

conference daily sunday 13th march 2011

Updates to the *Conference Agenda* and *Directory*, information from the Conference Committee, timings for conference sessions, amendments, emergency motions and questions to reports; report back for Saturday 12th March and detailed information for Sunday 13th March.

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Report back for Saturday 12th March

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timetable for sunday 13th march

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11.45–13.00 (approx.)	F19	Speech	Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister	

*If no page number is indicated next to a session or item of business, there are no changes or additional information to that in the *Conference Agenda*.*

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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Conference Daily and other
conference documents are
available in clear print, plain text
and as pdf files – please ask at
the Information Desk in SCH.

report back for saturday 12th march

Party Business

F1 Report: Federal Conference Committee Approved

F2 Report: Federal Policy Committee Approved

Policy Motions

F3 *Community Futures* (Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Policy Paper) Passed

F4 Disability Living Allowance – Mobility Component Passed (Amendment One passed)

F5 Updating the NHS: Personal and Local Passed (Amendments One and Two passed, lines 6–15 deleted)

F7 *Taking Responsibility* (Youth Justice Policy Paper) Passed (Amendment Two passed)

Business Motions

F9 Improving the Diversity of our MPs Passed (Amendment One passed)

Party Business

F10 Report: Federal Executive Approved

F11 Report: Federal Finance and Administration Committee Approved

F12 Report: Diversity and Engagement Group Approved

F13 Report: Campaign for Gender Balance Approved

fcc helpdesk

Please note that the FCC Helpdesk **is not** open on Sunday.

We apologise for the incorrect information given in the Conference Agenda and Directory.

left luggage

Please note there will be no left luggage facilities available in any conference venue.

You **will not** be able to leave your luggage at the Mercure St Paul's Hotel unless you have been a resident there.

ministerial q&a sessions

Come along and ask questions of our Ministers on the issues relating to their responsibilities and their departments, at the Ministerial Q&A session:

Education with Sarah Teather and Simon Hughes

09.00–10.00 Sunday 13th March

North Bar, Sheffield City Hall

This is a fantastic opportunity for members to come and along and find out more about what our Ministers are up to.

local discounts

Sheffield businesses are pleased to offer a series of special offers for attendees at Liberal Democrat spring conference 2011.

Conference-goers can enjoy exclusive offers at the city's eateries and attractions.

Find them in your delegate bag or pick them up at the Sheffield information stand, B22, in the Exhibition area on level -3 of SCH.

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09.00 Party Business

F14 Parliamentary Party Reports

Q1 Submitted by Gareth Epps

Liberal Democrats have long been opposed in principle to monopolies of cross-media ownership such as that handed on a plate to Rupert Murdoch by the Conservative Secretary of State. Given that our policy has not changed, and that no meaningful assurances can be or indeed have been offered by Murdoch, why are our spokespeople outside Government now publicly supporting Conservative and not Liberal Democrat policy?

Q2 Submitted by John Brace

Tuition Fees and the Save our Forests campaign was like watching a train wreck in slow motion. What has and will be done to make sure that:

- a) In the future the party represents the public's views?
- b) Policy is communicated clearly?

Q3 Submitted by David Wright

The motion passed by the May 2010 Special Conference included a clause calling for proportional representation for local government elections in England and Wales. What action is the Parliamentary Party planning to progress this?

The clause in question read: 'Conference calls on Liberal Democrat ministers and MPs to seek to include proportional representation for local government elections in England and Wales as a part of the political reform programme of the coalition government'.

Q4 Submitted by David Hall-Matthews

Can you assure us that in future the parliamentary party will actively prevent Liberal Democrat parliamentarians from being whipped against party policy on major issues that are not included in the coalition agreement, as happened with the health bill?

Q5 Submitted by Hywel Morgan

English Council received a report of the FE meeting of 25th October from their FE representative.

It states that at this meeting Nick Clegg was asked: 'if any MP who voted against the Coalition proposal on Tuition Fees would be penalised in any way, he (Nick) promised that they would not.'

In light of this, could the Chief Whip comment on why two PPSs subsequently resigned. Could the Chief Whip also confirm whether any pressure was brought to bear on those two individuals requiring them to resign?

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Q6 Submitted by Hywel Morgan

Could the Chief Whip confirm whether all MPs made a contribution to the Party from their Parliamentary salaries as is required of local councillors. If not, what steps are being taken to address this?

Could the European Parliamentary Party confirm whether all MEPs made a contribution to the Party from their Parliamentary salaries as is required of local councillors? If not what steps are being taken to address this?

It will still be possible to submit questions to the Speakers' Table up until 18.00 on Saturday 12th March, however, due to the large number of questions already received, questions submitted will receive a written response.

09.20 Policy Motion

F15 Emergency Motion: Tougher Action on Banks and Bonuses

30 conference representatives

Mover: Prateek Buch

Summation: Naomi White

1 Conference notes:

- 2 A. The importance of a healthy banking system to the future of Britain's economy.
3 B. The regrettable failure of decades of 'light-touch' regulation that socialises risk and privatises
4 extraordinary profits at the expense of sustainable investment and growth.
5 C. That Liberal Democrats have long emphasised the need to tackle disproportionate rewards
6 for risky financial behaviour and the concentration of power in the hands of a few in the City of
7 London.
8 D. That the Independent Banking Commission is likely to postulate significant reforms later this
9 year.

10 Conference therefore welcomes the aims of the recent 'Project Merlin' agreement with the UK's
11 leading banks to:

- 12 i) Increase the credit available to British businesses.
13 ii) Improve transparency over executive pay.
14 iii) Reduce the overall bonus pool.

15 However, Conference is concerned that:

- 16 a) The 'Merlin' reforms are insufficient.
17 b) The language of the 'Merlin' agreement is weak and will be hard to enforce, particularly with
18 regards to net lending to business and transparency on bankers' remuneration, with no
19 disclosure requirement for the highest earners not on the Board.

20 Conference therefore calls on Liberal Democrats in Parliament, and most importantly those in
21 Government, to ensure that the recommendations of the Vickers Commission are carried out
22 promptly and in full. Conference calls for:

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- 23 1. Banks supported by the taxpayer to be broken up into smaller, safer entities, with effective
24 competition restored and full disclosure of all pay packages larger than that of the Prime
25 Minister while they remain State-owned.
- 26 2. All large-scale banks to divest their investment banking arms, with no explicit or implicit State
27 guarantee for this activity.
- 28 3. Pay transparency to be extended to highly paid traders and other employees, not just
29 Executives, with salary and bonuses that exceed an agreed ratio to median salary to be
30 published alongside an explanatory justification.
- 31 4. Large financial institutions to hold greater capital reserves and to make 'living will'
32 arrangements to act as stabilisers in the event of further market failures such as those seen
33 during the recent financial meltdown.
- 34 5. The imminent Green Investment Bank to be a fully functional bank and not a fund, securing
35 much-needed investment in low-carbon technology and jobs.
- 36 6. Measures to tackle financial exclusion for individuals and small business, with a Basic Banking
37 Guarantee; a public bank administered through Post Offices; a commitment from high street
38 banks to provide fee-free ATMs within walking distance of all deprived communities; as well
39 as reducing unfair bank, credit card and loan charges.
- 40 7. Greater support for local credit unions and mutuals.

Applicability: Federal.

Background briefing

This motion creates and updates policy on banking. In particular it creates new policy in response to the Project Merlin agreement.

Existing policy on banking in general is set out in the *General Election Manifesto: Change That Works For You* (2010). Policy on credit unions and community banking is set out in policy paper 45, *Local Economies, Local Choice* (2001).



During conference week, we will be tweeting live from the Auditorium.

For updates on who's speaking, when agenda items are about to start and how conference has voted, follow us at:

www.twitter.com/LibDemConf

your views are important to us!

Conference feedback questionnaires will no longer be available in hard copy. Instead, following conference, representatives will be emailed a link to an online questionnaire.

Please take the time to complete the questionnaire as your answers provide important information that helps us to improve conference.

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09.50 Business Motion

F16 Strategy, Positioning and Priorities

Amendment One

93 conference representatives

Mover: Dr Evan Harris

Summation: Cllr Chris White

- 1 *After 1c) (line 49), insert:*
- 2 2. Calls for the programme of the Coalition Government in the second half of the Parliament
3 to include Liberal Democrat priorities drawn from our manifesto and policies, and for such a
4 programme to be agreed by the Federal Executive and Federal Policy Committee.
- 5 3. Calls for there to be appropriate consultation through the Federal Executive and Federal Policy
6 Committee, when significant new Government policies are proposed, which are not included
7 in the Coalition agreement and which conflict with Liberal Democrat policy or principles.
- 8 4. Calls on the Federal Executive and the Federal Policy Committee to:
- 9 a) Review, in consultation with the Parliamentary parties, the challenges of coalition which
10 have an impact on the independence of the party, its policy position or its freedom of
11 political movement.
- 12 b) Report back on whether the existing constitutional provisions and other arrangements
13 are sufficiently democratic.
- 14 c) Propose recommendations, for any constitutional amendments or other protocols which
15 may be needed, in time for debate in September 2011.

11.00 Speech

F17 Yes to Fairer Votes Speech

Simon Woolley, Vice Chair of the Yes to Fairer Votes campaign, will address conference.



SITA UK is a recycling and resource management company with a vision. We want to live in a society where waste materials are reused, recycled or recovered for their energy content. We deliver solutions to 12 million residents and over 42,000 business customers, to help everyone reduce the impact of their waste on the environment.

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visit us online!

Our new look website contains all the conference information you need. For detailed information on motions and voting, registration and accommodation, participating in our fringe and exhibition, and much more, visit **www.libdems.org.uk/conference**.

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11.15 Policy Motion

F18 Access to Justice

Summation: James Sandbach

Amendment One

18 conference representatives

Mover: Adam Cain

- 1 *At end (after line 43), add:*
- 2 Furthermore Conference calls for the government to:
- 3 I) Before undertaking any further changes to Legal Aid, commission an independent study on
- 4 the overall cost to public funds due to the impact on other budgets and other government
- 5 departments as a consequence of any loss of access to adequate legal advice by those with
- 6 housing, immigration, employment and education cases.
- 7 II) Ensure that proper consideration be given for the scope for savings to be made by
- 8 improvements in Legal Services Commission decision-making and by reducing the costs of
- 9 appeals by raising the quality of first decisions by public authorities.

Conference Catering in the Ballroom

Head to the City Hall Ballroom for all your food & refreshments

Breakfast 8.30–11.30am

Serving local sausage and bacon sandwiches, home baked croissants, Danish Pastries, fruit and fresh coffee.

Deli, Snacks & Refreshments All Day

Serving a selection of sandwiches and jacket potatoes plus much more.

Lunch 11.30am–3.30pm

Serving homemade soup of the day and hot daily specials.



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- 10 III) Reject any changes to Legal Aid which lead to significant reductions in access to justice, a
11 lack of sustainability of public funded legal services or false economies as a result of knock-on
12 costs to public funds of cuts to legal aid.

Background briefing

This motion establishes new policy on legal aid, in light of recent changes made by the Ministry of Justice.

Existing policy on legal aid is set out in conference motion *Legal Aid* (2008) and policy paper 72, *Stronger Families, Brighter Futures* (2006).

Autumn Conference 2011, Birmingham Saturday 17th – Wednesday 21st September

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00	Wednesday	15th June 2011
Motions deadline	13.00	Wednesday	29th June 2011
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00	Monday	22nd August 2011
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00	Monday	5th September 2011



