# autumn conference



# conference daily sunday 19th september 2010

Information from the Conference Committee for Sunday 19th September, final timings for conference sessions and report back on the business of Saturday 18th September. Please read in conjunction with the *Conference Agenda*.

| Depart back on business of Saturday 19th September  |  |                      |   |   |  |
|---|--|----------------------|---|---|--|
| Report back on business of Saturday 18th September 2  Timotoble for Sunday 10th September |  |                      |   |   |  |
| Timetable for Sunday 19th September   |  |                      |   |   |  |
| Sunday 19th September morning   |  |                      |   |   |  |
| 09.00-09.10   | F11  | Report               | Federal Executive   | 4 |  |
| 09.10-09.20   | F12  | Party Business       | Appointment of Federal Appeals Panel                                | 5 |  |
| 09.20-10.20   | F13  | Policy Motion        | Press Complaints Commission   | 5 |  |
| 10.20-10.40   | F14  | Speech               | Tavish Scott MSP  |   |  |
| 10.40-12.20   | F15  | Consultative Session | n Strategy  | 6 |  |
| 12.20-12.40   | F16  | Speech               | Danny Alexander MP  |   |  |
| 12.40   | Deadline for submitting questions for the Q&A session with Nick Clegg, F18 |                      |   |   |  |
| Sunday 19th September afternoon   |  |                      |   |   |  |
| 14.30-14.50   | F17  | Presentation         | Welsh Liberal Democrats   | 7 |  |
| 14.50-15.35   | F18  | Q&A Session          | Nick Clegg MP   | 7 |  |
| 15.35–16.15   | F19  | Policy Motion        | Human Rights and the 'War on Terror'                                | 7 |  |
| 16.15–16.35   | F20  | Speech               | Jeremy Browne MP  |   |  |
| 16.35–18.00   | F21  | Policy Motion        | Accountability to the Poor (International Development Policy Paper) | 8 |  |

Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated.

Conference representatives wishing to speak in any of the debates are requested to fill in and submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.

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**Emergency motions ballot** 

## report back for saturday 18th september

F2 Report Federal Conference Committee Approved

F3 Report Federal Policy Committee Approved

F4 Policy Motion The Award of a UK National Defence

Medal to Service Veterans Passed

F5 Report Federal Finance and Administration Approved

Committee

F6 Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy Passed

F7 Policy Motion Transactions Transparency and Passed (Amendment One passed)

F8 Report Campaign for Gender Balance Approved

Conflicts-of-Interest in Government

F9 Report Diversity and Engagement Group Approved

F10 Report European Parliamentary Party Received

#### interventions

Interventions are being handled differently this conference following the success of a new system that was trialled at the Special Conference.

Instead of operating on a 'first come, first served' basis, the interveners are going to be selected at random.

Anyone who wants to make an intervention must now complete a card and hand it in to the Speakers' Table. At the appropriate time in the debate, the aide will select the interveners at random. The chair will announce, at some time in the first part of the debate (but in good time before the interventions are taken), who the successful people are and invite them to go and sit in the appropriate area.

#### FRINGE UPDATE

sunday 19th september lunchtime 13.00 – 14.00

The following meeting has been cancelled:

The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)

Lifelong Learning: Balancing Community and Business Need

Jurys Inn, Suite 7

#### **EXHIBITION UPDATE**

#### **Recovery Group UK**

Please note that Recovery Group UK will not be taking part in the exhibition.





# Higher Education Question Time FEES, FUNDING AND FAIRNESS

Sunday 19 September Riverside Balcony ACC Liverpool, 1pm – 2pm

Come along to quiz Liberal Democrat MPs,
UCU General Secretary Sally Hunt and
NUS President Aaron Porter
about the future of higher education funding

This is a Question Time so SYOU ask the questions!

Sandwiches and refreshments will be provided

With an average of one Hunting Act conviction every fortnight, come and talk to us at Conference to find out just how successful this law really is.





### www.league.org.uk

Bullfighting | Fighting Dogs | Hunting | Racing Animals | Shooting | Snaring | Trophy Hunting

## sunday 19th september morning

#### 09.00 Party Business

Chair: Jon Ball

#### F11 Report of the Federal Executive

#### **Q1 Submitted by Tony Vickers**

Unlike our Coalition Government partners, this party has secured the overwhelming democratic backing of its grassroots in the country for the Agreement. This is largely thanks to Federal Executive's role, supported by Federal Conference Committee in organising a special conference. However the Agreement seems to many of us to need regular refreshing as the Parliament progresses, to take account of external events – perhaps through an annual negotiation process. How will FE play a role in maintaining the backing of the party for what its Ministers in Government are doing, thereby strengthening their hand?

#### **Q2 Submitted by Elizabeth Wilson**

- a) What due diligence was undertaken by the Campaigns Department prior to recommending to constituencies the MediaGroup deal (for campaign literature and delivery to Royal Mail)?
- b) What dates were agreed with MediaGroup about the time-critical delivery of election literature?
- c) On whose authority were delivery dates to Royal Mail changed, so that some (initial) mailings arrived days after postal votes?
- d) Why and on whose authority was a decision made that no assistance would be offered to individual constituencies to negotiate reductions in payment to MediaGroup prior to submitting election returns?
- e) What role did the Federal Executive have in agreeing to the MediaGroup deal?
- f) What discussion took place with Federal Executive when it became known that there were widespread problems with MediaGroup?
- g) What further action will the party take to seek e.g. ex-gratia payments to constituencies that were let down?

#### Q3 Submitted by Suzanne Fletcher

What opportunities for input will there be from candidates and campaigners into the review of the general election by the Campaign and Communications Committee?

#### **Q4 Submitted by Suzanne Fletcher**

Given that a number of members of professional paid staff have unfortunately had to be made redundant, will there be a review of the conclusions of the Bones Review, giving more authority to party officers, and looking again at engaging with and developing skills of volunteers?

#### **Q5 Submitted by Suzanne Fletcher**

What steps are being taken, given that a number of members of professional paid staff have unfortunately had to be made redundant, to improve communications with party members, particularly those who are active on the ground and need to have timely and accurate information on what policy announcements are specifically Liberal Democrat initiatives and polices; which are Conservative initiatives modified?

## sunday 19th september morning continued

#### 09.10 Party Business

#### F12 Appointment of Federal Appeals Panel 2010-2015

Mover: Philip Goldenberg (Chair, Federal Appeals Panel) Summation: Philip Goldenberg (Chair, Federal Appeals Panel)

#### 09.20 Policy Motion

#### F13 Press Complaints Commission

Federal Conference Committee has agreed to accept the following drafting changes into the text of the motion:

- In line 7, delete: 'a report by', and insert: 'comments by the then chairman of the', and in line 8
- 2 delete: 'published'.
- 3 In b) (line 13), delete: 'particularly if that editor is the PCC Chair, as in 2008–9'.
- 4 In 1 (line 27), delete: 'make a clear commitment to reforming', and insert: 'insist on reforms to'.

#### **Amendment One**

Liberal Youth

Mover: Sarah Harding Summation: Callum Leslie

- 1 In 1 (line 27), delete: 'Make a clear commitment to reforming the PCC to make it independent
- 2 of serving editors', and insert: 'Insist on reforms to the PCC to make it more independent of
- 3 serving editors by having 2/3 lay members to 1/3 industry representatives as suggested by the
- 4 Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee. Ensure further reform by including lay members, and
- 5 members from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland where applicable, on the Editors' Code of
- 6 Practice Committee', and in line 28, delete: 'it' and insert: 'the PCC'.

#### **Amendment Two**

Filton and Bradley Stoke

Mover: Peter Tyzack

Summation: To be announced

- 1 After 3 (after line 31), add:
- 4. Insist on a full review of the Code of Conduct to bring about higher standards of press responsibility and probity.

There will be a separate vote on the words 'including financial penalties' in line 20.

There will also be a separate vote to delete 3 (line 31) and in line 23 delete the word 'both' and in line 24–25 delete all after 'intrusion'.

## sunday 19th september morning continued

#### **Background briefing**

This motion updates and develops policy on the press and freedom of information.

Existing policy in this area is set out in policy paper 63 Censorship and Freedom of Expression (2004), conference motion The Future of Broadcasting (2002) and policy paper 11, A Free and Open Society (1995).

#### 10.40 Consultative Session

#### F15 FE Strategy Consultation Session

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. Please complete an intervention speaker's card if you would like to make an intervention. Other speeches, apart from the introduction and summation, are limited to three minutes.

## **EVAN HARRIS WILL STRAW**

# FAIRER? FOR WHOM?

## Liberal Democrat **V**eice

Sunday, 19th 13.00 - 14.00 ACC, Hall 1B

www.libdemvoice.org

## centreforcities

### Can the Coalition crack the "North-South" divide?

Speakers: Sir Ian Wrigglesworth
Deputy Chair, Regional Growth Fund

**Danny Dorling** University of Sheffield

Andy Mayer Liberal Vision

John Harris The Guardian

Chair: Alexandra Jones

Centre for Cities

Sunday 19 September, 1815-1930 Suite 1, Jurys Inn (directly opposite the Liverpool ACC)

drinks & debate

VRDV sponsored by

## sunday 19th september afternoon

### 14.30 Party Business

#### F17 Presentation: Welsh Liberal Democrats

The presentation will feature:

Christine HumphreysKirsty Williams AMPresident of the Welsh Liberal Democrats

Wyn Williams

Cllr Aled Roberts
 Leader of Wrexham Council

Veronica German AM

#### 14.50 Question and Answer Session

#### F18 Q&A Session with Nick Clegg MP

Please remember that the deadline for questions to Nick Clegg is 12.40, Sunday 19th September.

#### 15.35 Policy Motion

#### F19 Human Rights and the 'War on Terror'

Mover: David Preedy Summation: Mike Ward

Federal Conference Committee has agreed to accept the following drafting changes into the text of the motion:

- 1 In 4 (line 11), after 'hold an', insert: 'judge-led'.
- 2 After 4 (line14), insert:
- 5. Conference notes the failure of some of the previous government's inquiries to demonstrate their independence and impartiality.
- 5 After 5 i) (line 38), insert:
- The initial and continuing training of intelligence operatives about the UK's and their own obligations under the UN conventions on torture and human rights.
- 8 k) The extent and level of pressure applied by the UK government to the US government to meet 9 the US's obligations under the UN conventions on torture and human rights, both in conflict 10 zones and detention centres such as Guantanamo Bay.
- 11 Delete 6 (lines 39–42), and insert:
- 6. Conference also believes that the purposes of the inquiry would be undermined if submissions or its examinations of witnesses are secret and conclusions are not made public unless the reason is strictly to avoid compromising the necessary working methods of the military or security services. It therefore calls for all evidence and questioning to be public and calls

## sunday 19th september afternoon continued

- on the Prime Minister to commit to publish all the inquiry's conclusions, except where such publicity or publication would genuinely compromise operational effectiveness.
- 18 After 6 (line 42), add:

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7. Conference believes it is important to ensure that both the public and torture victims in respect of whom the complicity of the government or the intelligence services is alleged can have confidence in the inquiry's thoroughness, impartiality and rigour in securing full disclosure and accountability. Conference therefore calls on the government to ensure that the inquiry's detailed terms of reference and procedures provide, irrespective of past or present roles of the inquiry's leadership, demonstrable independence from the Intelligence Services, such as in regard to decisions on secrecy for witnesses or evidential material.

#### **Background briefing**

This motion updates and develops policy on an inquiry into the torture of detainees in the 'War on Terror'.

Existing policy in this area is set out in conference motion *Demanding the Truth on Torture* (2009), conference motion *Extraordinary Rendition* (2008), conference motion *Guantanamo Bay* (2006) and conference motion *Preventing Terrorism, Defending Civil Liberties and Protecting Minorities* (2005).

#### 16.35 Policy Motion

#### F21 Accountability to the Poor (International Development Policy Paper)

Federal Conference Committee has agreed to accept the following drafting changes into the text of the motion:

- 1 After 3 h) (line 54), insert:
- 2 i) Increasing transparency, democratic control and the cost-effectiveness of EU development aid, by incorporating the European Development Fund into the EU budget.
- In 4 a) (line 59), after 'programmes', insert: 'and calls for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to be implemented effectively'.
- 6 In 4 f) (line 65) after 'people', insert: ', with help being given to those who were previously child
- 7 soldiers by setting up a fund to help re-integrate former child soldiers back in to mainstream
- 8 society, and older people and people with disabilities'.

#### **Amendment One**

Gordon

Mover: Malcolm Bruce MP Summation: To be announced

1 In 3 h) (line 53), delete 'stopping financial aid', and insert: 'reviewing the way we provide support'.

## sunday 19th september afternoon continued

#### **Amendment Two**

Greater Reading and ten conferece representatives

Mover: Cllr Gareth Epps Summation: Cllr Nader Fekri

- In 5 g) (line 78) after '2010', insert: 'and additionally to shut UK Trade & Investment Defence &
- 2 Security Organisation (UKTI DSO), without transferring its functions elsewhere, and ending export
- 3 credit support for military goods'.

There will also be a separate vote on: 'instead of new global issue-based funds' in 2 e) (line 31).

#### **Background briefing**

This motion updates and develops policy on international development.

Existing policy is set out in conference motions Development in a Downturn (2009), Water and Development (2007) and Review of Millennium Development Goals (2005) and policy paper 64, A World Free from Poverty (2004).

## THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT LAWYERS ASSOCIATION FRINGE

## THE GREAT REPEAL ACT: BACK TO THE FUTURE?

We have the opportunity to roll back the frontiers of the state and to get rid of repressive legislation passed by Labour. What should be repealed? How best to do it? This is central to the success of the coalition and MUST be delivered.

We have a stellar line up of speakers:

- Lord McNally (Ministry of Justice);
- Lord Thomas Q.C; Nicholas Green Q.C., Chairman of the Bar;
- Paul Rowen (Member of the Human Rights Committee of the Council of Europe).
- · Chair: David Ive J.P.

**VENUE: JURYS INN, SUITE 8** 

**DATE AND TIME: SUNDAY 19TH, 1815-1930.** 

Refreshments, including wine, will be provided.



## emergency motions ballot

#### F44 Emergency Motion

There will be a ballot to select one of the following motions to be debated as F44 on Wednesday morning. Ballot papers will be published in Sunday's Conference Daily, and should be returned to the ballot box in the auditorium between 09.00 and 13.00 on Sunday 19th September.

#### **Emergency Motion 1: Burma**

#### Dover

#### 1 Conference notes:

- 2 i) The announcement on 31 August 2010 by General Than Shwe that he intends to continue as Burma's head of government irrespective of the election on 7 November.
- 4 ii) The 'reservation' of 25% of parliamentary seats for the military junta irrespective of how the people of Burma may vote.
- 6 iii) The outlawing of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy and the exclusion of this and some other democratic parties from taking part in the election.
- 8 iv) Widespread reports of harassment of candidates and activists opposed to military rule.
- 9 v) The publication of 'Crimes in Burma', a report by the International Human Rights Clinic at
  10 Harvard Law School ('the Harvard Report') documenting evidence of decades of human
  11 rights abuses by the military junta including forced labour, recruitment of ten of thousands
  12 of child soldiers, extrajudicial killings, widespread sexual violence and torture, often aimed at
  13 certain ethnic groups.
- 14 vi) The Harvard Report found that abuses continue and the military leaders responsible have 15 systematically escaped justice and accountability.
- 16 vii) The international community now has an established record in using judicial process to achieve justice in comparable cases around the world.
- viii) The Harvard Report further found that although the United Nations has 'been on notice of severe... widespread and systematic abuses that appear to rise to the level of state policy' the Security Council has not moved a judicial process forward as it has done in respect of the former Yugoslavia, Darfur, Sierra Leone and other examples.
- 22 ix) Expressions of interest by the Obama administration in pursuing a more active stance on Burma.

#### 24 Conference Believes

- 25 a) Free elections and human rights as set out in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights remain the absolute entitlement of every human being.
- b) Britain, Europe, and all countries that have signed the Universal Declaration have a duty to take all possible steps to uphold the values in the Universal Declaration around the world.
- c) As called for by the Harvard Report, an international judicial process should now begin in respect of Burma to establish the truth and bring to justice those guilty of serious human rights abuses, as has been done in respect of other territories around the world.
- 32 d) The unsatisfactory nature of the forthcoming elections in Burma and the determination of those in control of the state during human rights abuses to remain in control makes action all the more urgent.
- 35 Conference calls for:

- 1. The UK (by its own means and through the EU) to urgently promote and actively support a United Nations Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged human-rights abuses and grave crimes committed in Burma.
  - 2. The Burmese elections to be run on a free and fair basis open to all parties and without a reservation of power for those who have used force rather than the ballot box to take power in the first place.

Applicability: Federal.

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#### **Emergency Motion 2: EU Directive on Human Trafficking**

11 conference representatives

- Conference notes that on 31st August 2010 the Home Office announced that the Coalition
- 2 Government will not opt in to the new draft EU Directive on Human Trafficking, which repeals
- 3 Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA.
- Conference notes that the new directive includes a series of measures protecting victims of
- trafficking, such as non-punishment of victims, measures to provide compensation and medical
- 6 and psychological assistance.
- 7 Conference notes that on 16th June the Anti-trafficking monitoring body, comprising of charities
- such as Amnesty International, ECPAT UK and Anti-Slavery International described the Government
- g strategy as 'not fit for purpose' and potentially discriminatory.
- Conference believes that not opting in to the directive will harm international efforts to combat
- 11 human trafficking.
- 12 Conference therefore resolves to:
- 1. Reaffirm the Liberal Democrats' long standing opposition to all forms of human trafficking.
- 2. Call on Liberal Democrat ministers to argue strongly for the Coalition Government to opt in to the new directive.

Applicability: Federal.

#### **Emergency Motion 3: Fixed-term tenancies for Council Housing**

Bermondsey & Old Southwark

- 1 Conference notes the comments made by the Prime Minister on the 3rd August 2010, with regard
- to proposals for fixed-term tenancies for council housing.
- 3 Conference recognises the chronic shortage of affordable homes and regrets the lack of progress
- made by the previous Labour Government in this area, with over 1.8 million households currently
- 5 on housing waiting lists.
- 6 Conference notes that less than 20% of council tenants earn an above average wage and that
- fixed-term tenancies would lead to a lack of incentive for council tenants to work hard and earn
- 8 more for their families.

- 9 Conference affirms the positive effects of secure tenancies in improving social cohesion, supporting
- 10 family networks and providing stability.
- 11 Conference believes that forcing successful families to leave will lead to a revolving door that
- 12 concentrates poverty and vulnerability, with all of society paying for this policy.
- 13 Conference proposes that the solution to the current shortage of social housing is to increase the
- building of affordable homes.
- 15 Conference calls on the coalition government to:
- 1. Rule out removing secure tenancies for current and future council tenants.
- 17 2. Investigate alternative ways of managing occupancies when circumstances change, such as different levels of rent.
- 19 3. Urgently investigate ways to fund an increase in the building of social housing, either by local authorities or housing associations.

Applicability: England.

#### **Emergency Motion 4: NHS White Paper**

10 conference representatives

- 1 Conference notes the recent government white paper *Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS*.
- 2 Conference further notes that existing Liberal Democrat policy:
- A. Proposes increased local accountability for the NHS through directly elected Local Health Boards.
- 5 B. Supports empowerment of patients and equity for patients, particularly those with mental health problems.
  - C. Acknowledges the risk of destabilisation of NHS services through the use of private sector providers and sets criteria to minimise this risk.
- 9 Conference believes that:

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- 10 i) The NHS is best served by co-operation and collaboration between hospitals.
- 11 ii) The patients with some of the most difficult healthcare requirements, such as elderly patients 12 with multiple medical conditions, are likely to benefit the least from a competitive market, and 13 suffer most where there is lack of co-ordination between providers of services.
- iii) GP-led commissioning consortia are unlikely to have sufficient expertise in negotiating contracts to eliminate the risk of exploitation by corporate suppliers, and will need to procure specialised and often more expensive commissioning support, creating significant potential for conflicts of interest.
- 18 iv) A more fragmented health service often leads to poor opportunities for clinical training.
- v) The white paper proposals will tend to increase choice and service provision in affluent and densely populated areas, and by attracting more services to the centres of population will reduce or remove services in poorer and more sparsely populated areas.
- In particular conference restates the principles that every provider should:

- a) Meet all NHS standards for Quality, Information and Communication.
- b) Demonstrate that it provides value for money and does not undermine the local health economy.
- 26 c) Ensure that no NHS patient shall receive a diminished service as a result of the introduction of a new provider.
- 28 Conference therefore urges the Coalition Government to:
- 1. Legislate to ensure that no company or organisation that offers services in support of the commissioning process should either provide healthcare services directly, or have commercial links to a company or organisation that provides healthcare services.
- 2. Include in their plans explicit powers for local authorities to intervene if local services are at risk.
- 3. Ensure that any contract with a provider that does not train clinical staff should include a levy to support training of clinical staff in NHS facilities.
- 36 Conference also calls on all Liberal Democrat-led local authorities to use the proposed strategic role given to them in the white paper to protect the sustainability of an integrated health service,
- and to improve cooperation and communication between providers.

Applicability: England.

#### **Emergency Motion 5: Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

Isle of Wight

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- 1 Conference believes that:
- 2 i) The moves towards a referendum on the AV voting system and Parliamentary constituencies 3 of more equal size are modest but important steps towards a fairer voting system which has 4 been Liberal Democrat Party policy for many years.
- 5 ii) Truly fair votes will only be achieved when the United Kingdom has a fully proportionate system in which all citizens votes carry equal value.
  - iii) Seeking to equalise Parliamentary constituency sizes will in a minority of cases where there are overriding community identity considerations be counter-productive and will lack public support.
- 10 iv) The review must take account of local community identities, social cohesion and special circumstances on a wider basis than the already acknowledged special cases of Orkney and Shetland and the Western Isles.
- 13 Conference calls upon the Government, in exceptional circumstances, to allow constituencies to
- be formed or to continue in their present form which vary from the average size by more than the
- prescribed 5% where it can be shown that:
- 1. The exceptional proposal enjoys substantial local support.
- 17 2. The exceptional proposal takes account of unusual local geographical features, for example an Island community.
- The exceptional proposal does not create a Parliamentary constituency with a greater population than the largest constituency at the time of the review (but accepting that modest future population increases may result in a slightly larger population over time).

Applicability: Federal.

#### **Emergency Motion 6: Trident**

Winchester & Chandler's Ford and 30 conference representatives

#### 1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) In July the Chancellor announced that the Ministry of Defence will have to fund the £20–£30bn capital costs of a 'like-for-like' replacement for Trident.
- The Defence Secretary has warned that this means severe restrictions in the way Britain operates militarily, regiments could be axed or the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy amalgamated.
- 7 iii) The exclusion of Trident from the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) is now untenable; it should be included and receive the scrutiny which strategic, political and financial circumstances demand.
- 10 Conference calls on the Liberal Democrat ministers to:
- 1. Press for the extension of the SDSR to allow a full review of the alternatives to 'like-for-like' replacement of Trident.
- 2. Ensure the SDSR considers cost-saving options such as ending continuous at-sea patrols and extending the life of Vanguard submarines.
- 15 3. Ensure the SDSR makes explicit the opportunity cost of Trident replacement in terms of cuts to troop numbers and equipment programmes.

Applicability: Federal.



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# Bloomberg

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## emergency motions ballot paper

Please vote by listing your preferences in order (1,2,3 etc.)

| Burma  |  |
|--|--|
| EU Directive on Human Trafficking            |  |
| Fixed-term Tenancies for Council Housing     |  |
| NHS White Paper                              |  |
| Parliamentary Voting and Constituencies Bill |  |
| Trident                                      |  |

Please return this paper to the ballot box in the auditorium in the ACC between 09.00 and 13.00 on Sunday 19th September.

Please note you will need to show your voting representative's photo pass when submitting the ballot paper.