

**Welsh Liberal Democrats  
Spring Conference 2014  
Newport 4-6 April**

Welsh Liberal  
Democrats  
Democratiaid  
Rhyddfrydol Cymru



**IN EUROPE  
IN WORK**



# Welcome to Newport

Dear Friends,

I would like to welcome you to the Welsh Liberal Democrat Spring Conference in Newport. We have an action-packed weekend ahead of us with policy debates, keynote speeches, fringe events and training for members.

We are now just a little over six weeks away from the European elections and this conference is an excellent springboard from which to mobilise our campaign. Liberal Democrats are the only major party that has a clear message on Europe; we are the party of 'IN' and we are proud of that. This weekend is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the European Union.

The Welsh Liberal Democrats recognise the benefits of being in the EU and we are not afraid to shout about them. The Tories are willing to put jobs at risk by undermining our membership of the EU. Plaid's dream of independence would put thousands of jobs at risk and wouldn't even guarantee us a place at the EU table. Meanwhile, Labour are too timid to say anything at all on the issue and have heavily misspent the billions of EU funding Wales has received.

The Welsh Liberal Democrats believe in building a stronger economy and a fairer society. Remaining within the EU is integral to that ambition. That is our message and we must continue to work together to secure that future.

Have a great weekend,



**Kirsty Williams**

*Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats*



**Spring Conference 2014**  
*Newport*

**Saturday 12:30 Room C17**

Leading the Fight  
against dementia

**Alzheimer's  
Society**

## **Dementia Friends**

Dementia Friends is an Alzheimer's Society initiative that helps people understand what it might be like to live with dementia.

We aim to change the way people think, talk and act about dementia and encourage people to turn that understanding into action.

**Join us in Room C17 at 12:30-13:30 on Saturday for a Dementia Friends Information Session.**

Help make Wales more dementia friendly and improve the lives of the 45,500 people in Wales currently living with dementia.

**Cake and other refreshments provided**



To find out **how we will protect patients in 2014**, visit our website:  
[www.gmc-uk.org/aims2014](http://www.gmc-uk.org/aims2014).

For further information about the GMC,  
and its work in Wales, contact:  
[gmcwales@gmc-uk.org](mailto:gmcwales@gmc-uk.org).

**General  
Medical  
Council**

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# Notes

## Conference Venue

### Venue

The venue for the Conference is the University of Wales, City Campus, Usk Way, Newport NP20 2BP.

### Access

The Conference venue is fully accessible to all attendees. This will be clearly signposted. Everyone attending the Conference must enter through the main entrance.

### Registration Desk

The Registration Desk can be found inside the main entrance to the University building.

### Distribution of Literature

Please be aware that the distribution of literature within the Conference venue is not permitted without the prior approval of the Chair of Conference Committee.

### Smoking

It is illegal to smoke within any part of the Conference venue.

### Cloakroom

There will be no cloakroom facility for either coats or baggage at the Conference venue. Large bags will not be allowed into the Conference venue.

### Emergency Exits

There are a number of emergency exits inside the venue. Please ensure that you are aware of your nearest exit at all times.

# Information

## Flash Photography

Conference attendees vulnerable to epilepsy should note that flash photography may be used in the Conference Hall.

## Lost Property

All items of lost property should be handed in to, and reclaimed from, the Registration Desk.

## Mobile Phones & Pagers

Please ensure that all mobile phones and pagers are switched off before entering the Conference Hall, fringe events and training sessions.

## Refreshments

Light refreshments can be purchased from the refreshments counter situated in the Exhibition area.

## Travel

### How to Get to the Conference Venue

The Conference venue is on Usk Way, Newport.

**Bus:** The most convenient way to get there is by public transport. Traveline Cymru can advise on the most appropriate form of public transport for you. You can contact them on 0871 200 2233 or visit their website [www.traveline-cymru.info](http://www.traveline-cymru.info).

Newport Bus Station is just across the road from the Conference Venue.

**Train:** Newport railway station is a 5-10 minutes walk from the Conference Venue.

**Car:** If you are travelling by car, exit the M4 at junction 26 and follow the signs towards Newport City Centre.

Car parking is available at the Kingsway Car Park which is opposite the Conference Venue. You can get 20% discount on your parking costs if you are coming to the Conference by getting your ticket validated at the University's Reception Desk in the Newport City Campus. Parking charges before discount are £4 per day (£1 per day on Sunday).

# Information

## Security

As the Liberal Democrats are part of the UK Government, tighter security is required at Spring Conference. Bag checks will be carried out every time a delegate enters the building.

The Conference Committee reminds delegates that compliance with the security procedures, including searches when they are in operation, is a condition of entry to the Conference.

## Conference Badges

Conference Badges must be worn throughout the Conference Venue on Saturday and Sunday.

If you have registered in advance for Conference you can collect your Conference Badge from the registration desk upon arrival on the Saturday or Sunday. You must bring your registration confirmation letter/e-mail and photographic ID with you to collect your Conference Badge. You may not be issued with a Conference Badge if you do not have both of these. If you have not received your confirmation letter within two weeks of registering, or by three days before the Conference please contact 029 2031 3400 to confirm that your registration has been received and processed.

If you have not registered in advance for Conference your Conference Badge will be issued when you register on the day.

Please see how to register on the day in the Registration section on page 12.

Replacement badges will be issued at the discretion of the Chair of Conference Committee. There will be a charge of £10 for replacement badges.

## Photographic ID

The following forms of photographic ID will be accepted on the day:

- Passport (we will accept expired passports)
- Photographic driving licence

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- Valid photographic student ID card
- CitizenCard
- Armed Forces ID

If you do not have any of the above photographic ID we will accept any two of the following instead:

- Non-photographic driving licence
- Birth certificate
- A signed bank card
- A utility bill
- Bank statement
- Payslip
- Valid non-photographic student ID card
- National Insurance Card

## Security Searches

At times there may be 'airport style' security searches in operation at the venue. Everyone attending the Conference at these times will be subject to such searches. They may take the form of metal detector archways and/or bag searches.

Large bags and sealed items will not be allowed into the secure area during these periods.

## Tickets and Invitations

If you are attending the Conference Dinner or an invite-only fringe or reception (these are clearly identified in the Conference Guide or Conference Announcements) you must bring your ticket or invite with you and you must be wearing your Conference Badge. Admittance will otherwise be refused.

# Information

## Registration

### Registration Desk

The Registration Desk can be found directly ahead of the main Conference Centre entrance. It will be open:

Saturday 05 April: 08:30 – 17:00

Sunday 06 April: 09:00 – 13:30

### Advance Registration

Everyone is able to register online by visiting [www.WelshLibDems.org.uk](http://www.WelshLibDems.org.uk). You can register online until mid-day on Tuesday 1st April

Party Members and Observers can also register by post. You can download a registration form from the website or request one by calling 029 2031 3400.

You can register in advance by post until Friday 28th March.

Everyone who registers online will automatically receive a confirmation e-mail.

We will endeavour to send everyone who registers by post a confirmation letter.

If you have not received your confirmation letter within two weeks of registering, or by three days before the Conference please contact 029 2031 3400 to confirm that your registration has been received and processed.

You will need your confirmation letter and photographic ID when you collect your Conference Badge. If you do not have your confirmation letter you may not be issued with a Conference Badge unless you have informed us that you have not received the letter.

## On the Day Registration

You can register for the Conference on the day.

If you are registering on the day you will need to bring the appropriate registration fee and photographic ID with you. For more information on this please refer to page 11. You can also save time on the day by filling in a registration form beforehand and making sure that you have the correct money or completed cheque when you arrive at the Registration Desk. You can download a registration form from the Party's website [www.WelshLibDems.org.uk](http://www.WelshLibDems.org.uk)

# Conference Agenda

## Saturday Morning

- 09:30 **Opening of Conference**  
**Lord German**  
*Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Party Committee on Work & Pensions*
- 09:40 **Policy Motion**  
**M01: Future for Further Education**  
*Further Education Policy Paper*
- 10:40 **Speech**  
**Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP**  
*Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Liberal Democrats*
- 11:00 **Policy Motion**  
**M03: Flooding & Coastal Defence: Strengthening Future Resilience**
- 11:30 **Policy Consultation**  
**Democratic Reform**

## Saturday Early Afternoon

- 13:30 **Policy Consultation**  
**Economy**
- 14:30 **Topical Motion**
- 14:45 **Speech**  
**Baroness Randerson**  
*Minister of State, Wales Office*

## Saturday Late Afternoon

- 16:30 **Question & Answer Session**  
**Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP**  
*Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills*

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# Conference Agenda

## Sunday Morning

09:30 Policy Motion

**M02: Powering Wales' Future**

*Energy Policy Paper*

10:45 Speech

**Jenny Willott MP**

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs, Women and Equalities*

11:00 Policy Motion

**M04: IN Europe, IN Work**

11:30 Platform Presentation

**Is Community Nursing able to cope with reconfiguration?**



Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol  
Cymru  
Royal College of Nursing  
Wales

The policy to shift care from the acute hospital to the community setting continues. The RCN believes strongly that unless there is significant investment in the community nursing workforce, patients will not receive the standard of care that they deserve.

*Gaynor Jones, RCN Welsh Board Chair*

*Kirsty Williams AM, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats*

*Sue Thomas, RCN Primary Care and Independent Sector Adviser*

## Sunday Afternoon

13:30 Policy Consultation

**Local Government Reform**

14:30 Policy Motion

**M05 Mental Health Provision in Wales**

**Emergency Motion**

15:10 Speech

**Kirsty Williams AM**

*Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats*

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# Motions

## Information about the Motions

Every Motion to be debated at Conference appears in this section in the same order as in the Conference Agenda earlier in the Conference Guide. The time that the motion will be debated is listed alongside each motion.

### Language of Motions

All motions appear in this Guide in both Welsh and English. As all motions were originally submitted in English, if there is a discrepancy between the languages, the English language version shall take precedence.

### Amendments to Motions

All motions that appear in this Guide can be amended. Amendments may be submitted by Local Parties, the Welsh Party Committee that has responsibility for the issue raised in the motion, the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales or in the UK Parliament, or 20 Conference Representatives.

All amendments accepted for debate will be published in the Conference Announcements which will be available on the Party website [www.WelshLibDems.org.uk](http://www.WelshLibDems.org.uk) in the week before Conference and from the Registration Desk at Conference.

### Topical Motions

Topical Motions are policy motions which are based on an event which happens after the deadline for submitting policy motions, ie 19 February .

Topical Motions may be submitted by Local Parties, the Welsh Party Committee that has responsibility for the issues raised in the motion, the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales or in the UK Parliament, or 20 Voting Members of Conference.

All Topical Motions accepted for debate will be published in the Conference Announcements which will be available on the party website [www.WelshLibDems.org.uk](http://www.WelshLibDems.org.uk) in the week before Conference and from the Registration Desk at Conference.

Topical Motions published in the Conference Announcements may also be

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amended. The deadline for submitting an amendment to a Topical Motion is 09:30 on Saturday 5 April. Amendments should be e-mailed to [Policy.Officer@WelshLibDems.org.uk](mailto:Policy.Officer@WelshLibDems.org.uk) or given to the Policy Officer or Chair of Conference Committee in hard copy.

## Emergency Motions

Emergency Motions are motions relating to an event which occurs after the deadline for Topical Motions. Emergency Motions should be brief.

Emergency Motions may be submitted by Local Parties, the Welsh Party Committee that has responsibility for the issues raised in the motion, the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales or in the UK Parliament, or 20 Voting Members of Conference.

The deadline for submitting Emergency Motions depends on when the event that the motion relates to occurs. For events that occur before the start of the Conference, the deadline is the start of Conference i.e. 09:30 on Saturday 20 April. For events that occur during Conference, the deadline is three hours before the slot in the agenda for Emergency Motions.

When submitting an Emergency Motion, the names of the people who will be moving and summing the motion must be clearly identified. If this does not happen the Conference Committee will not accept the Emergency Motion.

## Speaking at Conference

### Who can Speak?

Party Members who are registered as voting or non-voting Members of Conference can speak in any debate. Registered Observers may speak with the permission of the Conference Committee.

### Length of Speeches

In every debate on a motion, 5 minutes will be allowed for Proposers of motions, 4 minutes for Proposers of Amendments and 3 minutes for all other speakers including Summators of both motions and amendments. The Chair may reduce these timings to allow more members to speak in a debate. If they do this they

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will announce the change during the debate. If you are speaking and the Chair asks you to bring your speech to an end, please finish promptly.

## Simultaneous Translation

When simultaneous translation facilities are available, please make the most of the opportunity to address the Conference in Welsh.

Here are some tips for making the most of this service: indicate via the speaker's card if you wish to speak in Welsh; try to speak entirely in Welsh; if changing languages in your speech pause while changing languages to allow the translator time to finish.

Translation headsets can be collected from the table near the entrance to the Conference Hall. Please ensure that you return the headset after use. If any headsets go missing during Conference, the Conference Committee may introduce a £5 deposit system for headsets for the remainder of the weekend.

## How to go about Speaking

Anyone wishing to speak in a debate needs to fill in a speaker's card and submit it to the speaker's desk and wait to see if they are called in the debate. A separate card should be filled in for every debate. Speaker's cards are available from the speaker's desk and from the stewards in the auditorium. They can also be collected from the Registration Desk.

## Completing Speaker's Cards

There are three key points to remember to maximise your chances of being called:

1. Submit your card well in advance. If you hand your card in late, in a popular debate you're virtually guaranteeing you won't be called. The chairing team for the debate always meet well in advance to plan the debate.
2. Fill in your card completely The second major mistake potential speakers make is not to fill in their card completely. As well as the information on the front of the card (name, local party, for or against the motion, etc.), there are

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two sections on the back, for relevant background (professional or consumer experience, party background etc.) and for a brief outline of what your speech is going to be about. These sections are needed for the chair and aide to balance the debate – to make sure that people with relevant experience are called, and to make sure that they don't call a whole string of people who'll make the same point.

3. Make sure it's readable! Don't take this as an invitation to fill every square centimetre of the card and don't write illegibly, or in very small letters, or in green ink....the easier you make it for the chair to read your card the more likely you are to be called.

## Order of Debate for Motions

Motions will generally be considered in the following order:

1. Proposer of the Motion.
2. Proposers of any amendments, speaking in turn.
3. Speakers will then be called on all sides of the debate with the Chair seeking to ensure balance.
4. Summators of the amendments, speaking in turn.
5. The summator of the motion will speak.
6. The Chair will then take any votes on any amendments and/or any separate votes in turn - for and against.
7. A vote will be taken on the motion as a whole - for and against.

## Voting

Only Voting Members will be able to vote. Voting Members will have "Voting" on the back of their Conference Badge.

If you are a Voting Member and wish to vote in a debate you must be in the Conference Hall by the end of the speech by the summator of the motion as no-one will be allowed to enter the hall once the voting has started.

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To vote, you should be seated and hold your Conference Badge in the air, with the “Voting” side facing the Chair. Please follow the instructions of the Chair on when to vote. You may be asked to keep your Conference Badge in the air for a long time to ensure that all the votes can be counted.

Decisions on the motion and amendments are normally by simple majority of those voting. If this differs this will be explained by the Chair before voting takes place.

## Procedural Motions

Procedural Motions concern the procedure by which Conference operates.

**Reference Back** - to stop debate on a Motion and send the Motion to a specified body for more work

**Next Business** - to stop debate and move to the next item of business on the agenda.

**Suspension of Standing Orders** - to lift one or more of the rules governing the operation of Conference.

Procedural Motions may be submitted by any Voting Member in writing together with a statement of reasons of 75 words or less.

Votes will be taken in the same way as for Motions and Amendments, except that there is no cut off point for being in the Conference Hall for the vote on whether to have a mini-debate.

Decisions on Procedural Motions are made by simple majority of those voting.

Procedural Motions are usually considered in the following way:

1. Any Voting Member can propose a Procedural Motion in writing before the end of a debate on a motion.
2. The Chair reads out the written statement in support of the Procedural Motion.
3. A vote will be taken on whether there will be a mini-debate on the Procedural Motion.

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If the decision is to have a mini-debate:

4. The mover of the Procedural Motion may speak.
5. Someone to oppose the Procedural Motion may speak.
6. Other speakers may be called to speak.
7. A vote will be taken on the Procedural Motion

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## M01 Future for Further Education

National Policy Committee

### Conference Notes

1. The importance of further education: as a method by which individuals can realise their potential and as a way to tackle poverty, create wealth, and end discrimination.
2. That there were 312,450 enrolments on learning programmes in the further education sector in the 2010/11 academic year, of which 77% were delivered by FE colleges.
3. That adult learners form the vast majority of learners at FE institutions, but are also the age group that are decreasing the most.
4. That 70% of the workforce who will be active in 2020 have already completed their compulsory education, demonstrating the importance of up-skilling.
5. That the further education sector in Wales has faced a number of challenges and changes in recent years including cuts in funding and a new funding formula, mergers between FE colleges, pressures on the viability of small sixth form units, and the development of regional consortia.

### Conference Believes

1. That further education is a crucial means by which individuals from 14 to adulthood can realise their full potential as part of a stronger economy in a fairer society.
2. In parity of esteem and provision between vocational and academic education, and between 16-19 and adult learners.
3. That education should fit around the needs of learners and further education should allow learners to learn flexibly and dip in and out of education.

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4. In the importance of widening participation through social inclusion and respecting diversity, of raising the aspirations of communities and of learners, and of overcoming barriers to remaining in or returning to learning.
5. That the further education sector should have the flexibility and operational freedom to respond to local and regional challenges, increase standards and serve the needs of all their stakeholders.
6. That teachers and lecturers should be supported by government to enable them to provide their learners with the best possible education.

## Conference Endorses:

1. The Welsh Liberal Democrat Policy Paper *Future for Further Education*, as a statement of Welsh Liberal Democrat policy for the further education sector.

## Conference Calls For:

1. Greater advice and information to be provided for learners and businesses on the availability and quality of further education courses, including joint prospectuses and open days developed by regional consortia, and separate scores for vocational and academic education in school bandings and level 2 criteria.
2. More flexible approaches to learning to be supported through the development of a Credit Accumulation and Transfer Framework to make it easier for FE learners to transfer between courses and pause their studies, with a personal learning cloud to store and retrieve details of accumulated credit.
3. The creation of a Welsh National Cyber College / Coleg Seiber Cymraeg to commission, develop and accredit digital and online further education courses, working with and through existing FE providers.
4. The capacity and standards of teachers and lecturers in further education to be strengthened through the introduction of an up-to-date Teacher's

# Motions

Qualification Framework and the piloting of a new scheme for industry secondments.

5. A cross-party commission to be established to examine the funding and organization of adult education and lifelong learning in Wales and to make recommendations that will ensure that the sector is effective in addressing the country's skills requirements and in promoting social mobility.
6. The widening of participation in further education to be supported by earmarking Community First funding to facilitate access to further education in Community First clusters.
7. The provision of Welsh medium education to be strengthened by expanding the remit of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to include the FE sector, to support collaboration between FE colleges, and between the FE and HE sectors, in the development and provision of Welsh medium teaching and learning materials.
8. More support to be provided to learners with Additional Learning Needs or who have languages other than English or Welsh as their first language in further education, including by developing grant schemes for teachers who wish to specialise in teaching learners with Additional Learning Needs, as have been launched in England.
9. A review of post-16 qualifications and curricula in Wales, including the delivery and appropriateness of the minimum subject provision mandated by the Learner Skills Measure, and the value, structure and delivery of the Welsh Baccalaureate, and the feasibility of adoption of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme as the standard qualification in Wales.
10. A pilot scheme for Village Colleges, to help expand provision in rural areas and support sustainable rural sixth forms.

## M02 Powering Wales' Future

National Policy Committee

### Conference Believes:

1. In a sustainable and low-carbon future for Wales' energy supply.
2. That our reliance on increasingly expensive fossil fuels is constraining our economy, comprising our future security and polluting our environment.
3. That we must act to reduce Wales' reliance on damaging fossil fuels, secure the future of low-carbon alternatives for decades to come, and become more energy efficient as individuals and as a country.
4. That the Welsh Liberal Democrats must aim to be the most ambitious and greenest of the major Welsh political parties.
5. That the contribution of fossil fuels to Wales' electric generation grid should steadily decrease and be replaced by low-carbon and renewable alternatives, leading to fossil fuel power plants requiring appropriate carbon capture and storage technology or heat recovery plans post-2030.
6. That Wales should aim to produce enough renewable and low-carbon energy to cover our own needs and provide export potential by 2050.

### Conference Notes:

1. That Wales is a net exporter of electrical energy, but that fossil fuels make up around three-quarters of energy production in Wales.
2. That gas is the dominant source of energy in Wales, responsible for almost half of energy generated in Wales.
3. That Wales has significant scope for wind (onshore and offshore), wave, tidal, solar, and hydro power generation.
4. That Wales presently has a generating capacity of around 11GW, which

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should rise to 15GW in 2020.

5. That to achieve the 2020 target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent below the 1990 base year, emissions in Wales will need to be reduced by a further 25 percentage points from base year emissions within ten years.
6. That powers over energy policy are only partially devolved to the Welsh Assembly, with devolved policy covering around 70% of total Welsh greenhouse gas emissions.
7. That nuclear power is reserved to Westminster and the Federal Liberal Democrat party has adopted a position of allowing existing nuclear power stations to run to the end of their operating lives, and accepting that new, nuclear power stations could play a limited role in electricity supply, provided concerns about safety, disposal of radioactive waste and cost (including decommissioning) are adequately addressed and without allowing any public subsidy for new build.

## Conference Endorses:

1. The Welsh Liberal Democrat Policy Paper *Powering Wales' Future*, as a paper designed to build a roadmap for Wales' energy future and outline how the Welsh Liberal Democrats would deliver this future in Government.

## Conference Calls For:

1. Planning reforms to enable a greater number of small scale community renewables to be completed, including ensuring that such projects are considered with a presumption in favour of development and that the existing Ynni'r Fro programme is expanded so it is more able to deliver necessary advice and support to developers;
2. Support the spread of community energy co-operatives, by providing model legal and business frameworks, and breaking down barriers to connection to appropriate networks and sale or purchase at a competitive price;

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3. Ensuring that communities across Wales gain greater benefits from the investments which are made in their areas, by expanding community benefit funds to a regional basis which will mean residents along the transportation and grid corridors are also able to benefit from the economic benefits which come with renewables, and developing a public and transparent official registry of community benefit funds in Wales;
4. The reinstatement of the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, the model of Resource Efficient Scotland to be investigated for Wales in order to disseminate advice on fuel energy efficiency, and exploration of the feasibility of a nation-wide energy co-operative;
5. Moves to reduce consumer electricity demand, improve home efficiency and stabilise the daily demand curve, such as improved advice and education, outlawing the letting of inefficient D-G rated buildings over an appropriate timescale, and supporting industry in becoming more energy efficient;
6. Maximising the economic benefits of renewables by working with developers and educational institutions to expand supply chains and centres of excellence for the next generation of engineers and apprentices including support for research into battery storage technology;
7. The establishment of a suitable number of Marine Energy Hubs to provide a safe environment to manufacturing and test emergent marine renewable technologies before deployment, to enable us to establish Wales as a world leader in marine renewables;
8. A review of Technical Advice Note 8 [TAN8] so that it can be updated to meet current technological requirements and so that new Strategic Search Area options could be explored to encourage new projects and reduce the existing concentration on Mid-Wales;
9. Encouraging the use of offshore wind resources by offering incentives to companies to only install the highest generating equipment;

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10. The development of new pumped storage sites in suitable locations, identified by working with energy developers;
11. Planning permission for fracking operations, including test drilling, to be denied until and unless safety and environmental protection can be guaranteed to the highest standards.
12. Biomass generation to be limited to use for heat technologies as opposed to electricity generation.

## **M03 Flooding & Coastal Defence: Strengthening Future Resilience** National Policy Committee

### **Conference Notes:**

1. The extensive damage and disruption caused in Wales by successive storms and floods during the winter of 2013-14.
2. That severe flood events have been experienced in many parts of south, mid and north Wales over the last five years as the consequence of increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather patterns.
3. The exceptional effort of the emergency services; local authority, Natural Resources Wales and utility company employees; lifeboat crews and mountain rescue teams, and other local volunteers, in responding to storm and flood events.
4. That flood and coastal defences, and the retrofitting of individual properties with protection measures, have proved effective in protecting many properties and minimising serious casualties from storms and flooding.
5. That repairs to storm and flood damage to coastal defences and transport and seashore infrastructure will cost local authorities millions of pounds at a time when core funding to local government from the Welsh Government has been cut.

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## Conference Believes:

1. That the increased frequency and intensity of severe storms and flooding is a product of climate change and the risk of serious damage and disruption is likely to continue over future decades.
2. That there is an urgent need to review the approach to flood risk planning and management in Wales, including the Welsh Government's Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk.
3. That greater emphasis needs to be placed on the use of natural resources and innovative land management techniques to alleviate flood risk.
4. That responsible agencies, including Natural Resources Wales and local authorities, need to be provided with adequate resources to ensure that they are able to continue to provide an appropriate level of flood risk monitoring and management.
5. That there should be greater engagement of local communities in planning for flood and coastal defences, monitoring risks and developing and implementing appropriate responses.

## Conference Calls For:

1. The Welsh Government to provide additional funding to local authorities to cover the cost of repairs and remedial work to infrastructure following the storms and floods of winter 2013-14, and to apply for support to the European Solidarity Fund as appropriate.
2. The Welsh Government to match in Wales the commitments of financial assistance to households and businesses affected by storms and flooding in England made by the Coalition Government in Westminster.
3. Schemes to alleviate flood risk through innovative land management – including planting trees and vegetation to slow run-off, restoring wetland areas, and creating safe flood reservoirs – to be promoted and funded through the Wales Rural Development Programme.

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4. Improvements to increase the resilience of the transport infrastructure in south, west and north Wales to flooding and storms to be supported by EU Convergence Funding.
5. The Welsh Government to open negotiations with insurance companies and water companies to seek investment in flood alleviation and defence schemes as precautions that will reduce the cost to these companies of future flood events.
6. Planning policy guidance to be amended to place greater emphasis on the assessment of flood risk in planning applications, including not only the risk of flooding to proposed developments but also the impact of developments on flood risk elsewhere, and to promote the incorporation of flood alleviation measures into new developments.
7. The pragmatic interpretation of planning and heritage guidelines to permit the retrofitting of flood and storm defence measures, such as shutters and flood gates, to high risk properties.
8. Policy on river clearing in Wales to be urgently reviewed to ensure that rivers are being effectively managed to minimize flood risk.
9. The dual use of new coastal and river renewable energy generation schemes to provide flood defence in addition to renewable energy generation.
10. Funding for new flood and coastal defence schemes, and for the flood risk responsibilities of Natural Resources Wales, to be protected from further cuts.
11. Assistance to be provided to households and landowners in areas that cannot be cost-effectively protected with large-scale flood or coastal defences to support the retrofitting of individual properties with flood protection measures, or to help facilitate relocation.
12. The engagement of local communities in strategic planning for flood and coastal defence, monitoring flood risks and emergency planning for storm

and flood events, including promoting the establishment of volunteer local flood defence associations.

## **M04 IN Europe, IN Work**

National Policy Committee

### **Conference Believes:**

1. Welsh Liberal Democrats want Wales to stay in the EU because we are fighting for a stronger economy – 160,000 Welsh jobs are dependent on our continued membership of the EU and over 10,000 Welsh companies trade with other EU member states and so benefit from the single market.
2. Liberal Democrats are working to defend thousands of Welsh jobs, create thousands more and put thousands of pounds back in people's pockets by making it easier for companies to export and slashing red tape for small businesses - the average Welsh household is £3,300 a year better off as a result of the growth in the UK's trade within the EU's single market.
3. Overall, Wales is a net beneficiary of EU membership – receiving over £144 million per year more in EU grants alone than its taxpayers contribute to the EU budget and with the value of increased trade among the additional benefits.
4. Liberal Democrats want safer communities, which requires our police forces to have access to key EU crime-fighting tools.
5. Welsh Liberal Democrats are fighting for a greener future by working with EU countries to combat climate change, create green jobs and reduce pollution.
6. The Welsh Liberal Democrats are the party of 'in' – In Europe, In Work.

### **Conference Further Believes:**

1. The Conservative Party and UKIP are putting millions of British jobs and billions of pounds of investment at risk by undermining our membership of the EU;

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2. Labour can't be trusted with the economy at home or abroad - their reckless spending and failure to regulate the banks crippled Britain's economy while their MEPs support measures that would impose huge burdens on British businesses.
3. Plaid Cymru's plan for independence puts our place in Europe at risk, and threatens the advantageous EU membership terms that Wales enjoys as part of a strong United Kingdom.

## Conference Welcomes:

1. The record of Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament and Westminster in delivering:
  - a. **Jobs** – for example through the conclusion of successful trade deals (with even larger deals now under negotiation), EU funding that has created over 200,000 new UK jobs including funding for research and technology, and the creation of a single EU Patent system.
  - b. **Safer Communities** – for example through fighting off Conservative and UKIP attempts to withdraw the UK from the EU Arrest Warrant, new EU laws to help British victims of crime in other EU Countries, and stronger EU co-operation to fight human trafficking.
  - c. **A Greener Future** – for example through an agreement for the EU low carbon roadmap that paves the way towards a low carbon economy, a radical overhaul of the Common Fisheries Policy to ban most discards (throwing dead fish back into the sea), EU energy efficiency laws that will unlock investment in energy saving technologies, and major reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy that will help cut emissions and protect our countryside.

## Conference Resolves:

1. That the Welsh Liberal Democrat Manifesto for the 2014 European Elections

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should set out a strong future policy agenda, building on these priorities and the policies adopted set out in Federal Policy Paper #113, *Prosperous, Sustainable and Secure* by Liberal Democrat Federal Conference (September 2013), that supports:

- a. **Creating more jobs** by further opening up the EU's internal market, supporting new EU trade agreements with other trading countries, cutting red tape and 'thinking small', reducing unnecessary EU regulatory costs which particularly hit smaller businesses, promoting innovation in science and manufacturing and getting Welsh ideas to market faster, and supporting the European Investment Bank (EIB) initiative to develop European project bonds in order to speed up vital infrastructure development.
- b. **Fighting cross-border crime and defending rights** by pressing for the European Union Missing Child Alert System to be implemented quickly, setting up a European Union database of unidentified bodies to help families searching for missing loved ones, supporting the work of the new European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), and working to secure speedy implementation of the European Commission's new proposal on fighting money laundering, pushing for a European Union-wide proportionality test in the use of the European Arrest, and supporting the full implementation of 'Eurobail' to allow British citizens to serve their bail back in the UK.
- c. **Protecting the environment and creating green growth** by committing to reduce the EU's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030, urgently strengthening the EU Emissions Trading System mechanism, pushing for more international grid connections between European countries to ensure we can meet our climate change goals faster and at a lower cost, promoting better European energy labelling, and encouraging sustainable consumption in European Union member states, including by arguing for the European Union to support the target of halting net deforestation worldwide by 2020.

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- d. **Building a safer, stronger financial system** by ensuring better quality of regulation in order to protect the economy, businesses and jobs, fighting for fairer rules that will clamp down on manipulation of energy and financial markets as exposed by the LIBOR scandal and Brent Oil fixing investigation, ensuring fairer mortgage repayments and fuel prices for consumers, supporting alternatives to bank financing for small and medium sized companies, and pressing for new rules that will force large companies to disclose the countries where they pay their taxes.
- e. **Getting a better, fairer deal for consumers** by campaigning to abolish mobile phone roaming charges once and for all, supporting higher standards of food inspections across the European Union with better country of origin food labelling, supporting greater protection of holidaymakers' rights to compensation if their holiday company goes bust, and making it easier for consumers to gain adequate compensation when people suffer losses due to malpractice, through new rules that will make it easier for consumers to take cases together, reduce the number of court cases and cut costs for the claimants.
- f. Building a more sustainable future for rural communities and businesses by supporting continued reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (which now provides £350 million per year to Wales), pressing for more devolution in agricultural policy, ensuring continued support for rural communities, particularly upland and less favoured areas, and a mid-term review in 2017; and promoting a more sustainable fishing industry in the UK, with the expansion of European Marine Sites, a 100% ban on the discard of edible and other usable fish and tougher enforcement of European Union fishing rules by all member states
- g. **Helping to build a safer and more democratic world** through a more effective European Union foreign policy, building more security and democracy in the European neighbourhood, deeper defence co-operation in Europe, with European Defence Agency, in co-operation with NATO, playing a central role in helping states to pool and share

# Motions

military capabilities, and better co-ordination of development assistance provided by European member states and by the European Union itself.

- h. **Promoting fairness and opportunity** by encouraging government and universities to fully publicise the opportunities available for young people in the UK to take advantage of EU schemes for studying and working abroad, and supporting fair rules to underpin free movement of workers, such as the proposal from the European Commission to extend the period from three to six months that the home country pays benefits for their citizens while they are resident in another European Union country
- i. **Reforming the European Union** by campaigning to end the waste of having two meeting places for the European Parliament, supporting an audit of existing European Union agencies and institutions to find ways to rationalise and find savings, and calling for a guarantee in the next European Union treaty that both Euro area and non-Euro area member states have a full voice in the regulation and application of the single market.

# Motions

## M05 Mental Health Provision in Wales

IR Cymru

### Conference Notes:

1. One in four will experience mental health difficulty in the course of a year.
2. Despite funding for mental health services increasing by more than £1.5 billion since 1999, those experiencing mental health problems continue to suffer unacceptable discrimination in terms of access to services and treatment.
3. That the current treatment of mental ill health is ineffective, and results in high readmission rates.
4. Poor mental health severely impacts upon educational attainment, and poor mental health at a young age can result in increased risk of acute infections, illness, increased self-harming behaviours, suicidal ideation, and suicide.
5. The financial costs of the adverse effects of mental illness to the national economy in Wales stood at £7.2 billion a year in 2010.
6. The work of the Liberal Democrats in Coalition Government in England has resulted in new access and waiting time standards to be introduced in 2015, age appropriate and effective co-ordination between services, and support for employers and employees in ensuring provisions to support individuals with mental health difficulties, ensuring an active working lifestyle.

### Conference Believes:

1. There currently exists an inequity in treatment between patients with physical health needs and those with mental health needs.
2. There is a shortage of psychological therapists, which results in the common use of drugs to treat mental ill health; as a result the notion of patient choice does not in effect extend to mental health services.

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3. Support for employees in returning to work and students returning to education should become the norm with employers and education providers. Mental health training and provision should first start in the workplace or educational institution.
4. The stigma and discrimination of poor mental health often has a negative impact as great as than that of the illness itself.
5. That LHBs should publish readmission statistics, to help inform trends that currently exist in the patient discharging system.
6. That waiting times for mental health treatment should be the same as all other treatment (nine weeks), as stated by the Welsh Government.

## Conference Calls Upon:

1. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to develop a policy on the future of mental health service delivery in Wales.
2. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to call on the Welsh Government to deliver a mental health strategy to radically improve treatment and access to mental health services, including tackling waiting times across Wales through a rigorous review of all LHB provision.
3. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to call on the Welsh Government to establish a national framework to ensure continuity of treatment for young people transitioning from adolescent to adult services, including a streamlined information sharing system between providers.
4. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to call on the Welsh Government to develop a strategy for the provision of mental health services in local communities, and development of a programme for rolling out mental health support in the workplace, similar to that used to monitor physical health such as blood cholesterol, weight, and blood sugar levels.

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5. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to call on the Welsh Government to ensure provision of extra capacity in mental health intensive care and forensic units to divert people in need of treatment away from prison and to assist those already in prison.

# Fringe Events

Fringes are events run on the 'fringes' of the Conference. They take place during breaks between debate sessions in the Conference Hall, and before or after the Conference each day.

They are usually hosted by organisations such as charities, businesses and third-sector groups. Although sometimes internal Party organisations or groups of Party members will set about organising a fringe.

Fringes usually take the form of a meeting or a presentation with a few speeches at the start followed by questions from the floor. The format however does vary - some take the form of a round table discussion where everyone can contribute to the debate, or in some cases they might be an informal drinks reception.

Refreshments are usually provided at fringes. This will vary from a buffet in most cases, to a full sit-down meal, or just drinks such as a glass of wine or tea and coffee.

All the Fringes at this Conference take place at the Conference Venue. The listings on the next few pages will tell you which room each one is in, which organisation is hosting it and the theme of the fringe.

In most cases everyone with a valid Conference Badge, whether they are a Party member or not, can attend a fringe. Occasionally there will be fringes which are for Party members or invited guests only - if this is the case it will be clearly shown in the listings.

If you have an idea for a fringe and would like to organise one for a future conference please contact [Ian.Walton@WelshLibDems.org.uk](mailto:Ian.Walton@WelshLibDems.org.uk)

# Fringe Events

**Saturday 12:30-13:30**

**C15: Oxfam Cymru**  
**Inequality = Inevitable?**



The gulf of inequality between the poorest and richest in our society continues to widen. Some say that this is inevitable, but what can we do to challenge the status quo? What power do we have to change our current situation in Wales for the better?

**C16: Electoral Reform Society**  
**The Health of Our Democracy**



ERS Cymru asks is our democracy broken, and if it is, how can we fix it? We'll be asking: How do we get more people engaged in politics? How well is our representative democracy working? What's next for the constitutional future of Wales and the UK?

**C17: Alzheimer's Society**  
**Dementia Friends**



Dementia Friends is an Alzheimer's Society initiative that helps people understand what it might be like to live with dementia. Our one hour information session aims to change the way people think, talk and act about dementia and encourages people to turn that understanding into action. Refreshments and cake provided.

**Saturday 15:00-16:00**

**C15: IR Cymru**  
**Education and Engaging Young People in Politics**



With voter turnout out among young people in decline what role does education play in re-engaging our young people with the political process. Chair: Sam Bennett Chair of IR Cymru. Panel: Aled Roberts AM, Vince Cable MP and Jane Dodds, PPC Montgomeryshire.

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# Fringe Events

## **C16: RNIB Cymru**

**Social services provision for blind and partially sighted people in Wales – a postcode lottery?**



For the 100,000 people in Wales living with sight loss, timely access to social services can be critical to their ability to lead a full and independent life. RNIB Cymru will present the findings of their research into current provision and set out what Welsh Government and local authorities can do to ensure people get the support they need.

## **C17: Electoral Commission**

**Individual Electoral Registration:**

**What does it mean for political parties?**



The transition from household to individual electoral registration begins in June this year. This session is an opportunity for party members and activists to hear about what the transition will involve, what the important dates will be and how the change will be communicated to voters. Refreshments will be provided.

## **Sunday 12:30-13:30**

## **C15: Federation of Small Business**

**Business Skills, Life Skills**



Speakers: Barrie Kenard (LMW), Janet Jones (FSB), Iestyn Davies (FSB), Aled Roberts AM, Eluned Parrott AM. A chance to discuss with businesses the future of Wales' vocational skills agenda.

## **C16: Closed Consultation Session**

**Have your say on the Party's 5-year plan.**

Every organisation needs a plan. The Chief Executive and the National Executive Committee are developing a plan that will take the Welsh Party beyond the next set of Assembly and Council elections in 2017. Come and hear the draft plans that have been developed and have your say. This is a closed session, open only to party members.

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# Exhibition

The Conference Exhibition is made up of stands organised by public, private and third sector organisations and internal party groups.

The Exhibition can be found in the refreshments area of the Conference Centre and will be open between 9:00 and 17:30 on the Saturday and between 9:00 and 14:30 on the Sunday.

Everyone with a valid Conference Badge, whether they are a Party member or not, can visit the exhibition. When you do visit please feel free to speak to representatives of the organisations working on the stands.

If you would like to exhibit at a future Conference, please contact [Ian.Walton@WelshLibDems.org.uk](mailto:Ian.Walton@WelshLibDems.org.uk)

## Community Pharmacy Wales



Community Pharmacy Wales represents all 714 community pharmacies in Wales from the smallest independent village chemist to the largest multiple chemist operating on the busiest High Street. It is the only body recognised by the Welsh Assembly Government's Minister of Health & Social Services in negotiations relating to NHS services.

## Federation of Small Business



The Federation of Small Businesses is the UK's leading business organisation with around 200,000 members, 10,000 of whom are in Wales. It exists to protect and promote the interests of the UK's Real-Life Entrepreneurs who run their own business. More information is available at [www.fsb.org.uk/wales](http://www.fsb.org.uk/wales).

# Exhibition

## NASUWT Cymru



NASUWT Cymru is the largest union representing teachers and headteachers in Wales and throughout the UK. With offices in Cardiff and St Asaph and a well established network of activists and caseworkers throughout Wales, NASUWT Cymru provides an unrivalled level of support for its members.

## IR Cymru



A chance to chat to our Executive Committee and talk about the progress IR Cymru is making and the opportunity to sign-up to our campaigns newsletter.

If you want to support the work of IR Cymru, why not pop along and speak to members about what we do?

# Training Sessions

The training provided at Conference covers a wide range of skills and knowledge. This includes skills needed by candidates and campaigners and information for Local Party Officers.

The training is absolutely free and open to all Party members who have registered for the Conference. You do not need to let us know in advance that you will be attending any of the training sessions - just turn up after registering for the Conference.

The training sessions will take place in various rooms around the Conference Centre. They run simultaneously with debates in the Conference Hall, but are scheduled not to clash with the keynote speeches. The exact time and room for each training session can be found in the listings in this section of the Guide.

To get the most out of any training session, members are advised to attend the whole session.

If you would like to suggest a topic that you would like to see covered in a training session at a future Conference please email the Head of Campaigns: [Jon.Aylwin@WelshLibDems.org.uk](mailto:Jon.Aylwin@WelshLibDems.org.uk)

## **Saturday 09:30 - 10:30**

### **C04: Designing Focus with PagePlus**

Learn how to use PagePlus to design your own Focus leaflets using the templates on Google Drive. *Please note, you will need to bring a laptop with PagePlus installed if you wish to be 'hands on' during this training.*

### **C06: Recruiting Young Members**

Sam Bennett, Chair of Liberal Youth Wales, explains how IR Cymru had their most successful Freshers' recruitment ever this year, and how you can take some of their top tips to use in your area.

# Training Sessions

## Saturday 11:15 - 12:15

- C04: How CONNECT can help you Canvass**  
Everything you need to know about canvassing with CONNECT, from printing canvass cards to using the Virtual Phone Bank system.
- C06: PPERA for Treasurers and Chairs**  
Essential *Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act* legal training. All Local Party Chairs and Treasurers have legal responsibilities under PPERA legislation – make sure you come along to find out what they are.
- C07: Using Social Media to Campaign**  
Top tips on making the most of Social Media, and how it can add to your campaign.

## Saturday 14:00 - 15:00

- C04: Data Entry with CONNECT**  
An explanation of all the ways you can enter data into the Party's CONNECT campaign database.
- C06: How to Run an Effective Canvass Session**  
Badly organised canvass sessions drive volunteers nuts. Top tips about how to prepare and plan your canvassing to make it as productive as possible.
- C07: Campaigning with eMail**  
How to make the most of email in your campaigning. A great free way to communicate with your electorate.

# Training Sessions

## Saturday 16:00 - 17:00

### **C04: Advanced CONNECT**

A run-through some of the more advanced features in Connect, such as script editing, walk manager and turf cutting.

### **C06: PPERA for Treasurers**

Essential *Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act* legal training. All Local Party Chairs and Treasurers have legal responsibilities under PPERA legislation – make sure you come along to find out what they are.

### **C07: How to get the Most from the Media**

Getting covered in your local media can really help get our message across. This session will explain how to be successful at getting your stories included.

## Sunday 10:00 - 11:00

### **C04: Using Social Media to Campaign**

Top tips on making the most of Social Media, and how it can add to your campaign.

### **C06: How to get the Most from the Media**

Getting covered in your local media can really help get our message across. This session will explain how to be successful at getting your stories included.

# Training Sessions

## Sunday 11:00 - 12:00

### **C04: Campaigning with eMail**

How to make the most of email in your campaigning. A great free way to communicate with your electorate.

### **C06: How to Run an Effective Canvass Session**

Badly organised canvass sessions drive volunteers nuts. Top tips about how to prepare and plan your canvassing to make it as productive as possible.

### **C07: Grow Your Membership and Make Your Party Richer**

The Party's new deal for membership means that your Local Party can really cash in on new membership recruitment. Campaigners from Local Parties that achieved the 40% cash-back explain how they did it.

# Gala Dinner

## **Pre-Dinner Drinks:**

with

**The Electoral Reform  
Society**

**& UK's Changing Union**

**Saturday 18:30 - 19:30**

**Hilton Newport**

Chepstow Road, Langstone,  
Newport, NP18 2LX

## **Conference Dinner**

**Guest Speaker:**

**Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP**

*Secretary of State for Scotland*

**Saturday 20:00 - Late**

**Hilton Newport**

Chepstow Road, Langstone,  
Newport, NP18 2LX

The Conference Dinner is your chance to socialise with Party members, and friends old and new.

Tickets must be purchased in advance as the Conference Dinner is usually very popular.

If you would like a ticket please contact 029 2031 3400.



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# Conference Standing Orders

The sections of the Conference Standing Orders which relate to the conduct of the Meeting of Conference are available in this section.

Copies of the full Conference Standing Orders are available at the Registration Desk.

## F. Debates at Conference

### 1. Order and times for debates

- 1.1 Sessions of a meeting of Conference may not start before the scheduled time for the session published in the Final Agenda. It is the responsibility of the Session Chair(s) to ensure that Sessions keep to time.
- 1.2 During Policy Debate Sessions and Business Debate Sessions the motions will be considered in the order in which they appear in the Final Agenda. The Session Chair shall have discretion to vary the amount of time for each debate within a Session.
- 1.3 During Topical & Emergency Debate Sessions the motions will be considered in the order in which they appear in the Agenda Announcements and the Agenda Announcements Updates. The Chair shall have discretion to allocate the amount of time for each debate within a session.
- 1.4 During the Autumn Conference reports will be considered in the order in which they appear in the Final Agenda. The Chair shall have discretion to allocate the amount of time for consideration of each report within a session.

### 2. Procedure for each debate

- 2.1 No debate which requires a decision which is to be voted upon may begin unless there is a minimum of 20 Voting Members present in the Conference Hall at the start of the debate. Debates may continue however if the number of Voting Members present in the Conference Hall falls below 20 during the debate with the exception of Motions to

# Conference Standing Orders

Amend the Constitution and Motions to Ratify Changes to the Constitution which require a quorum of one half of the registered representatives in respect of the relevant meeting of the Conference (Clause M.2 of the Welsh Constitution).

2.2 The procedure for each debate on a Motion shall be

- a) The moving of the Motion;
- b) The moving of any Amendments to the motion, in the order in which they appear in the Agenda Announcements;
- c) A General Debate;
- d) The right of reply of the movers of any amendments (in the same order in which they were moved) (summations); and
- e) The right of reply of the mover of the motion (summation).

2.3 The moving of a motion or amendment or the right of reply to either may be moved or replied to formally without a speech. This can be done only by the person nominated to speak at that point. If the mover of a motion or amendment chooses to formally move their motion or amendment, they may then be called in the General Debate provided that they are not the nominated person who are summing the motion or amendment.

## 3. Speakers in a debate

- 3.1 The mover of a motion or an amendment must be a Voting Member who has paid the requisite registration fee for that Meeting of the Conference and shall be nominated by the person or body named as having submitted the Motion or Amendment before the start of the Session.
- 3.2 The mover of a motion or an amendment shall either reply to the debate themselves or they may nominate another voting member to do so before the start of the debate.

# Conference Standing Orders

- 3.3 The Chair shall decide who is called to speak in a general debate. The Chair shall only call Voting Members and non-voting members who have paid the requisite registration fee for that Meeting of the Conference and have completed a Speakers' Card. The Chair may call an Observer to speak in a debate if that person has made a written request to the Conference Committee in advance of the Session demonstrating that they have a particular and relevant expertise in the subject being debated and the Conference Committee have agreed to that request. The Chair shall also ensure that there is a balance to the debate between the different viewpoints at the Conference.
- 3.4 During the general debate the Chair must call, if they have been nominated in writing, before the start of the relevant Session:
- a) a speaker nominated by the Policy committee to give the Policy Committee's views on any policy, topical or emergency motion;
  - b) A speaker nominated by the relevant Assembly or Parliamentary Group (dependent on whether the legislative competency is (in terms of Liberal Democrat Policy) with Parliament or the National Assembly for Wales) to give the Group's views on any policy, topical or emergency motion;
  - c) A speaker nominated by the relevant Party Committee to give their views on Business Motions.
- 3.5 The Chair may not call anyone to speak twice during a general debate, nor may they call the proposers of the Motion or any amendments unless they have formally moved the motion or amendment and are not the designated person to make the summation speech, nor anyone nominated to reply to the motion during the general debate.

# Conference Standing Orders

## 4. Length of Speeches

- 4.1 The length of time for speeches by proposers, summators and general speakers in a debate shall be published in the Final Agenda. These timings may be varied by Conference Committee and any such changes shall be published in Conference Announcements, save that a Session Chair may vary these timings based on the number of cards that have been received for a particular debate.

## 5. Submitting a request to speak

- 5.1 Members wishing to speak in a debate must submit a request to speak on an official Speakers Card submitted to the Speakers' Table in good time prior to the start of the debate.
- 5.2 Speakers' Cards must ask for the following information:
- Speaker's Name;
  - Local Party;
  - Any Positions held in Party;
  - Any Elected positions held;
  - Whether they intend to speak for or against the motion and/or amendments; and
  - And other information which the Conference Committee deems necessary.

## G. Votes

### 1. When do votes take place?

- 1.1 At the end of each debate where a decision needs to be made Conference shall vote on the motion and any amendments before it.

### 2. Announcing the Conference's intention to vote

- 2.1 Before calling the last speaker in a debate the Chair shall announce that the voting on any amendments and/or the substantive motion shall take place in X minutes. X minutes shall be the time allotted for that speech.

# Conference Standing Orders

## 3. Announcing the start of the vote

3.1 Once the announced time for voting has elapsed the Chair shall announce that Conference is going to vote and instruct that Voting Members be seated in order for their vote to be counted unless a voting Member is acting as a teller in the counting of votes and that the doors to the Conference Hall be closed. At this point no-one is permitted to enter the Conference Hall until voting is completed and the Chair instructs the doors to be re-opened.

## 4. Order of votes

4.1 The order of votes shall be:

- a) Establishing if Conference is for or against accepting each amendment (if there are any amendments), in the order that the amendments were moved; and
- b) Establishing if Conference is in favour or against the substantive motion as it stands after any amendments have been determined.

## 5. Separate Votes

5.1 The Chair, in consultation with the Chair of Conference Committee, shall decide if a separate vote may be taken on a part of a motion or amendment.

5.2 Any voting member may request a separate vote on a part of a motion or amendment provided that it is received by the Chair prior to the calling of the final speaker in a debate.

## 6. Method of voting

6.1 Voting cards shall be issued at each Meeting of Conference to all voting members which shall form part of their Conference Accreditation. All votes shall be by show of such voting cards.

# Conference Standing Orders

## 7. Counting of Votes

- 7.1 The result of a vote shall be decided on the Chair's assessment of a show of voting cards unless a counted vote is:
- a) directed by the Session Chair or Conference Committee; or
  - b) requested by 25 Voting Members present in the Conference Hall or by 20% of Voting Members submitted to the Session Chair before the calling of the final speaker in the debate.
- 7.2 A recount may only be held at the discretion of the Chair and shall be a counted vote.

## H. Procedural Motions

### 1. Types of Procedural Motions

- 1.1 Move to Next Business
- 1.2 Reference Back
- 1.3 Suspension of Standing Orders
- 1.4 Exclusion of press and public

### 2. Who can propose a procedural motion?

- 2.1 The following can propose a procedural motion:
- a) Any voting member who has not yet spoken during the debate at which the procedural motion is taken;
  - b) The nominee of a Party Committee given in writing to the Chair in advance of the moving of the motion.

### 3. Proposing a procedural motion

- 3.1 The proposal of a procedural motion must be made in writing to the Chair prior to the start of the summing up speeches. The proposal must:
- a) not be more than 75 words;
  - b) explain the reasons for the procedural motion;

# Conference Standing Orders

- c) if a motion to Suspend Standing Orders, specify which part of Standing Orders are to be suspended; and
- d) if a Suspension of Standing Orders or Exclusion of Press & Public, be clear about when the action proposed in the motion would come to an end.

## 4. When to consider procedural motions

4.1 Procedural motions should be considered:

- a) Immediately after the moving of the motion it refers to if it is proposed before that time;
- b) Immediately after the moving of all the amendments if it is proposed while the amendments are being proposed; and
- c) Immediately after the speaker currently speaking, if it is proposed during the General Debate.

## 5. Debating procedural motions

5.1 The Chair shall read out the proposal for a procedural motion.

5.2 The procedural motion shall only be debated if a majority of voting members in the Conference Hall wish to debate it. This decision shall be taken by a vote without giving notice of the vote nor closing the doors.

5.3 The usual process for debate shall then take place for the procedural motion, save that the proposer of the motion under debate shall be the first to speak in the general debate and all speeches shall be limited to 2 minutes.

5.4 Speakers who wish to speak in the procedural motion debate may be permitted to speak in the full debate if they have not yet been called to speak in the debate and similarly if a Speaker has already spoken in the main debate this shall not preclude them from speaking during the procedural motion debate.

# Conference Standing Orders

## 6. Voting on Procedural Motions

- 6.1 Voting on Procedural Motions shall follow the same format as voting on other motions.

## 7. Outcomes of procedural motions

- 7.1 If a procedural motion does not pass, the debate which was under way continues from the point it was interrupted.
- 7.2 If a Move to Next Business is passed the Chair shall immediately move to the next debate in the Session unless there are no more debates in the session. In that case, the Meeting of Conference shall adjourn until the scheduled start time for the next session unless that has already passed. In that case the next session shall start.
- 7.3 If a Reference Back is passed the Chair shall immediately move to the next debate in the Session unless there are no more debates in the session. In that case, the Meeting of Conference shall adjourn until the scheduled start time for the next debate unless that has already passed. In that case the next session shall start. After the Meeting of Conference the Conference Committee shall identify the relevant committee and requests that it acts upon the reference back. The relevant committee will report back on what action has been taken on the reference back at the next meeting of Conference.
- 7.4 If a Suspension of Standing Orders is passed the debate will continue with the relevant part of Standing Orders suspended.
- 7.5 If an Exclusion of press & public is passed all non-Party members present in the Conference Hall will be asked to leave and the doors closed. The debate will then continue from the point it was interrupted with only party members allowed to enter the Conference Hall.

