



**Welsh Liberal Democrats**  
**Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru**

# Outline Agenda and Motions to Autumn Conference

## Brecon, 13 October 2012

### **AMENDMENTS:**

The deadline for amendments to these motions is noon, on Wednesday 3rd October 2012. Amendments should be submitted to Ben Lloyd, Policy Officer, via [ben.lloyd@welshlibdems.org.uk](mailto:ben.lloyd@welshlibdems.org.uk).

### **TOPICAL MOTIONS:**

Topical Motions relate to issues which have taken place since the closing date for motions to Conference (22 August 2012) and the deadline for Amendments to Motions. Topical Motions should be submitted to Ben Lloyd, Policy Officer, via [ben.lloyd@welshlibdems.org.uk](mailto:ben.lloyd@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.

# Conference Timetable - Autumn 2012

Castle of Brecon Hotel, 13 October 2012

## Morning Session

Please note that this is not the FINAL Agenda - the final version will be published in the Conference Guide.

Time	PARTY BUSINESS	POLICY	CAMPAIGNING
10.00am	<b>Opening of Conference:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speech by Christine Humphreys, President of the Welsh Liberal Democrats</li> <li>Speech by a Welsh Liberal Democrat Parliamentarian</li> </ul>		
10.20am		<b>Policy Consultation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Modernising our Economy:</b> Building a modern Welsh economy by discussing what sort of economy we want for Wales and how we can improve the way in which Wales is promoted overseas.</li> </ul>	<b>2012 Council Elections Feedback Session</b>
11.20am	<b>Party Business:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questions on the Reports from Welsh Party Committees</li> <li>Questions on the Reports from the Welsh Party Representatives to Federal Committees</li> </ul>		<b>Campaigns Advice Surgery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jon Aylwin (Welsh Lib Dem Head of Campaigns) and Mike Bell (ALDC) will be holding a drop-in session for anyone who has a campaigns-related query or issue they'd like help with.</li> </ul>
12.05pm			<b>Campaign Training:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Recruiting and retaining your members</b> It's impossible to recruit new members at the moment right? Wrong!  All the tips and tricks to help your local party retain existing members and recruit new ones...</li> </ul>

# Conference Timetable - Autumn 2012

Castle of Brecon Hotel, 13 October 2012

## Afternoon Session

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Time	PARTY BUSINESS	POLICY	CAMPAIGNING
1.15pm		<b>Policy Consultation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Future of Healthcare:</b> Improving the quality of our NHS when money is tight and the population is ageing. We will also examine the future for preventative and community care.</li> </ul>	<b>Campaign Training:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Building to Win</b> How to build up your campaign into one that can win at the next election - Parliament, Assembly or Council</li> </ul>
2.15pm	<b>Party Business:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions on the Report from the Party's Group in the UK Parliament</li> <li>• Questions on the Report from the Party's Group in the National Assembly for Wales</li> </ul>	<b>Policy Consultation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inequality:</b> Tackling Wales' deep-rooted inequality by examining how we can ensure that education outcome and life expectancy are not based on where you live or who your parents are.</li> </ul>	<b>Campaign Training:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How to be an effective opposition on the Council</b> Whether we have one councillor, or are the official opposition, this session is a must for anyone who wants to hold their ruling group to account, be the most effective opposition councillor, or make the most of campaign issues that come out of the council chamber.</li> </ul>
2.45pm	<b>Party Business:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2013 Conference Fees</li> <li>• Candidate Selection Rules</li> </ul>		
3.05pm		<b>Policy Motions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital Chaplaincy Services</li> <li>• Topical / Emergency Motion(s)</li> </ul>	
3.45pm	<b>Question and Answer Session:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim Farron MP and Kirsty Williams AM</li> </ul>		
4.25pm		<b>Policy Motion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable Energy</li> </ul>	<b>Campaign Training:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Building your Delivery Network</b> Whether you like it or not, more paper through letterboxes helps us build our support. This session will help you learn how to build a delivery network so you don't have to deliver everything yourself!</li> </ul>
5.00pm	<b>Speech:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kirsty Williams AM, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.  Introduced by Bablin Molik, Cardiff South &amp; Penarth By-Election Candidate</li> </ul>		
6.30pm	Pre-Dinner Reception		
7.30pm	Conference Dinner with Tim Farron MP		

## **CONFERENCE MOTIONS:**

### **Hospital Chaplaincy Services**

***(20 Conference Reps)***

#### **Conference Notes:**

1. That, at present, hospital chaplaincy services in Wales are funded by local health boards.
2. That, in contrast, the Welsh Air Ambulance Service is funded through a charitable trust.

#### **Conference Believes:**

1. That for some patients, hospital chaplaincy services offer an important source of comfort and spiritual support.
2. That health boards should facilitate a chaplaincy service.
3. That chaplaincy funding should not come from a fixed health budget when alternative funding streams could be used.

#### **Conference Resolves:**

1. To divert the £1.3m currently being spent each year on the Welsh chaplaincy service into front-line health services.
2. To work with the leaders of all religious denominations in Wales to establish a charitable trust to fund an all Wales hospital chaplaincy service.

### **Renewable Energy**

***(Ceredigion Local Party)***

#### **Conference Notes:**

1. That the Welsh Liberal Democrats are committed to reducing Wales's ecological footprint by 75% by 2050 and to be being half-way to cutting carbon from energy production in Wales by the same date.
2. That to achieve these targets substantial investment is required in the development of renewable energy sources in Wales. Welsh Liberal Democrats have a proud record of leading the political agenda on innovative approaches to renewable energy production.
3. That the development of renewable energy in Wales has been disproportionately focused on large on-shore windfarms, which in turn have been disproportionately concentrated in rural areas of Mid and West Wales.
4. That there is widespread public concern about the cumulative impact of large windfarms on the distinctive landscape of rural Wales and the consequences for tourism and wildlife.

#### **Conference Believes:**

1. That the over-concentration of on-shore windfarms in the stunning countryside of Mid and West Wales is having a detrimental effect on the scenic quality of the landscape, natural ecology and the economy potential of tourism.
2. That the Welsh Government's TAN8 measure is an inadequate framework for developing renewable energy in Wales, as it fails to take into consideration the density of windfarm developments and their real environmental and economic impacts.
3. That there is an urgent need for a new and comprehensive energy strategy for Wales that will utilise the full range of energy sources and technologies available in Wales to achieve targets for carbon reduction whilst taking full and proper account of their impact on the environment and economy.

## **Conference Calls for:**

1. The Welsh Liberal Democrat Policy Committee to review the party's policies on renewable energy to develop an action plan that takes account of the full range of social, environmental and economic factors relevant to the sector's development.
2. The uplands of Mid and West Wales to be protected from the damaging visual and economic impact of the over-concentration of windfarms by restricting new developments of large windfarms.
3. Innovative strategies to be adopted to utilise the full range of renewable energy sources in Wales, reducing Wales's dependency on both carbon-based fuels and on-shore wind

## **2013 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. In 2012 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
3. In 2012 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
4. 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 structure for Member Registration Fees shall be unchanged from 2012.
2. The 2012 Member Registration Fees shall be the maximum Fees for 2013.

# **Candidate Selection Rules**

## **(Campaigns & Candidates' Committee)**

**NB** Please also see the accompanying notes below. The full document can be found at: <http://welshlibdems.org.uk/en/document/draft-candidate-selection-rules>

### **Conference Notes:**

1. That the Campaigns and Candidates Committee commissioned a review of all Welsh Party Candidate Selection Rules in May 2011
2. That the review of Selection Rules is now completed and new rules for the Selection of candidates for Westminster, the National Assembly for Wales, European Parliament, Directly-Elected Mayors and Police & Crime Commissioners have been produced.
3. These new rules require ratification by Conference.

### **Conference Resolves:**

1. To ratify, and endorse, the new Candidate Selection Rules contained in the accompanying booklet "Candidate Selection Rules – Autumn 2012"

### **Background Information (not part of the motion):**

Following the National Assembly Elections in 2011 the Campaigns and Candidates Committee (CCC) has reviewed all its candidate selection rules.

The existing rules for Westminster and National Assembly for Wales had been in place since 2007 and the rules for the Selection of European Parliament Candidates since 2008. The Welsh Party had also in the intervening period adopted separate rules for Directly Elected Mayoral Candidates and Police and Crime Commissioner Candidates.

This review was required for a number of reasons, including:

- the growth in the use of 'social media' such as Twitter and Facebook.
- the increased focus on the need to address the lack of diversity in public office within the Party and comply with the Equalities Act.
- changes to the Federal Constitution concerning what can and cannot be done by State Parties in their candidate selection rules with regard to promoting and diversity across the Federal Party which need to be included in the Welsh Rules.
- Recent changes in Wales to the way in which potential candidates are assessed, bringing them into line with the Scottish and English Parties.

The previous set of Westminster and National Assembly Selection Rules also referred, in places, to the English Selection Rules rather than actually incorporating them into the Rules per se. This led to confusion for applicants and returning officers. A number of the rules were also superfluous in that they were simply reiterating the constitutional requirements for candidate approval rather than selection.

The CCC therefore agreed that the current Welsh Rules, as they stood, were no longer fit for purpose. Ian Walton, Welsh Party Manager and member of the Welsh Party's Constitutional Review Panel, was commissioned by the Committee to undertake a complete review of all the Selection Rules that the Welsh Party has responsibility for under the Welsh and Federal Constitutions. This review was to look at how the Welsh Party's rules should reflect current best practice and legislation, making them easier to follow and provide a consistency of process across all types of selection.

As a part of the review, all stakeholders – approved candidates, returning officers, Assembly Members and Members of Parliament have been consulted on the changes and their views have been reflected into the rules document being presented to Conference for approval.

## Key Changes:

There have been a number of changes made to these rules, both in content and format. This is particularly so with selections for Directly Elected Mayoral Candidate Selections and for Police & Crime Commissioner Candidates Selections. The rules for these selections are now presented in a format that matches selections for Westminster, the National Assembly for Wales and the European Parliament which will allow for more a more consistent, robust, open and transparent selection process for all.

Other key changes include:

CHANGE	IMPACT / REASON FOR CHANGE
The Selection Rules are now based on the type of election a prospective candidate is being selected for.	one set of election rules for constituency elections (Westminster and National Assembly for Wales) and one set of rules for list selections (National Assembly for Wales and the European Parliament).
Constituencies can only apply to the CCC to proceed with a selection once they have a selection panel in place. This must take place no later than six months before a General Election.	This allows the CCC to ensure that the Local Parties are following the rules and that the process is being conducted properly and that the process is completed prior to a General Election
Constituency Assembly Members have to re-apply for their seat, with a full selection process if they wish to re-stand. They are guaranteed to appear on the shortlist if they re-apply.	This follows changes in Scotland for Constituency MSPs who now have to go through this process. The re-selection of sitting MPs has not been changed as this would require a change to the Federal Constitution.
The removal of the requirement for campaigning literature and communications to be vetted by the Returning Officer.	This allows potential candidates to be able to demonstrate their campaigning skills.  Returning Officers will remain the arbiter of disputes regarding content if it is alleged there has been a breach of the rules and copies of all literature and member communications should be submitted to the Returning Officer by candidates.
Allowing Selection Panels to set limits of how much literature an applicant can send to members including limits to the amount of electronic communication. Target seats to be encouraged to set higher limits and non target seats given the choice to either set a tight limit or follow the same limits as target seats.	This allows potential candidates to be able to demonstrate their campaigning skills.  Also, it gives the Selection Panel the ability in Local Parties with small membership figures the ability to stop members' being 'drowned' unnecessarily in literature.
Allowing Selection Panels to set expenditure limits for candidates and introducing a requirement for candidates to keep a record of all expenditure and receipts which shall be available for inspection by members if they feel there has been a breach of the rules and the record to be submitted to the Returning Officer at the end of the campaign.	Ensuring a level playing field for all applicants.
By-election rules to clarify as to when the cut-off point for the Selection Register is set.	The Selection process for Cardiff South and Penarth highlighted the fact that there was ambiguity in this area of the rules.
Allowing the By-election Panel to include either an MP or an AM regardless of the type of by-election.	The selection process for Cardiff South and Penarth highlighted the fact that under current representation it is difficult to get a panel at short notice if an AM, in particular, can't sit on the Panel for a Westminster by-election (or vice versa).

CHANGE	IMPACT / REASON FOR CHANGE
<p>A new timetable for European Selection selections taking into account the size of the membership in Wales, reducing the number of members' mailings to one which shall also include the ballot papers.</p>	<p>Allows for one mailing rather than two which would save the Party money.</p>
<p>The number of members' meetings (formerly called hustings meetings) for regional lists to be set at a minimum of two and a maximum of three and for European List Selections this is set a minimum of three and a maximum of five. The location of and number of members' meetings shall be determined by the selection panel and should reflect the distribution of members and the access to a venue.</p>	<p>Allows for fewer members' meetings, again which would help reduce costs but would allow for more if the Selection Panel deemed it necessary.</p>
<p>Removal of the fixed campaign limits for Mayoral and Police Commissioner Candidates, giving the Selection panel the ability to set limits.</p>	<p>These were arbitrary figures across the board which in reality could vary from area to area depending on the size of a local authority / police force area and the Selection Panel should have the power to vary limits to meet local circumstances.</p>
<p>Clarification as to who is responsible for paying for selections, especially clarifying that where no functioning AERC exists, that the Local Parties in a region shall be responsible. The Chairs of the CCC and Finance &amp; Management Committee shall have the power to change these arrangements.</p>	<p>The Welsh Party has had problems previously where there is not a functioning AERC and funding a selection process.</p>
<p>List and Police &amp; Crime Commissioner Selections to have taken place not later than eighteen months before an election with the CCC to have power to vary this if there is an imminent Election.</p>	<p>Fixing the timing of when the selection should take place.</p>
<p>Constituency Selections to have been completed by Local Parties no later than six months prior to a General Election and if a seat has not been through a selection process two months out from a General Election the CCC shall have additional power to appoint candidates. Constituencies which may have a candidate appointed by the CCC at six months before only if a Local Party has previously advertised for a candidate but no candidate has been selected. If an Local Party has not advertised the CCC can appoint a candidate up to six weeks before an Election.</p>	<p>Changing the licensing arrangements so there is consistency in the light of fixed parliaments and encourages Local Parties to go through the process of selection rather than relying on 'licensing'. The term licensing has been abolished and 'appointment' has been used.</p>
<p>Codeifying the position of list candidates post election.</p>	<p>Clarification of the position of list candidates post election and giving the power to the CCC for re-selecting the same list if there is a second election within six months.</p>
<p>Redaction of identifying information from application forms before the Returning Officer gives them to the Selection Panel for shortlisting</p>	<p>Allows for greater transparency of selection and attempts to eliminate any bias in selection towards 'known' candidates.</p>