britain would meaningfully improve peoples' lives.*

*Submissions will also be welcome online at [www.liberalbritain.org](http://www.liberalbritain.org), where members will also find simple steps for organising their own Your Liberal Britain events at home. The FPC is publishing a consultation paper which will provide background for the exercise, and to which emailed responses are also welcome.*

# Saturday 12th March

14.20 Party business

Chair: Baroness Sheehan

Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

Hall Aide: Liz Lynne

## F8 Report of the Federal Executive

Mover: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats)

*The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 8th March. Questions selected will be detailed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 12.40 on Saturday 12th March. See page 14 for further information.*

## F9 Appointment of the Federal Appeals Panel 2016–2020

*Federal Executive*

Mover: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Summation: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats)

1 Conference confirms the reappointment of the following members to the  
2 Panel for a second five year term of office:

- 3 a) Judy Broadway.
- 4 b) Alan Masters.
- 5 c) Paul Roberts.
- 6 d) Alan Sherwell.
- 7 e) Monica Whyte.

8 Conference confirms the appointment of the following new members to  
9 the Panel for a five-year term of office:

- 10 1. William Charnley.
- 11 2. Catherine Smart.
- 12 3. Giles Bailey.
- 13 4. Ian Jolly.

*Mover of motion: 5 minutes; other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 13.*

*Under Article 14.1 (a) of the Federal Constitution, members of the Federal Appeals Panel are elected by the Federal Executive, subject to confirmation by conference. There will therefore be separate votes on each nominee. This motion is not open to amendment.*

# Saturday 12th March

14.40 Speech

Chair: Chris Maines  
Aide: Pauline Pearce  
Hall Aide: Jo Foster

## F10 Speech by Caroline Pidgeon AM, London Mayoral Candidate

@carolinepidgeon #LDconf



15.00 Question and answer session

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)  
Aide: Justine McGuinness  
Hall Aide: Gareth Epps

## F11 Question and Answer Session with Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

*Voting members may put questions, on any topic, to the leader of the Liberal Democrats in a 'Town Hall' style event. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website until 17.00 on Thursday 10th March or to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Saturday 12th March. See page 8.*

15.45 Policy motion

Chair: James Gurling (Chair, Campaigns and Communications Committee)  
Aide: Jenni Lang  
Hall Aide: Sandra Gidley

## F12 Privacy and Security in a Digital Age

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Lord Paddick (Lords Spokesperson on Home Affairs)  
Summation: Dr Jenny Woods

- 1 Conference asserts that the Liberal Democrats exist to build and
- 2 safeguard a fair, free, and open society, in which liberty and security are
- 3 fundamental values.
- 4 Conference recognises the urgent need for coherent and comprehensible
- 5 legislation to govern the powers and capabilities of the security,
- 6 intelligence, and police services; this is needed to protect both the safety
- 7 of citizens and our essential right to a private life.

# Saturday 12th March

8 Conference notes:

- 9 i) Work done by Liberal Democrats in government to block the  
10 'Snoopers' Charter' and establish a major review of investigatory and  
11 surveillance powers and safeguards.
- 12 ii) That technology has become an essential and omnipresent part of  
13 life, and access to our personal technology provides a full picture of  
14 our personality, movements, and sensitive personal information.
- 15 iii) The findings of Liberal Democrat-commissioned reviews by David  
16 Anderson QC, Sir Nigel Sheinwald, and the Royal United Services  
17 Institute; and the review of the Intelligence and Security Committee.
- 18 iv) That reform of surveillance laws has, in part, been triggered by  
19 Edward Snowden's revelations and resulting public outrage.
- 20 v) That given that most perpetrators of recent terrorist atrocities have  
21 been known to security and law enforcement agencies, it is clear  
22 that intrusive surveillance powers only form one part of the tools  
23 available to security and intelligence agencies and law enforcement;  
24 community-based intelligence and proper resourcing are also  
25 essential to fight serious crime and terrorism.
- 26 vi) That Britain faces sustained threats from terrorist groups such as  
27 ISIL/Daesh, serious and organised crime, cyber-attacks, and other  
28 organisations, and the vital role played by the police and intelligence  
29 services in combating these threats.
- 30 vii) The vital role communications data has played in major investigations  
31 and prosecutions, and the danger of losing this data as  
32 communication moves online.
- 33 viii) That the UK should set an example in this field and that introducing  
34 unduly intrusive surveillance powers without proper safeguards  
35 would have a reputational effect and could lead to other countries  
36 unacceptably extending their own powers.

37 Conference believes:

- 38 a) Systematic surveillance without suspicion conflicts with universal  
39 values and fundamental rights, including the rights to a private life,  
40 freedom of expression, association, conscience and religion.
- 41 b) Liberal Democrats remain opposed to the blanket collection of UK  
42 residents' communications by the police or intelligence agencies; and  
43 are concerned that intelligence agencies have long had access to UK  
44 citizens' phone metadata in bulk and in secret.
- 45 c) All proposals regarding investigatory powers must be both necessary  
46 and proportionate, oversight and safeguards must be robust, and

## Saturday 12th March

- 47 judicial authorisation must be independent, objective, and not  
48 confined by judicial review principles.
- 49 d) Any interception and storage of Internet traffic by or on behalf of  
50 government agencies is potentially a threat to our human rights;  
51 access should only be allowed in response to specific intelligence  
52 of an identified serious threat and subject to the strictest safeguards  
53 and time-limited judicial authority; collateral information must not be  
54 disclosed to anyone, and must be securely destroyed.
- 55 e) Proposals for providing 'Internet Connection Records' isolated  
56 from other internet activity appear to be technically complex,  
57 disproportionately costly, and easily circumvented; in addition, the  
58 operational case for, and the technical capability to carry out, bulk  
59 collection and storage of non-business purposes data by Internet  
60 Service Providers has yet to be made.
- 61 f) Current legislation has prevented those who have been surveilled  
62 unlawfully from taking a direct part in any review proceedings or,  
63 where appropriate, from seeking an effective remedy.
- 64 g) Public trust in the work of the intelligence and security services  
65 is essential to a fair, free and open society, and that clear public  
66 agreement of their remit and the extent of their powers would be  
67 beneficial to all.

68 Conference therefore calls for:

- 69 1. All powers to be necessary, proportionate and fully compliant with the  
70 European Convention of Human Rights.
- 72 2. Parliament to be given all necessary information and sufficient time for  
72 full and proper scrutiny of the Investigatory Powers Bill.
- 73 3. The proposed Judicial Commissioners created by the draft bill to be  
74 given full and independent powers for judicial authorisation over all  
75 requests for intercept, bulk data acquisition, and retention.
- 76 4. No bulk collection of Internet Connection Records to be undertaken  
77 unless it can be shown by the Home Office that it is technically  
78 possible to restrict intrusion to the level of that held in respect of call  
79 records, and that data would be collected and stored safely.
- 80 5. Any data retained under investigatory powers to be held for the  
81 shortest time possible and for the strongest possible precautions  
82 taken during storage, communication, or destruction.
- 83 6. Maintenance of strong and effective encryption which is the basis  
84 of our online security, and should never be weakened to aid state  
85 surveillance.  
86

## Saturday 12th March

- 87 7. The introduction of a post-hoc notification requirement for those  
88 subjected to surveillance, with necessary exemptions including those  
89 safeguarding ongoing surveillance and threats.
- 90 8. Any violation of the confidentiality of communications between  
91 journalists and their sources, elected officials and their constituents,  
92 and lawyers and their clients to be subject to additional safeguards  
93 including senior independent judicial authorisation.
- 94 9. Establishment of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Board which we  
95 legislated for in coalition and which the Conservative government has  
96 so far failed to establish, ensuring civil liberties are properly considered  
97 when formulating government policy on counter-terrorism.
- 98 10. A transparent international framework to govern the transfer of  
99 personal data between legal jurisdictions.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 15 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 12 – is 13.00, Tuesday 8th March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.*

### 16.30 Party business

Chair: Mary Reid  
Aide: Baroness Sheehan  
Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley

#### **F13 Report of the Diversity and Engagement Group**

Mover: Baroness Hussein-Ece (Chair, Diversity Engagement Group)

#### **F14 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance**

Mover: Candy Piercy (Campaign for Gender Balance)

#### **F15 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee**

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

*The deadline for questions to these reports is 13.00, Tuesday 8th March. Questions selected will be detailed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on*

# Saturday 12th March

events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Saturday 12th March. See page 14 for further information.

## 16.50 Constitutional amendments

Chair: Sandra Gidley

Aide: James Gurling (Chair, Campaigns and Communications Committee)

Hall Aide: Jenni Lang

### **F16 Constitutional Amendment: Allowing AO's and SAO's to enrol members to the Liberal Democrats**

*LGBT+ Liberal Democrats*

Mover: Iain Donaldson

Summation: Dave Page

- 1 *In Article 3.2 of the Federal Constitution, after clause 3.2 c) insert:*
- 2 d) any Specified Associated Organisation or Associated Organisation
- 3 that the Federal Executive considers ought to be entitled to enrol
- 4 members to the party.

*The existing text of relevant articles of the Federal Constitution:*

3.2 Membership shall be acquired through an enrolling body, being:

- (a) a Local Party in the area of which the member lives, works or studies (or, with its consent, another Local Party);
- (b) a Specified Associated Organisation representing youth and/or students; or
- (c) a State Party in accordance with its internal procedures (and so that any overseas member in a location where there is no Local Party may become a member via a State Party designated by the Federal Executive to act as agent for the Federal Party).

*Applicability: Federal.*

*Mover of motion: 5 minutes; other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 13.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 15 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 12 – is 13.00, Tuesday 8th March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.*

# Saturday 12th March

*A constitutional amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.*

## **F17 Constitutional Amendment: Representation of Peers on Federal Committees**

*26 party members*

Mover: George Potter

Summation: To be announced

- 1 *In Article 8.1, (i) (i), after 'MPs' insert 'or Peers'.*
- 2 *In Article 8.1, delete (i) (e) and insert:*
- 3 (e) the Leader of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords.
- 4 *In Article 7.2, delete (d).*
- 5 *In Article 7.2 (i), delete 'one more person' and insert 'two more persons',*
- 6 *and after 'are MPs' insert 'or Peers'.*

*The existing text of relevant articles of the Federal Constitution:*

7.2 The FPC shall consist of the following:

- (a) the Leader;
- (b) one other MP elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons;
- (c) one MP each elected by and from members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons representing constituencies in England, Scotland and Wales respectively;
- (d) one Peer elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords;
- (e) one MEP elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament;
- (f) the President;
- (g) three principal local authority councillors, elected by principal local authority councillors of the Party from among their own number;
- (h) one Representative of each State Party, elected by its internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the FPC); and
- (i) one more person than the total number elected or appointed under paragraphs (a) to (h) above elected by the Federal Conference (which shall be filled in accordance with electoral regulations) except that

## Saturday 12th March

persons who, at the date of close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are MPs shall not be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph.

...

8.1 There shall be a Federal Executive, which shall be responsible for directing, co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Federal Party. It shall consist of the following:

- (i) voting members:
  - (a) the President, who shall act as its chair;
  - (b) the Vice-Presidents;
  - (c) the Leader;
  - (d) two other MPs elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons;
  - (e) one Peer elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords;
  - (f) one MEP elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament;
  - (g) two principal local authority councillors elected by principal local authority councillors of the Party from among their own number;
  - (h) one representative of each State Party, elected by its internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the Federal Executive);
  - (i) one more person than the total number of voting members elected or appointed under paragraphs (a) to (h) above elected by the Federal Conference (casual vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the electoral regulations) except that persons who, at the date of close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are MPs shall not be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph.

*Applicability: Federal.*

*Mover of motion: 5 minutes; other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 13.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 15 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 12 – is 13.00, Tuesday 8th March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.*

*A constitutional amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.*

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17.40 Party business

Chair: Liz Lynne

Aide: Mary Reid

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

## F18 Parliamentary Party Reports

Commons: Tom Brake MP, Chief Whip in the Commons

Lords: Lord Wallace of Tankerness, Chief Whip in the Lords

Europe Catherine Bearder MEP

*Each of the reports will be moved briefly, and voted on at the end of the session, but the bulk of the session will be used to allow voting members to put questions on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the Westminster and European Parliaments to the panel. Party members may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) via the website until 17.00 on Thursday 10th March or to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Saturday 12th March. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See page 14 for further information.*

18.00 Close of session

18.00–19.00 Consultative session

## Governance Review

Chairs: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Rapporteur: Chris Adams

*This consultative session forms part of the wider party Governance Review.*

*Any member wishing to make a maximum three-minute contribution should submit a speaker's card, collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table at the front of the auditorium, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk. See page 13 for further information.*

*Note: this session is for party members only.*

# Sunday 13th March

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Paul Tilsley

Aide: Liz Lynne

Hall Aide: Mary Reid

## F19 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue

*This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or motions, or discussion of an important current political issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Tuesday 8th March; see page 15. Motions selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.*

*Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 7 minutes; summation: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.*

*Topical issue timing – introducer of issue and spokesperson's response: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.*

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 13.*

09.40 Business motion

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

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

Hall Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

## F20 Electing Diverse MPs

*Federal Executive*

Mover: Caron Lindsay

Summation: Cllr Chris White

1 Conference notes:

- 2 I. The Liberal Democrats' commitment to eliminating all prejudice and
- 3 discrimination based upon race, colour, religion, age, disability, sex or
- 4 sexual orientation, and opposition to all forms of entrenched privilege
- 5 and inequality.
- 6 II. The need for the country's elected bodies and party structures to
- 7 reflect the diversity of the society we live in.
- 8 III. The insufficient diversity among the party's past and present

## Sunday 13th March

- 9 representatives in the House of Commons.
- 10 IV. The efforts made to date to increase diversity amongst the party's  
11 Westminster candidates, including the Campaign for Gender Balance  
12 and the Leadership Programme, which led to more than half of all  
13 candidates in target or held seats being women.
- 14 V. The definition of under-represented groups in guidance to political  
15 parties in the Equality Act 2010 as inclusive of women, BAME, LGBT+  
16 and disability.
- 17 VI. With regret that despite the success of measures taken recently,  
18 there has been a limited impact on the proportion of individuals  
19 elected from under-represented groups and low socio-economic  
20 backgrounds.
- 21 VII. That whilst selection of candidates is a matter devolved to the state  
22 parties, the Federal Party supports actions that are already being  
23 taken in England, Scotland and Wales to improve diversity amongst  
24 Liberal Democrat candidates and elected representatives.

25 Conference acknowledges that:

- 26 a) The party's list of approved Westminster candidates does not fully  
27 reflect the communities we aim to serve.
- 28 b) The party at all levels needs to ensure that candidates from under-  
29 represented groups are attracted to apply and then selected to stand  
30 for elected office.
- 31 c) To have a more diverse set of MPs, the party must concentrate its  
32 efforts to increase the number of diverse candidates in the most  
33 winnable Westminster seats.
- 34 d) Proposals will be coming forward on wider party diversity, including  
35 in party structures and local government, as part of the Federal  
36 Executive-led Governance Review to the Autumn Federal Conference.
- 37 e) Our use of zipping in past EU elections shows that positive action can  
38 be very effective.
- 39 f) Scottish Liberal Democrats do not allow seat selections to proceed  
40 unless 40% of the short-list is female, and that seats have been  
41 asked to re-advertise where their efforts to increase diversity were  
42 not deemed sufficient, and welcomes Scottish Leader Willie Rennie's  
43 working group which is considering measures to improve gender  
44 balance in future elections.

45 Conference recognises that:

- 46 i) The party is required to consider the provisions of the Equality Act  
47 2010, including Section 104, which permits political parties to take

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- 48 proportionate positive action to reduce inequality in the party's  
49 representation in Westminster, but does not allow shortlists for  
50 candidate selections to be restricted to individuals with protected  
51 characteristics other than by gender and disability.
- 52 ii) In percentage terms, the largest single under-represented group is  
53 women, who make up 51% of the UK population.
- 54 iii) Individuals may have more than one protected characteristic which  
55 should be taken into consideration in any intervention.
- 56 iv) There can be minorities who are under-represented even within under-  
57 represented groups and that this should be taken into consideration  
58 in any intervention.
- 59 v) Liberal Democrats continue to value candidates from over-  
60 represented groups, and will ensure that training and support is  
61 available for them.

62 Conference therefore resolves that to increase the proportion of Liberal  
63 Democrats from under-represented groups in the House of Commons the  
64 Liberal Democrats will:

- 65 A. Continue and extend support for individuals seeking approval or  
66 selection as Westminster candidates from under-represented groups,  
67 thus building on the work that has been done in the past including the  
68 Leadership Programme.
- 69 B. Create a '2020 Candidate Diversity Task Force' to co-ordinate party-  
70 wide efforts to actively recruit parliamentary candidates from under-  
71 represented groups from both inside and outside the Party. This will  
72 include a focus on recruiting candidates with more than one protected  
73 characteristic and from minorities who are under-represented even  
74 within under-represented groups. The Task Force will work with  
75 ALDC and our cohort of councillors, recognising that, whilst local  
76 government is important in its own right, it can also be a good  
77 recruiting ground for potential Parliamentary candidates. It will report  
78 to the Federal Executive, working with the Diversity Engagement  
79 Group as appropriate. The Task Force will have one representative  
80 each from the three state parties, the Federal Executive, ALDC,  
81 EMLD, LDDA, LGBT+, LDW, Liberal Youth and PCA and be led by  
82 a Candidate Diversity Champion appointed by the Leader and the  
83 President. The Federal Executive Report to Conference will include  
84 updates on the work of the Candidate Diversity Task Force.
- 85 C. Through the work of the 2020 Candidate Diversity Task Force and  
86 Candidate Diversity Champion, in association with SAOs, AOs, ALDC  
87 and parliamentary candidates, examine the party's approval and

## Sunday 13th March

88 selection processes, and the role of PPCs after selection, to identify  
89 barriers that may exist for under-represented groups, including those  
90 identified in the Speaker's Conference on Parliamentary Selection,  
91 as well as disadvantaged groups including those from a low socio-  
92 economic background. Solutions will be proposed to overcome these  
93 barriers; to seek to make proposals to increase diversity at all levels  
94 in the party; and to bring forward proposals on how to address the  
95 emotional, practical and financial challenges facing candidates from  
96 under-represented groups.

97 Conference recommends that:

- 98 1. Any local party should be able to vote for an all-women shortlist or  
99 an all-disabled shortlist, or reserve some spaces for candidates from  
100 other under-represented groups.
- 101 2. As a minimum the three state parties should follow the Canadian  
102 Liberal Party practice of requiring the relevant Local Party to provide  
103 documented evidence to their region or state (as relevant) of a  
104 thorough search for potential candidates from under-represented  
105 groups before being granted permission to start their Westminster  
106 selection process; this should apply in those seats where the Liberal  
107 Democrat parliamentary candidate received more than 15% of the  
108 vote in the 2015 General Election but the seat is not held by the  
109 Liberal Democrats.
- 110 3. In Scotland, Wales and each Region of the English Party, take  
111 measures to move towards a slate of candidates that reflects the  
112 diversity of the state or region, in line with the Leader's ambition of  
113 having at least 50% women candidates and at least 10% BAME  
114 candidates across Great Britain.
- 115 4. If any sitting MP elected in 2015 decides not to contest the next  
116 General Election, his replacement should be selected from an all-  
117 women shortlist.
- 118 5. In Scotland, Wales, and each Region of the English Party where there  
119 are two or more non-held seats which gained 25% or more of the  
120 General Election vote in May 2015, the regions should designate as a  
121 minimum of one seat not held by a Liberal Democrat MP to select its  
122 candidate from an all-women shortlist. Where these seats are affected  
123 by boundary changes, the party's rules on re-running selection  
124 processes will apply.
- 125 6. In addition to the one seat identified in 5. above, where the Liberal  
126 Democrat parliamentary result at the 2015 General Election was in  
127 the 10% of seats which had the highest percentage vote without

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- 128 returning a Liberal Democrat MP, the selection shortlist for the 2020  
129 General Election should, subject to sufficient applications, include at  
130 least two candidates from under-represented groups.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See page 13 for further information.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 8th March; see page 15. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 12th March; see page 12.*

## 11.05 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball  
Aide: Gareth Epps  
Hall Aide: Jo Foster

### **F21 A Fairer Deal for Private Renters**

*ALDC and 10 party members*

Mover: Caroline Pidgeon AM  
Summation: Cllr Chris White

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 i) Private sector rents have become untenably high in many parts of
- 3 Britain, and many renters are now paying more than half their income
- 4 in rent.
- 5 ii) Rented homes often fall below a decent standard and there is a
- 6 continuing problem with rogue landlords.
- 7 iii) Moving from one rented home to another can be very expensive, with
- 8 high letting fees and large deposit requirements.
- 9 iv) Many renters who wish to buy a home are priced out of the market,
- 10 with average property prices rising much faster than wages and an

## Sunday 13th March

- 11 historic lack of building new homes to meet demand.
- 12 v) The main cause of homelessness is now the ending of tenancies in  
13 the private rented sector.
- 14 Conference welcomes:
- 15 a) New legislation coming into force to protect tenants from revenge  
16 evictions, initiated by Sarah Teather during the Coalition.
- 17 b) Plans to introduce a rogue landlords database and banning orders  
18 with financial penalties of up to £30,000.
- 19 c) Liberal Democrat commitments to create new opportunities for buying  
20 a home including Rent to Own, where monthly rental payments stack  
21 towards a deposit, and a huge increase in supply to 300,000 new  
22 homes a year, including 50,000 new council homes in London by  
23 2020.
- 24 d) Liberal Democrat plans to make moving home cheaper for renters  
25 through the Help to Rent tenancy deposit scheme.
- 26 Conference calls for:
- 27 1. The letting of homes in the private rented sector to be  
28 professionalised through the mandatory licensing of landlords.
- 29 2. The scrapping of letting fees for tenants.
- 30 3. A financial boost for local authorities to ensure they are able to  
31 support tenants by providing sufficient housing and legal advice.
- 32 4. A requirement to give tenants first refusal to buy the home they are  
33 renting from the landlord if they decide to sell it during the tenancy, at  
34 market rate according to an independent valuation.
- 35 5. A ban on advertising new homes overseas before they are advertised  
36 in the UK.
- 37 6. A review by the Secretary of State of the legislation applying to the  
38 private rented sector, as the first step towards a comprehensive  
39 private rented sector strategy.
- 40 7. Support and encouragement from Government for councils to  
41 develop, own and manage private sector rented homes outside of  
42 housing revenue accounts to improve the quality of homes in the  
43 sector with the freedom to offer long-term tenancies.

*Applicability: England only.*

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

# Sunday 13th March

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 8th March; see page 15. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

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

## 11.45 Party business

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)  
Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)  
Hall Aide: Cllr Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

## F22 Speech by Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

@timfarron #LDconf



## 13.00 Close of conference (approx.)

### Conference timetable 2016

#### 17th–20th September 2016, Brighton

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00 Wednesday	15th June 2016
Motions deadline	13.00 Wednesday	29th June 2016
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00 Monday	22nd August 2016
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00 Monday	5th September 2016

#### List of advertisers

ALDC	17	Lib Dem Image	21
ALDES	11	Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine	33
ALTER	20	Liberal Democrat History Group	25
Benenden	29	Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association	33
Conference App	3	Liberal Democrats 4 Seekers of Sanctuary	33
Gleeds	36	Liberal Reform	25
Hilton	22	Midshire Business Systems	2
IN together	inside front cover	Novotel	22
LDDA	33	Visit Brighton	23
Leaflet distribution point	34	Visit York	72
Leave.EU	36	York Barbican	7

# Standing orders for Federal Conference

## Glossary of terms

### **Business motion**

A proposal to conduct the affairs of the Party in a particular way or to express an opinion on the way affairs have been conducted.

### **Business amendment**

A proposal to change a business motion. *Any such proposal should be significant, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.*

### **Committee**

Throughout these standing orders, Committee means the Federal Conference Committee unless otherwise qualified.

### **Constitutional amendment**

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

### **Secondary constitutional amendment**

An amendment to a constitutional amendment. *This must not introduce new material.*

### **Consultative session**

A meeting where selected areas of policy or strategy are considered in greater depth than is possible in full debates.

### **Day visitor**

Someone who has paid the appropriate day visitor fee. Day visitors are not entitled to speak or vote in full sessions of conference.

### **Emergency motion**

A proposal which relates to a *specific recent development which occurred after the deadline for submission of motions. Emergency motions must be brief.*

### **Emergency amendment**

An amendment to a motion which relates to a specific event which occurred after the deadline for the submission of amendments. *It must be brief and uncontentious.*

### **Full session**

Any part of the conference agenda during which debates, topical issue discussions or discussion of business, including formal reports, takes place. This specifically excludes formal speeches such as those by the Leader or Party Officers.

### **Point of order**

A suggestion to the chair of a debate that the conduct of the debate, as laid down in the standing orders, has not been followed correctly.

### **Policy motion**

A proposal to adopt a new policy or reaffirm an existing one. This includes motions accompanying policy papers.

### **Policy amendment**

A proposal to change a policy motion. *Any proposal should be of significant importance, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.*

### **Policy paper**

A paper prepared by the Federal Policy Committee and submitted to conference for debate under the terms of Article 5.4 of the Federal Party constitution.

### **Procedural motion**

A proposal that the conduct of a debate should be changed in a specific way. Procedural motions are:

#### ***Move to next business***

A proposal that the conference should cease to consider an item of business and immediately move to the next item on the agenda.

#### ***Reference back***

A proposal to refer a motion or amendment to a named body of the Party for further consideration.

# Standing orders

## **Request for a count**

A request to the chair that a specific vote be counted and recorded rather than decided on the chair's assessment of a show of voting cards.

## **Separate vote**

A request to the chair of a debate that a part or parts of a motion or amendment should be voted on separately.

## **Suspension of standing orders**

A proposal to relax specific standing orders for a stated purpose.

## **Special conference**

An additional meeting of the conference requisitioned by the Federal Executive, Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 200 members in not fewer than 20 local parties, under the provisions of Article 6.6 of the Federal constitution.

## **Standing order amendment**

A proposal to change these standing orders.

## **Secondary standing order amendment**

An amendment to a standing order amendment. *This must not introduce new material.*

## **Topical issue discussion**

A discussion on a policy issue of significant and topical relevance, conducted without a vote.

## **Voting member**

A member attending conference who has satisfied the requirements for attendance and has paid the registration fee presently in force for party members as agreed by FCC, and who is not a day visitor [or observer].

# Standing orders

## **1. The conference agenda**

### **1.1 What is on the agenda**

The agenda for each meeting of

conference, other than a special conference, shall include time for:

- a) One or more consultative sessions; save that the Committee may decide not to hold any consultative sessions at a spring conference.
- b) A business session or sessions for the consideration of reports from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords, the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament, the Federal Executive, the Federal Finance and Administration Committee, the Federal Policy Committee and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, reports from any other body the Committee considers appropriate, accounts, the annual report, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments.
- c) Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers).
- d) Emergency motions.
- e) Topical issue discussions.
- f) Any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate.

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

### **1.2 Conference or council of state parties**

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

### **1.3 Right to submit agenda items**

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).
- b) Business motions (including amendments and emergency

# Standing orders

business motions and amendments), constitutional amendments and secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal Executive, Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 party members. Business motions, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.

- c) Motions accompanying policy papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 party members.
- e) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any party member.

## **1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted**

All motions and amendments must be submitted to the Committee. They must be typed clearly and accompanied by the name, address and telephone number(s) of a person authorised to agree to their being composited or redrafted. Motions submitted by party members must be accompanied by all their signatures, names and addresses.

## **1.5 The deadlines by which motions, amendments, reports and questions to reports must be submitted**

The Committee shall specify:

- a) The closing date for the receipt of policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers), business

motions, constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders, which shall be at least eight weeks before the start of conference.

- b) The closing date for the receipt of amendments to motions published in the agenda and emergency motions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- c) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with the agenda. Any supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference with the permission of the Committee.
- d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference, except for questions to the reports of the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament, where the closing date shall be at least one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- e) Notwithstanding 1.5(d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(d). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference

## **1.6 Notification of deadlines**

All dates specified under Standing Order 1.5 shall be publicised to party members

# Standing orders

and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper/magazine and website may be treated as notice for this purpose.

## **1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances**

In special circumstances the Committee may specify later dates than those indicated above. In particular, where developments which, in the opinion of the Committee, are of great importance have taken place after the closing date for emergency motions and questions to reports, the Committee may make time available for an additional emergency motion or for a statement to be made on behalf of the Party or for additional questions to be submitted to reports.

## **2. Consultative sessions**

### **2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions**

The subjects for debate at consultative sessions shall be chosen by the Committee on the advice of the Federal Policy Committee and, where appropriate, the Federal Executive, and published in the agenda. Two or more such sessions may be held simultaneously.

### **2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions**

Any member of the Party may be called to speak at a consultative session and, with the approval of the chair, non-members with relevant expertise may also be called.

### **2.3 Voting at consultative sessions**

At the discretion of the chair a vote by show of hands may be taken to indicate the weight of opinion among members present on any issue that has been debated.

## **3. The agenda**

### **3.1 The shortlisting of motions**

The Committee shall draw up the agenda and shall decide which of the motions

duly submitted shall be included in it. The Committee may allocate time for one or more policy or business motions to be selected by ballot. Copies of motions not selected shall be available for inspection and will be supplied to any party member on payment of a copying charge and postage.

### **3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders**

Save as detailed below in Standing Order 4.3, all proposed amendments to the constitution or standing orders must be selected for debate.

### **3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates**

The Committee shall, in drawing up the agenda, have due regard to the balance of State and Federal policy debates and in particular shall as far as possible organise the agenda so that all matters which relate solely to one or more state parties but not all State Parties or the Federal Party shall be considered at either the beginning or the end of the conference.

## **4. Selection of motions and amendments**

### **4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions**

In drawing up the agenda the Committee shall seek to reflect the range of views in the Party as indicated by the motions and amendments submitted. The Committee may:

- a) Treat any severable part of a motion or amendment as a separate motion or amendment.
- b) Redraft a motion or amendment so as to improve expression, remove inaccuracy or superfluity or take account of new developments.
- c) Composite similar motions or amendments.

# Standing orders

## **4.2 Selection of amendments**

The Committee shall decide which of the amendments duly submitted to each motion shall be selected. No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Committee it is insubstantial, outside the scope of the motion, or tantamount to a direct negative of the motion.

## **4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders**

The Committee may refuse to select a motion for amendment of the constitution or standing orders if, in their opinion, it is:

- a) Similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate or ballot at the same meeting of conference.
- b) Similar in effect to a motion that has been rejected at either of the last two meetings of conference.
- c) In the case of amendments to the constitution, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of the constitution which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- d) In the case of amendments to standing orders, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of standing orders which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- e) Ambiguous.

## **4.4 Emergency motions**

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

- a) It is similar in effect to another motion that has been selected for debate or ballot.
- b) It is similar in effect to a subject chosen for a topical issue discussion.
- c) It is unclear as to its meaning or intent or is, in the opinion of the Committee, too poorly drafted to provide a sensible basis for debate.
- d) It falls outside the definition of emergency motions.

No amendment shall be taken to any motion selected under this Standing Order.

## **4.5 Ballots for emergency motions**

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.4, must be placed either on the agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection by Conference. The Committee may hold separate ballots to select which of a range of emergency policy motions and which of a range of emergency business motions to debate. If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the voting members as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall organise the debates on the motions in the order chosen by conference in the ballots.

## **4.6 Emergency amendments**

The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to select emergency amendments for debate.

## **4.7 Topical issue discussions**

The choice of subjects for topical issue discussions shall be made by the Officers of the Committee in consultation with the Officers of the Federal Policy Committee. In choosing the subjects, the Officers shall have regard to the significance and topicality of the subjects proposed and whether they are likely to provoke a lively discussion.

## **5. Special meetings**

### **5.1 Timetabling of special meetings**

The Committee shall, as soon as practicable after the requisitioning of a special meeting of the conference, fix a date for the meeting, draw up the agenda and, if appropriate, specify a date for the submission of amendments. The meeting shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of requisition save that the Committee may allow time for emergency motions and for business which is formal or, in its opinion, uncontentious.

# Standing orders

## **5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings**

In setting dates for the submission of motions and amendments and giving notice thereof and of the conference itself the Committee shall endeavour to follow the timescales laid down elsewhere in these standing orders but, where this is not practicable, the Committee shall set such dates as it sees fit.

## **6. Appeals**

### **6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions**

The Committee shall provide written reasoning to the nominee of the proposers for the rejection of any motion or amendment. The proposers may appeal, in writing, to the next meeting of the Committee. Any such appeal shall provide reasons why, in the opinion of the proposers, the expressed reasons for rejection are not valid. If the appeal is allowed, the motion or amendment shall be treated as an emergency motion or amendment according to the stage of the agenda-setting process at which the appeal has been allowed.

### **6.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference**

Any person excluded from conference by a decision of the Chief Steward shall have the right of appeal to the Committee at the next of its regular meetings. The exclusion shall remain in force pending the appeal.

## **7. The chair**

### **7.1 Who chairs conference**

The President, if present, shall normally take the chair at the formal opening and closing of conference and when the Party Leader is making a formal speech from the platform. At all other sessions the chair shall be appointed by the Committee. Normally no person shall chair more than one session at any meeting.

### **7.2 The chair's aide**

The Committee may appoint an aide or aides to assist the chair of each session.

## **8. Conduct of debate**

### **8.1 Variation in the order of business**

The Committee may propose to the conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the agenda. Such variation shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.

### **8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments**

Once the Committee has included a motion or amendment, or part of a motion or amendment, in the agenda, may not be withdrawn except by leave of conference.

### **8.3 The order of debate**

The Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments and options will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments and options (or their nominees) shall have the right of reply in the same order (except that where an amendment or option has not been opposed during the debate, the chair of the session shall have the right to direct that its movers shall not exercise their right of reply), after which the mover of the motion (or the mover's nominee) shall have the right of reply. Votes shall then be taken on the amendments and options in the order in which they have been moved and, finally, on the substantive motion. The Committee may direct that part of any motion or amendment or groups or amendments may be the subject of a separate debate.

### **8.4 Topical issue discussions**

The Committee shall direct the order of the discussion. Normally the proposer

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of the subject shall speak first, and a representative of the Federal Policy Committee shall speak last.

## **8.5 Who may speak**

All voting members may speak at a full session of conference. Additionally, the Committee may invite any person to address the conference as a guest. Neither such provision shall prejudice the right of the chair of a session to select speakers.

## **8.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees**

Provided that the Federal Policy Committee is not proposing the motion or any of the amendments to be taken in a debate on a policy motion or on motions relating to the policy-making processes of the Party it shall have the right to nominate a person to report its views on the subject before the conference. The Federal Executive shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution, as shall the Federal Conference Committee on motions relating to the proceeding and procedures of the conference and to amend standing orders. Such a person shall be called to speak for the same length of time as the person replying on behalf of the mover of the motion.

## **8.7 The selection of speakers**

Voting members wishing to speak in any debate shall submit a speaker's card, prior to the commencement of the debate in which they wish to speak, stating whether they wish to speak for or against an amendment, the motion or part of the motion. The chair shall be responsible for the choice of the speakers and shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between the different viewpoints in the conference, but may announce a departure from this rule if there is an overwhelming preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side. The chair shall have the discretion to accept speakers' cards after the start of the debate. Save as

provided for in these standing orders, no person may speak more than once in any debate.

## **8.8 The length of speeches**

The Committee shall set out in the agenda time limits for speeches.

## **9. Voting at conference**

### **9.1 The method of voting**

Voting cards shall be issued at each meeting to voting members. The Committee may direct that voting on any issue be by ballot. Subject thereto all votes at full sessions shall be taken by show of voting cards.

### **9.2 Counting of votes**

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

- a) If the Committee has so directed.
- b) If the chair so directs.
- c) As the result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.5 below.

A recount will only be held if the chair is not satisfied that the first count was accurate.

### **9.3 Separate votes**

A separate vote may be taken on a part of a motion or amendment:

- a) On the direction of the Committee.
- b) At the discretion of the chair.
- c) As a result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.4 below.

## **10 Points of order**

### **10.1 Making a point of order**

Any voting member may rise on a point of order which shall be taken immediately except that, during a vote, no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the conduct of the vote. The chair's decision on all points of order shall be final.

## **11 Procedural motions**

### **11.1 Next business**

- a) A voting member may, during any full

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conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.

- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.
- d) The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting being to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

## **11.2 Reference back (moved by a voting member)**

- a) A voting member, who has not already spoken in the debate, may, at any time before the chair has asked the first speaker in reply to stand by, submit, in writing, a request to refer back the motion under debate. The submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a statement of the reasons, including reasons why

voting against the motion would not achieve a similar result, not exceeding 75 words.

- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. If more than one request is received, the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken with respect to any motion.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to refer. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the reference back, it falls.
- d) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- e) If the substantive motion is referred to the Federal Executive, the Federal Policy Committee or the Federal Conference Committee that body shall, in its report to the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

## **11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)**

- a) The Federal Policy Committee may, at any time before the beginning of the

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debate on a motion, submit, in writing, a request to refer that motion to the next meeting of the conference. The chair shall announce the existence of such a request at the start of the debate.

- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. A nominee of the Federal Policy Committee will speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair shall have discretion whether to allow other speakers on the request.
- c) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- d) If passed, the Federal Policy Committee shall, before the next meeting of the conference, circulate its reasons for acting under this section and its comments on the motion and any amendments thereto accepted for debate.

## **11.4 Separate vote**

A voting member of conference may request that the chair take a separate vote on a part of a motion or amendment provided that such a request is in writing and received by the commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled. If the debate is scheduled for the first day of conference, the request must be received in writing by the same deadline as that for emergency motions. The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to take a separate vote. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair of the debate shall have discretion to accept a request

for a separate vote if it is received in writing after this deadline.

## **11.5 Counted vote**

Any voting member may ask for a counted vote, which shall be taken if the request is supported by 50 members rising in their places and showing their voting cards.

## **11.6 Suspension of standing orders**

- a) A voting conference member may, during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of standing orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 75 words, to the chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.
- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the constitution, nor any part of these standing orders which govern:
  - i) The rights of, or timetable for, submission of motions and amendments.
  - ii) Consultative sessions.
  - iii) Procedural motions for next business or suspension of standing orders.
- c) No motion to suspend standing orders to introduce a motion or amendment on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.
- d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides

# Standing orders

not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.

- e) A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of the conference members voting. If the procedural motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

## **11.7 No procedural motions during votes**

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

## **12 Reports**

### **12.1 Which reports are tabled**

The business session or sessions of the conference must include consideration of reports from the bodies listed in Standing Order 1.1(b).

### **12.2 Submission and selection of questions**

A voting member may submit questions to any report tabled for consideration, by the deadlines set under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e). The Committee shall publish in advance of the report session all the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (d) which are in order, compositing similar questions where appropriate.

### **12.3 Whether questions are in order or not**

A question shall be ruled out of order if it asks the body submitting the report about issues which are outside its duties and responsibilities. If the question could be answered by another body reporting to the same conference, the Committee may

transfer the question to that body.

### **12.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered**

After the report is moved, the mover, or their nominee, shall answer the questions in turn. After each question has been answered, the voting member who submitted the question will be given the opportunity to put a supplementary question, speaking for a maximum of two minutes, and the mover, or their nominee, will be given an opportunity to respond. The chair shall determine the time given to the mover in moving the report and replying to questions. The chair shall also determine how many of the published questions, and how many of the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (e), can be taken. After the conference the Committee shall publish the answers to all questions submitted under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e) which are in order, and to all supplementary questions asked.

### **12.5 Approval or rejection of reports from Federal Party committees or sub-committees**

Any report tabled by a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for approval by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move the rejection of any part of the report or of the report as a whole. A voting member wishing to move a rejection shall submit a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report, stating the section(s) which they wish to have rejected. All moves to reject a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between moves to reject the same part of the report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

# Standing orders

## 12.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies

Any report tabled by a body other than a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for receipt by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move not to receive the report, by submitting a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report. A move not to receive a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between more than one move not to receive the same report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

## 13 Amendment of standing orders

### 13.1 Amendment of standing orders

These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of conference voting on a motion duly submitted and selected in accordance with standing orders. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from meeting to meeting.

## 14 The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

### 14.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

At its first meeting after a new election the Committee shall elect a Chair, who must be a member of the Committee directly elected by party members, and at least one Vice Chair, who must be members of the Committee either directly elected by party members or elected by one of the State Parties.

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# The Federal Party

## Officers of the Federal Party

Leader	Tim Farron MP
President	Baroness Sal Brinton
Chair of FFAC	Peter Dunphy
Treasurer	Sir Ian Wrigglesworth
Vice President (England)	Steve Jarvis
Vice President (Scotland)	Sheila Thomson
Vice President (Wales)	Rodney Berman
Chief Executive	Tim Gordon

## Federal Executive

The FE is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Federal Party, including strategy, campaigning, organisation and staffing. The Campaigns and Communications Committee and FFAC report to the FE.

The FE has 29 voting members: the Party President (who chairs it) and three Vice Presidents; the Leader and two other MPs; one peer; one MEP; two councillors; three state party representatives; and 15 members directly elected by party members.

## Federal Finance and Administration Committee

The FFAC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party, directing its administration and ensuring its compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. It is responsible to the FE, but also reports directly to Federal Conference.

The FFAC has 14 voting members: the Chair (currently Peter Dunphy), Party Treasurer and five other members (elected by the FE); the Party President; three state party representatives; and the Chief Executive and two other members of Federal (HQ and Parliamentary) staff.

## Federal Policy Committee

The FPC is responsible for researching and developing policy and overseeing the Federal Party's policy-making process, including producing policy papers for debate at conference and drawing up (in consultation with the relevant parliamentary party) the Federal election manifestos for Westminster and European elections.

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

## Federal Conference Committee

The FCC is responsible for organising the two Federal conferences each year. This includes choosing the agenda from the policy and business motions submitted by party members, local, regional and state parties, specified associated organisations and Federal committees, and taking decisions on venues, registration rates and other organisational matters. It works within a budget set by the FFAC.

The FCC has 21 voting members: the Party President; the Chief Whip; three state party representatives; two representatives from the FE and two from the FPC; and twelve members directly elected by party members. It elects its own chair (currently Andrew Wiseman), who must be one of the directly elected representatives – see page 6 for the members of the FCC.

# Map of York

