



AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2014



ABERYSTWYTH - 15 NOVEMBER
AMENDMENTS AND TOPICAL MOTION



Amendments to Conference Motions

PM1: Effective and Accountable Local Government

NB Amendments 1 to 7 have been accepted into the substantive motion as drafting amendments by the movers of the motion

Amendment 1

Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales

In Conference Believes 9, add after 'Cardiff city-region' the words 'and Swansea city-region'.

Amendment 2

Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales

In Conference Believes 10, add after 'significant reform to Council Tax' the words 'and business rates'.

Amendment 3

Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales

In Conference Resolves 3, delete "and subject to ratification by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission" and replace with "and subject to public consultation, review by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission and approval by the Welsh Government on receipt of a clear and acceptable business case, costings and a viable corporate plan for the new authority".

Amendment 4

Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales

In Conference Resolves 5, replace from "and by combining" to the end with: "and by tasking the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission to merge smaller community councils into larger cantref councils, covering meaningful areas, with an enhanced capacity to act and have the capacity to take on local services."

Amendment 5

Rhondda Cynon Taf Liberal Democrats

In Conference Resolves 6, delete all after "promoting mechanisms for establishing new local councils."

Amendment 6

Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales

In Conference Resolves 7, after "cantref council" insert: "where they have the capacity and capability to deliver them".

Amendment 7

Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales

Add a new Conference Resolves 10, and renumber accordingly:

"10. To review the system of business rates in Wales so as to remove built in disincentives for business expansion, such review to include consideration of Land Value Taxation.' .

Amendment 8

IR Cymru

Insert a new Conference Notes 4 and renumber accordingly:

"4. The introduction of individual voter registration presents both an opportunity for wider engagement and the possibility that many will be left off the register and will be left without a voice in their local communities."

Amendment 9

Wrexham and Clwyd South Liberal Democrats

In Conference Believes 11, replace “should be to reduce the total number of councillors in Wales, and that action needs to be taken to increase the diversity of backgrounds” with “should re- evaluate the current electoral wards in Wales through the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission, and that measures need to be outlined to encourage a greater diversity of backgrounds.”

Amendment 10

Wrexham and Clwyd South Liberal Democrats

In Conference Resolves 3, replace “of both authorities,” with “from each authority,”.

Amendment 11

Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Party

Delete Conference Resolves 7 and replace with:

- “7. Strengthen the role of community, town or cantref councils in relation to local regeneration schemes to ensure appropriate local accountability.”

Amendment 12

IR Cymru

Insert new Conference Resolves 8 and renumber accordingly:

- “8. To ensure that Local Authorities have the resources and responsibility for engaging people in Voter Registration, following the introduction of Individual Voter Registration, ensuring that people have a voice in their communities.”

Amendment 13

Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales

Delete Conference Resolves 9 and replace with:

- “9. To actively consider the model for council tax reform and other taxes set out in Gerald Holtham’s paper, Taxation for Wales, so as to produce an equitable local taxation system that is fair, affordable and which makes provision for those least able to pay.”

Amendment 14

Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales

In Conference Resolves 10, delete the words: “(or, exceptionally, by the alternative vote in single-member wards in some low-density rural areas)”.

Amendment 15

Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales

Insert at end of Conference Resolves 11, “after each set of local council elections.”

Amendment 16

Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales

In Conference Resolves 12, insert after “non-voting youth representatives,” the words “legislate to enable principal authorities to do this” after .

Amendment 17

Submitted: IR Cymru

Insert at end of Conference Resolves point 13:

- “and establish Youth Councils where they do not already exist.”

PM2: Investing in Prevention

Amendment 1

Policy Committee

Insert in Conference Welcomes 1, after “such as” the words “the Wales Audit Office (WAO),”

Amendment 2

Policy Committee

In Conference Calls Upon 4, insert at the end :

“and, more specifically, the 2016 National Assembly for Wales Manifesto.”

PM3: Building a Stronger Economy

Amendment 1

Ceredigion Local Party

In Conference Resolves 5.g insert new subpoint:

“iv. calling for a feasibility study into reinstating the rail links between Aberyswyth and Carmarthen to link up with the already existing network.”

Amendment 2

Ceredigion Local Party

In Conference Resolves, Insert new point 8:

“8. Call for the reduction of VAT on Visitor Accommodation and Attractions to be reduced from 20% to 5%.

PM4: Paying Down the Democratic Deficit

Amendment 1

Submitted: IR Cymru

Insert new Conference Notes 4 and renumber:

“4. There is a growing inequality in electoral turnout across the UK, with fewer young people voting than those over 65; in the 2010 General Election there was a 36% difference in turnout for the over 65s than the over 18.”

Insert new Conference Notes 5 and renumber:

“5. Only 35% of 18-24 year-olds turned out to vote in the 2011 Assembly Election, 9% lower than the turnout in the 2010 General Election”

Amendment 2

Submitted: IR Cymru

Insert new Conference Believes 2 and renumber:

“Young people continue to be let down by a political system that fails to give them a voice.”

Insert new Conference Calls For 6 and renumber:

“A National Youth Assembly for Wales that is enshrined in law, independent of Government, and receives direct funding from the Assembly Commission to ensure the continuation of activity.”

Topical Motion to Conference

TM1: Expanding the Democracy of the Welsh Liberal Democrats with
'One Member, One Vote'.
Clwyd West Local Party

Conference Notes:

1. That voting at Conference and in elections to Welsh Party Committees is currently restricted to a limited college which includes MPs, AM, Peers, Unitary Councillors, Party Committee Members, Local Party Officers, candidates for the National Assembly for Wales and Westminster as well as those elected as Conference Representatives by their Local Party or the SAO representing Youth and/or Students.
2. That the 2014 Federal Conference in Glasgow passed the motion entitled Expanding the Democracy of the Party with 'One Member, One Vote'.
3. That in 2009 the Scottish Liberal Democrats adopted the principle of 'One Member, One Vote' at its Autumn Conference and the attendance at their subsequent Spring Conference was the largest for many years.
4. That the Welsh Liberal Democrats already have One Member, One Vote in place for the elections for Leader and Deputy Leaders of the Party and for the President and Deputy President of the Welsh Party.

Conference Believes:

1. That there are three elements to 'One Member, One Vote':
 - a. The right to attend and vote at Welsh Party Conferences (subject to the payment of the relevant registration fee(s))
 - b. The right to nominate candidates for election to Welsh Party Committees and representatives to Federal Party Committees
 - c. The right to vote in the elections for Welsh Party Committees and representatives to Federal Party Committees.

Conference Resolves to:

1. Adopt the principle of 'One Member, One Vote'.
2. Implement the principle of 'One Member, One Vote' in terms of the right of members to attend and vote at Welsh Party Conferences (subject to the payment of the relevant registration fee(s)) with effect from January 2015, thereby abolishing the need for Local Parties to elect representatives to Welsh Party Conferences.
3. Refer the principle of 'One Member, One Vote' for the nomination of candidates for, and the right to vote in, elections to Welsh Party Committees and for Representatives to Federal Party Committees to the Welsh Party's Constitutional Review Panel in order to bring about the relevant constitutional and election rule changes at the Autumn Conference in 2015.
4. Defer the elections to the National Executive Committee and the Campaigns & Candidates Committee by twelve months to the 2016 Autumn Conference to enable the relevant changes to be made to the constitution and election rules without creating problems with how those committees are elected in the interim period.

