



Spring Conference

9 - 11 March 2018, Southport

AGENDA & DIRECTORY

Liberal Democrats

30 years fighting for a fair, free and open society



Conference Rally

Join us in a celebration of Liberal Democrat achievements throughout our 30 year history.



When: Friday 9th March, 18:15-19:30
Where: Main auditorium

Conference App

Liberal Democrats 

Download our Conference App for Spring Conference, with great features such as My Schedule (the easiest way to plan your Conference) and a searchable Fringe Guide and Agenda. Available from 26 February.

To download the App visit App Store or Google Play



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



Contents

Welcome to the Agenda & Directory for the Liberal Democrat spring 2018 federal conference.

Conference venue

Southport Theatre & Convention Centre (STCC),
The Promenade,
Southport PR9 0DZ

Conference hotel

The Ramada Plaza Hotel,
The Promenade,
Southport PR9 0DZ

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

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



If you have any questions whilst at conference please ask a conference steward or go to the Information Desk in the Lower Foyer of the STCC.

Liberal Democrats

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Introduction from the Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Dear Friend,

Welcome to Southport. This weekend, we will address some of the big challenges our country faces. The future of our education system, of our NHS, and of our rural communities are all on the agenda. And there will be much else besides to discuss on the fringe and in the bars and cafes of our conference.

In this, the party's 30th year, we celebrate our proud record of being on the right side of history, and resolve to make the future our own. On the environment, LGBT+ rights, the war in Iraq and the banking crisis, the Liberal Democrats have been ahead of the curve.

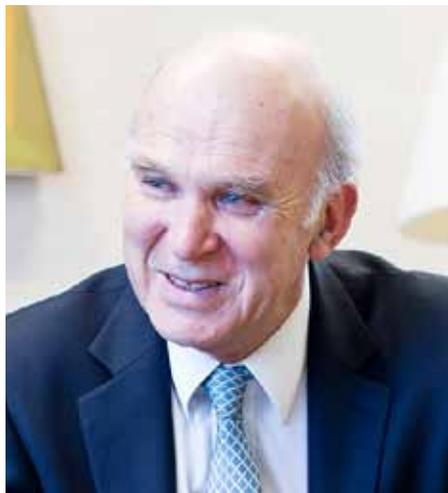
Yet despite these successes, politics has been a difficult place for liberals over the last three years. A tide of nationalism and populism has briefly overwhelmed the essentially liberal nature of our country. Now, I meet hundreds of people every week, crying out for an alternative vision for Britain. Only the Liberal Democrats can offer it.

Using all the skill and expertise we have in our party, we are working up ideas which would see a real

redistribution of wealth and power, a leg up for young people in the housing market and access for every citizen of every age to the skills they will need in a changing economy.

And as we prepare Britain for an uncertain future, we will fight to avoid the certain years of needless further austerity which Brexit would cause. Our country, our continent and our world are all safer and better off with the United Kingdom leading – not leaving – the European Union.

We are winning the argument with leading figures in other parties for a people's 'exit from Brexit' vote, on



the Government's deal. There is still time to win this battle, and it is one we will fight to the last.

I have been active in the Liberal Democrats since the day the party was formed. In those thirty years, we have fought every day for a free, fair and open society – and we have won many victories.

Now we face our first big electoral challenge of this Parliament: the 2018 local elections. A big step forward will set us on the path to gains every year from here on in, rebuilding Liberal Democrat influence at every level of government.

Every Lib Dem councillor elected in May means a louder voice for the Liberal Democrats in Britain today. So please, have a great weekend at this conference, and then get out on the doorsteps campaigning when you return home.

I look forward to seeing you on the campaign trail!



**Rt Hon Vince Cable MP,
Leader of the Liberal Democrats**

Liberal Democrats
Business & Entrepreneurs Network

THE NATURAL PARTY FOR BUSINESS

The Conservatives' Brexit is damaging business and Labour doesn't care. The Lib Dems are the only party championing business and entrepreneurialism.

We are a network of senior business leaders and entrepreneurs who support the party politically, practically and financially.

If you are too, it's time to join us.

To learn more visit www.ldben.com today



Conference information

General information about conference is listed below.

If you have any questions on-site, please ask a steward or go to the Information Desk in the Lower Foyer of the Southport Theatre & Convention Centre (STCC).

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

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

Conference Access Fund

We have established a Conference Access Fund to improve accessibility for members attending conference. The fund consists of a contribution from the Conference budget as well as donations from party members.

Contributions made by members are ring-fenced and where applicable any unused donations will be carried over to the next conference.

For details please see:

www.libdems.org.uk/access-fund

Banking facilities

Please note there is no ATM available at this venue or in the immediate vicinity.

Cloakroom

The STCC 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 the STCC.

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

Disabled access

If you need assistance at the venue, please contact the Information Desk where our dedicated access steward will be on hand to help. If you need information in advance, please contact the Conference Office on

conferences@libdems.org.uk

Auditorium facilities

- A wheelchair lift at the left of the stage; the chair of the session will ensure wheelchair users are called in plenty of time to access the stage.



Conference information

- Reserved space for wheelchair users in front of the stage.
- An induction loop system, which can be linked to hearing aids.
- Sign language interpretation during all auditorium sessions; seats are reserved for users of this service, at the front right of the auditorium.
- Reserved seats at the front of the auditorium for those who 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 venue. Please note that

they need to be returned each evening. To request one please contact the Information Desk or email:

michael.smith@libdems.org.uk

Distribution of literature

Distribution of literature is not allowed inside or directly outside the STCC. 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

ONEPOST™
Save on the things you send.

FREE Fringe Event

Save money on your mailings.
Join us at our free Fringe Event to find out how.

ONEPOST Print & Postal Workshop
Date & Time: Saturday 10th March at 18:15 - 19.15
Where: Waterfront Suite 5, Southport Theatre & Convention Centre

Liberal Democrats
Proudly working in partnership with
The Liberal Democrats since 2010



Conference information

dilapidation charge will be levied against any organisation or individual responsible for 'fly-posting'.

Federal committees helpdesk

Members of the Federal Board and Federal Conference Committee will be available to have strategic conversations with members and give advice respectively, at the Federal Committees Desk in the Lower Foyer of the STCC as follows:

Federal Conference Committee		
Friday	9 March	17.00–18.00
Saturday	10 March	09.00–10.30 and 14.00–16.00

Federal Board		
Saturday	10 March	10.30–12.30 and 14.00–16.00
Sunday	11 March	10.30–11.30

First Aid

If you require First Aid please speak to a conference steward or go to the Information Desk. The stewards

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

Information Desk

The Information Desk is located in the Lower Foyer of the STCC and is open as follows:

Friday	9 March	16.30–18.30
Saturday	10 March	08.30–18.30
Sunday	11 March	08.30–13.30

and can be contacted via:

conferenceinformation@libdems.org.uk

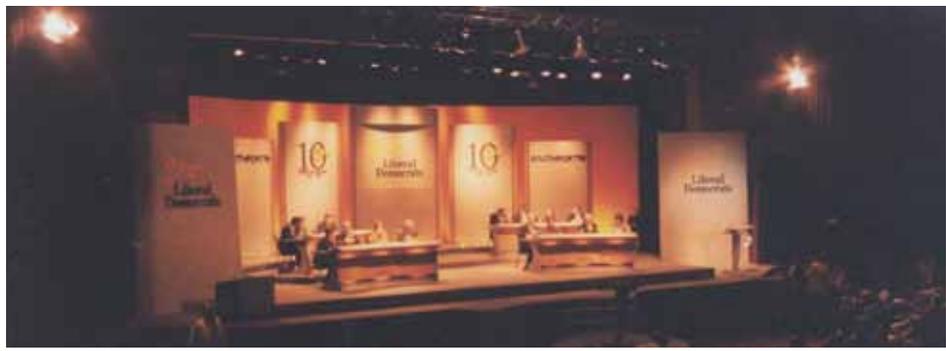
Left luggage

On Sunday 11 March, your hotel should be able to store your luggage for you after checkout.

Alternatively, there is a secure, complimentary luggage service in operation at the reception in the Ramada Plaza.

Prayer & meditation room

Unfortunately due to venue restrictions we are unable to



Conference information

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 the STCC and is open at the following times.

Friday 11 March 16.30–18.30
Saturday 10 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

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 the STCC is possible only with a valid, conference pass. Anyone found in the secure area without a pass will be escorted from the venue.

To ensure you access the venue as quickly as possible please note:

- Attendees will be subject to random bag searches at the entrance.
- Only bring essential items with you into the venue
- Allow time for queuing during

key times – particularly after lunch and ahead of popular events.

- Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the secure zone.
- Unattended bags are brought to the attention of the police and may be removed and/or destroyed.

Transport and travel

The STCC is 10 minutes walk from Southport train station or a short taxi ride.

Taxis

Kwik Cars 01704 547000

Radio Yellow Cabs 01704 531000

All White Taxis 01704 537777

Parking

A Pay and Display car park is located adjacent to the STCC. The cost is £4.50 for between 4 and 24 hours.

Q&A sessions

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

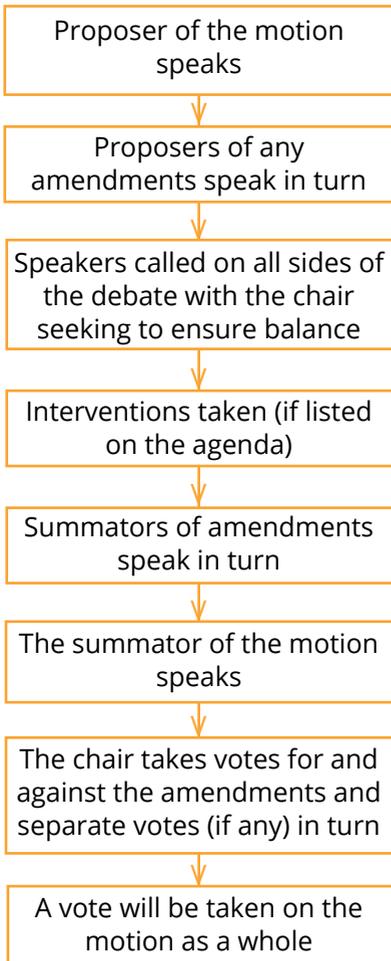
All sessions take place in Waterfront 1 in the STCC – see Conference Daily for details.



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: 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 all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting (2/3 majority for constitutional amendments). To vote, voting members must show their voting badge whilst seated on the ground floor of the auditorium.

Separate votes: a vote 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 www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions, by email to separate.votes@libdems.org.uk, **or** in writing to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium.

Counted vote: the chair of the session may decide that a vote needs to be counted. Any voting member may request a count from the floor; if fifty voting members 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 an exhibitor or observer); and
- not registered as a day visitor.

Party members fulfilling these criteria are known as 'voting members'.

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 card, 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*.

Question & answer sessions

Any party member may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) on any subject for the Leader's Q&A. 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 www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions.
- by 13.00 Tuesday 6 March.

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

- 12.50 Saturday 10 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.

Questions may be submitted using the online form:

- at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions.
- by 13.00 Tuesday 6 March.

Questions received by the deadlines above will be printed in *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 6 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 6 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 20 February.

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

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

Appeals

Appeals against the non-inclusion of emergency motions or amendments must be signed by the original drafting contact and should be no longer than one side of an A4 sheet; give a contact name and telephone number; include a copy of the motion/amendment to which they relate; and give justification for the appeal and new information Federal Conference Committee was unaware of when it made its decision.

Appeals should be sent to:

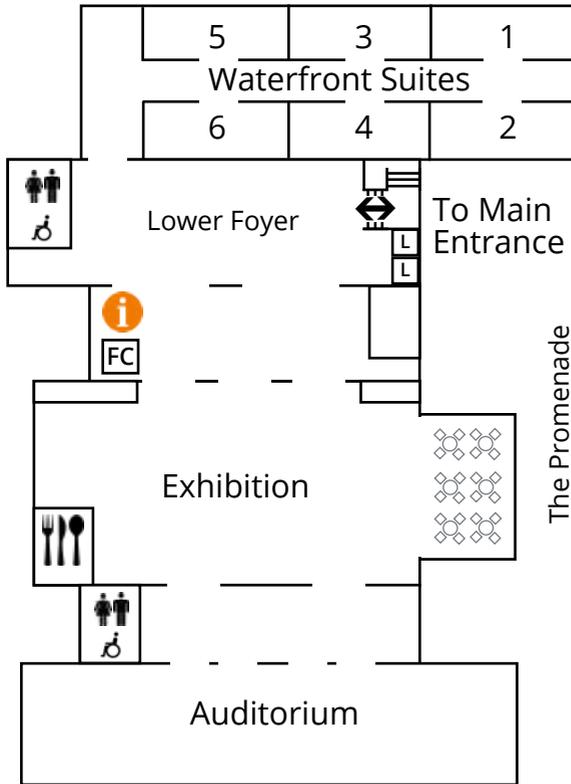
- appeals@libdems.org.uk and submitted by:
- 08.00 Saturday 10 March.



Conference venue plans

The STCC

Information



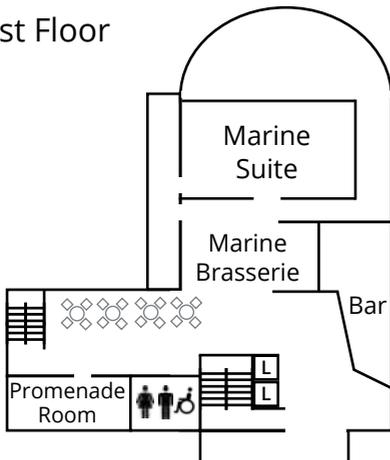
Key

- Toilets
- Lifts
- Stairs
- Information Desk
- Federal Committees helpdesk
- Catering
- Seating
- Exhibition stand (key to stand numbers on p 14)

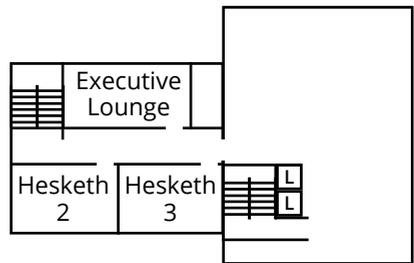
(not to scale)

The Ramada Plaza

1st Floor



2nd Floor



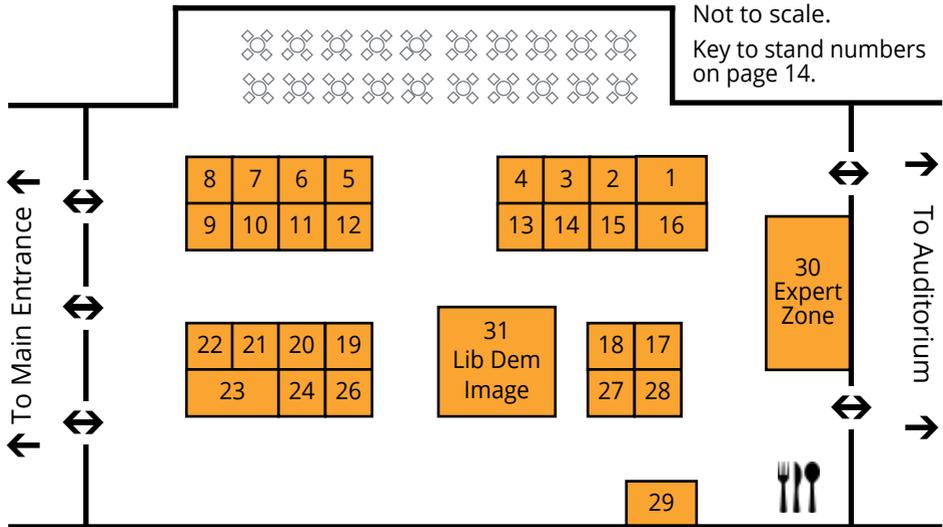
(not to scale)



The exhibition

Exhibition plan

Floral Hall, STCC



Exhibition

Southport Theatre and Convention Centre
welcomes the
Liberal Democrats to Southport

 @STCCEVENTS

SPECIAL OFFERS

Lunch Bags £6.50
Filled Roll, Bag of Crisps, Chocolate Bar, Cold Drink

Coffee & Muffin £3.50

Southport Theatre & Convention Centre 

The exhibition

The exhibition is in the Floral Hall in the STCC and is open at the following times:

Friday	9 March	16.30–18.15
Saturday	10 March	09.00–18.00
Sunday	11 March	09.00–12.00

Exhibition

Exhibitors listed by stand number

- 1 Social Liberal Forum
- 2 Green Liberal Democrats
- 3 Liberator Magazine
- 4 Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform
- 5 Prater Raines
- 6 Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats
- 7 ALDE Party
- 8 Election Workshop
- 9 Prospect Magazine
- 10 Rights-Liberties-Justice (LDLA)
- 11 ALDC – Liberal Democrat Campaigners & Councillors
- 12 LGA Liberal Democrats
- 13 Parliamentary Candidates Association
- 14 ALTER
- 15 Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary
- 16 Liberal Democrat History Group
- 17 Visit Southport
- 18 Liberal Democrat Christian Forum
- 19 Liberal Democrat Women
- 20 Liberal Reform
- 21 LGBT+ Liberal Democrats
- 22 Your Liberal Britain
- 23 Young Liberals
- 24 Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists
- 26 Lib Dem Disability Association

- 27 Liberal Democrat Education Association
- 28 VisitBrighton
- 29 Midshire Business Systems / RISO UK Ltd
- 30 Ask an Expert
- 31 Liberal Democrat Image

Lower Foyer

Federal Committees helpdesk
Information Desk



Ask an Expert is a stand in the exhibition where you can get advice and help on issues big and small. It is open throughout conference and you don't need an appointment. Come along and get advice or one-to-one support on a range of party and campaigning issues. From fundraising to strategy, seat approval and selection - and much, much more!

You can even get one-to-one tuition on Connect, NationBuilder and social media. Whatever you need help with, our team of Liberal Democrat experts will be pleased to help you.

- ✓ Campaigning and winning elections
- ✓ Fundraising
- ✓ New data protection regulations (GDPR)
- ✓ Being an election agent
- ✓ Making the most of Connect, NationBuilder and other digital tools
- ✓ Advice for councillors
- ✓ Parliamentary candidate approval
- ✓ Diversity issues
- ✓ Growing and developing your local party
- ✓ Developing your volunteer team
- ✓ And much more...!



Directory of exhibitors



ALDC – Liberal Democrat Campaigners & Councillors and LGA Liberal Democrats

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

www.aldc.org

www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk **11&12**



ALDE Party

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party is the party for liberal democrat values in Europe. It consists of 58 member parties including the Liberal Democrats and thousands of individual members.

www.aldeparty.eu **7**

Ask an Expert

Ask an Expert provides in-depth one-to-one assistance, training and support on a range of issues. Learn new skills, troubleshoot problems and get advice on issues that matter to you.

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Conference Daily

Pick up *Conference Daily* each morning when you enter the STCC or view it online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conferencepapers



Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists

The Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists (Aldes) provides a resource of engineering and scientific know-how to support the Party. Meet our members and learn how to get involved.

www.aldes.org.uk **24**



ALTER

ALTER seeks to build support for Land Value Taxation amongst Liberal Democrats; and to promote and campaign for this policy as a more sustainable and just resource-based economic system.

www.libdemsalter.org.uk **14**



Election Workshop

Print. Design. Direct Mail. Election Workshop was set up to provide quality and value to Liberal Democrat campaigners. We offer bulk buys and colour print offers for ALDC's template artwork.

www.electionworkshop.co.uk **8**

Federal Committees

Members of the Federal Board and Federal Conference Committee will be available to talk to members at certain times throughout conference – see page 6.

Lower Foyer



Directory of exhibitors

Green Liberal Democrats



Promoting sustainability in politics, both within and beyond our party. Visit our stand for advice about how you can make a difference. It's not just about changing the world, it's about saving it!
www.greenlibdems.org.uk
[@GreenLibDems](https://www.facebook.com/GreenLibDems)

2

Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats



For Liberal Democrats who believe the state should treat everyone equally regardless of their religion or belief. Recent campaigns cover caste discrimination, humanist weddings, discrimination by schools and illegal schools.

www.hslid.org.uk

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LGBT+ Liberal Democrats



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

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

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Lib Dem Disability Association



Working to win the votes of people with disabilities. Providing a voice for members with disabilities. Influencing policies to ensure they reflect the views of people with disabilities and carers.

www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk

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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

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Liberal Democrat Education Association



The Liberal Democrat Education Association aims to improve education through: publishing articles; running conferences; generating new ideas; promoting Lib Dem education policies and providing advice to Liberal Democrats in power.

www.ldea.co.uk

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Liberal Democrat History Group



The past illuminates the present. Subscribe to the Journal of Liberal History. Buy Liberal history publications – including our new booklet, a concise history of the party – ideal for new members.

www.liberalhistory.org.uk

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Liberal Democrat Image



Visit Liberal Democrat Image in the exhibition for all your campaign materials. The official supplier of party merchandise. Follow us on Facebook and on our website:

www.libdemimage.co.uk

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Directory of exhibitors

Liberal Democrat Women



Come visit our exhibition stand to find out more about Liberal Democrat Women and our aims to create gender equality in politics.

www.libdemwomen.org.uk **19**

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.

IDER.org **4**

Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary



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

www.ld4sos.org.uk **15**



Liberal Reform

Liberal Reform exists within the Liberal Democrats to bring together members and campaigners committed to “four-cornered freedom” – personal, political, social and economic.

www.liberalreform.org.uk **20**

Follow our live blog

Libdems.org.uk/conferencelive

liberator

Liberator Magazine

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 **3**



Midshire Business Systems / RISO UK Ltd

Midshire is proud to be the largest reseller of RISO equipment nationally. RISO printers are a favourite with political parties due to their high volume output with various finishing options.

www.riso.co.uk
www.midshire.co.uk **29**

Parliamentary Candidates Association



The PCA provides support to Party members wishing to become MPs. It provides guidance and mentoring at every stage from approval and selection through to election campaigning.

www.libdempca.org.uk **13**

Prater Raines



Making Liberal Democrat campaigns succeed online for 15 years. We'll help you use your website, social media and emails to WIN. Real support, fair pricing and huge range of features.

www.prateraines.co.uk **5**

Directory of exhibitors

Exhibition



Prospect Magazine

Prospect established itself as the home of intelligent debate. It tackles the big challenges confronting society through rigorous analysis and fine writing, in pieces that prompt you to think again.

www.prospectmagazine.co.uk **9**



Rights-Liberties-Justice (LDLA)

Visit us – to join R-L-J (at special introductory rate of £2), for information on the Party's Legacy campaign and updates on our fringe meetings. Chair: James Sandbach.

www.rights-liberties-justice.uk **10**



Social Liberal Forum

SLF exists to create a society where everyone has access to the wealth, power and opportunity to enable us to lead full and rewarding lives, unfettered by conformity and hardship.

www.socialliberal.net **1**



Visit Southport

A seaside town with lots to offer and many reasons to return. Discover enticing places to eat & drink, thrilling attractions, fabulous shopping and stunning beaches and countryside. Take time to enjoy everything that this refreshing town has to offer.

www.VisitSouthport.com **17**



VisitBrighton

VisitBrighton are the official tourism organisation for Brighton & Hove. We look forward to welcoming you back to our city in September so come and visit us on our stand to book your hotel accommodation, collect your Delegate Deals Card and find out all that Brighton has to offer.

www.visitbrighton.com **28**



Young Liberals

Young Liberals provides a platform for young people and students across the UK to campaign and have their voices heard. We are run by students and young people, for students and young people. Our aim is to fight for a society based on fairness, equality and freedom for all.

www.youngliberals.uk **23**



Your Liberal Britain

We're a reform group working to help the Lib Dems make the most of you, the party's members. To get involved, head to liberalbritain.org/sign-up

www.liberalbritain.org **22**

Autumn Conference 2018

Book your accommodation with VisitBrighton at stand 28



Fringe guide

Official fringe venues

Southport Theatre & Convention Centre (STCC),
The Promenade, Southport PR9 0DZ

The Ramada Plaza Hotel,
The Promenade, Southport PR9 0DZ

There are plans of the STCC and of the Ramada Plaza on page 13. Locations of venues are shown on the map of Southport on the back cover.

Fringe meeting access

Access to fringe meetings in the STCC is possible only with a valid conference pass.

Access to the fringe rooms at the STCC will be on a first-come first-served

basis. Each room will have a capacity with no standing room permitted. To reach the fringe of your choice, we advise to come early.

All fringe events listed in the STCC and Ramada Plaza are wheelchair-accessible. If you experience any access difficulties, please let the Information Desk know or make a comment on your online feedback.

If you have any concerns or compliments about a fringe event at conference, please contact the event organiser during or at the end of the session.

Key to fringe listings



Refreshments provided

RAMADA

The Hotel That's Making
A Splash

Award Winning
Last year, here at Ramada Plaza Southport, we were proud to be given the 'Hotel of The Year' Award at the Liverpool City Region Tourism Awards 2017. The key to success? Our winning formula of comfort, luxury and first class service.

Luxury
Fancy something new? Our brand new, refurbished Superior Deluxe rooms are a taste of luxury. Sink into Egyptian Cotton sheets, indulge in a speciality coffee and enjoy the exclusive toiletries, all without stepping out of your room.

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With the on-site Marine Brasserie Bar and Restaurant, our amazing, friendly staff and the plush comfortable rooms - it's no wonder our guests have rated us as the #1 Hotel in Southport. Come and experience it for yourself.

www.ramadaplazasouthport.co.uk TEL: 01704 516 220



Friday 9 March

Fringe Friday early evening 18.15–19.30

Members' Rally

Join us in celebrating Liberal Democrat achievements throughout our 30 year history!

STCC, Auditorium

Fringe Friday mid evening 20.15–21.30

Liberal Democrat History Group

The Liberal Party and women's suffrage

2018 marks 100 years since women were enfranchised for the first time. Why was the Liberal Party so divided over giving women the vote? Discuss the issue with Professor Krista Cowman (Lincoln University) and Dr Geraint Thomas (University of York).

Ramada Plaza, Executive Lounge

ALDC and LGA Lib Dem Group

Be a Councillor: Women in Local Government booklet launch

Celebrating 100 years of women getting the vote. ALDC and LGA booklet launch encouraging more women to stand and the difference Lib Dem Women have made. Speakers: Cllr Kath Pinnock, Cllr Lisa Smart, Cllr Sue McGuire, Cllr Mirna Juarez.

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 2



Catherine Bearder MEP / ALDE

What Brexit means for the North of England

As we are in Southport and in the North of England, this is your chance to hear from the Confederation of British

Industry and the National Farmers Union on how Brexit will impact this region.

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 3

Action for Land Taxation and Economic Reform

Reforming business rates and council tax

Site Value Rating is a long standing Lib Dem Policy and Council tax reform has moved up the agenda as wealth inequalities and the housing crisis has worsened. Michael Meadowcroft will lead a discussion on where we are as a party.

Ramada Plaza, Promenade Room

Social Liberal Forum

SLF Book Launch: "Big Ideas in Brief"

Launch of SLF's newest publication "Big Ideas in Brief" presenting radical ideas from contributors regardless of party identity. Expect a lively discussion from stimulating speakers and thinkers. Copies will be available. Introduced by Helen Flynn, chair of the SLF.

Note: this event starts at 19.30

Victoria Pub, 42–43 The Promenade, The Long Room

Fringe Friday late evening 21.30–23.00

Liberal Democrats Quiz

With Alistair Carmichael as your host and a bounty of amazing prizes up for grabs this is guaranteed to be a great event. Tickets maybe available at the door for £7.

Ramada Plaza, Marine Suite



Saturday 10 March

Fringe Saturday lunchtime 13.00–14.00

Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust
Launch of the new book "Towards a Liberal Society"

Bernard Greaves and David Howarth introduce their restatement for contemporary society of core Liberal values and key policy themes of Liberalism in their new publication "Towards a Liberal Society". Guest speaker Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable.
STCC, Waterfront Suite 1

Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats

Your Life, Your Choice – Who Should Have The Right To Die?

Should you be able to choose the time and manner of your dying, if you cannot do so without assistance? With Dr Antony Lempert (Secular Medical Forum), Thomas Davies (Dignity in Dying), Andrew Squires (whose mother chose an assisted death).

STCC, Waterfront Suite 2

Green Liberal Democrats

The Power of Green Campaigning – From Air Pollution to Energy

How to Strengthen your local campaigning by engaging with key issues in your area – a support campaign/pack will be launched by GLD at the event. Contributions from Wera Hobhouse MP (Communities spokesperson), Friends of Earth Director, LD Activist success stories....

STCC, Waterfront Suite 3

Liberal Democrats Voice

Universal Credit and Welfare Reform

Stephen Lloyd, Shadow Work and Pensions spokesperson, and Caron Lindsay, Scotland social security

Q&A sessions

There will be a series of Q&A sessions during conference where you can ask questions of our spokespeople.

All sessions take place in Waterfront 1 in the STCC – see Conference Daily for details.

spokesperson, together with representatives from Wales and Northern Ireland, will lead a discussion on the roll-out of Universal Credit and where we are going with Welfare Reform.

STCC, Waterfront Suite 4

LGA Liberal Democrat Group and ALDC

What future for Adult Social Care?

Come along to our Adult Social Care booklet launch. What are the key challenges locally and nationally? Speakers include: Baroness Judith Jolly (tbc), Cllr Richard Kemp and Kate Beecroft MHK, Leader, Liberal Vannin, Isle of Man. Chair: Cllr Heather Kidd.

STCC, Waterfront Suite 5



Social Liberal Forum

Alternative War: How Russian Cyberattacks threaten Western democracy

James Patrick, author of Alternative War, exposes Russia's current cyberattacks in the US, EU and UK, which undermine our electoral systems; Baroness Susan Kramer on money-laundering which supports this illegal practice; Dr Mark Pack, Lib Dem authority on election law.

STCC, Waterfront Suite 6

Fringe & training



Fringe Saturday lunchtime 13.00–14.00

Lib Dems in International Development

Lib Dems in International Development

Join our network of professionals and enthusiasts for an NGO-led panel series on pressing topics in international development today. The event begins at 1pm and will run throughout the afternoon – feel free to drop in!

Ramada Plaza, Executive Lounge

Liberal Democrat European Group (LDEG)

LDEG Annual General Meeting

LDEG's AGM, chaired by LDEG President Catherine Bearder MEP, will review past and future activities. Afterwards Catherine and LDEG Chair Nick Hopkinson will discuss wider Brexit developments. LDEG members only, but new members may join (£10) at the door.

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 2

Liberal Democrat Education Association

Key Issues in Education for 2018 and LDEA Annual General Meeting

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

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 3



Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform and Your Liberal Britain

Why should anyone care about electoral reform?

We all know it's difficult to get the public interested in the voting system. You can change this by joining us in a workshop to develop new ideas to engage people on electoral reform. Facilitator: Jim Williams, Your Liberal Britain.

Ramada Plaza, Promenade Room

Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15–19.15

Corporate Tax Working Group

Corporate Tax Policy – Informal Consultation

Business person? Entrepreneur? Just interested? Please do come along and contribute to this informal, friendly, and open discussion. The Group invites you to hear our current thinking and to provide your feedback for our Autumn Conference policy paper.

STCC, Waterfront Suite 1

Rights-Liberties-Justice (Lib Dem Lawyers Assoc)

Undoing the Good Friday Agreement

An expert panel discussion on the potential unravelling of the Good Friday

Agreement, and a review of the way forward for Northern Ireland. Speakers: Lord Alderdice (invited), Dr Shelley Deane and other experts on Northern Ireland.

STCC, Waterfront Suite 2



ONEPOST

ONEPOST print and postal workshop

ONEPOST are already helping the Liberal Democrats make significant savings, providing low cost postal and print solutions. Join us at our free fringe event this Saturday at 18.15 to learn how we can help you save on your next mailing campaign.

STCC, Waterfront Suite 5



Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15–19.15

Social Liberal Forum with Compass *Radical Liberalism – defining what we stand for!*

How can Lib Dems establish a distinct liberal modern-day identity while working with like-minded souls in other parties? Explore this exciting topic with Chris Bowers, co-editor of the 'The Alternative'; Layla Moran MP (tbc); and ex-MP Andrew George.

Ramada Plaza, Executive Lounge

Liberal Democrat Education Association

Parents' Experience of Today's Education System

Parents play a vital role in their children's education, yet their voice is seldom heard. Alison Worsley from charity 'Ambitious about Autism' and parents' representatives will discuss

admissions, attendance and the challenges facing parents of children with special educational needs.

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 2

Catherine Bearder MEP / ALDE *Anglo-Irish Relationships in the Face of Brexit*

Join Alistair Carmichael MP, Spokesperson on Northern Ireland, Marian Harkin MEP, Independent ALDE MEP for Midlands-North-West Constituency, Ireland, Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC, Doughty Street Chambers, and John McGrane, Director-General, British Irish Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the future of Anglo-Irish relations.

**Ramada Plaza,
Promenade Room,**



Fringe &
training

Fringe Saturday mid evening 19.45–21.00

Your Liberal Britain

Policy Brainstorm: Ashdown Prize for Radical Thought

YLB have partnered with Paddy Ashdown to launch a prize for the boldest new policy idea to empower the citizen. This session will challenge you to develop the winning idea. See www.liberalbritain.org for more details.

Ramada Plaza, Executive Lounge

Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary (LD4SOS)

The UK's Broken Asylum System: filling the holes and fixing the process

Dave Smith, Membership Capacity Builder for the NACCOM network, will explain what Boaz and other voluntary groups are doing to fill the huge gaps and why we need a completely new way of assessing asylum cases.

Followed by a Q&A time.

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 2

LGA Lib Dem Group and ALDC *The Battle for Bedford Borough*

Hear about the Liberal Democrat journey in Bedford and the Liberal Democrat led administration's successes. Speakers include Bedford Mayor Dave Hodgson, Campaigns Officer Christine McHugh, and Alexa Williams, Campaigns Organiser. Chair: Cllr Howard Sykes, LGA Lib Dem Group Leader.

**Ramada Plaza,
Promenade Room**



Follow us on Twitter

@libdemconf #LDconf



Fringe Saturday late evening 21.30–23.00

Liberal Reform

The Northern Powerhouse: liberalism enacted, statism writ large or a vacuous slogan?

The coalition commitment to building a 'Northern Powerhouse' seems to be dying a quick and quiet death. Is it a concept which Liberals should embrace and revive, or consign to history? Our panel of experts and policy-makers debates.

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 2

Association of Lib Dem Engineers and Scientists (Aldes)

Science and Engineering reception

The Association of Lib Dem Engineers and Scientists invite attendees to join them for a drinks reception to meet other party members with a science and engineering background,

share experiences and policy ideas, and network. Guest speakers to be announced.

**Ramada Plaza,
Promenade Room**



Glee Club

Join us for the ultimate end-of conference celebration! Pick up your copy of the Liberator Songbook and come 'raise the roof'!

Note: this event starts at 22.00 and ends at 01.00

Ramada Plaza, Marine Suite



SOUTHPORT WELCOMES THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SPRING CONFERENCE

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Training & Workshops

We want to help you get the most from Spring Conference training. Whether you joined the party a month ago or twenty or more years ago, there are courses at conference for everyone.

Every course is 'tagged' with the different skills you will learn, helping you find the right training course for you. If you need any help, please get in touch at training@libdems.org.uk.

Finding the right sessions for you

diversity

Learn how to engage diverse people and communities or find out how to build a successful and sustainable political career as a person from an under-represented group.

digital

Learn how to get the most from the party's suite of digital tools. Find out how to engage voters and supporters through a range of digital channels.

fundraising

Whether you are trying to win an election or grow your local party, fundraising is crucial. Learn how to fundraise, get ideas, tips, tricks as well as advice and support.

party roles

Across the party there are many roles you could take on. Learn the skills needed to take on different party roles and find out about how you can develop your skills further.

campaigning

Whether you have been campaigning and fighting elections for decades or are just getting started, learn the latest techniques and brush up on your existing skills.

compliance

These courses will keep you up to date on legal and compliance issues. Particularly useful for election agents and local party officers.

personal

Personal development courses will help you develop a range of skills that will enable you to grow in your roles within the Liberal Democrats as well as in the outside world.

teams

Building diverse, winning teams is crucial to our success at all levels. These courses will help you build a team and enable your team to thrive and grow further.



Training & Skills: Saturday

Saturday 08.00–09.00

Getting started with the membership database

Salesforce, our membership database, is the tool that you need to find & manage all of your local party members. Here we show you how to navigate the software effectively. This course is only suitable for those local party officers (Membership/Data officer or Treasurer) with access to the membership database.

Membership Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 3

party roles

compliance

digital

Could you be an MP?

Thinking about Parliamentary candidate approval? We want to encourage prospective candidates from diverse backgrounds. Come along and find out more. You'll also be buddied up with someone to help you complete the form! There are two opportunities at conference to attend this session.

Saturday, 14.30 - 15.45
STCC, Waterfront Suite 1

Sunday, 0930 - 1045
STCC, Waterfront Suite 6

Saturday 09.30–10.45

Membership database drop-in session

Got a practical question, or need help finding something on the membership database? Come and join us at our Salesforce drop-in and get answers from our experts.

Membership Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 2

party roles

compliance

digital

Councillor training: Building a councillor brand (**BASIC LEVEL**)

A look at all the ways you need to think about developing your councillor or candidate brand - both online and offline and how to turn it into electoral success.

ALDC

STCC, Waterfront Suite 4

campaigning

personal



Training & Skills: Saturday continued

Saturday 09.30–10.45 cont.

Getting your message right

Whether you're facing elections in May or building for future years, getting your message right is key. Learn how to develop a strong local message and how to integrate effectively with national messages to get the best results.

ALDC

STCC, Waterfront Suite 3

campaigning

teams

diversity

Speaking in public - at a selection hustings or at public meetings.

(Women Only)

Every candidate wants to give a brilliant speech each and every time they stand up in front of an audience. Come along and learn the techniques and tips to help you do just that.

Campaign for Gender Balance

Ramada Plaza, Promenade

diversity

party roles

personal

Effective community campaigning

Learn how to best utilise key multi-faith and cultural dates, as well as local issues, to increase community engagement throughout your local election campaign.

Diversity Team

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 2

diversity

teams

campaigning

Introduction to becoming an approved candidate

Get vital info about how to join the team of Lib Dem candidates. Ideal for new members looking to make the most of their first 12 months of membership

Candidates Team

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 3

diversity

party roles

personal

Being an agent for local elections

(Basic Level)

An important session for ALL agents of local election candidates. This session is a must for any agent in the forthcoming elections, first time agents and those who have agented before should both attend.

Compliance Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 5

compliance

personal

campaigning

Candidate's Briefing for Approved Parliamentary Candidates

(By invitation only)

This briefing will provide useful information for candidates on how to prepare, campaign and maintain themselves in the months ahead. Followed by Q & A. For an invitation please send an email to candidates@libdems.org.uk.

Candidates Team

Ramada Plaza, Marine Suite

diversity

party roles

personal

Fringe & training



Training & Skills: Saturday continued

Saturday 11.00–12.30

Ask Me for Money: Conversations with a Real Live Major Donor (This session will run 11am - 12pm)

Following the enormous popularity of our autumn 2017 session, this is a chance to hear from and question in person a party major donor, understand what makes them tick, how to approach a big ask and the key to securing a lasting donor relationship.

Fundraising Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 2

fundraising

personal

How to write the best email and target letters

Come and find out how to write the most effective emails and target letters and target your message to different audiences.

Campaigns Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 3

campaigning

digital

Using video to campaign (Advanced Level)

Online campaigning is changing fast. We discuss the why's and wherefores of digital campaigning and show you how to effectively do your next video.

ALDC

STCC, Waterfront Suite 4

campaigning

digital

Pick a ward and win it: Winning the postal vote/The last week (Basic Level)

This is a double session - First we look at the importance of the postal vote and how to maximise your vote amongst postal voters. Then we cover the 'Get Out The Vote' plan for the last week of the campaign.

ALDC

STCC, Waterfront Suite 5

campaigning

digital

compliance

Using Connect and data to win

Get the most from the party's online voter database, Connect, and better understand the data it gives you.

Campaigns Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 6

campaigning

digital

The new Data Protection Regulations – what you need to know

Important session for all local party officers and campaigners. The new Data Protection Regulations are coming in May and will change the way everyone in the Liberal Democrats handles and collects data. All local party officers and campaigners should attend at least one of the three sessions at this conference.

Compliance Team

Ramada Plaza, Marine Suite

compliance

teams



Training & Skills: Saturday continued

Saturday 11.00–12.30 cont.

Young and Winning: develop skills to become a successful young candidate

Develop the skills and tools needed as a young candidate to run a successful electoral campaign.

Young Liberals

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 2

party roles

personal

diversity

Successful Parliamentary selection – kickstarting your PPC selection in the local elections

Top tips on getting ahead in a candidate selection and using the 2018 local elections to do so. From building support in the membership to acing the hustings.

Candidates Team

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 3

party roles

personal

diversity

Interview skills for selection

(Women Only)

Shortlisting interviews are one of the most important elements of winning a selection battle. This module will help you impress the panel and make it through to the hustings.

Campaign for Gender Balance

Ramada Plaza, Promenade

personal

diversity

New Data Protection Rules Training for Local Party officers and campaigners

The new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) are coming in May and they will change the way everyone in the Liberal Democrats handles and collects data.

All local party officers and campaigners should attend at least one of the three sessions at this conference to find out more.

Come along and find out more.

Session 1

When: Saturday 11.00 - 12.30

Where: Ramada Plaza, Marine Suite

Session 2

When: Saturday 14.30 - 15.45

Where: Ramada Plaza, Marine Suite

Session 3

When: Sunday 11.00 - 12.30

Where: STCC, Waterfront Suite 6

Top Tip for Training

The coloured buttons make suggestions as to what skills you will learn in each session. Use this as a guide to help you find the right training for your needs.

Fringe & training



Training & Skills: Saturday continued

Saturday 14.30–15.45

Could you be an MP?

Thinking about Parliamentary candidate approval? We want to encourage prospective candidates from diverse backgrounds. Come along and find out more. You'll also be buddied up with someone to help you complete the form!

Candidates Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 1

party roles personal diversity

Be a councillor: Approval and selection procedures

This session covers the approvals process in detail, discussing why it is necessary, how to do it and how to carry out your local selection process.

ALDC and LGA Lib Dems

STCC, Waterfront Suite 4

party roles personal campaigning

Winning in the final 6 weeks

Ensure you maximise the final few crucial weeks of your election campaign and do what's needed to get the results you deserve.

Campaigns Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 3

campaigning teams digital

Growing your local party

Raise money, grow your team, win elections – all by growing your local party's membership. Join us for practical

hints and tips on how to identify potential members, make contact with them, persuade them to join and how to keep them engaged after the first year.

Membership Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 2

fundraising teams diversity

Raising the money to win

Campaigns and elections cost money. Find out how best to go about fundraising to win.

Campaigns Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 6

fundraising campaigning

Developing campaigning: Advanced literature (Advanced Level)

Why you need to do more than just Focus, what sorts of literature you can produce and why, and for whom each type works. We discuss tips to producing a variety of literature.

ALDC

STCC, Waterfront Suite 5

campaigning

Q&A sessions

Come to our Q&A sessions where you can ask questions of our spokespeople – see Conference Daily for details
In Waterfront 1 in the STCC.



Training & Skills: Saturday continued

Saturday 14.30–15.45 cont.

The new Data Protection Regulations – what you need to know

Important session for all local party officers and campaigners. The new Data Protection Regulations are coming in May and will change the way everyone in the Liberal Democrats handles and collects data. All local party officers and campaigners should attend at least one of the three sessions at this conference.

Compliance Team

Ramada Plaza, Marine Suite

compliance

teams

Local Elections: how to win over young voters

A session on how to tailor Young Liberals' campaigns to your local area in order to engage young activists and secure the support of young voters.

Young Liberals

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 2

diversity

campaigning

Media and Public speaking skills for candidates

Prospective Parliamentary Candidates are on the frontline delivering the Lib Dem message on the doorstep, in their communities and to their local media. Learn how to perfect your media skills with a leading media coach.

Candidates Team

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 3

party roles

personal

Designing and producing winning selection literature (*Women Only*)

Great literature is a key element in winning a selection. We will look at what you need to include and what to leave out when writing a top quality selection leaflet.

Campaign for Gender Balance

Ramada Plaza, Promenade

party roles

personal

diversity

Fringe & training



Training & Skills: Saturday continued

Saturday 16.00–17.30

Being agent for local elections

(Advanced Level)

An important session for ALL agents of target seat local election candidates. This session is a must for agents in the forthcoming elections who are running more than just minimal campaigns, first time agents and those who have agented before should attend.

Compliance Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 1

campaigning

compliance

Countdown to Local Election Fundraising: Every Day from Now until May

Your final steps in detail to achieve a good campaign fund. Learn techniques to complete one fundraising goal every day to ensure a winning war chest.

Fundraising Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 2

fundraising

campaigning

What a good digital campaign looks like

How email, Facebook and other digital tools can build your supporter base, reach fresh audiences and give you new insight into local communities.

Campaigns Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 3

campaigning

digital

Pick a ward and win it: Knocking on doors/Installing and using Mini-Van

(Basic Level)

Another double session - We begin by looking at the importance of talking to voters and look at ways to do it. We follow this by looking at the party's canvassing app - 'MiniVAN'.

ALDC

STCC, Waterfront Suite 4

digital

campaigning

Unconscious Bias - what it is and why it matters

Unconscious Bias is the source of prejudice and discrimination. Understanding how to recognise Unconscious Bias and challenge it appropriately are the key to building high performing teams.

Diversity Team

Ramada Plaza, Hesketh 3

diversity

personal

teams

Planning and winning a selection campaign *(Women Only)*

The key to a successful selection campaign is preparing a comprehensive plan. Find out what you can prepare ahead - and what it takes to win selection.

Campaign for Gender Balance

Ramada Plaza, Promenade

party roles

diversity

personal



Training & Skills: Sunday

Sunday 09.30–10.45

Running your local party

New local party officer? Old-hand looking for new ideas? Join us for all the essential information about running a local party, what you need to do and how to make it fun!

Membership Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 2

teams

party roles

Could you be an MP?

Thinking about Parliamentary candidate approval? We want to encourage prospective candidates from diverse backgrounds. Come along and find out more. You'll also be buddied up with someone to help you complete the form!

Candidates Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 6

party roles

personal

diversity

Be a councillor: Making candidate pools more diverse

How email, Facebook and other digital tools can build your supporter base, reach fresh audiences and give you new insight into local communities.

ALDC with LGA Lib Dems

STCC, Waterfront Suite 4

party roles

teams

diversity

Raising the money to win

Campaigns and elections cost money. Find out how best to go about fundraising to win.

Campaigns Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 3

campaigning

fundraising

Sunday 11.00–12.30

What a good digital campaign looks like

Find out how email, Facebook and other digital tools can build your supporter base, reach fresh audiences and give you new insight into local communities.

Campaigns Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 3

campaigning

digital

Councillor training: Using the council to campaign (*Intermediate Level - for elected councillors*)

How to use the council in your campaigning from full council to scrutiny. This session discusses how to agree key themes/messages, communicating what you are doing and planning your campaigning efforts.

ALDC with LGA Lib Dems

STCC, Waterfront Suite 4

campaigning

teams



Training & Skills: Sunday

Sunday 11.00–12.30 cont.

New ways of Fundraising in a Digital Landscape *(One hour followed by optional 30 minute Q&A session)*

Take a step into digital fundraising with examples from our most successful email and crowd-funding campaigns. Learn the basics, as well as ways to improve your response rates and average donations with well written, engaging content. This session is ideal for parties using, or just starting out with NationBuilder, as well as other platforms.

Fundraising Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 2

fundraising

digital

The new Data Protection Regulations – what you need to know

Important session for all local party officers and campaigners. The new Data Protection Regulations are coming in May and will change the way everyone in the Liberal Democrats handles and collects data. All local party officers and campaigners should attend at least one of the three sessions at this conference.

Compliance Team

STCC, Waterfront Suite 6

compliance

teams

See you in Brighton?

15th – 18th September 2018

A successful, dynamic and leading leisure and business destination. Brighton combines an enviable seaside location with a vibrant city atmosphere.

For sea with a summer sparkle and superb sunsets, amazing shops, glorious gastronomy, an extraordinary Royal Palace, arts and culture galore plus a cornucopia of accommodation, just visit Brighton.

VisitBrighton have been appointed the official accommodation provider for September's Autumn Conference so if you are planning to attend and need a place to stay, we can help you find and book accommodation. Whether its budget, boutique, traditional, leading brand or a smaller hotel/ guesthouses, we have a great range available that will suit your budget.

Come and speak to us on our stand in the Exhibition Hall to book your accommodation and also discover the vast range of things you can see and do whilst in our great city.

If you are unable to visit our stand, you can book your accommodation online at our official booking site:
<https://www.passkey.com/go/LDAC2018>

We wish you all a productive, enjoyable and memorable Spring Forum and we look forward to seeing you in Brighton in September. For more information about Brighton, visit:
www.visitbrighton.com



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Sunday 11 March

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Friday 9 March

15.00–17.30 Consultative sessions

Immigration, Refugees and Identity

Hesketh Suite
Ramada Plaza

Chair: Adam Pritchard
Rapporteur: To be announced

Power for People and Communities

Promenade Room
Ramada Plaza

Chair: Baroness Pinnock
Rapporteur: To be announced

Tuition Fees in Higher Education

Marine Suite
Ramada Plaza

Chair: David Howarth
Rapporteur: To be announced

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 Policy Working Group. The conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final policy papers.

Note: these sessions are for Party members only.

All conference sessions except the consultative sessions above take place in the Auditorium in the STCC.



Saturday 10 March

09.00 Party business

Chair: Alex Hegenbarth. Aide: Liz Lynne. Hall Aide: Cara Jenkinson.

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

09.10 Party business

Chair: James Gurling (Chair, Federal Campaigns and Elections Committee).
Aide: Jenni Lang. Hall Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

F2 Report: Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 6 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, Saturday 10 March. See page 10 for further information.

F3 Report: Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 6 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, Saturday 10 March. See page 10 for further information.

09.30 Policy motion

Chair: Jennie Rigg. Aide: Alex Hegenbarth. Hall Aide: Mary Reid.

F4 Local Government and Housing

ALDC

Mover: Wera Hobhouse MP (Spokesperson on Communities and Local Government).

Summation: Cllr Chris White.

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 A. That the concept of a 'house' as a home now too often takes
- 3 second place to the idea that the prime use of a 'house' is as a
- 4 financial asset.
- 5 B. The important role that local government has in delivering



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- 6 housing through its roles in the planning system, in social
7 housing and in delivering housing benefit.
- 8 C. That peak housebuilding was achieved in 1968 – the
9 consequence of decades of low home building is the current
10 shortage of housing, including the 125,000 children currently
11 homeless.
- 12 D. The number of homes that have been lost from the social
13 housing sector, 330,000 in the 13 years of the last Labour
14 Government, as Right to Buy took social housing away and
15 allowed much smaller levels of social home rebuilding.
- 16 E. The Scottish and Welsh Governments have changed the law to
17 abolish the Right to Buy.
- 18 F. Many councils are borrowing heavily to invest in commercial
19 property.
- 20 G. Recent investigations by the Liberal Democrats have identified
21 empty residential properties in many areas.
- 22 H. That many development projects fail to deliver the proportion of
23 affordable housing agreed at the planning stage.
- 24 I. The recent dramatic rise in the number of rough sleepers.
- 25 Conference believes that:
- 26 i) Having a decent, warm, appropriate home in a clean, safe and
27 well-managed neighbourhood is a basic human right that could
28 and should be readily afforded in a country as wealthy as the UK.
- 29 ii) For many people home ownership is appropriate but for others
30 it is neither appropriate nor affordable, and in some cases is not
31 desired.
- 32 iii) The concentration on the role of housing as financial assets
33 has led to the creation of a situation where ‘house’ prices have
34 moved far faster than wages for decades and where young
35 people have been priced out of the market for home ownership.
- 36 iv) There is a fundamental difference between affordable housing
37 (which delivers housing that key and public sector workers can
38 afford) and social housing (which delivers housing which anyone
39 can afford).
- 40 v) While much private rental property is of a good quality there
41 remain significant problems in the private rental sector; in
42 addition, it is not the appropriate housing type for some groups
43 of people, in particular for families with school-age children.
- 44 vi) The current powers for local government to provide new social
45 housing directly, to bring empty housing back into use, to
46 enforce planning requirements for social housing and to plan for



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- 47 the provision of social and affordable housing are inadequate.
48 vii) Empty Dwelling Management Orders have not proved effective
49 in bringing large numbers of empty homes back into use.
50 viii) Younger and single people have little access to social housing,
51 which is contributing to the rise in rough sleeping.

52 Conference reaffirms:

- 53 a) Liberal Democrat policy to build 300,000 houses a year by 2022.
54 b) Liberal Democrat policy to allow councils greater freedom to
55 borrow for the provision of social housing, including scrapping
56 the housing borrowing cap.

57 Conference calls for:

- 58 1. Local Authorities to be able to borrow from the Public Works
59 Loan Board to buy land for housing and to build both affordable
60 and social housing on the same terms they are currently
61 borrowing to purchase commercial property.
62 2. The development of housing cooperatives for the social rented
63 sector to give power to tenants to run their own estates.
64 3. Local government to have the power to abandon Right to Buy,
65 depending on local need.
66 4. The EDMO legislation to be reviewed, for the powers for local
67 government to compulsory purchase empty properties to be
68 strengthened and for the process for compulsory purchase to be
69 streamlined.
70 5. Local government to have the power to direct the use of publicly
71 owned land before disposal (including land owned by the NHS
72 and Ministry of Defence), including to require its use wholly or
73 partly for affordable and/or social housing.
74 6. Receipts from the sale of council housing to be used for the
75 provision of new social housing by local government including
76 meeting the needs of rough sleepers.

Applicability: England.

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 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 11 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 8 – is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.



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10.15 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Paul Tilsley. Aide: Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Hall Aide: Cara Jenkinson.

F5 Exit from Brexit

12 members

Mover: Rt Hon Tom Brake MP (Spokesperson on Exiting the European Union and International Trade).

Summation: Wera Hobhouse MP (Spokesperson on Communities and Local Government).

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) Outline agreement has finally been reached between the UK
- 3 and the EU27 on the issues of financial settlement, the border
- 4 between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and EU
- 5 citizens' rights.
- 6 ii) The talks are now moving on to the detail of the transition, then
- 7 the future relationship between the UK and EU27.
- 8 iii) EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU remain uncertain
- 9 about their futures.
- 10 iv) The principle of a transition period of around 2 years has been
- 11 agreed.
- 12 v) Despite the promises of the Leave campaign, no guarantee has
- 13 been made of additional money to the NHS.

14 Conference believes that:

- 15 a) No deal that the government can negotiate is better than the one
- 16 we already have as a member of the European Union.
- 17 b) There is no clarity on whether, to resolve the Ireland border
- 18 issue, the outline agreement will require Northern Ireland to
- 19 abide by the rules of the Single Market and Customs Union.
- 20 c) The agreement reached on EU citizens' rights does not go far
- 21 enough to protect existing rights of EU citizens in the UK.
- 22 d) The agreement reached on UK citizens' rights does not go far
- 23 enough to protect existing rights of UK citizens in the EU.

24 Conference condemns the Government's failure to conduct and

25 publish assessments on the impact of different forms of Brexit

26 across each department.

27 Conference urges the Labour leadership to fully reflect the views of

28 their members who by an overwhelming majority want the UK to stay



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- 29 in the Single Market & Customs Union, and also want voters to have
30 the final say.
- 31 Conference regrets the negative impact of Brexit on the NHS and
32 other public services.
- 33 Conference calls for:
- 34 1. The British people to be given control and offered an exit from
35 Brexit in the form of a people's vote on the final deal.
- 36 2. The vote on the final deal to be a choice between accepting the
37 deal or remaining a member of the EU.
- 38 3. In the absence of a referendum, Parliament to be given a
39 meaningful vote on the Brexit deal before the UK finally leaves
40 the EU, this vote would include an option to stay in the EU.
- 41 4. Assessments to be conducted and published on the impact
42 of different Brexit scenarios by each government department
43 before the final decision is made to inform MPs and the public of
44 the implications of Brexit.
- 45 5. The Liberal Democrats to continue to campaign for Britain to
46 remain a full and active member of the European Union.

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 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 11 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 8 – is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

11.00 Speech

Chair: Jenni Lang. Aide: Victor Chamberlain. Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley.

F6 Rt Hon Sir Ed Davey MP (Spokesperson on Home Affairs)



@EdwardJDavey, #LDconf

11.20 Policy motion

Chair: Liz Lynne. Aide: Alex Hegenbarth. Hall Aide: Chris Maines.

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

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson on Education).

Summation: Cllr Lucy Nethsingha (Chair of the Policy Working Group).

1 Conference believes that:

2 A. Education is core to our Liberal Democrat Values.

3 B. It opens the mind, fosters understanding and tolerance, and
4 empowers our children and our communities to be the best they
5 can be.

6 C. Every child deserves a great start in life so they are equipped to
7 shape their own future, and are determined to make sure that
8 the education system finds and unleashes the best in everyone.

9 D. Education helps break down the unfair divisions in our society,
10 it ensure a productive, competitive economy and it overcomes
11 intolerance.

12 E. Despite the excellent work of schools, parents and children,
13 persistent levels of educational inequality mean far too many
14 children leave school without the skills and knowledge they need
15 to succeed.

16 Conference regrets that:

17 i) The Conservative government's spending plans continue to
18 underfund education.

19 ii) Excessive bureaucratic demands and constant changes in policy
20 place an unnecessary workload on teachers.

21 iii) Pressure to pass exams restricts schools' ability to focus on
22 developing a wider education: on the arts, creativity and skills for
23 work and life.

24 Conference endorses the approach of policy paper 128, *Every Child*
25 *Empowered: education for a changing world*, as a statement of Liberal
26 Democrat policy to meet these challenges. Conference particularly
27 calls for:

28 1. An end to Conservative cuts to education including:

29 a) A commitment to at least protect per-pupil spending in real
30 terms, including in Further Education.

31 b) Protection of the pupil premium.

32 2. Support for early years education including:



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- 33 a) Increasing the early years pupil premium from £300 per year
34 to £1000.
- 35 b) Ensuring all early years settings have a training programme
36 for staff, with the majority of staff who are working with
37 children to either have a relevant qualification or be working
38 towards one; each setting should be Graduate-led.
- 39 3. Boosting the readiness of children to learn and supporting
40 household budgets by extending free school meals to all
41 primary-age children.
- 42 4. Action to improve the quality of teaching and boost the morale
43 of teachers by:
- 44 a) Supporting the Chartered College of Teaching.
45 b) Requiring all teachers in state schools to be Qualified
46 Teachers (or be working towards Qualified Teacher Status).
47 c) Providing 50 hours per year of high quality Continuing
48 Professional Development.
- 49 5. Delivering a more coherent and accountable structure for state
50 schools in England by:
- 51 a) Making places planning, exclusions, admissions including
52 in-year admissions, and SEND functions the responsibility of
53 Local Authorities.
54 b) Abolishing Regional Schools Commissioners.
55 c) Giving a level playing field between Local Authority Schools
56 and Multi-Academy Trusts, ending the assumption that if a
57 new school is needed it cannot be a Community School.
- 58 6. Modernising the curriculum by:
- 59 a) Requiring all state schools including academy and free
60 schools to teach a broad and balanced curriculum.
61 b) Including a 'curriculum for life' (eg. RSE, Citizenship, First Aid,
62 Financial Literacy) and ensuring every child has access to high
63 quality, independent careers advice.
64 c) Allowing the detail of curriculum to be worked out by a
65 new, independent Education Standards Authority, working
66 alongside the profession and without political interference.
- 67 7. Maintaining high standards while reducing unnecessary
68 distortions in the system arising from the current accountability
69 framework by:



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- 70 a) Replacing the existing Ofsted with a reformed independent
71 inspection system which should focus on judging whether
72 school leaders are capable of leading improvement and an
73 assessment of the long term success of the whole school,
74 looking at pupil and teacher well-being as well as results.
75 b) Replacing existing government performance tables ('league
76 tables') of schools with a broader set of indicators including
77 more qualitative data about pupil wellbeing.
78 c) Scrapping existing mandatory SATs tests at both KS1 and KS2,
79 and replacing the them with a moderated teacher assessment
80 at the end of each phase and some lighter-touch testing.
81 d) Have decisions to intervene in schools or change their
82 governance arrangements normally be made by the Local
83 Authority or MAT, ending the presumption that a temporary
84 dip in results will trigger academisation or re-brokering of
85 schools already functioning as academies.
- 86 8. Improving the way the system treats pupils with Special
87 Education Needs and Disabilities by:
- 88 a) Screening for children to identify trauma and neglect in early
89 years, and proactively provide early and evidence-based
90 interventions to stop the trauma becoming entrenched.
91 b) Supporting measures to reduce the number of children with
92 special educational needs who are excluded from school –
93 these children are six times more likely to be excluded than
94 children with no SEN.
95 c) Emphasising SEND provision in inspections.
- 96 9. Giving greater support to the mental health of pupils by:
- 97 a) Developing a mental health care pathway beginning in
98 schools that links with local mental health services.
99 b) Establishing a specific individual responsible for mental
100 health in schools, who would provide a link to expertise and
101 support for children experiencing problems and would also
102 take a lead on developing whole school approaches to mental
103 wellbeing.

Applicability: England.

Mover and summation of motion: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 9.



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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 pages 8 and 9 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 11 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 8 – is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

12.50 Lunch break

14.10 Policy motion

Chair: Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley. Hall Aide: Nicholas da Costa.

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

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Baroness Bakewell (Lords Spokesperson on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

Summation: Cllr Heather Kidd (Chair of Policy Working Group).

1 Conference believes that all communities – whether rural or
2 urban – should have the opportunity to flourish. Conference notes,
3 however, that national policy decisions tend to be made with urban
4 communities in mind and, therefore, they do not always benefit rural
5 communities as well as they could.

6 Conference notes that rural communities face substantial challenges
7 in the following areas:

- 8 i) Housing: Housing in rural areas is less affordable than housing
9 in urban areas (excluding London); average wages are lower
10 and average house prices higher, which damages communities
11 by forcing key workers to live outside the communities in which
12 they work.
- 13 ii) Services: Access to services in rural areas – broadband services,
14 mobile coverage, public transport, postal services and health and
15 social care services – lags too far behind that which is available in
16 urban areas.
- 17 iii) Economy: There has been a large change in the type of
18 employment available in rural areas – with a growth in tourism
19 and other service industries – and these jobs require the rural
20 population to have a broad and flexible skill base that is not
21 encouraged through existing training routes.



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- 22 iv) Land use and the environment: farming, horticulture and
23 forestry need to be able to deliver a sufficient quantity of food
24 and other products for the UK market while actively protecting
25 and caring for the environment.
- 26 v) Flooding: Many rural and coastal communities are still suffering
27 the consequences of severe flooding in recent years; they lack
28 both the support to recover and the funding for new flood
29 protection.
- 30 Conference endorses the approach of policy paper 129, *A Rural*
31 *Future: Time to Act*, as a statement of Liberal Democrat policy to meet
32 these challenges.
- 33 Conference particularly calls for:
- 34 1. Increasing the availability of affordable housing in rural
35 communities:
- 36 a) Easing planning restrictions to allow agricultural buildings no
37 longer suitable for agriculture to be converted to homes.
- 38 b) Building affordable homes on all developments: require a
39 right to provision of affordable housing on developments of
40 two or more properties in very rural areas and four or more
41 properties in rural areas.
- 42 c) Reducing second home ownership in rural areas: increase
43 local authorities' powers to tax second home ownership
44 through a stamp duty surcharge or increase in council tax.
- 45 2. Investment in infrastructure in rural areas:
- 46 a) Ensuring that superfast broadband (over 30Mbps download
47 speeds and 6Mbps upload speeds) is provided to all
48 households and businesses.
- 49 b) Improving public transport by: introducing a new Young
50 Person's Bus Discount Card, for people aged 16–21, giving
51 a two-thirds discount on bus travel; giving local authorities
52 greater control over their transport network; and, planning
53 for the future by preparing for a greater number of electric
54 vehicles.
- 55 c) Developing community hubs that co-locate services around
56 medical centres, post offices and pubs.
- 57 3. Support for the rural economy:
- 58 a) Working with Local Enterprise Partnerships to support
59 the development of rural and coastal economic strategies



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- 60 including a housing element.
- 61 b) Introducing modular apprenticeships to support young
62 people to develop the wide and flexible skill set required for
63 working in rural communities.
- 64 c) Expanding the BritRail scheme to UK citizens to promote
65 tourism and make it affordable for everyone to explore the
66 country.
- 67 4. The reform of land use policy to promote economic and
68 environmental sustainability:
- 69 a) Re-defining efficiency in the context of the Common
70 Agricultural Policy (CAP) to capture the economic worth of
71 measures undertaken for the public good and ensure the
72 viability of agriculture in all parts of the UK.
- 73 b) Increasing the share of CAP payments given to support
74 rural development, prioritising: woodlands and forests, soil
75 protection and improvement, flood-prevention, generation
76 of energy from renewable sources; effective husbandry and
77 upholding of high animal welfare standards.
- 78 c) Supporting producers by broadening the remit of the
79 Groceries Code Adjudicator and proactively supporting the
80 rural population to have better access to local markets.
- 81 5. Investment in flood protection in rural and coastal communities:
- 82 a) Looking at comprehensive, whole-system approaches to
83 flood prevention by investing in flood defences that work with
84 natural processes.
- 85 b) Requiring new developments on areas at risk of flooding to
86 include flood-prevention measures and incentivize flood-
87 protection for existing at-threat properties.
- 88 c) Launching a National Fund for Coastal Change, to enable local
89 authorities to properly manage their changing coastlines.

Applicability: Federal, except 1 (lines 34–44), 2 b) lines 49–52, 2 c) lines 55–56, 3 a) and b) (lines 58–63) and 5 b) (lines 81–89) which are England only.

Mover and summation of motion: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 9.

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 pages 8 and 9 for further information.



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The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 11 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 8 – is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

15.35 Question and answer session

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Aide: Jenni Lang. Hall Aide: Chris Maines.

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

Members may put questions, on any topic, to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website until 13.00, Tuesday 6 March or to the Speakers' Table by 12.50 on Saturday 10 March. See page 10.

16.20 Party business

Chair: Victor Chamberlain. Aide: Mary Reid. Hall Aide: James Gurling (Chair, Federal Campaigns and Elections Committee).

F10 Report: Federal Board

Mover: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March. Questions selected will be detailed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 15.20, Saturday 10 March. See page 10 for further information.

F11 Report: Campaign for Gender Balance

Mover: Candy Piercy (Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March. Questions selected will be detailed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 15.20, Saturday 10 March. See page 10 for further information.

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Aide: Jennie Rigg. Hall Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

F12 Constitutional amendment: General Data Protection Regulations Implementation and Risk Management

Federal Board



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Mover: Peter Dunphy (Chair, Federal Finance and Resources Committee).
Summation: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats)

1 *After Article 3.1 (b), insert:*

2 (c) As a member of the Liberal Democrats, you must abide by the
3 Party's data protection rules as laid out in the Member's Data
4 Protection Code.

5 *In 3.8, delete 'Data Protection Act registration' and insert 'data
6 protection registration'.*

7 *In 6.6 (d), delete 'the Data Protection Act' and insert 'relevant data
8 protection legislation'.*

9 *In 11.1 (d), delete 'overseeing the Party's risk management
10 operations and its Risk Register' and insert 'overseeing the Party's
11 compliance with external regulatory bodies, including the Electoral
12 Commission and the Information Commissioner and carrying
13 out the responsibilities established in Articles 8.5 and 12.3 of
14 this Constitution in relation to the Political Parties, Elections and
15 Referendums Act 2000 and as later amended'.*

16 *In 15.2, delete 'It shall oversee the Party's compliance with external
17 regulatory bodies, including the Electoral Commission and the
18 Information Commissioner, as well as associated risk management,
19 and shall carry out the responsibilities established in Articles 8.5 and
20 12.3 of this Constitution in relation to the Political Parties, Elections
21 and Referendums Act 2000 and as later amended', and insert 'It
22 shall oversee the Party's risk management operations and its Risk
23 Register'.*

The existing text of relevant articles of the Federal Constitution:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 3.1 | (a) Membership of the Party is open to all persons who agree with its fundamental values and objectives without discrimination as to age, ethnic origin, religion, disability, gender or sexual orientation. |
| | (b) As a Member of the Liberal Democrats, you must treat others with respect and must not bully, harass, or intimidate any Party member, member of Party staff, member of the Parliamentary staff, Party volunteer, or member of the public. Such behaviour will considered to be bringing the Party into disrepute. |
| | |
| 3.8 | A register of members shall be maintained by each State Party. A register of members resident outside Great Britain shall be maintained by a State Party designated by the Federal Board to act as agent for the Federal Party. |



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Any body entitled to maintain a list of members may use the list for its own internal purposes. The Federal Party shall have direct access to such lists. Any body holding or having access to such lists shall ensure that the information contained in them is not disclosed to any person other than for the proper purposes of the Party. Party bodies shall comply with the directives of the Federal Board in relation to the Party's Data Protection Act registration.

.....

- 6.6. The Federal Board shall have power, after appropriate consultations and subject to ratification by the Conference, to make and from time to time vary rules as to: (a) membership, subject to the provisions under Article 3; (b) criteria for Associated Organisation and Specified Associated Organisation status and for the regular review of bodies holding such status; (c) party elections, with any such rules providing for the use of STV (or, in the case of a single person vacancy, the Alternative Vote) and the secret ballot; (d) compliance with any statutory or regulatory provisions that are relevant to the party's activities, including the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act and the Data Protection Act; and (e) such other matters as it may consider necessary or desirable to give effect to or supplement the provisions of this Constitution, including those set out in Article 20.

.....

- 11.1 There shall be a Federal Finance and Resources Committee ("FFRC") which shall be responsible to the Federal Board for:
- (a) planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party for the forthcoming year and in outline for following years;
 - (b) presenting the audited Annual Accounts to the Conference;
 - (c) overseeing the administration of the Federal Party including its Chief Executive, headquarters and other staff; and overseeing the role of the Party as an equal opportunities employer and the maintenance of staff grievance and disciplinary procedures; and
 - (d) overseeing the Party's risk management operations and its Risk Register.

The Committee shall report regularly to the Federal Board.

.....

- 15.1 There shall be a Federal Audit & Scrutiny Committee (FASC) which shall be responsible to the Federal Board and shall report regularly to it.
- 15.2 The FASC shall be responsible for commissioning the Party's auditors and for representing the Party in any matters arising from the annual external audit. It shall report through the Federal Board to Conference including comment on the annual audited financial statements. It may also commission and oversee internal audit work related to the work of the Federal Party either on its own initiative or as requested by the Federal Board. It shall oversee the Party's compliance with external regulatory bodies, including the Electoral Commission and the Information Commissioner, as well as associated risk management, and shall carry out



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the responsibilities established in Articles 6.6(d) and 19.2 of this Constitution in relation to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and as later amended.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 11 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 8 – is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

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

17.05 Business motion and constitutional amendment

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Aide: Jennie Rigg. Hall Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

F13 Business motion: Reforming our Party's Disciplinary Processes

Federal Board

Mover: Isabelle Parasram.

Summation: Lord Macdonald of River Glaven.

1 Conference notes:

- 2 A. The dedication and commitment of the volunteers and staff who
- 3 have devoted valuable time and effort to ensuring the Party's
- 4 current disciplinary processes function.
- 5 B. Despite this, the large number of members who have previously
- 6 expressed concerns regarding the Party's current disciplinary
- 7 processes, as part of the Governance Review consultations in
- 8 2015 and 2016 and via other fora.
- 9 C. The commitment at Autumn Conference 2016 in the motion
- 10 *Towards a More Effective Party Governance*, under 'Conference
- 11 Recommends' 9, that 'there shall be a review of the disciplinary
- 12 processes of the party reporting to Conference in 2017'.
- 13 D. The Federal Executive's decision in the autumn of 2016 to
- 14 appoint Lord Macdonald of River Glaven QC, to undertake the
- 15 review in question (the 'Macdonald Review') given his expertise
- 16 as a former Director of Public Prosecutions and as Warden of
- 17 Wadham College, Oxford.
- 18 E. The Federal Board's decision to pause the Macdonald Review in
- 19 April 2017 following the calling of a General Election by the Prime



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- 20 Minister, thus postponing it to 2018.
- 21 F. The urgency of the review coming to a conclusion given the
22 recent sexual harassment allegations made against all political
23 parties.
- 24 G. The recommendations of the special investigative report
25 undertaken by Isabelle Parasram into the Complaints Handling
26 Processes in cases of sexual impropriety, the majority of
27 which have been incorporated into the Macdonald Review's
28 recommendations.

29 Conference believes that:

- 30 i) For any new disciplinary process to command the confidence of
31 members, it must be an independent, stand-alone process which
32 is simple, transparent and efficient, and deals with complaints
33 promptly, with clear lines of communication.
- 34 ii) In order to ensure such a process functions adequately, all those
35 involved in it must be properly trained to ensure high standards,
36 and that the Party has a responsibility to resource this.
- 37 iii) Such a process must be underpinned by a properly resourced
38 network of trained mediators, to be provided by the State Parties
39 and co-ordinated with relevant staff at Party Headquarters.
- 40 iv) The pool of individuals trained to carry out the disciplinary
41 process (adjudicators) should have representation of
42 underrepresented groups, in line with the guidelines for the
43 membership of Party Committees laid out in Articles 2.5 – 2.7 of
44 the Federal Party's Constitution.

45 Conference therefore recommends that:

- 46 1. The Federal Board appoint a pool of no less than 50 adjudicators,
47 who shall be required to undergo an approval process and shall
48 not sit on any regional, state or federal party committee, and
49 that the Federal Board report their appointment to Conference.
- 50 2. The Federal Board submit for individual approval by Conference
51 12 members of the Disciplinary Appeals Panel, to include a
52 minimum of 2 members from each state party, as well as a Lead
53 Adjudicator, who shall act as a spokesperson for the disciplinary
54 process and may provide advice to adjudicators where
55 necessary.
- 56 3. The State and Regional Parties create a co-ordinated system of
57 mediation and local resolution, and amend their constitutions
58 in line with this business motion and the accompanying
59 constitutional amendments.



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- 60 4. The training programme for mediators and adjudicators be
61 centrally co-ordinated, and include but not be limited to: training
62 on how to investigate, adjudicate and/or mediate on cases
63 involving under-represented groups, minors, allegations of
64 sexual misconduct and/or abuse of power, as well as training on
65 how to robustly respond to the involvement of lawyers acting on
66 behalf of any of the parties involved.
- 67 5. The Federal Board appoint a steering group on Sexual
68 Impropriety Complaints to:
 - 69 a) Build upon the current support system for complainants
70 by ensuring the Morrissey recommendations are fully
71 implemented.
 - 72 b) Review and regularly update the Party's policy on anonymity.
 - 73 c) Review and regularly update the Party's policy on police
74 referrals.
 - 75 d) Create a guidance manual for those tasked with adjudicating
76 or investigating sexual impropriety complaints.
 - 77 e) Devise an initial training programme for those involved in
78 the handling of sexual impropriety complaints with regular
79 refresher courses.
 - 80 f) Advise the Party on conveying its stance and approach to
81 incidents of sexual impropriety to every member in a more
82 effective manner.
 - 83 g) Review the handling of cases involving allegations of serious
84 sexual impropriety on an ongoing basis.
- 85 6. The above steering group report back to the Federal Board with
86 initial recommendations by July 2018.
- 87 7. The Chief Executive of the Party create and appropriately staff
88 a central mailbox which shall be clearly communicated as the
89 email to which complaints should be reported.
- 90 8. The Chief Executive of the Party put in place processes to ensure
91 a central log of all complaints and the actions or resolutions
92 related to them be kept, and that access to such a log be strictly
93 controlled in line with relevant data protection regulations.
- 94 9. A strict timeline be enforced, with the possibility of extension
95 only in the most extreme circumstances, and an expedited
96 timeline for those cases involving clear and unmistakable
97 examples of the Party being brought into disrepute (e.g. a
98 criminal conviction).
- 99 10. Guidance to be made publicly available, with relevant guidance
100 documents provided to affected individuals at each stage of the
101 disciplinary process.



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- 102 11. Provision be made for majority State Party representation on
103 any disciplinary panel, should the State Party in question request
104 such a provision.
- 105 12. A support system be devised to ensure proper support is
106 provided to both complainants and respondents going through
107 the process.
- 108 13. The revisions to the Party's disciplinary processes included in
109 this motion and the corresponding constitutional amendments
110 formally come into force on 1 January 2019, and that procedures
111 for the transferral of live cases be published by 1 November
112 2018.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments and all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 11 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 8 – is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

F14 Constitutional Amendment: Macdonald Review Implementation

Federal Board

Mover: Isabelle Parasram.

Summation: Lord Macdonald of River Glaven.

- 1 *In Article 2.3, insert new (f) 'the Party's disciplinary procedures.'*
- 2 *In Article 3.1 (b), after 'harass' insert 'sexually harass'.*
- 3 *In Article 3.1 (b), delete 'member of the Parliamentary staff' and insert*
4 *'staff member employed to support Liberal Democrats in any public*
5 *office'.*
- 6 *Insert new Article 3.4:*
- 7 3.4 Where a member has previously been expelled but applies for
8 readmittance to the Party, that application shall be referred to
9 an adjudicator appointed using the process described in Article
10 22.6 who shall determine whether such readmittance shall be
11 granted. Any person aggrieved by a refusal to readmit shall have
12 a right of appeal pursuant to Article 23.
- 13 *In Article 3.4, delete 'or refusal of admission', and delete 'or for the*



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14 revocation or cessation of membership of any member’.

15 *In Article 3.4 (iii), delete ‘each state party shall give notice to the*
16 *other state parties’ and insert ‘the Party shall give notice to the state*
17 *parties’.*

18 *In Article 3.6, delete from ‘Any person ...’ and insert a new paragraph:*

19 In all cases the enrolling body shall seek confirmation that a person
20 should be refused membership from an adjudicator appointed using
21 the process described in Article 22.6. Any person aggrieved by such a
22 refusal shall have a right of appeal pursuant to Article 23.

23 *In Article 3.7, delete ‘a Local Party (or, where appropriate, a Specified*
24 *Associated Organisation which acted as the enrolling body) or a State*
25 *Party’ and insert ‘the Party’.*

26 *In Article 3.7 (c), delete from ‘Parliamentary ...’ and insert ‘election to*
27 *public office’.*

28 *Delete Article 3.7 (d).*

29 *After Article 3.7 (e), insert:*

30 (f) conduct that amounts to bullying or harassment of another
31 person in connection with the business of the Party; and (g)
32 conduct that amounts to discrimination against another person
33 on the basis of a protected characteristic under the Equality Act
34 2010.

35 *In Article 3.7, final paragraph, delete ‘of urgency’.*

36 *In Article 3.7, delete from ‘Any person aggrieved...’ and insert ‘In cases*
37 *of extreme urgency the Federal Party’s Chief Executive shall have*
38 *the power to suspend a member, subject to confirmation by an*
39 *adjudicator once appointed under Article 22.6. Any person aggrieved*
40 *by such a revocation shall have a right of appeal pursuant to Article*
41 *23.’*

42 *Rename Article 21, ‘Resolution of Conflicts (Constitutional)’.*

43 *In Article 21.3 (d), at the end insert ‘, except as provided under Article*
44 *21.4, below’.*

45 *After Article 21.3, insert:*

46 21.4 The Panel shall not adjudicate upon any matter relating to the
47 Party’s disciplinary processes as laid out in Articles 22 and 23.



48 *Insert new Articles 22 and 23:*

49 ARTICLE 22: Disciplinary Procedure

50 22.1 There shall be an adjudicators list, which shall consist of 50
51 adjudicators appointed by the Federal Board, of whom at least
52 five shall be members of each state party. This list shall be
53 reported to the Federal Conference.

54 22.2 Each adjudicator shall hold office for five years, and shall
55 be eligible for re-appointment provided that no person
56 shall be entitled to hold office for more than ten years in
57 aggregate. No person shall be eligible for appointment if (and
58 any member shall forthwith vacate office upon becoming)
59 a member of a regional, state or federal committee or an
60 elected representative of the Party at any level (e.g. Councillor,
61 MP, MSP, AM, etc). The Federal Board may terminate the
62 appointment of any appointee who is no longer able to carry
63 out his or her duties as an adjudicator on account of ill health
64 or for other good cause. Any casual vacancy on the list may be
65 filled by the Federal Board for the remainder of the term of
66 that appointment.

67 22.3 Where there is suspicion that any of the grounds set out
68 in Article 3.7 of this Constitution or those under Article 22
69 are made out, the following Disciplinary Procedure shall be
70 applied.

71 22.4 For the purposes of this Article:

- 72 a) a 'disciplinary panel' is a panel of three adjudicators
73 appointed from the adjudicators list to hear any given case;
74 b) a 'complainant' is an individual (member or otherwise),
75 bringing a complaint regarding a member's behaviour.
76 If their complaint is referred to a disciplinary panel, they
77 become a 'witness';
78 c) a 'witness' is any individual who the disciplinary panel
79 deems to have information pertinent to the case in
80 question and who is called to give evidence;
81 d) a 'respondent' is the member about whom a complaint has
82 been made;
83 e) a 'mediator' is a person trained in mediating disputes
84 between individuals.

85 22.5 For the purposes of this Disciplinary Procedure, the party will
86 be considered to have been 'brought into disrepute' by any



87 course of conduct, act or omission on the part of a member
88 that would substantially lower the party's reputation in the
89 mind of a fair, objective and right-thinking observer.

90 In particular, an individual shall be deemed to have brought the
91 party into disrepute where:

- 92 a) they have been convicted of an offence of dishonesty,
93 violence or a sexual offence of any description;
- 94 b) they have acted in breach of any Postal Vote Code of
95 Conduct agreed by the Liberal Democrats with the Electoral
96 Commission or any other external body;
- 97 c) they have acted in a manner that would have brought the
98 Party into disrepute were it to be known about outside the
99 Party but which did not become known either by chance or
100 by agreement with the member in question;
- 101 d) they have bullied, harassed, sexually assaulted or
102 unlawfully discriminated against another person;
- 103 e) they have committed an act of serious violence or an act
104 which resulted in serious damage to property in connection
105 with the business of the Party;
- 106 f) they have committed a serious misuse of the property or
107 name of the Party;
- 108 g) they have acted in any other way which constitutes a
109 serious breach of the Members' Code of Conduct or of
110 Article 3.1.

111 Discretion shall be given to the disciplinary panel to determine
112 whether any of the above apply, most notably where an
113 offence under '(a)' conflicts with the stated policy of the Party.

114 22.6 A complaint may be brought by any member of the Party at
115 any level, or by an individual external to the Party. Once a
116 complaint has been received, in all cases an adjudicator shall
117 normally be appointed from the adjudicators list within 7 days.
118 This individual shall have no prior knowledge of the complaint,
119 nor shall they be associated with any of the individuals
120 concerned.

121 22.7 While any individuals involved may seek legal advice at any
122 time, at no point shall complainants, witnesses or respondents
123 be entitled to legal representation at panel hearings.
124 Respondents shall also be required to communicate directly
125 with those carrying out the process and shall not be permitted
126 to do so via a third party legal representative.



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127 22.8 Once appointed, the adjudicator shall determine which of the
128 following four options applies:

- 129 a) Suspend process pending external investigation
- 130 b) Progress to disciplinary panel
- 131 c) Refer to mediation
- 132 d) Dismiss case

133 In all cases where serious criminal conduct is alleged, the
134 default position should be suspension of the disciplinary
135 process and referral to the police.

136 In all cases where the adjudicator is of the view that the
137 complaint amounts to an allegation that the party has been
138 brought into disrepute, and that sufficient evidence exists to
139 justify a disciplinary panel being convened to consider the
140 matter, the case should progress to a panel. In such cases the
141 adjudicator shall be responsible for investigating the complaint
142 and presenting the case to the disciplinary panel on behalf of
143 the Party. They shall not be permitted to sit on any disciplinary
144 panel relating to the case in question.

145 In all cases where the adjudicator is of the view that the act
146 complained of, if proved, would not be capable of bringing
147 the party into disrepute, or that insufficient evidence exists to
148 justify a panel being convened to consider the case, the matter
149 shall either be referred to mediation, or dismissed.

150 This determination shall normally take no longer than 7 days
151 from the point an adjudicator is appointed, with a further
152 14 days for a formal investigation to be carried out post-
153 determination, in cases where a disciplinary panel is to be
154 convened.

155 22.9 Where the adjudicator determines that the case should be
156 referred to mediation or dismissed, the complainant shall
157 have the right to ask for a second opinion from a separate
158 adjudicator, who shall be appointed in the same manner as the
159 first. If the second adjudicator's determination differs from the
160 first, then the second determination shall be carried forward.
161 Where they reach the same conclusion, the case shall be
162 dismissed with no further right of appeal.

163 In cases involving allegations of serious sexual impropriety, a
164 second opinion shall automatically be sought as above, prior to
165 any determination being communicated.



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166 22.10 Officers of the Party and Party staff will have an obligation to
167 report to the relevant individual at Party Headquarters any
168 instances of which they become aware which may risk bringing
169 the Party into disrepute. This shall include any potentially
170 criminal matters which Party employees are duty-bound to
171 report to the Police.

172 22.11 Any complaint brought to the Party must be treated as
173 confidential, although the caveat on reporting to the police
174 applies in all instances. Guidance on confidentiality and
175 anonymity shall be made publicly available and provided to any
176 complainants, witnesses and respondents at this stage of the
177 process, prior to determination.

178 22.12 Once a determination has been made that a case should be
179 referred to mediation, the relevant state party shall normally
180 appoint a mediator within 7 days of the determination being
181 communicated to them. Guidance on what should be included
182 in such communications and for any exceptions to such
183 standard formats shall be made publicly available and provided
184 to any relevant parties.

185 The first meeting between the relevant parties shall normally
186 be held within 14 days of a mediator being appointed, and the
187 process as a whole shall normally be completed within two
188 months.

189 At the end of the process the mediator shall communicate one
190 of the following conclusions to the relevant parties and to the
191 relevant individual at Party Headquarters:

- 192 (i) Matter resolved
- 193 (ii) Matter unresolved but no further action
- 194 (iii) Training required (either / both participants)
- 195 (iv) Matter referred to a disciplinary panel

196 In the event that no resolution is possible within two months,
197 the appointed mediator shall make a determination as to
198 whether an extension to the timeline is appropriate. This
199 extension must be agreed by the relevant parties. In the
200 event that no extension is agreed or where a resolution is not
201 possible within the timeframe, the mediator shall determine
202 whether to refer the matter back to a disciplinary panel.

203 In all cases and at any point in the process, the mediator shall
204 reserve the right to refer the case to a disciplinary panel.



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205 22.13 Once a determination has been made that a case should
206 progress to a disciplinary panel, a panel of three adjudicators
207 shall be appointed in the same manner as the initial
208 adjudicator. This panel shall meet between 14 and 21 days
209 after the adjudicator's determination.

210 A detailed report of the case to be answered shall be provided
211 to the respondent 7 days before the panel hearing. Guidance
212 on what should be included in such communications and
213 for any exceptions to such standard formats shall be made
214 publicly available and provided to any relevant parties.

215 22.14 The investigator shall be expected to present the case to the
216 panel on behalf of the party. The complainant shall be invited
217 to attend and give evidence to the panel as a witness, as shall
218 the respondent. Both witnesses and respondents shall have
219 the right to be accompanied by a fellow party member who
220 shall not be permitted to speak unless called as a witness in
221 their own right.

222 Once the panel has reached a decision, which, wherever
223 possible, it shall do on the date of the panel hearing, that
224 decision shall normally be communicated to the relevant
225 parties within 3 working days. Guidance on what should be
226 included in such communications and on any exceptions
227 to standard formats shall be made publicly available and
228 provided to any relevant parties.

229 In all cases the disciplinary panel shall reserve the right to
230 refer the case to mediation. In addition to this, the following
231 decisions shall be permitted:

- 232 (i) Case dismissed
- 233 (ii) Formal reprimand
- 234 (iii) Training
- 235 (iv) Banned from standing for or holding party office (time
236 limited or permanent)
- 237 (v) Banned from standing for or holding public office (time
238 limited or permanent)
- 239 (vi) Expulsion

240 Where the panel deems that a complaint was malicious in
241 nature, it also reserves the right to decide action against the
242 individual bringing the complaint, on behalf of the party, for
243 bringing the party into disrepute.



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244 22.15 Once the decision of the disciplinary panel has been
245 communicated to the parties concerned, a period of 7 days
246 shall be allowed during which either the complainant or
247 the respondent may apply to appeal the decision, under
248 the procedure outlined in Article 23 of this Constitution. In
249 exceptional circumstances where it is deemed that the Party's
250 reputation is at risk, the Party President shall retain the
251 absolute right of appeal on behalf of the Party.

252 ARTICLE 23: Appeals Procedure (Disciplinary)

253 23.1 There shall be a Disciplinary Appeals Panel, which shall consist
254 of 12 members appointed by the Federal Board, of whom at
255 least two shall be members of each state party. Each name
256 shall be presented individually to Conference for confirmation.
257 If any name is rejected by Conference, that name may not
258 be re-presented to Conference for confirmation until at least
259 eighteen months have elapsed.

260 23.2 Each member of the Disciplinary Appeals Panel shall hold
261 office for five years, and shall be eligible for re-appointment
262 provided that no person shall be entitled to hold office for
263 more than ten years in aggregate. No person shall be eligible
264 for appointment if (and any member shall forthwith vacate
265 office upon becoming) a member of a regional, state or federal
266 committee (an exception shall be made for members of the
267 Federal or State Appeals Panels) or an elected representative
268 of the Party at any level (e.g. Councillor, MP, MSP, AM, etc).
269 The Federal Board may terminate the appointment of any
270 appointee who no longer able to carry out his or her duties
271 as an appeals panel member on account of ill health or for
272 other good cause. Any casual vacancy on the list may be filled
273 by the Federal Board for the remainder of the term of that
274 appointment.

275 23.3 The Disciplinary Appeals Panel shall adjudicate upon any case
276 brought to it which has already progressed to a disciplinary
277 panel under Article 22 of this Constitution, or pursuant to the
278 provisions as laid out in Article 3 of this Constitution. It shall
279 not adjudicate on any matter relevant to the Federal Appeals
280 Panel, as laid out in Article 21 of this Constitution, but may
281 further to any decision.

282 23.4 A request to bring an appeal shall be granted only on the



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- 283 following grounds:
284 (i) That there was a serious failure of process.
285 (ii) That a panel decision was wholly against the weight of the
286 evidence.
287 (iii) That relevant and probative fresh evidence has since come
288 to light which was not available at the time of the hearing.
289 (iv) That a panel decision was manifestly excessive in nature.

290 23.5 The application to appeal shall normally be considered by
291 an individual member of the appeals panel within 7 days of
292 an application to appeal being lodged. This individual shall
293 have no prior knowledge of the complaint, nor shall they be
294 associated with any of the individuals concerned. They shall
295 then determine, normally within 7 days, whether or not the
296 grounds of appeal in question may arguably come within any
297 of the four criteria above. If the determination is that they
298 do not, the application to appeal shall be refused and the
299 decision of the Disciplinary Panel shall stand.

300 23.6 Where a determination has been made that an application to
301 appeal should be allowed, a panel consisting of three appeals
302 panel members shall be appointed in the same manner as the
303 initial panel member making the determination. This panel
304 shall normally meet within 14 days of the determination.

305 The appeals panel shall meet in the same manner as a
306 disciplinary panel, but shall determine whether any of the
307 four criteria stated above applies in the case before them. In
308 the case of criteria 1, if the appeal panel is of the view that the
309 procedural error was so serious that it substantially affected
310 the fairness of the original proceedings, the case shall be
311 remitted to the disciplinary panel for redetermination under
312 fair process. In the case of Criteria 3, the panel shall only
313 decide in the appellant's favour if, in the view of the appeal
314 panel, the fresh evidence would, on a balance of probabilities,
315 have led to a disciplinary panel decision in the appellant's
316 favour had the disciplinary panel heard that evidence. Where
317 the outcome would, in the appeal panel's opinion, have
318 remained the same were the fresh evidence to have been
319 heard, the appeal shall be dismissed.

320 The appeals panel shall therefore decide one of the following
321 options:
322 (i) Decision upheld



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- 323 (ii) Decision upheld, but feedback given regarding minor
324 failure of process
- 325 (iii) Case remitted to the disciplinary panel for redetermination
326 on the grounds of a serious failure of process
- 327 (iv) Decision reversed due to new evidence coming to light
- 328 (v) Decision reversed, as wholly against the weight of the
329 evidence
- 330 23.7 Once the panel has reached a decision, which, wherever
331 possible, it shall do on the date of the panel hearing, that
332 decision shall normally be communicated to the relevant
333 parties within 3 working days. Guidance on what should be
334 included in such communications and on any exceptions to
335 standard formats shall be made publicly available and provided
336 to any relevant parties.
- 337 23.8 In the case of decision (iii), the case shall return to a new
338 disciplinary panel, which shall be appointed in the same
339 manner but shall have no overlap with the previous panel, and
340 the process shall begin again from that point. In the cases of
341 decisions (i), (ii),(iv) and (v), there shall be no further right of
342 appeal.
- 343 All decisions by the Disciplinary Appeals Panel are final.

The existing text of relevant articles of the Federal Constitution:

- 2.3 The following functions are reserved to the Federal Party (subject to the rights of consultation afforded to State parties and others by this Constitution):
- (a) the determination of policy in the areas specified in Article 8;
 - (b) the Party's overall strategy;
 - (c) overall preparations for Parliamentary and European Parliamentary Elections;
 - (d) the overall presentation, image and media relations of the Party; and
 - (e) international relationships.

...

ARTICLE 3: Membership

3.1 ...

- (a) Membership of the Party is open to all persons who agree with its fundamental values and objectives without discrimination as to age, ethnic origin, religion, disability, gender or sexual orientation.
- (b) As a Member of the Liberal Democrats, you must treat others with respect and must not bully, harass, or intimidate any Party member, member of Party staff, member of the Parliamentary staff, Party



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volunteer, or member of the public. Such behaviour will be considered to be bringing the Party into disrepute.

- 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 Board to act as agent for the Federal Party).
 - (d) any Specified Associated Organisation or Associated Organisation that the Federal Board considers ought to be entitled to enrol members of the Party.

An applicant shall become a member on acceptance by the enrolling body, payment of the requisite subscription and registration. However, a State Party may, by its internal procedures, determine that eligibility of a member to vote in Local Party elections (including Parliamentary and local government selections) may be subject to a minimum requirement as to age (not being more than 10 years) and/or length of continuous membership (not being more than 15 months); and the provisions of this constitution as to members' voting rights shall be construed accordingly.

- 3.3 Responsibility for renewal of membership shall lie with State Parties but these may, by their internal procedures, provide for this function to be fulfilled by any other body or bodies within the Party. Membership will be automatically terminated if the renewal subscription is not received within three months following the due date.

- 3.4 All other matters relating to the admission or refusal of admission to membership of any person, or for the revocation or cessation of membership of any member, including the basis on which Local Parties may be involved in the recruitment and renewal of members, shall be governed by the Constitutions of the State Parties or by membership rules made under them, except that:
- (i) where, in any part of the United Kingdom, provision is not made in any of these respects by the State Party concerned, Articles 3.5 to 3.7 shall apply;
 - (ii) a right of appeal pursuant to Article 21 of the Constitution, once any procedures internal to the State Party concerned have been exhausted, cannot be excluded in relation to the interpretation of Article 3.1 of the Constitution; and
 - (iii) each state party shall give notice to the other state parties of any revocation of membership.

Subject to the conditions set out in the Constitution of or in the rules made by the State Party concerned, a member shall be a member of:



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- (a) where the enrolling body is a Local Party, that Local Party or, where the enrolling body is not a Local Party, an appropriate Local Party in terms of Article 3.2 (a); and
- (b) any applicable State Party and/or Regional Party; and
- (c) the Federal Party.

3.5 No person may simultaneously be a member of more than one Local Party. A member may re-register as of right in a different Local Party under the terms of Article 3.2 (a), or may, with the consent of the member's previous Local Party where that Local Party has ceased to be appropriate in terms of Article 3.2 (a), retain membership of that Local Party. A member who is an MP, MEP, prospective parliamentary or European parliamentary candidate or member of a local authority may re-register as of right in a relevant Local Party.

- 3.6 Membership may be refused by an enrolling body on one or more of the following grounds:
- (a) material disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the Party;
 - (b) the admission of the applicant would be likely to bring the Party into disrepute; or
 - (c) membership of another political party in Great Britain.

Any person aggrieved by such a refusal shall, subject to having exhausted the internal procedures of the relevant State Party, have a right of appeal pursuant to Article 21 on any matter relating to the interpretation of this Constitution.

- 3.7 Membership may be revoked by a Local Party (or, where appropriate, a Specified Associated Organisation which acted as the enrolling body) or a State Party on one or more of the following grounds:
- (a) material disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the Party;
 - (b) conduct which has brought, or is likely to bring, the Party into disrepute;
 - (c) standing against the candidate of the Party in any Parliamentary or European Parliamentary election;
 - (d) standing against the candidate of the Party in any local authority election; and
 - (e) membership of or support for another political party in Great Britain.

Membership shall not be revoked unless the member has been notified of the grounds on which revocation is to be considered and has been given a reasonable opportunity to reply. Where paragraph (c), (d) or (e) of this Article 3.7 applies, membership shall be automatically and immediately suspended, and in other cases of urgency the body with powers of revocation may suspend membership while revocation is being considered. Any person aggrieved by such a revocation shall, subject to having exhausted the internal procedures of the relevant State Party, have



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a right of appeal pursuant to Article 21 on any question relating to the interpretation of this Constitution.

- 3.8 A register of members shall be maintained by each State Party. A register of members resident outside Great Britain shall be maintained by a State Party designated by the Federal Board to act as agent for the Federal Party. Any body entitled to maintain a list of members may use the list for its own internal purposes. The Federal Party shall have direct access to such lists. Any body holding or having access to such lists shall ensure that the information contained in them is not disclosed to any person other than for the proper purposes of the Party. Party bodies shall comply with the directives of the Federal Board in relation to the Party's Data Protection Act registration.

ARTICLE 21: Resolution of Conflicts

21.1 There shall be a Federal Appeals Panel, which shall consist of 18 members elected as follows:

...

21.3 The Panel shall adjudicate upon:

- (a) any dispute over the interpretation of this Constitution;
- (b) any claim that the rights under this Constitution of a member or of an organ of the Federal Party or of an AO or SAO recognised by the Federal Party have been infringed;
- (c) any dispute, except one as to policy jurisdiction, between the Federal Party and a State Party;
- (d) any matter expressly so provided by this Constitution or by rules made thereunder;
- (e) any appeal from a like body in a State Party relating to an issue under this Constitution, except that no adjudication under this Article shall take place until any appropriate appeals procedures established within a relevant State Party have been exhausted; and
- (f) any dispute or issue which shall be referred to it by a State Appeals Panel for adjudication.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments and all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 11 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 8 – is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

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

18.00 Close of session



Sunday 11 March

09.00 Party strategy

Chair: Nick Da Costa. Aide: Zoë O'Connell (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Hall Aide: Liz Lynne.

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

Federal Board

Mover: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats).

Summation: Mark Pack.

1 Our aim is to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in
2 which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality
3 and community, and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty,
4 ignorance or conformity.

5 Our ambition for our country and the wider world is set out in further
6 detail in the *Vision for a Liberal Britain* drawn from thousands of party
7 members over the last two years, the paper on party philosophy,
8 *It's About Freedom*, and the policy overview paper *The Opportunity*
9 *to Succeed, the Power to Change* (2016). Now we need a strategy to
10 deliver that vision.

11 Conference believes that the best way to deliver that vision is to:

- 12 I. Create a political and social movement which encourages people
13 to take and use power in their own lives and communities at
14 every level of society.
- 15 II. Win elections at all levels from local government through to
16 Westminster, so we can use political power to bring about
17 change from within the political system.
- 18 III. Run issue-led local and national campaigns to help create a
19 liberal society and secure immediate change though combining
20 pressure from outside the political system with our own power
21 within it.

22 Conference further believes that we can best achieve this by:

- 23 A. Creating a much larger base of long-term loyal supporters (a
24 'core vote') for the party, based on people who share our values.
- 25 B. Building beyond our growing core vote with successful local
26 campaigning, combined with effective targeting as the electoral
27 systems require it, to win at all levels of local and national
28 government.



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- 29 C. Developing a mass campaigning movement both within and
30 outside the party that is of a scale and effectiveness to match the
31 scale of our ambitions, which supports both elections and issue-
32 led campaigns.
- 33 D. Working with those who share goals with us to build a
34 progressive alliance of ideas that puts aside tribal differences to
35 achieve shared goals.
- 36 E. Generating political momentum through tangible signs of
37 progress, including membership levels, fundraising totals and
38 council and Parliamentary by-election successes.

39 Conference agrees that we stand for an open society, an economy
40 which challenges inequality and for powerful communities at every
41 level, and that in order to build our wider party appeal, we must
42 focus the communication of what we stand for on:

- 43 i) Restoring fairness as the basis for our society and politics, in
44 which everyone plays a fair part and is treated fairly.
- 45 ii) People and communities increasingly controlling their own lives
46 and the direction of our society and politics.
- 47 iii) Our belief that a better future is possible, if we work together.
- 48 iv) The need to heal the nation's divides.

49 In order to deliver a party organisation fit for these objectives,
50 Conference further agrees that our five organisational priorities are:

- 51 1. Communicating our values effectively, through our key
52 messages, issue-led national campaigns, and signature policies
53 which symbolise what we stand for.
- 54 2. Increasing our capacity, through:
 - 55 a) Empowering our members and providing them with a
56 rewarding experience.
 - 57 b) Improving training, support and management of party staff.
 - 58 c) Promoting a culture in which people bring in new ideas,
59 experiment and share best practice both from the grassroots
60 and from the centre.
 - 61 d) Recruiting, motivating, and supporting local leaders.
 - 62 e) Promoting greater commitment and success in fundraising by
63 the party and candidates at all levels.
- 64 3. Improving our diversity and inclusion so that we demonstrate
65 our values in practice, as well as bringing in new approaches and
66 skills and enhancing our electoral appeal.



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- 67 4. Digitising the party, maximising our effectiveness in using digital
68 opportunities to make the most of our supporters' skills to
69 overcome the traditional biases against us in the ways politics is
70 funded, the media is owned and our electoral system works.
- 71 5. Local campaigning, developing and supporting local leaders,
72 working with our communities on the issues and problems they
73 care about, listening to them, helping them directly, campaigning
74 with them in innovative and effective ways, and representing
75 them.
- 76 Conference notes that while this motion sets out a strategy and
77 priorities for the party as a whole, it is for state, regional and local
78 parties as well as party bodies to make their own decisions on how
79 best to contribute towards our democratically agreed strategy.
- 80 Conference affirms that while the party organisation has a crucial
81 role to play in implementing this strategy, we will ultimately succeed
82 when it inspires every member to find their own way to put it into
83 practice and help bring about our vision for a Liberal Democrat
84 society.

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 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 11 – is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 8 – is 09.00 Saturday 10 March.

09.50 Party business

Chair: Cara Jenkinson. Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee). Hall Aide: Alex Hegenbarth.

F16 Report: Parliamentary Parties

Movers: Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP (Chief Whip, Commons); Lord Newby (Leader, Lords); Catherine Bearder MEP (Europe).

The deadline for questions to these reports is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events



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occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 18.00 on Saturday 10 March. See page 10 for further information.

10.10 Emergency motion or topical issue discussion

Chair: Mary Reid. Aide: James Gurling (Chair, Federal Campaigns and Elections Committee). Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley.

F17 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or discussion of a topical issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March. The motion selected for debate or the motions proposed for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. See pages 10 and 11.

Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 5 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 please see page 9.

11.00 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Maines. Aide: Liz Lynne. Hall Aide: Cara Jenkinson.

F18 The NHS at 70

28 members

Mover: Baroness Jolly (Spokesperson on Health and Care).

Summation: Daisy Cooper.

1 Conference celebrates:

2 I. That 5 July 2018 marks 70 years since the creation of the NHS.

3 II. That the NHS is the world's largest publicly funded health service.

4 III. That the NHS has been judged the best, safest and most
5 affordable healthcare system out of 11 countries analysed and
6 ranked by experts from the influential Commonwealth Fund
7 health think-tank.

8 IV. The extraordinary changes in life expectancy and public health
9 that have occurred since the NHS was created.

10 V. The opportunities that innovations in digitisation, artificial
11 intelligence and automation are bringing to health and social
12 care provision.



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- 13 VI. The letter to the Prime Minister in November 2017 signed by
14 90 MPs from four different parties calling for the long-standing
15 Liberal Democrat policy to create a cross-party commission to
16 recommend how to fund health and social care in the longer-
17 term.
- 18 Conference notes with concern that:
- 19 A. Rising demand for services is stretching the capacity of health
20 and social care providers.
- 21 B. Of the 11 countries analysed in the Commonwealth Fund report
22 referred to above, the UK put the fourth smallest amount of GDP
23 into healthcare.
- 24 C. The NHS is facing a funding crisis yet the 2017 Autumn Budget
25 included only £1.6bn of the £4bn funding that the NHS needs for
26 2018–19, and did not mention social care at all.
- 27 D. The health inequality gap in England continues to grow, and
28 is characterised by rising levels of obesity, hypertension and
29 diabetes.
- 30 E. Inequalities between the treatment and funding of physical and
31 mental ill health persist despite Liberal Democrats legislating for
32 equality between the two when in government.
- 33 F. The NHS still lags behind in tenth position on healthcare
34 outcomes, a category that measures how successful treatment
35 has been according to the Commonwealth Fund.
- 36 G. Around 10,000 EU nationals have quit the NHS and social care
37 services since the 2016 EU referendum including 3,885 nurses
38 and 1,794 doctors.
- 39 H. The fragmentation of responsibility of health and social care
40 services amongst multiple agencies working across different
41 boundaries means that the public cannot easily hold agencies or
42 representatives to account, central funding is increasingly being
43 directed at tackling immediate crises rather than investing in
44 prevention, and there is now a gap between workforce demand
45 and supply.
- 46 I. New opportunities of digitisation give rise to new challenges
47 around the capture and use and ownership of private data by a
48 few corporations.
- 49 Conference re-commits itself to the three founding principles of the
50 NHS, namely that it should:
- 51 i) Meet the needs of everyone.
52 ii) Be free at the point of delivery.



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53 iii) Be based on clinical need, not ability to pay.

54 Conference calls for the following immediate measures:

55 a) A cash injection of the full £4 billion that the NHS needs for
56 2018/19.

57 b) A cash injection of £2 billion additional funding for social care.

58 c) Both of the above to be funded by a 1p income tax rise with
59 revenue in England ringfenced for the NHS and social care.

60 d) An "NHS passport" to guarantee the rights of the 59,000 EU
61 national nurses, doctors and health and care workers in the UK.

62 e) The re-establishment of student nurse bursaries.

63 f) The creation of a national scheme of preventative blood pressure
64 monitoring to be run by community pharmacies.

65 Conference further calls for the following immediate measures to
66 address mental ill health and to protect the NHS for another 70 years
67 and beyond:

68 1. The additional £1.3 billion that the government has said would
69 be invested annually in mental health services by 2021 to be
70 brought forward so that access to both adult mental health
71 services and services for children and young people is improved
72 as a matter of urgency.

73 2. Waiting times for mental health care match those for physical
74 health care.

75 3. An end to out of area placements, ensuring those admitted
76 to hospital for mental ill-health are able to be treated close to
77 home.

78 4. Additional resources to be made available to allow Mental Health
79 Support Teams to be available in all schools by 2019.

80 5. The creation of a cross-party Commission to agree a long-term
81 funding solution for the NHS and social care.

82 6. Measures to protect and promote community pharmacies,
83 recognising their potential to transform well-being, tackle health
84 inequalities at a community level, and prevent illnesses that cost
85 the tax-payer billions of pounds each year.

86 7. Better integration of health and social care services including
87 mental health, and a joined up approach between financial
88 planning and service and workforce planning.

89 8. A review of the current capture, use and ownership of health
90 data, with a view to making recommendations that balance the
91 principles of assisting medical research, protecting the privacy of
92 patients and guarding against any unjustified concentration of



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93 data ownership.

Applicability: England only, except c) (lines 58–59) which is England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Revenue raised in Wales and Northern Ireland will be spent on local priorities in those States.

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 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 11 – is 13.00, Tuesday 6 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday’s Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 8 – is 09.00 Saturday 10 March.

11.45 Speech

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

F19 Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats



@vincecable, #LDconf

13.00 Close of conference (approx.)

Conference timetable Autumn 2018

15–18 September 2018, Brighton

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00 Wednesday	13 June 2018
Motions deadline	13.00 Wednesday	27 June 2018
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00 Monday	20 August 2018
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00 Monday	3 September 2018

Sunday



Standing orders

Standing orders – 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



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amendment to a named body of the Party for further consideration.

Request for a count

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

Separate vote

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

Suspension of standing orders

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

Special conference

An additional meeting of the conference requisitioned by the Federal Board, 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 each 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 Parties as listed in Article 9 of the Federal Party's Constitution, the Federal Board, 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, a

motion accompanying the proposed strategy of the party, 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



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conference or council of that party.

1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).
- b) Business motions (including amendments and emergency business motions and amendments), constitutional amendments and secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal Board, 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 identify a person authorised to agree to their being composited or redrafted. The detail of methods of submission will be notified for each conference via the party website.

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



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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 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 Board, 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



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submitted. The Committee may:

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

4.2 Selection of amendments

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

4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

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

4.4 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

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

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

4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.4, must be placed either on the agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection by Conference. The Committee may hold separate ballots to select which of a range of emergency policy motions and which of a range of emergency business motions to debate. If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the 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



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they are likely to provoke a lively discussion.

5. Special meetings

5.1 Timetabling of special meetings

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

5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

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

6. Appeals

6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

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

appeal has been allowed.

6.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference

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

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



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

8.4 Topical issue discussions

The Committee shall direct the order of the discussion. Normally the proposer of the subject shall speak first, and a representative of the Federal Policy Committee shall speak last.

8.5 Who may speak

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 Board 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.



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9.2 Counting of votes

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

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

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

9.3 Separate votes

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

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

10 Points of order

10.1 Making a point of order

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

11 Procedural motions

11.1 Next business

- a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.
- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of

reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.

- d) The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting being to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

11.2 Reference back (moved by a 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



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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 Board, the Federal Policy Committee or the Federal Conference Committee that body shall, in its report to the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

- a) The Federal Policy Committee may, at any time before the beginning of the debate on a motion, submit, in writing, a request to refer that motion to the next meeting of the conference. The chair shall announce the existence of such a request at the start of the debate.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. A nominee of the Federal Policy Committee will speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair shall have discretion whether to allow

other speakers on the request.

- c) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- d) If passed, the Federal Policy Committee shall, before the next meeting of the conference, circulate its reasons for acting under this section and its comments on the motion and any amendments thereto accepted for debate.

11.4 Separate vote

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



Standing orders

during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of standing orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 75 words, to the chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.

- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the constitution, nor any part of these standing orders which govern:
 - i) The rights of, or timetable for, submission of motions and amendments.
 - ii) Consultative sessions.
 - iii) Procedural motions for next business or suspension of standing orders.
- c) No motion to suspend standing orders to introduce a motion or amendment on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.
- d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.

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

11.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

12 Reports

12.1 Which reports are tabled

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

12.2 Submission and selection of questions

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

12.3 Whether questions are in order or not

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



Standing orders

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

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

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

12.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies

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

13 Amendment of standing orders

13.1 Amendment of standing orders

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

14 The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

14.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

At its first meeting after a new election the Committee shall elect a Chair, who must be a member of the Committee directly elected by 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.



The Federal Party

Officers of the Federal Party

Leader: Sir Vince Cable MP
President: Baroness Sal Brinton
Chair of FFRC: Peter Dunphy
Treasurer: Lord Mike German
Vice President (England): Liz Leffman
Vice President (Scotland): Sheila Ritchie
Vice President (Wales): Carole O'Toole
Chief Executive: Sir Nick Harvey

Federal Conference Committee (FCC)

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

The FCC has 22 voting members: the Party President; the Chief Whip; three state party representatives; one representative from the FB, two from the FPC, one from the FCEC and one from the FPDC; and twelve members directly elected by party members. It elects its own chair, who must be one of the directly elected representatives.

Federal Policy Committee (FPC)

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 six other Parliamentarians; the Party President; two councillors; three state party representatives; one representative

of the Federal Communications and Elections Committee; and fifteen members directly elected by party members. It must be chaired by the Leader.

Federal Board (FB)

The FB is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Party's strategy and the work of the Federal Party. The Federal Board also has responsibility, at least once per Parliament, for preparing a document outlining the Party's Strategy, for submission for debate and agreement by Conference.

The FB has 35 voting members: the Party President (who chairs it); the Leader and three other Parliamentarians; the chairs of the three state parties; the chairs of each of the Federal Committees including a vice-chair of the Federal Policy Committee; a councillor; a Young Liberals representative; three state party representatives; and 15 members directly elected by party members.

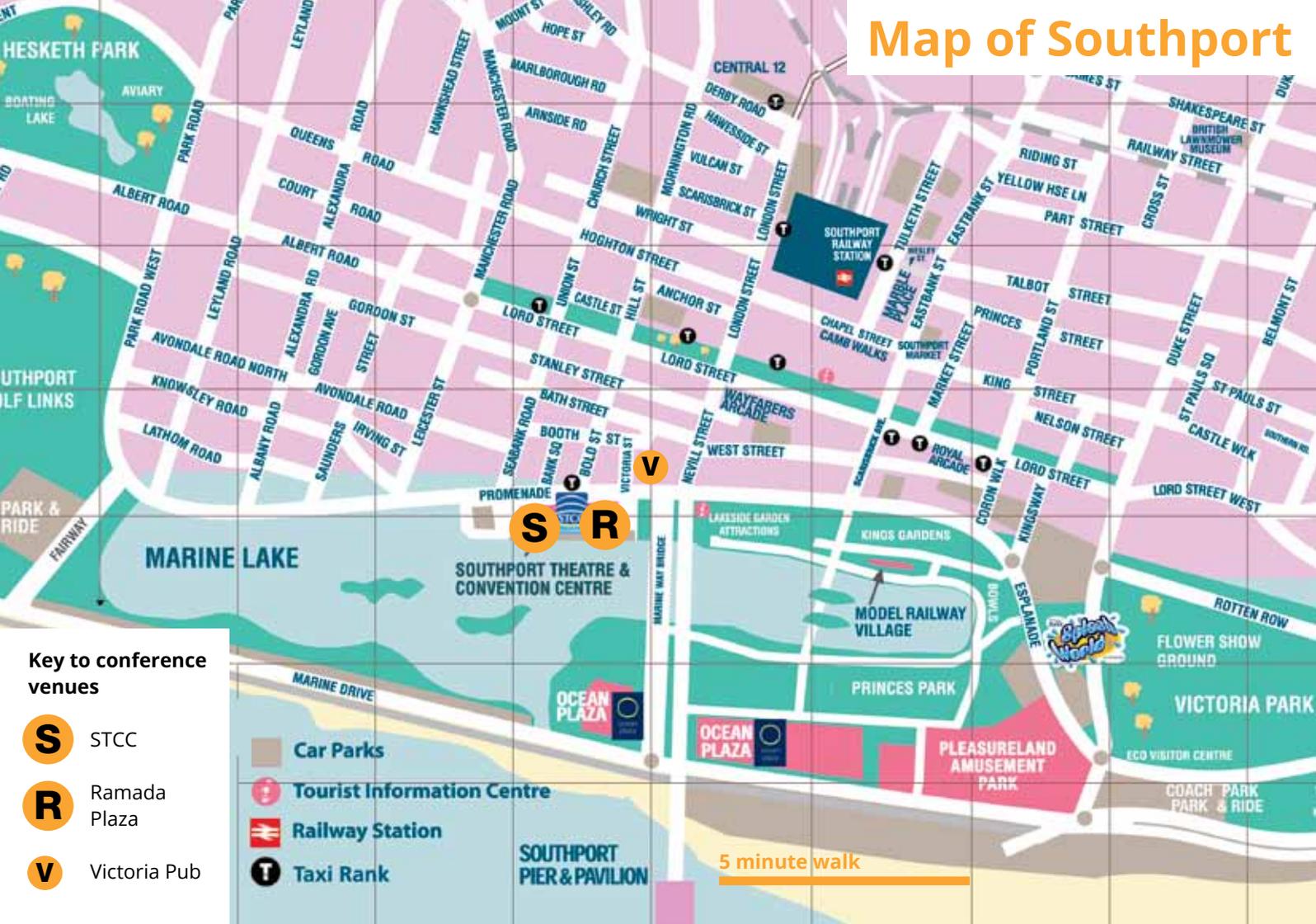
Federal Finance and Resources Committee (FFRC)

The FFRC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party, overseeing its administration and ensuring its compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, as well as overseeing the Party's risk management operations and its Risk Register.

The FFRC has 14 voting members: the Registered Treasurer and Chair; the three Registered Treasurers of the state parties; five other members (elected by the FB); Party Treasurer; the Party President; one representative of the Parliamentary Office of the Liberal Democrats; the Chief Executive; and one member of Federal staff.



Map of Southport



Key to conference venues

- S** STCC
- R** Ramada Plaza
- V** Victoria Pub

- Car Parks**
- Tourist Information Centre**
- Railway Station**
- Taxi Rank**

5 minute walk