



Welsh Liberal Democrats
Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru

Conference Agenda

and

Motions Selected for Debate

2013 Autumn Conference

v1.2

AMENDMENTS:

The deadline for amendments to these motions is noon, on Wednesday 6th November 2013. Amendments should be submitted to Morgan Griffith-David, Policy Officer, via policy@welshlibdems.org.uk.

TOPICAL MOTIONS:

Topical Motions relate to issues which have taken place since the closing date for motions to Conference (16 October 2013) and the deadline for Amendments to Motions. Topical Motions should be submitted to Morgan Griffith-David, Policy Officer, via policy@welshlibdems.org.uk by the start of Conference.

If you have any questions about submitting Amendments or Topical Motions, you can contact the Policy Officer via the above email address or on 029 2031 3649.

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Conference Agenda - Autumn 2013

Gregynog Hall, 16 November 2013

Morning Session

Time	MAIN HALL	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
10.00am	<p align="center">OPENING OF CONFERENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baroness Christine Humphreys <i>(President of the Welsh Liberal Democrats)</i> Jane Dodds <i>(PPC - Montgomeryshire)</i> 		
10:15am	<p>POLICY CONSULTATION:</p> <p>Powering Wales' Future <i>(Energy Consultation Paper)</i></p>	<p>COMMITTEE REPORTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Questions on the Reports from Welsh Party Committees</i> <i>Questions on the Reports from the Welsh Party Representatives to Federal Committees</i> 	<p align="center">FUNDRAISING TRAINING 1:1s</p>
11:05am	<p>PRESENTATION:</p> <p>Policy-making to 2016</p>		
11:25am	<p align="center">PRESENTATION:</p> <p align="center">Making the European Elections Work for You</p>		
11:55am	<p align="center">SPEECH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Davies MEP <i>(Liberal Democrat MEP, North West England)</i> 		
12:10pm	<p>PARTY BUSINESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014 Conference Fees Changes to the Candidate Selection Rules Constitutional Amendments 	<p>ASSEMBLY & PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Questions on the Report from the Party's Group in the UK Parliament</i> <i>Questions on the Report from the Party's Group in the National Assembly for Wales</i> 	
12:55pm	<p>LUNCH</p>	<p>FRINGE MEETING:</p> <p>IR CYMRU</p>	<p>TRAINING:</p> <p>"So you want you to be a Candidate?"</p>

Conference Agenda - Autumn 2013

Gregynog Hall, 16 November 2013

Afternoon Session

Time	MAIN HALL	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
2:00pm	<p>POLICY MOTION:</p> <p>Fairness and Freedom in Higher Education <i>(Higher Education Policy Paper)</i></p>	<p>POLICY CONSULTATION:</p> <p>Democratic Reform</p>	<p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING</p>
3:00pm	<p>POLICY MOTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport in South East Wales (45mins) • Local Government Reorganisation (45mins) • Topical / Emergency Motion(s) (30mins) 	<p>INFLUENCING THE 2015 WESTMINSTER MANIFESTO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny Willott MP <i>(Member of the 2015 Manifesto Working Group)</i> 	<p>STRATEGIC SEAT 1:1s</p>
4:00pm			
5:00pm	<p>SILK COMMISSION Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baroness Jenny Randerson <i>(Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Wales Office)</i> • Rob Humphreys <i>(Welsh Liberal Democrat Member of the Silk Commission)</i> 		
5:30pm	<p>SPEECH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirsty Williams AM <i>(Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats)</i> 		
7.30pm	<p>Conference Dinner:</p> <p>Hosted by Lord Thomas of Gresford and guest speaker, Lord Carlile of Berriew</p>		

A. POLICY MOTIONS

i. Fairness and Freedom in Higher Education

(Policy Committee)

Conference Notes that:

1. The Higher Education sector in Wales has experienced an unprecedented period of change and instability over the last five years, including the raising of tuition fee levels, cuts in direct public funding, caps on recruitment, institutional mergers and the interventionist approach of the Labour administration in Wales.
2. The current Welsh Government policy on student finance has cost more than initially projected and is not financially sustainable.
3. The current Welsh Government policy has transferred up to £100 million of Welsh public funding from universities in Wales to universities in England, further widening the funding gap between Welsh and English universities.
4. Fair access to higher education is compromised by financial challenges for students from low- and middle-income households, notably the cost of living whilst studying for a degree.
5. There is no Welsh university in the top 30 institutions for student satisfaction in the 2013 National Student Survey, no Welsh university in the top 30 of the *Guardian* or *Times* university league tables, and no Welsh university in the top 200 universities in the world ranked by *Times Higher Education*.

Conference believes that:

1. Access to higher education should be determined solely by academic ability and should not be constrained by social background, geography or financial resources.
2. Universities should be appropriately funded to enable them to deliver high quality teaching in an excellent learning environment and to undertake internationally significant research.
3. Opportunities should exist for students from Wales to pursue degree-level and postgraduate study across a full range of subjects at universities in Wales, through a range of course formats and in both English and Welsh.
4. Excellence in higher education is best achieved by strong, independent universities that are accountable to key stakeholders including students, staff, local communities and the Welsh public, but which have operational autonomy free from direct government intervention.
5. Students should play a full part in the realisation of excellent education and universities should include students in the discussion, development and monitoring of academic quality and improvement.

Conference resolves to endorse the policy paper *Fairness and Freedom in Higher Education* and to adopt the policies outlined, including key proposals to:

1. Introduce a Student Living Support Grant for all Welsh-domiciled students registered for a first undergraduate degree at a UK university, including part-time students, payable on top of the existing means-tested Assembly Learning Grant. This will be funded by withdrawing the Tuition Fee Grant.

2. Support access to higher education by introducing a programme to encourage prospective students from backgrounds with low participation in higher education, paying the full tuition fees of care-leavers, and requiring universities to adopt a 'Fair Access Agreement' outlining measures to broaden access and improve student retention.
3. Introduce an Employability Enhancement Bursary to support students on postgraduate courses at universities in Wales that emphasize employability skills and include an appropriate work placement.
4. Support collaborative PhD studentships delivered by universities in partnership with local businesses, cultural organizations or community groups, with students contributing to business research and development, or to cultural or arts activities.
5. Reform the system of funding for higher education in Wales to introduce a more flexible, objective-driven model that will encourage individual universities to focus on developing distinctive areas of strength within the framework of national strategic objectives.
6. Remove the cap on the recruitment of home and EU undergraduate students for universities in Wales, and increase funding available for allocation to universities in Wales directly by the funding council, using savings from the withdrawal of the Tuition Fee Grant which are not committed to the Student Living Support Grant and other schemes.
7. Use the objective-driven funding system to target additional funding to improve the quality of teaching and learning support at universities in Wales, expand provision in subjects not currently taught in Wales, develop a broader range of delivery formats, and consolidate Welsh-medium teaching.
8. Establish a Commission for Higher Education in Wales to replace HEFCW, with responsibilities for regulation and oversight of the HE sector as well as the distribution of public funding.
9. Oppose the forced merger of higher education institutions in Wales, instead encouraging partnership working and collaboration between universities in Wales, and between universities and FE colleges, through the objective-based funding system, including incentives for the development of shared services and joint research infrastructure.
10. Invest in areas of proven research excellence in which Wales has the potential to be recognized as a world leader, promote Welsh research achievements and innovations, and work with the UK research councils to develop awareness of the workings of devolution and the specific context of Wales.
11. Create enterprise zones linked to universities in Wales, with a targeted focus on sectors that reflect the institution's research strengths, and require the Economic Development division of the Welsh Government to liaise with universities in producing a new strategy for inward investment and business incubation specifically targeted on areas linked to the specialist skills of graduates from Welsh universities.
12. Support an 'Opportunity Wales' 'milk-round' of graduate recruitment exhibitions and events at universities in Wales by Welsh public and private sector employers.
13. Encourage universities to engage with local communities through participatory or action research on community-identified problems, and by enabling schools and local residents to use university facilities including sports facilities, arts facilities and libraries, especially outside term times.

ii. Transport in South East Wales

(Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales)

Conference Notes:

1. the ongoing Welsh Government consultation on alleviating congestion on the M4 around Newport, closing 16th December 2013.
2. the importance of improving traffic flow and capacity in the M4 corridor in an economically and environmentally sustainable way.
3. that the Welsh Government predicts 46% more vehicles on parts of the M4 around Newport by 2035 than there were in 2012, but this has been heavily disputed.
4. that 43% of journeys made on the M4 around Newport involve trips of less than 20 miles.
5. Newport has 27.1 business start-ups per 10,000 population in 2011, to compare to a UK average of 41.3 start-ups per 10,000 population.
6. the presence of four areas of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and three nature reserves to the south of Newport.

Conference Believes:

1. in the importance of effective and sustainable transportation to unlock economic potential, support ambitions for growth and enable business in Cardiff, Newport, and Wales to expand and compete with UK regions and internationally and attract inward investment to Wales.
2. in the importance of protecting the environment for future generations in line with our party's commitment to sustainable development.
3. that improving transport in Wales must be a key economic and environmental priority for the Welsh Government.
4. in the importance of an integrated transport policy, including public transportation.

Conference Calls

1. on the Welsh Liberal Democrat Policy Committee to bring forward a future policy paper on transport issues in Wales.
2. **Option A:** on the Welsh Government to develop the A48 Southern Distributor Road and A4810 Steelworks Access Road near Newport's Llanwern Steelworks, as part of an integrated transport strategy for South-East Wales incorporating investment in public transport, rail freight infrastructure and the improvement of strategic local routes.

or

Option B: on the Welsh Government to construct an M4 relief road to the south of Llanwern Steelworks from Junction 23A 'Magor' of the existing M4 to junction 29 'Castleton', subject to acquisition of appropriate borrowing powers.

iii. Local Government Reorganisation

(Swansea & Gower Local Party and Bridgend Local Party)

Conference Notes:

1. The Welsh Government's collaboration agenda as set out in:
 - a. the Making Connections strategic framework 2004;
 - b. the establishment of Regional Partnership Boards in early 2006;
 - c. the publication of Beyond Boundaries (the 'Beecham Report') in July 2006;
 - d. the establishment of Local Service Boards from May 2007 onwards;
 - e. the establishment of the Welsh Government's Efficiency and Innovation Programme in March 2010;
 - f. the Simpson Report in March 2011 and the Simpson Compact in December 2011
2. In June 2009, the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 placed a new duty on local authorities to improve services through strategic planning.
3. In March 2011, the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 included powers for Welsh Ministers to amalgamate two or three local authority areas and to issue statutory guidance on collaboration between authorities.
4. That the Welsh Government are promoting the transfer of powers to four regional consortia to deliver education in Wales.
5. That in addition to this the Local Government Minister has set down a framework under the title Collaborative Footprint for Public Services which attempts to standardise future collaboration based on six specific regions.
6. That a £10 million fund has been top-sliced from the Revenue Support Grant to help fund collaboration between local councils.
7. That the Welsh Government has now established a Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery which is due to report to the First Minister by the end of 2013.
8. The substantial collaboration work already going on between local authorities in Wales.
9. The growing belief in Wales that despite this agenda the existence of 22 local councils is unsustainable and that this is reflected in poor Estyn reports on Local Education Authorities, struggling Social Services Departments and a number of other corporate failures.
10. That the onus has been placed on Principal Councils to lead the collaboration agenda even though there are many overlaps in public service delivery between local authorities, the health service, further and higher education and the police.
11. That between them the 22 local councils and seven health boards spend the vast majority of the Welsh Assembly's £15 billion budget.

Conference Believes:

1. That a number of Councils are too small to deliver services efficiently and effectively, that collaboration can only address this in a limited way and that this needs to be addressed through a more general reorganisation.
2. That the increasing trend to deliver services through regional working and partnerships undermines accountability and scrutiny.
3. That any reorganisation of local government should be based on the principle of empowering the new authorities and their members to deliver key services across current boundary lines and to take a significant lead on major economic issues in their own communities.

4. That the opportunity needs to be taken in any reorganisation to reconsider who delivers key services at a local level and that should include considering further devolution of powers from the Welsh Assembly to the new councils.
5. That any reorganisation needs to improve transparency and accountability in the delivery of services as well as to better empower local people.
6. That there needs to be clearly defined roles for the Welsh Government, the Welsh Assembly and local councils in the delivery of public services.
7. That local health boards are largely unaccountable to the population they serve, operate in an opaque manner and deliver services that often overlap with those of other public sector providers such as local councils.
8. That although there are good examples of effective and efficient community councils delivering good services at a local level, many are too small to replicate that provision. A sensible re-ordering of community councils could enable them to fill the gap in ultra-local service provision created by the reorganisation of unitary authorities.
9. That the three National Park Authorities remain largely unaccountable to the population they serve, are too small to deliver services efficiently and effectively and seriously hinder joined up service delivery because they have planning powers but no responsibility for economic development.
10. That new local authorities should be more accountable, constituted on a scale that can deliver services efficiently and encompass a broader range of responsibilities so as to produce a more strategic and joined up approach to governance.

Conference Resolves:

1. To support a general reorganisation of local government in Wales so as to create between 10 and 14 unitary councils elected by the single transferable vote system in multi member wards.
2. That the number of councillors be reduced by about a third so that no Council will have more than 72 members but that these councillors are better remunerated to reflect increased responsibilities in terms of delivering and scrutinising services..
3. Each Council to be run by a cabinet with no more than 8 councillors in each executive body, including the Leader and have an appropriate number of strategic directors.
4. To pass over responsibility for public health and community health care to these locally elected councils so as to create a single health and social care function that will eliminate duplication and waste and be accountable to local electors.
5. To transfer strategic responsibility for all post 16 education back to councils so that they can deliver the 14 to 19 agenda as a seamless whole
6. To allow the new councils to acquire greater strategic control of transport within their area including the power to deliver cross-modal transport solutions and a wider economic development remit.
7. To transfer full responsibility for community regeneration to the new councils including responsibility for the future delivery of communities first.
8. To develop local economies by conferring additional powers on local authorities to regenerate town centres, stimulate local job creation and allow local authorities to retain some of the proceeds of business rates in order to incentivise economic growth.
9. To consider the role of Community Councils as part of the reorganisation.
10. To abolish the three National Park Authorities and transfer their planning powers to the relevant local authorities, with their countryside and conservation functions transferred to Natural Resources Wales.

B. PARTY BUSINESS

Amendments may be submitted to motions i, ii and ix. Motions iii to viii are constitutional ratification motions.

i. 2014 Conference Fees

(Conference Committee)

Conference Notes:

1. That it was agreed at the 2010 Autumn Conference that the rates for Member Registration Fees would be brought annually to the Autumn Conference to agree the fees for the following calendar year.
2. That Conference rates have not been increased for two years.
3. In 2013 the Standard Member rates for attending the Conference were:
 - up to eight weeks from Conference: £30
 - up to four weeks from Conference: £35
 - up to one week before Conference: £40
 - one week before and at Conference: £50
4. In 2013 the Concessionary Member rates for attending the Conference were:
 - up to eight weeks from Conference: £5
 - up to four weeks from Conference: £10
 - up to one week before Conference: £15
 - one week before and at Conference: £20
5. That in 2013, the rate for Autumn Conference was set at below the maximum to reflect the lower running costs involved.
6. That in addition to the above rates, a discount of 50% on the above rates was available to any member who was attending their first Conference.

Conference Believes:

1. That the Welsh Liberal Democrat Conference Committee should continue to strive to provide the best value for money when organising Conferences.
2. That the Member Registration Fees should be set at a rate that ensures the costs of organising Conference are covered but also encourages members to attend Conference.
3. That the Welsh Liberal Democrat Conference Committee should be given the freedom to vary the Member Registration Fees to take account of the cost of organising a Conference, but the Conference should set the maximum Fees.

Conference Resolves:

1. That the maximum Standard Member rate for attending Conference should be increased to £52, an increase of 4% in line with inflation, and shall be available for the period of two weeks prior to and at the Conference.
2. That the a reduced rate of 15% of the maximum (£44.20) be available between six and two weeks out from Conference and a reduced rate of 30% of the maximum (£36.40) shall be available up to six weeks prior to the Conference.
3. That the Concessionary Member rates for attending Conference shall be set at 50% of the Standard Member rate.
4. That in addition to the above rates, any member attending Welsh Conference for the first time shall receive a discount of 50% on the rate that they would normally pay.

ii. Changes to the Candidate Selection Rules

(Campaigns & Candidates Committee)

Conference Notes:

1. That in the 2013 Queen's Speech it was announced that there would be a lifting of the current restriction on candidates standing on both the Regional List and for a Constituency in the elections to the National Assembly for Wales (Dual Candidacy).
2. That the Welsh Party's Campaigns and Candidates Committee (CCC) consulted with all key stakeholders about the implications of the lifting of this restriction and the wider implications for candidate selections across Wales.
3. The desire of the CCC to maximise the number of candidates in place for both Westminster and the National Assembly for Wales prior to the start of the 2015 Westminster election (and for this pattern to continue for all subsequent elections).

Conference Believes:

1. That in order for the Welsh Party to get the best and widest field of candidates for both Westminster and the National Assembly for Wales there is a need for the Welsh Party to look at the selection of candidates more holistically, and that the cycle for elections should be moved from two separate cycles to a single, six year cycle.
2. That the selections for the Regional Lists at the 2016 National Assembly for Wales Election should be conducted as soon as possible after the 2014 European Parliament Election.
3. That the ordering of Regional Lists shall be determined, as in previous selections, by the membership of the relevant regions and that those eligible for selection shall be any approved candidate who wishes to apply to be on the list regardless of whether they have been selected for a constituency. Placement on a list shall not bar anyone from subsequently applying for (or being selected for / appointed to) a constituency.
4. That a duality of candidacy be permitted for Candidates who wish to be considered for the same constituency at both Westminster and the National Assembly for Wales except for any constituency that is a part of the Strategic Seats Programme for Westminster Constituencies.

Conference Further Notes:

1. That in order to move to a six year timetable at this stage in the cycle (ie 18 months out from the next Westminster General Election) the selection process for the 2015 Westminster Election and the 2016 National Assembly for Wales Election will need to be compressed during 2014 in order to maximise the number of candidates selected before the 2015 Westminster Election.

Conference Agrees:

1. To enable the Welsh Party Manager to make the relevant changes to the Welsh Candidate Selection Rules to enable the agreed changes to be reflected within the rules.
2. To adopt a new timetable for the selection of Westminster and National Assembly for Wales Candidates which enables the following:
 - a. Three years out from the elections to the National Assembly for Wales, the CCC may start, in consultation with the relevant Local Party/Parties, the process of appointing fully approved candidates to any seat which has not yet selected its candidate(s) but has at least advertised a vacancy for either a PPC or PAC or both.
 - b. Two years out from the elections to the National Assembly for Wales, the CCC may start, in consultation with the relevant Local Party/Parties, the process of appointing any candidate (fully approved or otherwise) to any seat which has not yet selected its candidate(s) – either for the Westminster or for the National Assembly for Wales.
3. To compress the above timetable in 2014 to allow for the Welsh Party to put its selections in line with where the Party wishes to be with selections in time for the 2015 Westminster Elections, namely that:

- a. By the end of Quarter 1, 2014, all remaining Westminster Seats to have been advertised by the CCC.
 - b. By the end of Quarter 2, 2014, all unfilled Westminster Seats to be filled where possible by approved candidates.
 - c. By the end of Quarter 3, 2014, all remaining Assembly Constituency Seats to have been advertised by the CCC.
 - d. By the end of Quarter 4, 2014, the list selection process to be underway across all five regions.
 - e. By the end of Quarter 1, 2015, any remaining Westminster seats to be filled by licensed candidates and any unfilled Assembly Seats to be filled where possible by approved candidates.
 - f. By the end of Quarter 2, 2015, any remaining Assembly constituencies to be filled with licensed candidates.
4. That at the time of the selection of list candidates, any selected constituency candidate shall be automatically added to the list of names put to the regional membership for ordering unless s/he has opted out. Opting out must be in writing to the Chair of the CCC, prior to the commencement of the relevant list selection process.
 5. That there should be a limited duality of candidature for those candidates who wish to be considered for the same constituency in the Westminster Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales. This duality shall not be permitted if the constituency in question is part of the Strategic Seats Programme.
 6. That once the list selections are completed, the CCC shall be permitted to add additional names to a regional list (up to the legal maximum) when the final list is submitted to the relevant Regional Returning Officer. Any person added to the list by the CCC shall not be placed higher than any candidate who has already been placed on the ordered list determined by the membership.
 7. That the CCC may only re-order the list if a member subsequently drops out of the election prior to the submission of names to the relevant regional returning officer(s) and may only re-number candidates by one place – ie if the second placed candidate drops out, the third placed candidate becomes the second placed candidate and so on.
 8. That the incumbent Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group in the National Assembly for Wales shall, if being considered for re-election to the National Assembly for Wales and wishes to be a list candidate, be automatically placed at the top of the relevant list for the Region that they currently represent or the Region that their constituency belongs to.

iii. Changes to the Model Local Party Constitution

(Constitutional Review Panel)

Conference Notes:

1. At present, Constituency Assembly Members and Prospective Constituency Assembly Members are automatically members of a Local Party's Executive Committee. List members are not included and this has presented problems since the 2011 elections in some regions/Local Parties where there is only a Regional Member.
2. That in regions where we have an elected Regional Member, all the list candidates from the previous are still Prospective Assembly Candidates (subject to the provision that they remain approved candidates and/or remain paid up members of the Liberal Democrats in the intervening period between elections) up until the next Assembly Election takes place (ie 2016) regardless of the fact that a new list is selected to put to the electorate at the next election.
3. More and more of the Local Parties in Wales are now covering multiple constituencies and therefore the model constitution needs to reflect these changes by increasing the clarity of what is intended by the relevant clauses in the Model Constitution.

Conference Resolves:

1. To ratify the following changes to the Model Local Party Constitution made by the Constitutional Review Panel at its meeting on 28 September 2013:
 - a. In Clause 5.3(d) of the Model Constitution for Local Parties delete all and replace with "The Party's Member(s) of Parliament and/or the Prospective Parliamentary Candidate(s) for each constituency that falls within the whole or part of the Local Party's boundaries.
 - b. In Clause 5.3(e) of the Model Constitution for Local Parties delete all and replace with "The Party's Member(s) of the National Assembly for Wales and/or the Prospective Assembly Candidate(s) for each constituency that falls within the whole or part of the Local Party's Boundaries."
 - c. Insert new Clause 5.3(f) and re-letter accordingly: "The Party's Regional Member(s) of the National Assembly for Wales and/or prospective Regional Members (including those who remain on the Party's Regional List following the successful election of a Regional Member at the previous Welsh General Election) whose region the Local Party is a member of under the structures of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.

iv. Presidential Nominees to the Constitutional Review Panel

(Constitutional Review Panel)

Conference notes:

1. That the names three presidential nominees would ordinarily come to the Autumn Conference to ratify their appointment for a two year term of office.
2. That a new President will be elected following the close of the Autumn Conference and any presidential nominees should be made by the new President at the Spring Conference.

Conference Resolves:

1. To confirm the re-appointment of Carole O'Toole, Pete Roberts and Ian Walton to the Constitutional Panel for a term of office up to and including the Spring Conference 2014 when the new President of the Liberal Democrats will bring their choice of names for the Panel for ratification by the Conference.

v. Appeals Process

(Constitutional Review Panel)

Conference Notes:

1. That under the current process, any member whose membership has been revoked by their Local Party Executive has the right of appeal to a General Meeting of their Local Party and then to the Welsh Appeals Panel but if the process is commenced by the National Executive Committee, there is no intermediary level of appeal.
2. That in most cases, evidenced by recent cases, the attendance at a General Meeting of the Local Party is rarely any different in composition to that of the Executive Committee which made the initial decision to invoke disciplinary action or at best there a few members who are not related to those bringing the charges before the individual members.

Conference Believes:

1. That the process for appeal should be as open and transparent as possible and that the process should be the same regardless of the body which has initiated the action against a member of the Party.
2. That any member who is appealing a decision of their Local Party Executive Committee should not be subjected to what is potentially a second “trial” by the same group of people.

Conference Resolves:

1. To ratify the following changes to the Membership Rules of the Welsh Liberal Democrats and the Model Constitution for Local Parties made by the Constitutional Review Panel at its meeting on 28 September 2013:
 - a. In Clause F.3.ii of the Membership Rules of the Welsh Liberal Democrats insert after “process has been initiated” the following:

“No decision to refuse or revoke can take place at the meeting where the matter is first raised. This is to allow the Local Party Executive and the person concern to be able to make the necessary preparations to put their cases to the meeting. A separate meeting of the Local Party Executive must therefore be called within five weeks of the matter being raised under the same time frames of notification for a meeting of the Executive as specified in the Local Party Constitution or the Model Constitution of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.”
 - b. In Clause F.3.iii of the Membership Rules of the Welsh Liberal Democrats insert after the words “shall be given” the following:

“at the same time and under the same notice period as for members of the Local Party Executive,”
 - c. Delete Clause F.3.viii of the Membership Rules of the Welsh Liberal Democrats and re-number subsequent clauses accordingly
 - d. Delete Clause F.3.ix of the Membership Rules of the Welsh Liberal Democrats and replace with:

“The above procedure should be completed within six weeks of initiation (including the time required to notify the member of the outcome). If the procedure remains incomplete after this time, the individual concerned shall become or remain a member of the Party automatically.”
 - e. In Clause F.6 delete the words “save that Rule F.3.viii shall not apply.”
 - f. In Clause 4.5 of the Model Constitution for Local Parties delete the following:

“Any person whose membership is revoked shall have the right of appeal to a General Meeting of the Local Party under Section 7.5, and shall be informed of this and any further rights of appeal. Such a meeting shall not proceed if not quorate.”

vi. Behaviour of Members

(Constitutional Review Panel)

Conference Notes:

1. The enquiry into the conduct and behaviour of members of the Liberal Democrats undertaken by Helena Morrissey QC.
2. That the Federal Party, at its Conference in Glasgow earlier this year, adopted a new statement of the expectations of the behaviour of Party Members which was inserted into Federal Constitution.

Conference Believes:

1. That the Welsh Party should also include such a statement in its Constitution.

Conference Resolves:

1. To ratify the following changes to the Constitution of the Welsh Liberal Democrats made by the Constitutional Review Panel at its meeting on 28 September 2013:
 - a. In Section C of the Constitution of the Welsh Liberal Democrats make the section commencing "Membership shall be acquired through..." Clause C.1.1
 - b. Insert a new clause 1.2 which shall read:

"Any Member of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, must treat others with respect and must not bully, harass or intimidate any Party member, member of Party staff, member of Parliamentary or Assembly staff, Party volunteer or member of the public. Such behaviour will be considered to be bringing the Party into disrepute."

vii. Diversity Officer as an Officer of the Party

(Constitutional Review Panel)

Conference Notes:

1. That at present the role of Diversity Officer in the Welsh Liberal Democrats is a post which is co-opted on to the National Executive Committee.

Conference Believes:

1. That there should be a formal post of Diversity Officer as an Officer of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.

Conference Resolves:

1. To ratify the following changes to the Constitution of the Welsh Liberal Democrats made by the Constitutional Review Panel at its meeting on 28 September 2013:
 - a. In Section E.1 of the Constitution of the Welsh Liberal Democrats insert at the end, "The Welsh Party's Diversity Officer"
 - b. Insert a new Clause F.3 and re-number subsequent clauses accordingly:

"3. The Diversity Officer shall be elected every two years by members of the National Executive Committee at its first meeting of a new cycle. Any member wishing to be put forward for the position of Diversity Officer may be nominated by five voting members of Conference and shall be elected by the members of the National Executive Committee following the publishing of a call for nominations after the Autumn Conference at which the National Executive is up for election. In the event of a casual vacancy for the post, the NEC shall publish a timetable for a by-election to take place as soon as possible after the vacancy occurs."

viii. Removal of the Bar on Staff from being Welsh Party Officers or Committee Chairs

(Constitutional Review Panel)

Conference Notes:

1. That the current position is that under Clause D.10 of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Constitution, “Members who derive the majority of their remuneration from the Federal or any State Party; or by the Welsh Liberal Democrat Members of the National Assembly, Westminster Parliament or European Parliament; or by the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group at the National Assembly or by the Liberal Democrat Groups at the Westminster Parliament and the European Parliament shall not be eligible for election as an Officer or as Chair of any Party Committee”.
2. That a motion to extend this clause to include Vice Chairs and Acting Chairs of Party Committees was submitted to the Conference Committee for debate at the Spring Conference and was subsequently passed to the Constitutional Review Panel for Consideration.
3. That had the motion referred to in Notes 2 (above) been submitted to the Conference and been passed by Conference it would still have needed to be ratified by a two-thirds majority of all members of the Welsh Party in a postal ballot under Clause M.6 of the Constitution of the Welsh Liberal Democrat as the effects of the motion would be to reduce the rights of individual members.

Conference Believes:

1. That the matter of individual remuneration is a personal matter and should not in itself be a bar on an individual standing for office within the Welsh Liberal Democrats.
2. That any bar on a staff member at any level within the Welsh Liberal Democrats should be between the member of staff concerned and his/her employer and be covered by their terms and conditions of employment or at least an undertaking between the two parties where appropriate.

Conference Resolves:

1. To ratify the amendment made by the Constitutional Review Panel at its meeting on 28 September 2013 to delete Clause D.10 from the Constitution and re-number subsequent clauses accordingly.

ix. Candidates for President and Deputy President of the Welsh Liberal Democrats

(**Constitutional** Review Panel)

Conference Notes:

1. That Clause E.2 of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Constitution specifies who cannot hold the post of President or Deputy President of the Welsh Liberal Democrats in so far as “Members of Parliament, Assembly Members, Peers and Members of the European Parliament shall not be eligible for these posts.
2. That at present there are no Welsh Liberal Democrat Peers who have been directly elected to any of the Welsh Party’s Committees, which has led to a disconnect between our Peers and the wider party.
3. Any changes to this clause will not take effect until the next election for President and Deputy President in Autumn 2015 as there is already an election under way for these positions.

Conference Believes:

1. That Peers should be allowed to stand for the position of either President or Deputy President of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.

Conference Resolves:

1. To delete the word “Peers” from the final sentence of Clause E.2 of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Constitution and permit them to stand for election to the Office of President or Deputy President should they so choose.