

autumn conference

conference daily

sunday september 18th 2011



Information from the Conference Committee for Sunday 18th September and report back on the business of Saturday 17th. Please read in conjunction with the *Conference Agenda*.

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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 plain text, large/clear print and as pdf files – ask at the Information Desk in The ICC in Birmingham or go to www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers



Business for
New Europe

Fringe meeting Will the euro crisis split the EU?

18th September 2011

18.15-19.30

The ICC Hall, 7A

- ★ Sharon Bowles MEP
- ★ Jeremy Browne MP
- ★ The Rt Hon Charles Kennedy
- ★ Michael Moore MP
- ★ The Rt Hon Baroness Williams
- ★ Simon Tilford (chair)

Refreshments provided

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INDEPENDENT MINDS

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MAX RENDALL

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Simon Jenkins

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The author, Max Rendall, MB, B.CHIR, FRCS was Senior Lecturer and Consultant Surgeon at Guy's Hospital and Medical School.

Published September 2011. For more information:
e-mail marketing@stacey-international.co.uk
or telephone 020 7221 7166
Find *Legalize* on Facebook


ISBN-13: 9781906768652 176 pages, Paperback 130x198mm



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report back for saturday 17th september

F2	Report	Federal Conference Committee	Approved
		Procedural motion to suspend standing orders	Not carried
F3	Report	Federal Policy Committee	Approved
F4	Policy Motion	Lords Elections by 2015	Passed (Amendments One, Two and Three passed)
F6	Policy motion	Employment and Support Allowance and Work Capability Assessments	Passed (Amendment One passed)
F7	Report	Federal Executive	Approved
F8	Report	Federal Finance and Administration Committee	Approved

**Social Market Foundation**
Party Conference Fringe Programme
SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

18.15-19.30

Keeping the home fires burning: who's to blame for spiralling energy bills – companies, consumers or government?

Soprano, Hyatt Regency

SPEAKERS: Lord Teverson, Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Party Committee on DECC; Richard Lloyd, Which?; Christine McGourty, Energy UK; Matthew Sinclair, The TaxPayers' Alliance

CHAIR: John Springford, SMF




20.00-21.15



Pensions auto-enrolment: nudging to higher or lower savings?


Fortissimo, Hyatt Regency


SPEAKERS: Steve Webb MP, Pensions Minister; David Nish, Standard Life; Dr Ros Altmann, Saga; Dr Adam Marshall, British Chambers of Commerce

CHAIR: Ian Mulheirn, SMF



 smf2011fringe.wordpress.com  @SMFthinktank

 www.smf.co.uk

**centre for cities**

on balance

can the coalition deliver growth & fairness?

Rt Hon Vince Cable MP
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills

Sir Ian Wrigglesworth
Deputy Chair, Regional Growth Fund

Cllr Barbara Janke
Leader, Bristol City Council

Steve Hollis
Deputy Chair, Birmingham & Solihull LEP

Will Hutton
Economic commentator

chair: Joanna Averley Centre for Cities


date: Sunday 18 September

time: 18:15 – 19:30

venue: Allegro Suite, Hyatt Regency
Outside the secure zone

Join the debate

Refreshments provided



Are we still in it together?

Delivering cohesive welfare and housing reform strategies

Sunday 18th September

18:15 – 19:30

Dods Marquee 2

ICC Birmingham

Refreshments provided

Confirmed Speakers:

David Brindle, The Guardian (Chair)

Steve Gilbert MP

Brian Johnson, Chief Executive, Moat

Roy O'Shaughnessy, Chief Executive, Careers Development Group



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sunday 18th september

F9 Accreditation for Party Conference

Amendment One

10 conference representatives

Mover: Lord Rennard

Summation: Geoff Payne

1 *Delete lines 13–15 and insert:*

2 Conference notes that:

- 3 a) A full risk and threat assessment is carried out for each conference and that for this conference
4 Home Office and police advice was that accreditation was necessary and that they could not
5 guarantee the safety and security of those attending without such accreditation being in
6 place.
7 b) The system of accreditation agreed with the police means that the party has the final say over
whether someone attends conference or is refused access.

8 *Delete 3. (lines 24–27) and insert:*

- 9 3. The Federal Conference Committee to continue to negotiate security arrangement to ensure
10 that conference provides a safe and secure environment for those attending conference and
11 the host city whilst ensuring that the party has the final say over who attends conference.

Amendment Two

Greater Reading, Glasgow North and 12 conference representatives

Mover: Gareth Epps

Summation: To be announced

1 *At end (after line 27), add:*

- 2 Conference rejects the current system of accreditation as it is discriminatory and has resulted in
3 members being denied their constitutional right to attend Conference, and requests the Federal
4 Conference Committee to refuse to operate it for future Conferences.

Fringe cancellations

The following fringe events have been cancelled:

Sunday lunchtime 13.00 – 14.00

Motor Sport Association

Monday early evening 18.15 – 19.30

Birmingham City Centre Partnership

Monday mid evening 20.00 – 21.15

Holocaust Educational Trust

Advertise in Conference Daily

You can promote your organisation, event or message to thousands of conference-goers by placing an advert or notice in Conference Daily, published each day at conference.

Pick up a booking form at the Information desk in The ICC. Payment will be required at the time of booking.

sunday 18th september continued

F11 Report of the Diversity Engagement Group

Q1. Submitted by Jonathan Hunt

While welcoming training, mentoring and similar assistance for BME and other disadvantaged members, when will the group adopt other positive action measures (allowed under the law) including fast-tracking and remedies to reverse previous discrimination?

Q2. Submitted by Leonora Brace

How do we encourage more diversity among candidates at the local level when some councillors and activists in the party prefer to pick people who are like themselves?

F12 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats

Questions to the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons

Q1. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

The following questions were tabled at spring conference 2011 to which no answer has been received. Could the Chief Whip explain why these questions were not answered and inform conference by what date an answer will be provided?

- i) 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?
- ii) 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?

Q2. Submitted by Mike Ward

In the light of last year's conference motion '*Human rights and the war on terror*' that called for the Detainee Inquiry to show 'demonstrable independence from the Intelligence Services' and the recent withdrawal from the inquiry by 10 leading NGO's, because of their belief that the inquiry as set up is sufficiently thorough, independent and subject to public inquiry to comply with international human rights standards, please explain the actions that the Parliamentary Party has taken, is taking and will take in future to secure changes in the protocol and terms of reference for the Inquiry.

Q3. Submitted by Leonora Brace

How do we ensure that Federal Party practices, policies and procedures comply with new legislation such as the provisions of the Equality Act 2010?

sunday 18th september continued

Questions to the European Parliamentary Party

Q1. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

The Bones report (Party Reform Commission report) made an 'urgent' recommendation in 2008 that it be a condition of becoming an elected Liberal Democrat (at all levels) that you tithe to the party. Does the Whip believe that members of our European Parliamentary party are complying with the spirit of this recommendation? If not would he recommend any steps to achieve compliance?

F13 Presentation by Liberal Democrat Group on London Borough of Sutton

Aide: Geoff Payne

F15 Higher Education Fees for Part-Time Students

Amendment One

Liberal Youth

Mover: Sarah Harding

Summation: Tom Wood

- 1 *Delete lines 26–27 and insert:*
- 2 Conference therefore calls on the Government to:
- 3 A. Change the proposals, so that no student in higher education will have to repay their tuition
- 4 fees before they have completed their degree.
- 5 B. Ensure that the principle of equality between part-time and full-time students is reflected
- 6 throughout the Higher Education white paper.

Background briefing

This motion calls on the government to review government policy on fee loans for part-time students. Existing party policy is set out in the 2010 general election manifesto, *Change That Works For You*, and policy paper 90, *Investing in Talent and Building the Economy* (2009).

**Which? sponsors
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conference**

Which?, the largest independent consumer body in the UK, has produced a special guide to Birmingham for all Liberal Democrat party conference attendees – it's free of charge and available around The ICC.



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sunday 18th september continued

F17 Education Credit

Amendment One

16 conference representatives

Mover: Linda Jack

Summation: John Howson

- 1 In 2. (line 28), at end add: ‘ – for example ensuring that housing policy recognises that poor and
2 insecure housing impacts upon children’s attainment’.

- 3 After b) (line 36), insert:

- 4 c) All gypsy/traveller children.

Amendment Two

Plymouth

Mover: Stuart Bonar

Summation: Col Terry Scriven

- 1 After b) (line 36), insert:

- 2 c) All children of serving members of the UK’s Armed Forces.

There will be separate votes on D. (line 15), on 7 a) (lines 54–55) and on 7 b) (line 56).

Background briefing

This motion creates new policy on an Education Credit. This builds on existing policy for a pupil premium set out in the 2010 general election manifesto, *Change That Works For You*, and in policy paper 89, *Equity and Excellence* (2009).

F20 Protecting Individuals and Communities from Drug Harms

Amendment One

10 conference representatives

Mover: Adam Corlett

Summation: To be announced

- 1 After E. (line 50), insert:

- 2 F. Issues such as housing, family and youth support, mental health and tackling unemployment
3 and high inequality should not be overlooked as means of both averting problematic drug use
4 and supporting recovery.

sunday 18th september continued

Amendment Two

17 conference representatives

Mover: Prateek Buch

Summation: To be announced

1 After 5. (line 68), add:

- 2 6. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to retain a majority of independent scientific
3 and social scientific experts in its membership and no changes to drug laws be made without
4 receiving its advice as per the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act.

Background briefing

This motion substantially updates and develops party policy on reform of the drug laws. Existing party policy is set out in policy paper 47, *Honesty, Realism and Responsibility* (2002).

Nuclear in the UK: Safety, Affordability and Transparency

Tuesday 20th September

08:00 – 09:00

Dods Marquee 3

ICC Birmingham

Refreshments provided

Chair:

Sue Cameron, Financial Times

Confirmed Speakers:

Chris Davies MEP

Paul Spence, Director of Strategy and Regulation,
EDF Energy

Malcolm Grimston, Associate Fellow,
Chatham House

left luggage

A left luggage facility will be available on Wednesday 21st September from 08.00–17.00, at House of Sport, Broad Street (across the road from The ICC – see map in the Directory).

All luggage is left at owners risk; any luggage not collected by 17.00 may be destroyed. There will be a charge of £1 per item.

Do not bring large bags or luggage to The ICC on Wednesday morning – either leave items at your hotel or use the left luggage facility.

discount vouchers

Meet Birmingham is kindly offering discount vouchers to all conference representatives to use at a number of local shops, restaurants, bars and attractions.

Download the vouchers
from their website at
www.libdemsinbirmingham2011.com

Congratulations to Cllr Andrew Ellwood and Gedling Lib Dems

Lib Dem Andrew Ellwood won Phoenix Ward on Gedling BC from Labour on Thursday with a superb 8.5% swing.

Andrew and the Gedling Lib Dem triumphed despite a determined and very negative Labour campaign.

We would like to congratulate Andrew and the team, along with the many people from across East Midlands Region who came to help.

Gedling

LD Andrew Ellwood 566 (50.0; +2.2)

Lab 422 (37.3; -14.9)

Con 98 (8.7; +8.7)

UKIP 46 (4.1; +4.1)

Majority 144

Turnout 30.8%

LD gain from Lab

(Percentage change is since May 2011)

London 2012 Campaign Manager

Job Title: London 2012 Campaign Manager

Payscale: £30,000 pa, pro-rata 8 months

Purpose of job

We are looking for a campaign manager to join our campaign for the London Mayoral and Assembly elections in 2012.

The post holder will be in charge of day-to-day campaign operations, maintaining communication flow between key stakeholders, developing, implementing and monitoring a campaign grid and ensuring roles and tasks are delegated and maintained.

The post holder will oversee the grassroots campaign in seats across London, commission and sign-off literature, press and other aspects of the campaign and will manage campaign staff and volunteers as required.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Emma Peall, LDHQ (emma.peall@libdems.org.uk).

London 2012 Media Officer

Job Title: London 2012 Media Officer

Payscale: £28,000 pa, pro-rata 8 months

Purpose of job

We are looking for a media officer to join our campaign for the London Mayoral and Assembly elections in 2012. The post holder will be responsible for building and maintaining the profile and credibility of the Liberal Democrat 2012 election campaign, including Mayoral and GLA candidates, by securing broad and relevant coverage in local and national print, broadcast and online media.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Emma Peall, LDHQ (emma.peall@libdems.org.uk).

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emergency motions ballot

F22 b Emergency Motion

There will be a ballot to select one of the following motions to be debated in this time slot. Please complete and return the attached ballot paper to the ballot box in the auditorium of The ICC between 09.00 and 13.00 on Sunday 18th September.

Emergency Motion 1: Pensions

Glasgow North and 19 conference representatives

- 1 Conference notes with concern the final report of the Workplace Retirement Income Commission
2 announced on 1st August 2011 which concluded that millions of people face poverty in old age
3 because they are falling through the cracks of private pension provision.
- 4 Conference reaffirms:
- 5 A. The fundamental Liberal Democrat principle that “none shall be enslaved by poverty”.
6 B. The commitments in the Coalition Agreement to “safeguarding key benefits and pensions” and
7 to “simplify rules and regulations relating to pensions to help invigorate occupational pensions
8 encouraging companies to offer high quality pensions to all employees”.
- 9 Conference notes:
- 10 i) Lord Hutton’s statement that public service pensions are far from gold-plated; and that the
11 average pension in payment is currently £7,800 a year, with women’s pensions about half
12 that.
13 ii) That about 2.4-million private sector employees are active in Defined Benefit (DB) schemes
14 which are under threat, and even more are in Defined Contribution (DC) schemes of which
15 many are destined not to provide an adequate pension.
- 16 Conference believes that:
- 17 a) There is now a major crisis in occupational pension provision and, while welcoming the
18 introduction of NEST and the coalition proposals for reform of the state pension as important
19 steps forward, acknowledges that neither of these proposals can in themselves solve this
20 major crisis.
21 b) The retreat of private sector employers from providing high quality pensions is the result of the
22 failures of previous Labour and Conservative governments.
- 23 Conference calls upon Liberal Democrats in Government to:
- 24 1. Reconsider the proposal to impose cuts in take-home pay on millions of public sector workers
25 through increased pension contributions at the same time as reducing their pension benefits
26 and increasing scheme retirement ages at a time of pay freezes, redundancies and spiralling
27 cost of living;
28 2. Reject ideologically motivated proposals to allow private sector companies winning public
29 sector contracts to lower their bids and increase profits by ending the privatised workforce’s
30 pension scheme membership;
31 3. Act with urgency to protect private sector DB pension schemes including through reforming
32 current rules and regulations;
33 4. Urgently clarify the law on trust-based collective DC schemes to allow the private sector to

emergency motions ballot continued

- 34 explore European models of provision of better quality, lower cost DC schemes;
35 5. Investigate and act in relation to pensions industry charges, fees, transparency and disclosure
36 in order to enable pension schemes and their members to achieve better value for money.

Applicability: Federal.

Emergency Motion 2: Responding to the Riots

Guildford, Glasgow North and 12 conference representatives

- 1 Conference:
- 2 I. Condemns the August riots as unjustified and outright criminality and understands and regrets
3 the deep trauma caused to the residents and businesses affected, particularly the families of
4 those who died.
- 5 II. Appreciates with gratitude the effective nationally co-ordinated actions taken by police and
6 emergency services who put themselves in harm's way to protect lives and livelihoods.
- 7 III. Notes the use of private networks and social media not only by those set on rioting, but, also
8 in a more effective way, by those getting help to people at risk, and mobilising the clean-up
9 operations.
- 10 IV. Recognises that it was the threat of arrest and prosecution due to CCTV images and higher
11 police concentration, rather than interventions by politicians, that brought the disturbances to
12 an end.
- 13 Conference notes with concern:
- 14 A. The temporary loss of control by the forces of law and order to gangs of looters and arsonists,
15 suggesting a shortage of deployable officers with appropriate training and equipment.
- 16 B. The large number of lengthy custodial sentences and remands handed down by the courts
17 which put much more pressure on our overcrowded prisons, when research clearly shows that
18 prison is not an effective way of rehabilitating non-violent offenders or preventing re-offending.
- 19 C. The proposal that social housing eviction be extended, beyond a sanction for causing a
20 nuisance to other tenants and the immediate local community, to one for criminal behaviour
21 generally; and that this would not only be unfair to innocent family members but would also
22 discriminate against social housing tenants compared with private housing tenants or owner
23 occupiers.
- 24 Conference believes that:
- 25 i) Sentencing is a matter for the courts, taking into account the crime, deterrence, and the
26 impact on the defendant and their family, but not calls by the media or politicians for tougher
27 sentences.
- 28 ii) The way communities responded to the disturbances demonstrates that society is not broken,
29 but that there are examples of a lack of respect for the law and rights of others to be found at
30 the top and bottom of the socio-economic scale.
- 31 iii) Additional powers to censor, restrict access to or close public social networking sites beyond
32 existing arrangements are neither justified nor practical.
- 33 iv) The reduction in the provision and funding of Youth and Connexions Services, especially at a
34 time of high youth unemployment, and the increase in gang culture leaves young people more
35 vulnerable to an antisocial way of life.
- 36 v) The imposition of curfews and over-use of dispersals would be counterproductive and breed

emergency motions ballot continued

- 37 resentment among young people.
- 38 vi) The removal of benefits from those involved in the disorder and their families will simply create
- 39 more deprivation and encourage more criminality.
- 40 vii) More needs to be understood about the causes of the riots, and also the actual impact on the
- 41 communities concerned in order to ensure that government responses are based on evidence
- 42 and not knee jerk reaction.

43 Conference also reaffirms its policies outlined in policy paper 96, *Free to be Young*, and policy

44 paper 99, *Taking Responsibility*, which would focus on effective ways of preventing young people

45 from being drawn into gang culture and lead more productive lives.

46 Conference supports the actions taken by the Deputy Prime Minister to:

- 47 a) Establish a Grassroots Communities and Victims Panel to listen to the views of those affected
- 48 by the riots.
- 49 b) Implement a 'riot payback scheme' using restorative justice to make offenders build up their
- 50 local communities and be confronted by those that their offending harmed, and calls for the
- 51 inclusion of people released from imprisonment post-conviction to ensure that as many as
- 52 possible do not re-offend.
- 53 c) To undertake an urgent review of the causes of the riots, together with the implementation of the
- 54 proposed programme of research and community liaison to identify lessons to be learned.

55 Conference also calls for:

- 56 1. The imposition of custodial sentences only where no other sentence is justified but encourages,
- 57 wherever justice permits, the use of non-custodial measures that allow the offender to carry
- 58 out productive work, retain their livelihoods, homes and family ties, and thereby not be driven
- 59 to future reliance on the state.
- 60 2. Recognition of the important work of the Probation Service in promoting rehabilitation,
- 61 especially in the context of the cuts it faces.
- 62 3. The continued separation of politicians and police operational control and for there to be
- 63 stronger checks and balances on any elected police commissioners by locally elected
- 64 representatives than are currently set out in legislation.
- 65 4. A full inquiry into the riots following the publication of the findings of the Grassroots,
- 66 Communities and Victims Panel in Spring 2012 should this be necessary.

Applicability: England and Wales.

Emergency Motion 3: The Detainee Inquiry

Mole Valley

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 a) The motion passed at last year's autumn conference called for the Detainee Inquiry to "ensure
- 3 that both the public and torture victims, in respect of whom the complicity of the Government
- 4 or the Intelligence Services is alleged, can have confidence in the inquiry's thoroughness,
- 5 impartiality and rigour in securing full accountability".
- 6 b) The Protocol for the inquiry, agreed between the Inquiry panel and the Government provides
- 7 that all material provided to the inquiry that has not previously been in the public domain will
- 8 be regarded as secret and not for publication unless a specific application for publication by

emergency motions ballot continued

the Inquiry panel is approved by the Government, that there will be no independent review of such Government decisions and that the final decision on disclosure will be made by the cabinet secretary.

- c) Alleged victims and their lawyers will not be granted special status under the protocol for the inquiry, be able to see secret information relating to their mistreatment, or cross-examine witnesses.
- d) There will be no power for the inquiry to compel witnesses to attend or require documents or other evidence to be produced.
- e) There will be no attempt made to obtain testimony from foreign witnesses.
- f) 10 relevant NGOs, including Amnesty International, have withdrawn from the Inquiry as it has currently been established stating that “the Inquiry simply will not be able to achieve its intended outcome of establishing the truth about the allegations that UK authorities were involved in the mistreatment of detainees held abroad.”

Conference welcomes the focus by the Inquiry on Government policy and the recognition of the need to learn from past mistakes. However, whilst recognising that there will be some information that will have to remain secret in the public interest, conference believes that the list of potential reasons for non-publication of information is currently too broad. Conference reaffirms its belief that justice for the alleged victims and public confidence in the behaviour of the Intelligence Services both require the Inquiry to be independent, thorough and subject to public scrutiny to the maximum extent possible.

Therefore, conference calls on the Government to revise the proposed protocol for the inquiry to

1. Allow the publication of all evidence and material provided to the inquiry unless it falls within clearly defined categories that are tightly drawn and provide for independent review of any decision not to publish.
2. Treat alleged victims as key participants in the inquiry and support them throughout the inquiry with appropriate legal representation at the expense of the inquiry
3. Give the inquiry the power to compel attendance of witnesses and provision of documents and other evidence with criminal penalties for non-compliance
4. Require the inquiry to seek all relevant evidence from parties overseas and to use all appropriate means to secure the participation of such parties.

Irrespective of the outcome in respect of the Detainee Inquiry, conference commits the party to continue to campaign for a transparent, thorough and independent inquiry leading to prosecution of anyone found guilty of wrong-doing and compensation for victims should their claims be substantiated.

Applicability: Federal.

emergency motions ballot paper

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

Pensions	
Responding to the Riots	
The Detainee Inquiry	

Please return this ballot paper to the ballot box in the auditorium of The ICC between 09.00 and 13.00 on Sunday 18th September.

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