



spring conference

agenda and directory

newcastlegateshead 9th–11th march 2012



in government **on your side**



Park

Park Communications provides fast, reliable, high quality printing exclusively for the Liberal Democrats.

- Project Management
- Design
- Litho print production
- Digital print production
- Personalisation
- Fulfilment including sorting for Royal Mail
- Mailing
- Delivery

**To learn more, contact
Richard Fingland on:**

T: 020 7055 6572

E: r.fingland@parkcom.co.uk

Welcome to the *Conference Agenda and Directory* for the Liberal Democrat spring 2012 federal conference – your guide to all that is taking place at conference.

If you have any questions whilst at conference please ask a conference steward or go to the conference **Information Desk**, located on the Concourse of The Sage Gateshead.

conference venue

All conference sessions and fringe events for spring conference will take place in The Sage Gateshead.

The Sage Gateshead
St Mary's Square, Gateshead Quays
Gateshead, NE8 2JR
www.thesagegateshead.org

The conference centre will open at 14.00 on Friday.

There is a map of NewcastleGateshead on the **back cover** and a plan of the venue on **page 16**.

conference hotel

The conference hotel is the Hilton Newcastle Gateshead.

Hilton Newcastle Gateshead
Bottle Bank, Gateshead, NE8 2AR
0191 490 9700
www.hilton.co.uk/newcastlegateshead

For conference details and registration online:

www.libdems.org.uk/springconference

contents

Features:	3–6
Getting on with the job <i>by Nick Clegg MP</i>	3
Join in the renaissance of NewcastleGateshead <i>by John Shipley</i>	5
Be bold and unashamed liberals <i>by Tim Farron MP</i>	6
Conference information:	7–16
Venue and exhibition plan	16
Exhibition	17–20
Fringe guide:	21–29
Friday fringe	22
Saturday fringe	24
Conference training programme	28–29
Agenda:	30–53
Agenda index and timetable	30
Friday 9th March	31
Saturday 10th March	32
Sunday 11th March	47
Autumn 2012 conference timetable	53
Standing orders	54–61
Federal Party	61
Map of NewcastleGateshead	back cover

Scan this to access the
*Conference Agenda and
Directory* online:



ISBN 978-1-907046-45-2

Published by The Conference Office, Liberal Democrats, 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE.

Design and layout by Mike Cooper, mike@mikecoopermcc.co.uk.

Printed by Park Communications Ltd, Alpine Way, London E6 6LA, www.parkcom.co.uk.

Printed on FSC® certified paper. Park is an EMAS certified CarbonNeutral® Company and its Environmental Management System is certified to ISO14001.

Front cover photo by Dave Radcliffe.

the federal conference committee is here to serve you!



Andrew Wiseman,
Chair



Sal Brinton,
Vice Chair



Geoff Payne,
Vice Chair,
English rep



Robert Adamson



Qassim Afzal



Jon Ball



Lucy Care,
FPC rep



Dee Doocey



Susan Gaszczak



Arnie Gibbons



Sandra Gidley



James Gurling,
FE rep



Jeremy Hargreaves,
FPC rep



Linda Jack



Jenni Lang,
Scottish rep



Elgan Morgan,
Welsh rep



Chris Maines



Justine McGuinness



Jo Shaw,
FE rep



Adrian Beavis,
Chief Steward,
co-opted

Ex officio:

Alistair Carmichael MP, Chief Whip.

Tim Farron MP, Party President.

Tim Gordon, Chief Executive (non-voting).

Members of the FCC will be available to give advice about the conduct of conference at the Information Desk in The Sage Gateshead from 9.00 – 12.00 on Saturday and 9.00 – 11.00 on Sunday. FCC members can also be contacted via the Information Desk outside these hours.



getting on with the job

by Nick Clegg

As we meet for our second spring conference in Government in Westminster we have a lot to be proud of as a party.

We have cut income tax for more than twenty million low and middle income earners, delivered billions more to schools targeted at disadvantaged children through the pupil premium, ensured a permanent fair deal for pensioners through the triple lock, introduced the Youth Contract to tackle Youth Unemployment, initiated the green deal to put environmentalism at the heart of government and started meaningful reform to the House of Lords. All things our party has campaigned on for generations; none of which would have happened without us being in government.

Of course there have been huge challenges, and some very difficult decisions. As I have always made clear many of the decisions on public spending have been painful ones. And some are not the choices that a majority Liberal Democrat government would have taken. But it was only by taking these difficult decisions and reaching tough compromises – in conjunction with a party with very different values and beliefs to our own – have we been able to avoid the fate of so many of our European neighbours.

Even the Labour party have now, finally and belatedly, acknowledged that – thanks to the mess they left the country's books in – the government

had no choice but to reduce public spending in order to cut the deficit and balance our books. We gave a commitment that we would not do this on the backs of the poorest but would instead ensure that the rich paid their fair share. We have clearly delivered on this: £10bn bank levy, raising the capital gains tax rate, keeping the 50p income tax band, spending £900m to clamp down on tax avoidance which will raise £7bn, taxing corporate jets, keeping inheritance tax and looking at how we can introduce a General Anti-Avoidance Rule.

At our last spring conference we collectively agreed that we need to ensure that changes were made to the proposed reforms to the National Health Service. That was our internal party democracy at its finest. And I am pleased that the vast majority of



© NewcastleGateshead Initiative

getting on with the job continued

those changes we called for have now been drafted into the Bill. And at this conference we will be debating our policy priorities as a party for the second half of the coalition government in the Mid Term Review process.

We are absolutely right to be discussing the issues of taxation, youth employment, the environment and civil liberties and I look forward to what I'm sure will be passionate debates on these areas. I am confident that as a coalition government we will make further real strides forward in all of them.

The elections this May will be challenging ones; there is no hiding from that. But I hope that in Scotland, Wales, London and the other parts of

England with local elections that we make sure that we get out there – deliver the leaflets, knock on the doors and make the telephone calls – to tell our story of what we have done, both nationally and locally.

Every day we are making our country a fairer and more liberal nation, let's make sure the British people know it.

Nick Clegg



The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP is Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister

Every day we are making our country a fairer and more liberal nation

Have the Tyne of your Life

**Liberal Democrat Spring Conference:
NewcastleGateshead, 9-11 March 2012**

There's something happening every day in NewcastleGateshead; from world-class music and concerts, carnivals and performances to sporting events that stir the soul. Old and new, the city's permanent fixtures including the ancient town walls and castle keep, fabulous shopping malls and boutiques, and the waterfront bars, restaurants and galleries in the famous Quayside area, are attractions in themselves.

Make the most of your visit with a
Discover Pass

available for FREE on arrival at the conference. Find out about the Discover Pass and its fantastic money-saving offers on eating and drinking, shopping, attractions and entertainment at www.discoverpass.co.uk

To plan your visit to NewcastleGateshead go to www.NewcastleGateshead.com or come and see us at the tourist information desk on **stand 100**.




NewcastleGateshead
north east
england

join in the renaissance of NewcastleGateshead

by John Shipley

Welcome to our 2012 spring conference at The Sage Gateshead. We are delighted that the North East is hosting this spring conference and we wish everyone a productive weekend with us.

NewcastleGateshead has undergone a remarkable renaissance in recent years and The Sage Gateshead stands at the heart of this. With the transformation of the Baltic Flour Mill nearby to a Centre for Contemporary Art – which has just hosted the Turner Prize – and with the magnificent Gateshead Millennium Bridge linking both sides of the river for pedestrians, the River Tyne has once again become a vibrant place for residents and visitors.

We hope you will be able to find time to walk around the two sides of the river and to see some of the sights. You could cross the High Level Bridge built by Robert Stephenson in 1849 with its two levels and come back across the Swing Bridge built by Lord Armstrong. Visit Seven Stories, the national Centre for the Children's Book, in the Ouseburn Valley or feel the history around All Saints' Church where Newcastle's medieval street patterns are still visible.

Don't forget to pay homage to Earl Grey at the top of Grey Street for the 1832 Reform Act and try to drop in to the Castle Keep and the Black Gate at the end of the High Level Bridge. Over the centuries, Newcastle and Gateshead have embraced change. Wool and coal, ships and railways,

heavy engineering and glass have all been at the heart of our manufacturing and export trade.

Today, despite all the problems with our national economy, the North East has a positive balance of trade and there is a confidence here in our ability to adapt and to innovate in renewable energy, biomedical research, electric vehicles and the digital industries.

The success of our cultural regeneration with major investment in our museums, theatres, galleries, cinemas and libraries has attracted world attention. Our conference at The Sage Gateshead will enable us to be part of this achievement.

NewcastleGateshead is very compact and easy to get around. You can walk to most places or use the Metro. For The Sage Gateshead, the low-emission QuayLink yellow buses depart frequently from both the Central Station and Haymarket.

Enjoy your stay!



Lord John Shipley was a Newcastle City Councillor for 34 years and Leader of the Council from 2006 to 2010



be bold and unashamed liberals

by Tim Farron MP

This is a special moment – being able to welcome you to Gateshead and the North East as President of our party.

I spent my formative years just over the river in Newcastle both studying and pounding the pavements for the Lib Dems. I learnt everything I know from people like John (now Lord!) Shipley and the team in the city. I learned from them that boosting membership is important, that keeping in touch is vital and that making sure you are the voice of your community is key.

These are lessons that many of us put into practice every day. Sadly many colleagues either side of the River Tyne, and across the country, paid a heavy price last May. But this must be the moment when we draw the line. Lets agree that this conference is the point where the party's fight back starts! And with your help it will be.

In 2011 our Liberal Democrat ministers in government lifted nearly a million low paid workers out of paying income tax altogether and cut taxes for 23 million people on lower incomes, we brought in the pupil premium and guaranteed a decent increase in the state pension. We must now look forward to delivering even more in government.

We talk a lot about the 75% of our manifesto that appears in the coalition agreement and is being delivered, but most people across the North East and across Britain as a whole, don't decide how they will vote based on these kinds of details. They decide how to vote based on how they feel about particular parties or candidates.

Let's not get stuck into a Gordon Brown-style recital of lists of achievements, let's focus instead on communicating a message of competence in government that Labour cannot match, coupled with a genuine compassion and commitment to fairness that the Tories will not match. And above all, lets be bold and unashamed about being liberals – whether it's standing up for a mature and sensible relationship with our European partners, defending the Human Rights Act or pressing relentlessly for a democratically elected House of Lords.

If people decide how to vote based on 'gut-feeling', then let's ensure that the popular gut feeling in your area is that the Liberal Democrats are best placed to serve your community. And we achieve this by sticking very closely to our community politics creed.

Community politics must never be about one person bands, it's about building a team to make a difference – and that is why increasing our party membership is so important. No one will sell our message if we don't do it – each of us needs to take responsibility for recruiting people to the Lib Dems, either for the first time or winning back those who were once members of our party.

Finally, a big thank you for giving me the honour to serve you as your President. If I can help in any way during the conference or if you have any comments, have a bright idea or want to have a chat please come and say hello!



Tim Farron is MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale and is President of the Liberal Democrats

No one will sell our message if we don't do it

SITA UK – PROUD RECYCLING SPONSOR OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS’ SPRING CONFERENCE 2012

Our purpose is to protect our environment
by putting waste to good use

Help us to reduce the carbon footprint of this event by recycling **paper**, **cardboard**, **cans** and **plastic** at your recycling points throughout the venue.

Last year during the autumn conference in Birmingham, we recycled over 1.5 tonnes of materials. With your help, we hope to recycle even more in 2012.



WWW.SITA.CO.UK

conference information

General information about this year's spring conference is listed below in alphabetical order.

The main conference sessions will take place in the auditorium in **Hall 1** of **The Sage Gateshead** – see *venue and exhibition plan* on **page 16**. Conference fringes and training sessions will also take place within The Sage Gateshead – see *fringe guide* on **pages 21–29**.

If you have any questions at conference, please ask a conference steward or go to the conference **Information Desk** located on the **Concourse**, on the ground floor of The Sage Gateshead.

accommodation

Accommodation can be booked via our local partner, Newcastle Gateshead Convention Bureau.

**www.conferencebookings.co.uk/
delegate/NGILIBDEMS2012**
telephone: 0191 440 5763

auditorium

The auditorium is in **Hall 1** of The Sage Gateshead – see *venue and exhibition plan* on **page 16**.

For information about conference sessions in the auditorium see *motions to conference* on **page 9** and *speeches and interventions* on **page 12**.

In order to vote, representatives must be seated on the ground floor of the auditorium.

Please note that flash photography is frequently used in the auditorium.

You must ensure that all mobile phones are switched off before entering the auditorium.

cloakroom

Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into The Sage Gateshead.

There is a complimentary cloakroom on the **Concourse** of The Sage Gateshead.

conference daily

Conference Daily will be published on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th March. Please make sure you collect your copy, as the information it contains will always be vital to understanding the day's business.

disabled access

If you need assistance at the venue, please contact a conference steward via the **Information Desk** or our disabled access steward Robert Littlehailes on 07712 667702 or **rlittlehailes@aol.com**.

Services For The Blind And Visually Impaired

A range of electronic versions of the Conference Agenda and Directory and policy and consultation papers are available for download online. These include PDF files, plain text files for blind computer users and clear print versions (designed in line with RNIB guidelines). Download from the conference papers page at: www.libdems.org.uk/springconferencepapers

If you are unable to access the Internet and would like any files emailed or posted to you, contact the Conference Office on 020 7227 1350 or at conferences@libdems.org.uk

For clear print copies of any papers whilst at conference (eg. Conference Daily), ask at the Information Desk.





© NewcastleGateshead Initiative

Auditorium facilities

- Space for wheelchair users on the ground floor of the auditorium.
- A wheelchair lift at the front of the stage; the chair of the session will ensure wheelchair users are called in plenty of time to access the stage.
- An induction loop system, which can be linked to hearing aids.
- Sign language interpretation during all auditorium sessions; a number of seats are reserved for representatives using this service, at the front of the auditorium to the left of the stage.
- Reserved seats at the front of the auditorium for those who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual impairment.

Mobility aids

The Liberal Democrats have a limited number of electric scooters, wheelchairs and walkers available for use around The Sage Gateshead. They are free of charge and available on a first-come, first-served basis and will need to be returned each evening. To request the use of an electric scooter, wheelchair or walker, email conferences@libdems.org.uk or contact the Information Desk at conference.

distribution of literature

Distribution of literature is not allowed inside or directly outside The Sage Gateshead. Excessive distribution of promotional literature is not in line with the party's environmental policies. Any persons attempting to bring a large number of fliers into the conference centre may be prohibited from entering and a dilapidation charge will be levied against any organisation or individual responsible for 'fly-posting'.

first aid

In the event of needing First Aid assistance, please approach a conference steward or go to the **Information Desk**. The stewards will arrange for First Aiders to attend and/or request a paramedic.

information desk

The **Information Desk**, where members of the Conference Team can answer your questions, is located on the **Concourse** of The Sage Gateshead and is open as follows:

Friday	9th March	14.00 – 18.30
Saturday	10th March	08.30 – 18.30
Sunday	11th March	08.30 – 13.30

email: conferenceinformation@libdems.org.uk
telephone: 0191 443 5161

left luggage

A left luggage facility will be available at the **Jurys Inn NewcastleGateshead** on **Sunday 11th March between 08.00 and 15.00**. A small charge will apply which is being donated to the British Heart Foundation.

motions to conference

Applicability of motions

The Federal Conference makes policy for the Federal Party. However, the English Party has 'passed up' responsibility for policy-making to the Federal Party in all areas and the Welsh Party for some areas. The applicability of each motion is shown in the *agenda* on **pages 30–53**.

Amendments and emergency motions

All motions on the agenda are open to amendment.

Emergency motion debates are debates with a vote, which make formal party policy like any other policy motion, but which refer to a development since the **11th January** deadline for motions.

Amendments and emergency motions must be signed by 10 voting representatives, or submitted by local parties, State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisations or Federal Party Committees.



© Newcastle Gateshead Initiative

The deadline for amendments and emergency motions is **13.00 on Tuesday 6th March**; they should be sent to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to motions@libdems.org.uk, or by post to 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE. Please download a form from www.libdems.org.uk/springconferencepapers.

Submitters of amendments are encouraged to include a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment; and to use our drafting advisory service.

The deadline for advice on draft amendments and emergency motions is **13.00 on Tuesday 22nd February**; to motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk.

Emergency motions may be the subject of a priority ballot among voting representatives. The poll will be held, if necessary, between **09.00 and 13.00 on Saturday 10th March**; ballot papers and the ballot box will be available at the **Speakers' Table** in the **auditorium**. If there is a simple choice between two motions, a card vote will be held in the **auditorium** at **11.35 on Saturday 10th March**.

The amendments and emergency motions accepted for debate and/or for the ballot will be detailed in Saturday's *Conference Daily*.

Appeals

Appeals against the non-inclusion of emergency motions and amendments should:

- be no longer than one side of an A4 sheet;
- give a contact name and telephone number;
- include a copy of the original motion/amendment

- to which they relate; and
- specify the justification for the appeal and provide new information of which the Conference Committee was unaware when it made its original decision.

Appeals must be signed by the original drafting contact for the relevant item. The deadline for appeals is **09.00 on Saturday 10th March**; by email to motions@libdems.org.uk.

Separate votes

Requests for separate votes on parts of motions may be submitted by any voting representative.

Requests for separate votes must be submitted in writing to the **Speakers' Table** in the auditorium by the commencement of the first conference session on the **day before** the debate is scheduled. For debates scheduled for the first day of conference, they must be submitted by the deadline for emergency motions and amendments; to motions@libdems.org.uk.

Topical issues

Topical issue discussions, unlike other conference debates, will not make party policy, but are intended to allow representatives and spokespeople an opportunity to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference, where it might be premature to move to formal policy-making.

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any voting representative by the deadline for emergency motions and amendments to motions@libdems.org.uk. Emails should include full contact details of the submitter and may include up to 100 words explanatory background. The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should not include an expression of opinion. For example, 'The Chaos on the Railways' would be acceptable, 'The Chaos on the Railways can be solved by Renationalisation' would not.

The topical issue to be discussed is chosen by officers of the Federal Conference Committee and Federal Policy Committee and will be detailed in Saturday's *Conference Daily*.

The person submitting an issue that has been chosen will be expected to speak for five minutes to introduce the discussion. The relevant Parliamentary spokesperson will be invited to respond. At the end



conference information continued

of the discussion, a member of the Federal Policy Committee will sum up and suggest any further actions.

The slot at **F19** is reserved for emergency motions or topical issues.

passes

If you have lost your conference photo pass, visit on-site registration at **The Jurys Inn Newcastle Gateshead** to arrange a re-print. A replacement fee of £25 applies and photo passes are reissued at the discretion of the Registration Manager.

prayer and meditation room

A multi-faith prayer and meditation room is located in **MEC 15** in The Sage Gateshead.

question sessions

Question and answer session

There will be a Q&A session with the party leader at **F12**. Any voting or non-voting representative may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) on any relevant topic, and, if selected by the chair of the session, will be asked to put the question from the **intervention microphone** in the auditorium.

Questions may be submitted on a card collected from and returned to the **Speakers' Table** in the auditorium no later than **13.00 on Saturday 10th March**, or by email to questions@libdems.org.uk up until **17.00 on Thursday 8th March**.

Supplementary questions may be asked by other voting or non-voting representatives to follow up the original question. Anyone wanting to ask a supplementary question must sit on the **ground floor of the auditorium**, and should put their hand up when asked to do so; if chosen, they will be passed a hand-held microphone.

Questions to reports

Any voting representative can submit a question to any of the reports of the Federal Committees and the Parliamentary Parties, included in the separate reports document.

The deadline for questions to the reports of the Federal Committees is **13.00 on Tuesday 6th**

March. Questions should be sent to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to questions@libdems.org.uk, or by post to 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE. Please download a form from www.libdems.org.uk/springconferencepapers.

Questions will be detailed in Saturday's *Conference Daily*.

Questions on events occurring after the **6th March** deadline may be submitted on speaker's cards at the **Speakers' Table** up until **one hour before the start of the session**.

The deadline for questions to reports of the Parliamentary Parties (**F16**) is **18.00 on Saturday 10th March**. Concise questions (maximum 25 words), on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the UK or European Parliaments, may be submitted on a form collected from and returned to the **Speakers' Table**. The chair will select which questions will be asked during the session.

recycling facilities

Recycling facilities for paper, plastic and cans have been kindly provided by SITA throughout The Sage Gateshead. Please make use of the collection bins.

refreshments

Hot and cold snacks and a wide variety of beverages are available on the **Concourse**. The Conference Office has worked closely with the professional catering team at The Sage Gateshead to ensure that representatives can enjoy a wide variety of good food at reasonable prices.

registration on-site

On-site registration is available to representatives who have yet to register or need to query their registration; located in **The Jurys Inn Newcastle Gateshead** (see *map of Newcastle Gateshead* on **back cover**) and open at the following times:

Friday	9th March	13.00 – 18.30
Saturday	10th March	08.30 – 17.30

At busy times you may experience queues at on-site registration and we strongly advise all those wishing to attend conference to pre-register via www.libdems.org.uk/springconference.

security and safety

Access to The Sage Gateshead is possible only with a valid, visible conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard and conference photo passes must be worn visibly at all times within The Sage Gateshead. Anyone found in the secure area without a valid pass will be escorted from the building.

Everyone will be subject to an 'airport type' search process at the entry point. This will include metal detecting archways and physical search by security staff of bags and packages. Boxes and packages should be unsealed wherever possible.

Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into The Sage Gateshead. Any bag left unattended will be brought to the attention of the police and may be removed and/or destroyed.

In order to ensure your process through the security measures is as quick as possible please only bring essential items with you into the conference venue. Please allow time for security check queues during key times – particularly after lunch and ahead of popular events.

The Liberal Democrat Party has received and accepted advice from Northumbria Police regarding security measures for the spring conference 2012. These measures have been agreed and put into place to ensure, as fully as possible, the safety of everyone attending the conference, as well as the residents and employees surrounding the venue.

Northumbria Police thank you for your patience and co-operation.



speeches and interventions

For information about eligibility to speak and submitting a speakers card, see *speaking in conference debates* on **page 14**.

Speakers cards can be collected from the **Speakers' Table** located at the front of the auditorium, from the auditorium steward overseeing your block or from the **Information Desk**. They can be returned to any of these locations.

The time allowed for speeches is shown against each motion in the *agenda* on **pages 30–53**. Interventions are limited to one minute each.

There are three lights on the **speaker's rostrum** and visible either side of the stage. The green light is switched on at the beginning of the speech. The amber light is switched on 60 seconds before the end of the allowed time (20 seconds before the end of an intervention). The red light is switched on when all the time is used up, and the speaker must stop immediately.

Interventions

Interventions give representatives the opportunity to make concise (one-minute) speeches from the floor during the debate. There will be interventions during debates **F5, F7** and **F20**.

Those wishing to speak during interventions should complete the form available from a steward in the auditorium. Speakers will be chosen by the Chair by random ballot, and called to the **intervention microphone** on the ground floor of the auditorium.

transport and travel

Bus

Quaylink buses run frequently during the day and directly serve The Sage Gateshead. The Quaylink Service 1 (Q1) starts from both Newcastle Central Station and Gateshead Interchange. It takes 10 minutes from Central Station to The Sage Gateshead.

Quaylink information can be found at:

www.nexus.org.uk/quaylink

Parking

The Sage Gateshead has its own car park with lift access directly behind the building. Charges apply.



conference information continued

There are a number of free priority spaces for blue badge holders. Further car parking is available within two to fifteen minutes walk of The Sage Gateshead, in Gateshead and Newcastle centres.

Rail

Newcastle Central train station is around a mile from The Sage Gateshead, Quaylink buses run between the two (see above).

If assistance is required at Newcastle Central Station, please contact your train operator so help can be given at each stage of the journey.

Taxi services

A free phone to Dean Taxis is available next to the **Information Desk** on the Concourse. Alternatively they can be contacted on 0191 444 4 444. The firm have a range of wheelchair-accessible vehicles available.

venue

Venue details can be found on **page 1** and a plan of the venue on **page 16**.

voting status and voting / non-voting passes

You will only be able to register as a voting representative if:

- **Voting representatives:** An officer of your local party has informed Membership Services that you have been elected as a voting representative. This can be done by visiting <http://mdo.libdems.org.uk> or by email to membership@libdems.org.uk.

- **Substitute voting representatives:** An officer of your local party has informed Membership Services that you are a substitute elected by your local party Executive after a voting representative has informed them that s/he is unable to attend.

In order to be issued a voting pass for this conference this information must have been received by **31st January 2012**.

If you have received a non-voting pass and believe you are a voting representative, the officer who submitted the original list of voting representatives will need to contact Membership Services – voting status cannot be changed over the phone.

Membership Services
8–10 Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AE
email: membership@libdems.org.uk
telephone: 020 7227 1335

wifi

Free wifi is available in public areas of The Sage Gateshead.



Please visit our website and social media throughout conference for the most up-to-date news and information

libdems.org.uk
facebook.com/libdems
flickr.com/libdems
twitter.com/libdemconf
<http://bit.ly/LDgoogleplus>
youtube.com/libdem



© Manny Begum

speaking in conference debates

Debates are the heart of federal conference: they're where the party sets its policy and decides its future direction. Unlike in the other parties, the Liberal Democrat conference is sovereign, and what it decides really matters.

Three categories of people are entitled to speak in debates at conference:

- Voting representatives (or substitutes), elected by their local parties or appointed ex-officio who have paid their full registration fee.
- Non-voting representatives who have paid their full registration fee (this does not include day visitors).
- Persons who have been given permission to speak by the Federal Conference Committee.

No other person may be called to speak in debates, including during interventions.

Anyone who wishes to speak must complete a speaker's card.

There are three key points to remember to maximise your chances of being called:

1 submit your card well in advance

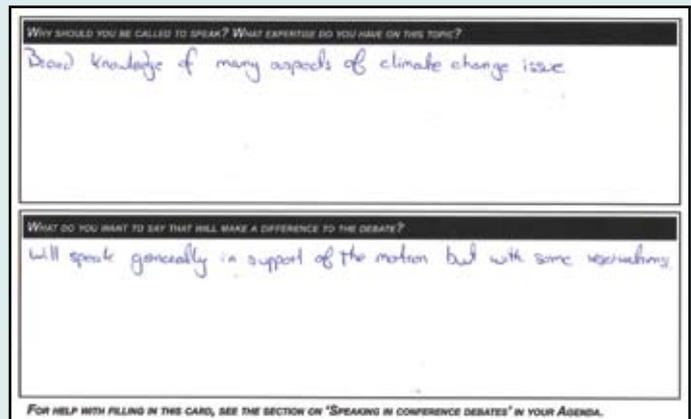
If you hand your card in late, in a popular debate you're virtually guaranteeing you won't be called. The chair and aide team for the debate always meet well in advance to plan the debate – sometimes the previous day.

2 fill in your card completely

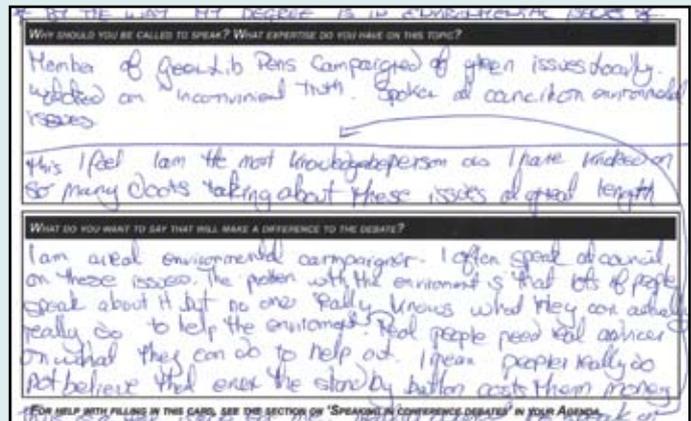
The second major mistake potential speakers make is not to fill in their card completely. As well as the information on the front of the card (name, local party, for or against the motion, etc.), there are two sections on the back, for relevant background (professional or consumer experience, party background, etc.) and for a brief outline of what your speech is going to be about.

These sections are needed for the chair and aide to balance the debate – to make sure that people with relevant experience are called (not necessarily to the exclusion of others, but professional or user backgrounds are always valuable), and to make sure that they don't call a whole string of people who'll make the same point.

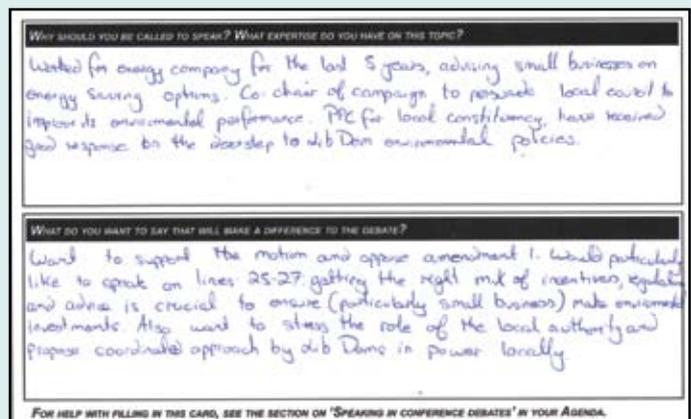
The wrong way to fill in a speaker's card (1): no useful information



The wrong way to fill in a speaker's card (2): too much information, but mostly neither helpful nor easily readable!



The right way to fill in a speaker's card: clear, concise, to the point, and probably different from anyone else's



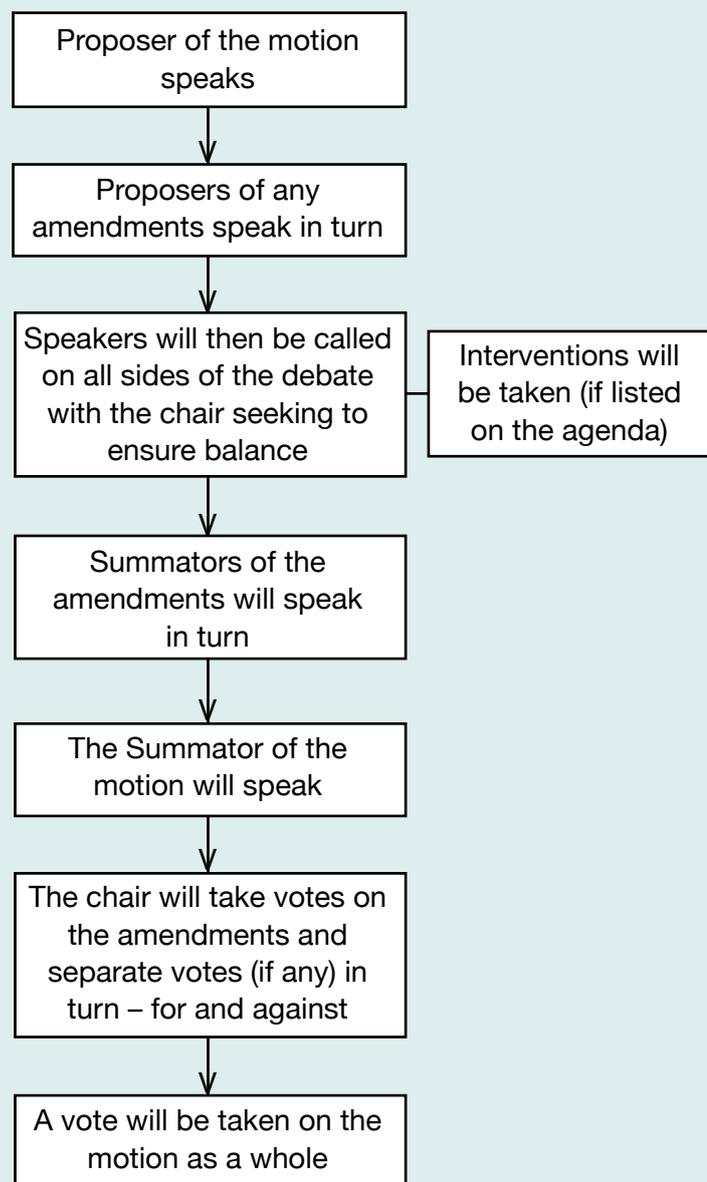
3 make sure it's readable!

Don't take this as an invitation to fill every square centimetre of the card; and don't write illegibly, or in very small letters, or in green ink ... the easier you make it for the chair and aide to read your card the more likely you will be to be called.



the order of debate at conference

Policy and business motions: generally, conference will consider a motion in the following way:



Voting: decisions on the motion, on amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting.

Separate vote: any voting representative can submit a request for a separate vote – for procedure and deadlines see **page 10**. When a separate vote is taken, the chair shall ask conference to vote on whether to delete or retain the specified words or section.

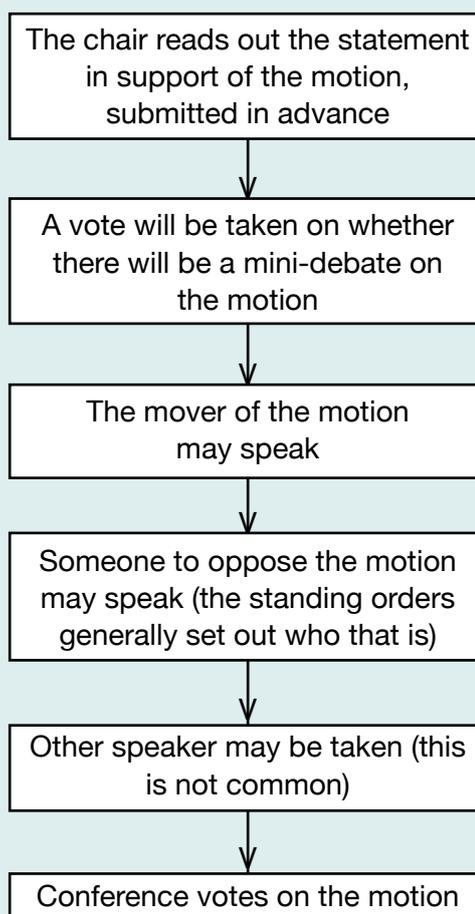
Counted vote: the chair of the session may decide that a vote is so close that it needs to be counted. Alternatively, if any voting representative wants a counted vote, they may request one from the floor; if fifty other voting representatives stand and show their voting cards in support, a count will be taken.

Procedural motions concern the procedure by which conference operates. They are:

- Reference back (to stop debate and send the motion to a specified body for more work);
- Next business (to stop debate and move to the next item of business on the agenda);
- Suspension of standing orders (to lift one or more of the rules governing the operation of conference).

They may be submitted by voting representatives in writing at the Speakers' Table together with a statement of reasons of 75 words or less.

They generally work in the following way (there are some exceptions – see Standing Orders on page 54 for specific guidance):

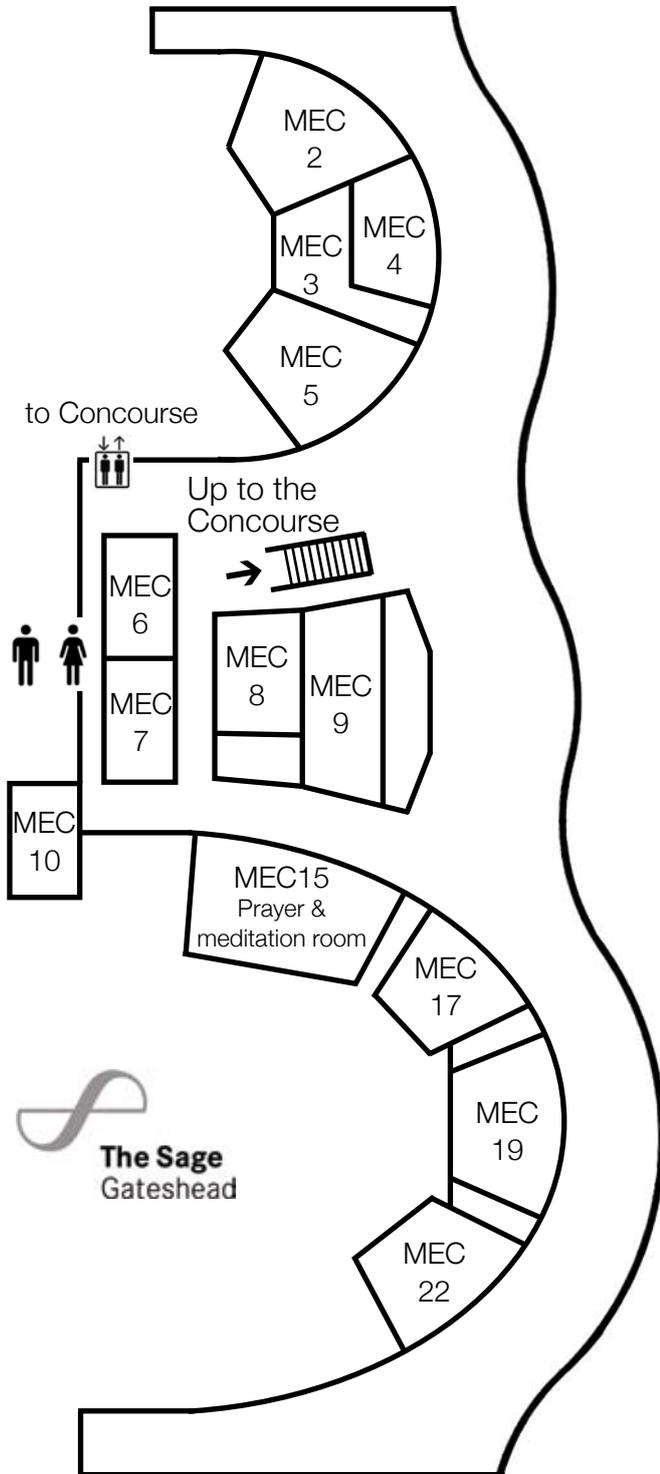


Voting: decisions on procedural motions are made by simple majority of those voting, except for the suspension of standing orders, which requires the support of two-thirds of those voting.

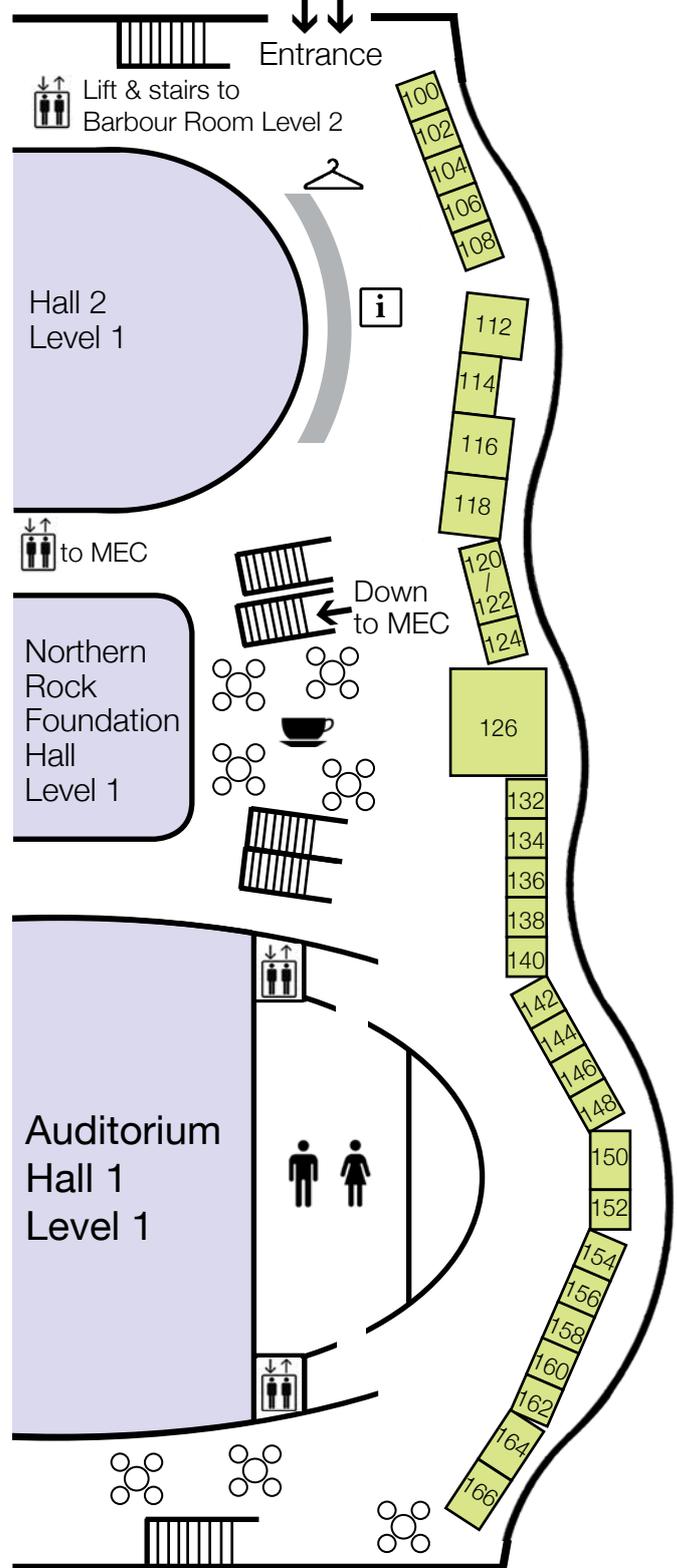
venue and exhibition plan

The Sage Gateshead

MEC (Level -1)



Concourse (ground floor)



Plans diagrammatic and not to scale

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------|--------------|---|
| Information Desk | Lift | Catering | Exhibition stand – for key to stand numbers see page 17 |
| Cloakroom | Stairs | Seating area | |
| Toilets | | | |



the exhibition

The exhibition is located in the **Concourse** on the ground floor of The Sage Gateshead. For a plan of the exhibition, see the *venue and exhibition plan* on **page 16**.

Exhibition opening times:

Friday	9th March	14.00 – 18.30
Saturday	10th March	08.30 – 18.30
Sunday	11th March	08.30 – 13.30

exhibitors listed by stand number

Stand	Exhibitor
100	NewcastleGateshead Tourist Information
102	North East of England Liberal Democrats
104	VisitBrighton
106	Humanist and Secular Liberal Democrats
108	Airport Operators' Association
112	Riso UK Ltd
114	Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers
116	Carillion
118	Local Government Association Liberal Democrats
120/122	Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors
124	Campaign for Gender Balance
126	Liberal Democrat Image
132	Women Liberal Democrats
134	Parliamentary Candidates Association
136	Liberal Youth
138	ALDES – Engineers and Scientists
140	Liberal Democrat History Group
142	CentreForum
144	Liberal Democrat Education Association
146	Prater Raines Ltd
148	EMLD
150	ALTER
152	Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association
154	Liberal Democrat Christian Forum
156	Agents and Organisers Association
158	Green Liberal Democrats
160	Liberal Democrat Disability Association (LDDA)
162	<i>Liberator</i>
164	LGBT+ Liberal Democrats
166	Liberal Democrat European Group



Packed Lunch Bags
Available throughout the conference for just £5.00
FREE FRUIT WITH ALL SANDWICHES PURCHASED



25% off Draft Beer and House Wine
Celebrate the start of the conference
5.00pm - 5.30pm Friday 9th March



The Sage Gateshead
www.thesagegateshead.org

Breakfast : Michael Straker Cafe 7am - 11.30am
Serving Northumberland Sausage & Bacon Stotties, Home Baked Pastries, Fruit and Freshly Ground Coffee

Lunch : Michael Straker Cafe 12noon - 3pm
Serving Home made Soup of the Day, Carved Roast Sandwiches, Daily Chef Specials, Fresh Baguettes, Panini's and Flat Breads plus much more!

Lunch : Brasserie 12noon - 3pm
We will be offering an express lunch service in our Brasserie - 2 course £9.95, three course £12.95

Afternoon Tea : Michael Straker Cafe & Brasserie 3pm - 5pm
Afternoon Tea for two £9.95 - served in the Cafe or Brasserie

Dinner Service : Michael Straker Cafe & Brasserie 5pm - 9pm
Offering a wide range of Home Cooked Fresh Food

Late Service
Cafe will be open until the building closes offering late night snacks



Afternoon Treat
Enjoy a Home made Tray Bake or Scone with a pot of Tea or Filter Coffee for just £2.95
FILTER COFFEE £1.00



Late Night Cocktail Bar
Visit the Cocktail Bar on Hall 2 and also enjoy late night snacks in the cafe on Saturday 10th March

Conference Catering at
The Sage Gateshead
Iconic Venue, Iconic Food

directory of exhibitors

Stand 156

Agents and Organisers' Association



Advice, support and advocacy for all election agents and organisers. Come and meet us, get your questions answered, and get your hands on an *Agents' Manual!*

Stand 108

Airport Operators' Association



The AOA is the voice of UK airports. Our vision is a vibrant airport sector which can maintain sustainable growth, to meet the social and economic needs of the UK.

www.aoa.org.uk

Stand 138

ALDES – Engineers and Scientists

Information on technical issues from windfarms to hydrogen. We're a network of scientists, engineers and technicians within the Liberal Democrats. Any interested party member can join.

www.aldes.org.uk



Stand 150

ALTER

ALTER, the party's economic special interest group with a focus on sustainable tax. Discover more about the next generation 'Green Switch' here.



Stand 120/122

Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors



Democrat Councillors

ALDC represents councillors and provides advice, information and resources for all councillors, candidates and activists. Visit us for resources, advice, publications and to join if you're not yet a member.

www.aldc.org

Stand 124

Campaign for Gender Balance

The Campaign exists to support and encourage potential women parliamentary candidates. It provides training, mentoring and development opportunities for women throughout the approval and selection process.

www.genderbalance.org.uk



Stand 116

Carillion

Employing 50,000 people throughout the UK, Canada, Middle East and North Africa, Carillion is a leading sustainability and support services company with capabilities to provide integrated solutions for complex projects.

www.carillionplc.com



Stand 142

CentreForum CENTRE:FORUM

CentreForum is the liberal think tank. It provides an independent, free thinking forum for new ideas and progressive debate.

www.centreforum.org

Stand 148

EMLD

An SAO established to develop the education, participation and representation of ethnic minorities within the party.

<http://ethnic-minority.libdems.org/en>



Stand 158

Green Liberal Democrats

The Green Liberal Democrats (GLD) are one of the party's largest membership organisations and the voice for environmental sustainability. This year's stand theme is Feeding the Future.

www.greenlibdems.org.uk



Stand 106

Humanist and Secular Liberal Democrats

The organisation for Liberal Democrats who think that humanism and secularism need a louder voice within the party and across the UK. Join our meetings here in NewcastleGateshead.

Stand 114

Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers

A chartered professional body, licensed by the Engineering Council, serving a range of gas professionals in the UK and abroad through membership, events and a comprehensive set of technical standards.

www.igem.org.uk



Stand 164

LGBT+ Liberal Democrats

Actively campaigning on Equal Marriage and other issues, we are the party's body for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans people. Learn about our policy and campaign work, and join us!

www.delga.org.uk



Stand 126

Liberal Democrat Image

Liberal Democrat Image supplies election and campaign items to party members all year round. Visit our stand to stock up for 2012 or order online at:

www.libdemimage.co.uk



Stand 154

Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

LDCF is the Christian voice in the party, and the voice of Liberal Democracy amongst Christians. We support and encourage Christians in their constructive work in politics.

www.ldcf.net



Stand 152

Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association

Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association is the link between the party and those in, or interested in, the justice system and justice for all. New members welcome.

www.libdemlawyers.org.uk

Stand 136

Liberal Youth

Liberal Youth is the student and youth wing of the Liberal Democrats.

www.liberalyouth.org



Stand 160

Liberal Democrat Disability Association (LDDA)

Raising awareness, understanding and support of people with disabilities, within and outside the Liberal Democrats. Championing disabled and able-bodied advocates' opinions and the positive opportunities available to the party and society. RECRUITING MEMBERS!! All supporters and carers welcome.

disabilitylibdems.org.uk



Stand 162

Liberator

Liberator provokes new ideas and challenges old ones. Our unrivalled *RB* works to shine light on the dark corners of the party. Rounded off with the unmissable Lord Bonkers.

www.liberator.org.uk



Stand 144

Liberal Democrat Education Association

Publications and information available. Visit our stand to exchange and share ideas concerning education issues with members, who will be on hand to provide information about the LDEA.

<http://libdemeducationassociation.org.uk>



Stand 118

Local Government Association Liberal Democrats

We work with Liberal Democrat councillors, parliamentarians and ministers to provide a national voice for Lib Dems with an interest in local government. Come and visit us at stand 118.

www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk



Stand 166

Liberal Democrat European Group

We stimulate debate on European issues by working with our MEPs, publishing *Eurofile* and holding fringe meetings. We play a full role in European policy formation through our links with ELDR.

Stand 100

NewcastleGateshead Tourist Information

Visit the tourist information desk for details of local restaurants, bars, attractions, shops and entertainment, or for maps and advice on the best way to get around NewcastleGateshead.

www.NewcastleGateshead.com

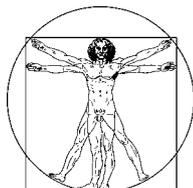


Stand 140

Liberal Democrat History Group

The past illuminates the present. Subscribe to the *Journal of Liberal History*. Buy our new book, *Peace, Reform and Liberation: A History of Liberal Politics in Britain 1687-2011*.

www.liberalhistory.org.uk



directory of exhibitors *continued*

Stand 102

North East of England Liberal Democrats

Get welcomed to the region with the largest Lib Dem constituency and one of the best regional Lib Dem votes. Offer help in elections this spring, or just enter a competition.

www.northeastlibdems.org.uk

Stand 134

Parliamentary Candidates Association

The PCA stand offers candidates and would-be candidates the opportunity to catch up on the latest news and gossip about the selection process. Membership forms and Who's Who are available!

www.libdempca.org.uk



Stand 146

Prater Raines Ltd

Learn more about the Foci2 campaign system. Fast, secure, reliable website with feeds, email, Facebook, Twitter and petition campaigning in one place. The complete online tool for Liberal Democrat campaigners.

www.praterraines.co.uk



Stand 112

Riso UK Ltd

Latest Riso printer options on display for production of party documentation in single, two and full colour at lowest possible print costs and fastest possible turnaround times.

www.riso.co.uk



Stand 104

VisitBrighton

VisitBrighton look forward to welcoming you back to our city in September.

Come and visit us to book your hotel accommodation and find out all that Brighton has to offer.

www.visitbrighton.com



Stand 132

Women Liberal Democrats

WLD influences policy and campaigns on issues that impact on women in the UK and worldwide. We encourage and support women to be active at all levels in the party.

conference sponsors

SITA UK

SITA UK is a leading recycling and resource management company. We deliver solutions to 12 million people and over 42,000 businesses across the UK, helping our customers to reduce the impact of their waste on the environment. Headquartered in Maidenhead, we operate in over 300 locations throughout the UK, and employ over 6,000 people.

www.sita.co.uk



welcome pack

NewcastleGateshead Convention Bureau is kindly providing a welcome pack to be included in each conference pack. In this welcome pack you will find all the information you need to make the most of your visit to the region.

The pack includes:

- Pocket guides to NewcastleGateshead and Durham
- Discover Pass – providing a range of special offers and discounts at attractions in the North East
- Competition card – providing the chance to win £250
- Postcard – featuring the world-famous Angel of the North



fringe guide

All fringe meetings at spring conference will take place in The Sage Gateshead, see *venue and exhibition plan* on **page 16**.

Access to The Sage Gateshead is possible only with a valid, visible conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard.

All fringe meetings are wheelchair-accessible.

key to fringe listings



Refreshments provided



BSL signer provided



Hearing loop provided



By invitation only

twitter

During conference weekend 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

party training

Department of
Elections & Skills

**Free training sessions
for party members**

Free training events for party members are taking place at conference, on **Saturday 10th March between 09.15 and 17.30** in **The Sage Gateshead**. For details, see the *conference training programme* on **pages 28–29** or go to **www.libdems.org.uk/springconferencepapers**

Ministerial Q&A sessions

There will be a series of Ministerial Q&A sessions at spring conference.

Conference representatives can come along and ask questions of our Ministers on the issues relating to their responsibilities and their departments – a fantastic opportunity to find out more about what our Ministers are up to.

These sessions are very popular and places are limited so please arrive early to avoid disappointment.

Priority will be given to party members.

All sessions will take place in the
Northern Rock Foundation Hall, The Sage Gateshead

At the following times:

11.00 – 12.00 Saturday 10th March

16.30 – 17.30 Saturday 10th March

09.00 – 10.00 Sunday 11th March

Please see Saturday's Conference Daily for details.

fringe friday 9th march

friday early evening 18.30 – 19.30

conference rally: meeting the challenge

Friday 9th March, 18.30 – 19.30, The Sage Gateshead, Hall 1.



Photo © Alex Folkles



Photo © National Assembly for Wales

The spring conference rally will mark the official launch of our new member recruitment campaign, *Meeting the Challenge*.

Speakers include Nick Clegg, Tim Farron, Simon Hughes and Kirsty Williams, as well as some new talent from the Candidate Leadership Programme.

in government on your side

Get your May 3rd Election materials from us while you're at conference or order in advance on 01252 510005 or e-mail info@libdemimage.co.uk and collect over the weekend Liberal Democrat Image stand 126



Rosettes, Tellers pads, Posters, Badges, Focus bags, Clothing, Clipboards and much more.



friday mid evening 20.15 – 21.30

Social Liberal Forum

Multinationals: Paying their fair share of tax
Should Liberal Democrats promote corporate taxation within the deficit reduction strategy? Panel discussion of tax avoidance and a Robin Hood tax. With: Lord Oakeshott; David Babbs, 38 Degrees; Richard Murphy, Tax Justice Network; and Max Lawson, Oxfam. Chair: Daisy Cooper.
The Sage Gateshead, Hall 2

Liberal Democrats Parliamentary Candidates Association

PCA Members' Drinks Reception
Come and catch up with fellow PCA members over a glass of wine and chat to our guests: Nick Clegg; new Party Chief Exec Tim Gordon, himself a former candidate; and Lorely Burt, chair of the parliamentary party.
The Sage Gateshead,
Northern Rock Foundation Hall



Liberal Democrat Education Association

Fringe Event and Annual General Meeting
The AGM will be followed at 8.45pm by a feedback session led by Baroness Joan Walmsley, Joint Chair of the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Committee for Education, Families and Young People, on the recent work of the Committee. Chair: Andrew Bridgewater.
The Sage Gateshead, MEC 2



Liberal Democrat History Group

Winston Churchill: Tory or Liberal?
'I am an English Liberal. I hate the Tory Party, their men, their words and their methods.' Winston Churchill wrote this in 1903; at heart did he later remain a Liberal?
Speakers: Professor Martin Pugh and Sir Alan Beith MP.
The Sage Gateshead, MEC 6

ALDC

Beating Labour Locally
Leading local and national campaigners present and discuss how we fight Labour at the local level. **Strictly party members only.** Drinks provided.
The Sage Gateshead, MEC 7



CentreForum and Baxi Partnership

John Lewis or Esop's Fable
Is greater employee ownership the future for the UK economy? Speakers: Edward Davey MP, Minister for Employment Relations, and others.
The Sage Gateshead, MEC 8



CentreForum

Is all fair in tax and age?
Should better-off pensioners pay more tax and receive fewer benefits? Speakers will include a senior parliamentarian.
The Sage Gateshead, MEC 9



The Green Liberal Democrats

The Green Book Sessions: Food
The first in a series of free-ranging discussions to inspire Liberal Democrat policy to be greener. This session will focus on developing our food policy. Speakers: Andrew George MP and representatives of FairFood International and the Soil Association.
The Sage Gateshead, MEC 10



ALDES: Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists

The UK Space Industry: An Unsung Success Story
A panel discussion about high-tech satellite manufacturing in the UK space industry, its recession-beating success, and what's needed from government to support its future. Invited panel: Vince Cable MP; Simon Wright MP; Richard Peckham, Astrium; and other leading space experts.
The Sage Gateshead, MEC 19



friday late evening 22.00 – 23.15

Local Government Association Liberal Democrat Group

Council Group of the Year Awards 2012
Recognising the very best in local government, the LGA Lib Dem Group of the Year Awards illuminate the stars in the local government galaxy. Expect big names and tearful acceptance speeches to municipal fanfare.
The Sage Gateshead, Barbour Room



fringe saturday 10th march

saturday morning 08.15 – 08.45

Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

Morning Praise

Join us to start the day with prayer. Everyone welcome.
The Sage Gateshead, MEC 17

saturday lunchtime 13.00 – 14.00

Social Liberal Forum

Corporate Pay: Earning their fair share

What can be done to tackle bonus culture and workplace inequality? How can Liberal Democrats revive industrial democracy? Speakers: Deborah Hargreaves, Chair, High Pay Commission; Lord Smith of Clifton; and David Hall-Matthews, Chair, Inequality Policy Working Group. Chair: Lord Newby.
The Sage Gateshead, Hall 2

IPPR North (The Institute for Public Policy Research)

Rebalancing the Economy: Is it working?

IPPR North will host Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander MP at this lunch-time panel debate which will explore current progress being made towards a key government aim to rebalance the economy. Ed Cox, Director of IPPR North will chair the discussion; other speakers are tbc. A buffet lunch will be served.
The Sage Gateshead,
Northern Rock Foundation Hall



visitBrighton
www.visitbrighton.com

See you in Brighton

A successful, dynamic conference destination, Brighton combines an enviable seaside location with a vibrant city atmosphere. For sea with a summer sparkle and superb sunsets, amazing shops, glorious gastronomy, an extraordinary royal palace, arts and culture galore plus a cornucopia of accommodation, just VisitBrighton.

VisitBrighton is delighted to have been appointed the official accommodation provider for the Autumn Conference & the team can book your accommodation

needs in any of the leading brand, budget, boutique, traditional or smaller hotels.

You can book your accommodation **right now** by visiting us on **Stand 104** or visit: **www.conferencebookings.co.uk** (Event Ref: BTNLDAC2012)

We all look forward to welcoming you back to Brighton in September and for more information on our great city visit: **www.visitbrighton.com**

saturday lunchtime 13.00 – 14.00 continued

ALDC

Public Health – Local Control

Paul Burstow MP, Minister of State for Health; David Buck from the Kings Fund and others discuss what opportunities and dangers lie ahead for Public Health under local government control.

The Sage Gateshead, Barbour Room



South East England Liberal Democrats

Campaigning to Save School Transport

Two-thirds of Councils are cutting school transport. This is bad for child safety, education, working parents, the environment and businesses who will suffer greater congestion. Hear more about the issue, with Antony Hook and other speakers.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 2

Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats

Air Passenger Duty Hike: Impact on BME Communities and the British Economy

Discussion on what effects APD will have on BAME communities and the wider British Economy when introduced in April 2012. Speakers: rep from Airport Operators Association; HE Anthony Johnson, Jamaican High Commissioner; James Jennings, Vice-Chair EMLD. Chaired by Issan Ghazni.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 5

Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine

Is There a Future for the Arabs in Israel?

A close look at Israel's treatment of its Arab minority. Speakers to be confirmed.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 6



Liberal Youth

Youth Unemployment: Is there a liberal answer?

With youth unemployment rising over a million for the first time and Nick Clegg announcing the Youth Contract, what more can Liberal Democrats in Government do? Have your questions answered by our panel of MPs, experts and young people.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 7



Northern Housing Consortium (NHC)

How can Liberal Democrat housing policy meet the needs of the North?

Join us to discuss how the party's review of housing policy can best meet the diverse needs of northern England. Invited speakers include: David Ward MP; Tim Leunig, LSE; and Lord John Shipley. Chair: Jo Boaden, Chief Executive, NHC.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 8



CentreForum and The Post Office

The Post Office – a Community Resource

Speakers: Edward Davey, Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs; and Kevin Seller, Post Office. Chair: Richard Kemp.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 9



Women Liberal Democrats

Social Care? Is this just Women's Work?

Come and enjoy a lively debate on the effect the White Paper could have on women as workers and as carers. Speakers from NGOs and local and national government. Full details from WLD stand.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 10

Liberal Democrat Council Group Leaders

Fighting back against Labour

Councils run well by the Liberal Democrats were lost to Labour last May. Group leaders from York, Newcastle, Sheffield and Warrington will lead a discussion on fighting back – on the doors, in the media, on the council.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 19



Action on Land Taxation and Economic Reform

AGM and Launch of Liberal Insight paper on progressive tax reform

ALTER President: Chris Huhne; and Vice Presidents: Vince Cable, Ed Davey and Adrian Sanders are invited.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 22



**promote your organisation
or event at conference**

You can promote your organisation, event or message to thousands of conference-goers by taking advertising space in *Conference Daily*, issued to all attendees each day at conference.

For more information about *Conference Daily* and how to advertise in this or other conference publications at future conferences, see

www.libdems.org.uk/advertising.aspx or visit the **Information Desk** in The Sage Gateshead.

saturday early evening 18.15 – 19.30

Social Liberal Forum and Liberator

Economic 'Plan C': Towards a fair share

The Social Liberal Forum unveils its ideas for a fairer, more sustainable economic policy. Presented by Dr Prateek Buch, with responses from: Vince Cable, Business Secretary (tbc); Will Hutton, Work Foundation, (tbc); and Tony Dolphin, IPPR (tbc). Chair: Paula Keaveney.

The Sage Gateshead, Hall 2

CentreForum and LGA Liberal Democrat Group

Community Politics Reloaded

Speakers: Tim Farron MP; Mark Hunter MP; Richard Kemp; and Isabel McCall, Milton Keynes. Chair: Chris Nicholson.

The Sage Gateshead, Barbour Room



National Energy Action

Local action for warmer, greener homes

The Green Deal provides a huge opportunity to improve energy efficiency standards. Local authorities and communities have a critical role and can help us prioritise services to low-income and vulnerable households. Speakers: Jenny Saunders, NEA; Cllr David Faulkner; Baroness Maddock.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 5



Liberal Democrat Christian Forum and Humanist & Secular Liberal Democrats

When Freedoms Collide: Is Freedom of Religious Expression Under Threat in Britain?

'When the right to religious beliefs comes into conflict with other rights, where should the balance lie?' Joint meeting. Chairman: Lord Mike German. Speakers: Baroness Sal Brinton; Julian Huppert MP; Baroness Sarah Ludford; Lord Roger Roberts.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 6

Yorkshire and Humber Region Liberal Democrats

Championing the North: Liberal Democrats' approach in Local Government, Westminster & Brussels

Edward McMillan-Scott MEP, Yorkshire & Humber; joined by: Cllr Kath Pinnock, Group Leader, Kirklees Council; David Ward MP, Bradford East; Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed, Group Leader, Sheffield Council; and Ian Swales MP, Redcar; in a discussion on championing the North.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 7



Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association

Tesco Law: A Threat to access to justice?

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 8

Diabetes UK

Future Trends and Treatment in Diabetes

Diabetes already takes 10% of the NHS budget and the incidence of both types is increasing. Professor Roy Taylor from Newcastle University will talk about the effects of a low-calorie diet, which suggests a future treatment for Type 2.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 9



Berwick Lib Dems

See Me, Save Me: campaigning for safer roads locally, nationally, in Europe

The See Me, Save Me Campaign works to improve road safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Hear about work being done to improve road safety and how to get involved. Speakers: Fiona Hall MEP; Sir Alan Beith MP; campaigner Kate Cairns.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 10



University and College Union

Film screening and reception 'College Inc'

College Inc uncovers what happened in the US when for-profit companies entered the higher education sector. Many of these companies are planning access to public subsidies here. Join us at a drinks reception to share your views on for-profits.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 19



The Green Liberal Democrats

Have a Positive Impact: Announcing the Regional Rep Programme and Policy Panel

Party members are invited to become more closely involved in making Liberal Democrat policy even greener. This workshop will launch the two initiatives. Space will be limited, but do drop in to find out about them and show your interest.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 22



saturday mid evening 20.00 – 21.15

Liberal Left

Liberal Left: A Future for Lib Dems Opposed to the Coalition

Speakers: Dr Jenny Tonge, House of Lords; Linda Jack, Federal Policy Committee; Professor Richard Grayson, Lib Dem Director of Policy 1999–2004; Professor Stephen Haseler, Global Policy Institute. Chair: Cllr. Ron Beadle, PPC Newcastle North 2010.

The Sage Gateshead, Hall 2

Liberal Democrat European Group

Europe: Reform, Democracy, the Coalition and the Scottish Independence Referendum

What needs to change about European democracy? What does Europe mean for the coalition? And for Scotland's future? Speakers: Jo Swinson MP; Sir Graham Watson MEP; Andrew Duff MEP; Professor Michael Steed. Chair: Kay Barnard.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 8

Yorkshire and the Humber Liberal Democrats

Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Reception

Members and Friends of Yorkshire and the Humber Region are invited to meet the Regional team, find out about latest developments in the region and just catch up with each other.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 10

The Green Liberal Democrats

The Green Book Sessions: Energy

A free-ranging discussion to inspire ideas to make Liberal Democrat energy policy even more ambitious in progressing the sustainability agenda. Speakers: Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP and Juliet Davenport, CEO Good Energy.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 19



saturday late evening 21.30 – late

North East Region Liberal Democrats

Music from the host region to enjoy before the Glee Club!

Come and listen to musicians from the North East performing just ahead of the Glee Club.

Note: this event ends at 22.30

The Sage Gateshead, Hall 2 Foyer

Glee Club

Pick up a copy of the *Liberator Songbook* so you can raise the roof, with songs from the days of Gladstone and Lloyd George to satirical songs from 20 years of the Liberal Revue. Cash Bar.

Note: this event starts at 22.00 and ends at 02.00

The Sage Gateshead, Hall 2

glee club

Where? **Hall 2, The Sage Gateshead**

When? **Saturday 10th March,
10pm to 2am**

Join us for the ultimate end-of-conference celebration!

Along with the cash bar there will be a glee cocktail bar and late night nibbles available from the café.

Pick up your copy of the *Liberator Songbook* and come and 'raise the roof'!



**The Sage
Gateshead**

conference training programme

Training courses will take place in the MEC on the lower level of The Sage Gateshead. Training courses are for party members only and an appropriate conference photo pass must be shown for entry.

Saturday 09.15 – 10.45

If you don't ask you don't get

For approved & potential candidates, this session will help you identify what resources are necessary for a successful campaign, help you find different ways to secure those resources and give you the confidence to make the "ask". *Competencies covered: Communication skills, Leadership, Values in Action.* Paul Trollope & Judith Jolly, Candidates' Office (Elections & Skills).
MEC 2, The Sage Gateshead

Winning in the last week

All the things you need to do in the last week to make sure that you win! *Competencies covered: Values in Action, Resilience.* John Bridges, ALDC.
MEC 6, The Sage Gateshead

Workshop on May 2012 elections (Invitation only)

ALDC.
MEC 7, The Sage Gateshead

Introduction to agenting

Simon Drage & Neil Walton, Agents & Organisers Association.
MEC 8, The Sage Gateshead

Social media in the local elections

Competencies covered: Communication skills, Values in Action. Austin Rathe, Elections & Skills & Simon Cooper, Digital Content
MEC 9, The Sage Gateshead

Campaigning on your local record for 2012 & 2013

Competencies covered: Communications skills, Strategic thinking & judgement. Shaun Roberts & Adam Stachura, Elections & Skills.
MEC 10, The Sage Gateshead

Connect Committee Room

Learn how to run polling day with Connect. The Connect Team, Elections & Skills.
MEC 17, The Sage Gateshead

Planning & winning your selection campaign (Women only)

An essential guide to all aspects of running an effective selection campaign for women who are hoping to stand as candidates in this electoral cycle. *Competencies covered: Strategic thinking & judgement, Leadership, Communication skills.* Candy Piercy, Campaign for Gender Balance, Elections & Skills.
MEC 19, The Sage Gateshead

Getting your young Lib Dems active

Advice and an opportunity to ask questions about how to engage young people in your area with Lib Dem activities. *Competencies covered: Representing people, Values in Action.* Cllr Peter May (for Liberal Youth).
MEC 22, The Sage Gateshead

Saturday 11.00 – 12.30

Think People! – Engaging with your team

Delivered by leading training consultancy Eliesha Training, this bite-sized session will provide candidates and campaign managers with practical tools to help you gather and analyse information about what is individually important to the people in your team, allowing you to adapt your leadership style and maximize team performance. *Competencies covered: Communication skills, Leadership.* Julie Steel & Aled Evans, Candidates' Office (Elections & Skills) and Eliesha Training.
MEC 2, The Sage Gateshead

Elected Mayor Referendum (Invitation only)

ALDC.
MEC 6, The Sage Gateshead

Making the most of the Localism Act

Implications and opportunities of using the Localism Act. *Competencies covered: Strategic thinking & judgement.* Cllr Howard Sykes (for ALDC).
MEC 7, The Sage Gateshead

Staying out of jail 1

Basic election law. Andrew Garner & Richard Marbrow (for Agents & Organisers Association).
MEC 8, The Sage Gateshead

So you want to be a strategic seat?

Competencies covered: Values in action. Dave McCobb & Victoria Marsom, Elections & Skills.
MEC 9, The Sage Gateshead

Connect Q&A

Come along and get answers to your questions about Connect. The Connect Team, Elections & Skills.
MEC 10, The Sage Gateshead

Connect Committee Room

Learn how to run polling day with Connect. The Connect Team, Elections & Skills.
MEC 17, The Sage Gateshead

Writing and delivering a fabulous hustings speech (Women only)

Advice and tips on giving hustings speeches – useful for any potential candidates who will be involved in hustings or any kind of speech giving. *Competencies covered: Communication skills.* Candy Piercy, Campaign for Gender Balance, Elections & Skills.
MEC 19, The Sage Gateshead

A beginners guide to Membership Data Online

Billi Williams & Jonathon Steen, Membership Department.
MEC 22, The Sage Gateshead

conference training programme continued

Saturday 14.30 – 15.45

Introduction to...the selection rules

The essential session for any candidates or members who want to find out more about the new twin-track approach to candidate selection and how the role of the Returning Officer and the way in which candidates can campaign has changed. Sal Jarvis, Margaret Joachim & Tamsin Hewett, English Party & Candidates' Office (Elections & Skills).

MEC 2, The Sage Gateshead

Winning the postal vote campaign

What you need to do to make sure you win as many Postal Votes as possible. *Competencies covered: Strategic thinking & judgement, Values in Action.* Simon Drage & John Bridges (for ALDC).

MEC 6, The Sage Gateshead

Promoting local growth

Dealing with the economy in your council. Dave Hodgson (for ALDC).

MEC 7, The Sage Gateshead

What to do at the count

Paul Trollope & Danny Langley (for the Agents & Organisers Association).

MEC 8, The Sage Gateshead

A winning election strategy

You probably know how many votes you need to win, but have you thought about how to get them?

We'll show you how to use data to scientifically build a winning strategy. *Competencies covered: Strategic thinking & judgement.* Austin Rathe, Elections & Skills & Andrew Stunell MP.

MEC 9, The Sage Gateshead

Campaigning in opposition

Practical ways to present a strong alternative to voters in your area. *Competencies covered: Strategic thinking & judgement, Values in Action.* Shaun Roberts & Adam Stachura, Elections & Skills.

MEC 10, The Sage Gateshead

Connect Committee Room

Learn how to run polling day with Connect. The Connect Team, Elections & Skills.

MEC 17, The Sage Gateshead

Political career development session (New Generation members only)

No matter what stage you are at, come along and get some individual expert advice on planning and progressing your political career. Whether you are thinking about becoming a councillor, standing for a party committee, becoming an MP, or just want to raise your profile, our experts are here to help.

Overview of all competencies. Diversity Unit, Elections & Skills.

MEC 19, The Sage Gateshead

Getting your young Lib Dems active

Advice and an opportunity to ask questions about how to engage young people in your area with Lib Dem activities. *Competencies covered: Representing people, Values in Action.* Cllr Peter May (for Liberal Youth).

MEC 22, The Sage Gateshead

Saturday 16.00 – 17.30

Introduction to... becoming an approved candidate

The essential session for anyone who is not currently an approved candidate and who is interested in finding out more about the approval process, or going forward for approval in the future. *Competencies covered: An overview of all competencies.* Sal Jarvis & Maddy Pite, Candidates' Office (Elections & Skills).

MEC 2, The Sage Gateshead

Effective squeeze

What is your squeeze message and how to use it to its best effect. *Competencies covered: Communication skills, Strategic thinking & judgement.* Richard Cole (for ALDC).

MEC 6, The Sage Gateshead

Running an effective polling day

How to run an effective polling day to give you as many votes as possible to make you win.

Competencies covered: Values in Action. Paul Trollope (for ALDC).

MEC 7, The Sage Gateshead

Staying out of jail 2

Advanced election law. Andrew Garner & Richard Marbrow (for the Agents & Organisers Association).

MEC 8, The Sage Gateshead

Using Connect from now until polling day

Jake Holland & Austin Rathe, Elections & Skills.

MEC 10, The Sage Gateshead

Connect Committee Room
Learn how to run polling day with Connect. The Connect Team, Elections & Skills.

MEC 17, The Sage Gateshead

Whose vote are you missing? Campaigning with diverse communities

Advice and examples on how to reach out and engage with ethnically diverse communities in your local area. *Competencies covered: Representing people, Values in Action.* Anood Al-Samerai & Dave McCobb (for the Diversity Unit, Election & Skills).

MEC 19, The Sage Gateshead

Everything you need to know to be a Membership Officer

Billi Williams & Dave Page, Membership Department.

MEC 22, The Sage Gateshead

Department of 
Elections & Skills

agenda index and timetable

Friday 9th March		<i>Page</i>
14.00	Conference centre opens	
15.00 – 17.30	Consultative sessions: Housing; Mutuels, Employee Ownership and Workplace Democracy; Sustainable Prosperity and Jobs	31
18.30 – 19.30	Conference rally	
20.15 – 23.15	Evening fringe	
<hr/>		
Saturday 10th March		
09.00 – 09.05	F1 Formal opening of conference by Fiona Hall MEP	32
09.05 – 09.20	F2 Report: Federal Conference Committee	32
	F3 Report: Federal Policy Committee	32
09.20 – 10.20	F4 Policy motion: Europe	32
10.20 – 11.15	F5 Policy motion: <i>Giving Young People a Future</i> (Policy Paper on Combating Youth Unemployment)	34
11.15 – 11.35	F6 Speeches: Brian Paddick and Caroline Pidgeon AM (London)	36
11.35 – 12.45	F7 Policy motion: Making Tax Fairer	36
13.00 – 14.00	Lunchtime fringe	
14.15 – 15.10	F8 Constitutional amendment: Support For A Government Which Contains Other Political Parties	39
15.10 – 15.15	F9 Standing order amendment: Support For A Government Which Contains Other Political Parties	40
15.15 – 15.35	F10 Speech: Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP	40
15.35 – 16.20	F11 Policy motion: The Greenest Government Ever	41
16.20 – 17.00	F12 Question and answer session: Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP	43
17.00 – 17.40	F13 Policy motion: Public and Private Sector Pensions	44
17.40 – 18.00	F14 Report: Federal Executive	46
	F15 Report: Federal Finance and Administration Committee	46
18.15 – 02.00	Evening fringe	
<hr/>		
Sunday 11th March		
09.00 – 09.20	F16 Reports: Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats	47
09.20 – 09.30	F17 Report: Diversity and Engagement Group	47
	F18 Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	47
09.30 – 10.00	F19 Emergency motion or topical issue	48
10.00 – 10.45	F20 Policy motion: Trusted, Professional and Effective: British Policing at its Best	48
10.45 – 11.45	F21 Policy motion: Civil Liberties	50
11.45 – 13.00	F22 Speech: Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister	53
13.00 approx	Close of conference	



friday 9th march

15.00 Consultative sessions
– 17.30

Housing

Barbour Room
The Sage Gateshead

Chairs: Martin Tod and Richard Kemp
Rapporteur: Bess Mayhew

Mutuals, Employee Ownership and Workplace Democracy

MEC 19
The Sage Gateshead

Chair: Chris Nicholson
Rapporteur: Rachael Clarke

Sustainable Prosperity and Jobs

MEC 9
The Sage Gateshead

Chair: Duncan Hames MP
Rapporteur: Jenny Stammers

Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than full-scale conference debates for conference representatives and other party members to participate in the party's policy- and decision-making process. Each session examines a particular topic and hears contributions from party members and in some cases outside speakers.

Each session will be organised by the relevant Policy Working Group. The conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final policy papers.

Conference rally: Meeting the Challenge

Friday 9th March, 18.30 – 19.30,
The Sage Gateshead, Hall 1.

See page 22 for details.

Scan this to access the
consultation papers and
policy papers online:



saturday 10th march

09.00 Party business

Chair: Tim Farron MP, President of the Liberal Democrats
Aide: Linda Jack

F1 Formal Opening of the Federal Conference by Fiona Hall MEP for the North East of England, Leader of the Liberal Democrat European Parliamentary Party

09.05 Party business

Chair: Cllr James Gurling
Aide: Qassim Afzal

F2 Federal Conference Committee Report

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 11. Questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 08.50 on Saturday 10th March.

F3 Federal Policy Committee Report

Mover: Norman Lamb MP (Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 11. Questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 08.50 on Saturday 10th March.

09.20 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Arnie Gibbons
Aide: Lucy Care

F4 Europe

Islington

Mover: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)
Summation: Dr Julie Smith

- 1 Conference deeply regrets the approach adopted by UK Prime Minister David Cameron at the
- 2 December 2011 European Council meeting, and believes that it:
- 3 I. Overturned fifty years of policy of government of all colours, aimed at preventing the
- 4 emergence of a two-speed Europe with the UK in the slow lane, by voluntarily putting the
- 5 UK into this category.



saturday 10th march continued

- 6 II. Risks thereby directly removing British influence over major decisions in the EU which have
7 a huge impact on the UK, for example in the economic governance of our largest trading
8 market.
9 III. Did nothing to protect particular British interests such as in the financial services market.
10 IV. Seriously imperilled British influence in Europe and thereby in the wider world.

11 Conference believes that:

12 A. The best way of promoting the interests of the British people is by working closely with other
13 European countries.

14 B. This applies especially in areas where the interests of British people differ little from the
15 interests of other European citizens, such as:

- 16 i) Protection of the environment, and being at the forefront of global efforts to limit climate
17 change.
18 ii) Many aspects of defence and security.
19 iii) The promotion of a fair and open international trade system.
20 iv) The promotion of basic human rights and democracy across the world.

21 Conference however believes that the European Union needs widespread and extensive reform,
22 and endorses long-standing and extensive party policy setting out proposals for this, such as in
23 our manifesto for the 2009 European elections and policy papers 87, *Shaping our World Through*
24 *a Strong Europe* (2008), and 56, *Future of Europe* (2003).

25 Conference therefore calls for:

26 1. Greater democratic accountability and control of the institutions of the EU.

27 2. In particular, that in future the democratic choice made by the people in the European
28 elections, next due in 2014, should be the basis for appointing the President of the European
29 Commission.

30 3. Respect for the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

31 4. An end to the deeply wasteful and unnecessary maintenance of a second seat of the
32 European Parliament in Strasbourg.

33 5. Sufficient effective oversight of EU funds spent by national governments to ensure that audit
34 opinion of the EU's accounts does not need to be qualified.

35 6. The UK to play a constructive role in the EU and build alliances with others to:

- 36 a) Drive forward an ambitious jobs, growth and reform agenda.
37 b) Support moves for European security and defence.
38 c) Promote greater flexibility in management of fisheries.
39 d) Promote completing the internal market in financial services.
40 e) Support moves to tackle climate change.
41 f) Argue for further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), to move away from
42 subsidy of agricultural production and towards incentivising environmental protection
43 and resource efficiency.

- 44 7. The Liberal Democrats to continue to argue consistently for Britain to play a full part in the
45 EU, and to work with our sister parties in other countries and the European institutions to
46 promote these goals.
- 47 8. The fiscal compact treaty to be integrated with the European Union.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speeches and interventions' on page 12 and 'speaking in conference debates' on page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments and emergency motions' on page 9 and 'separate votes' on page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

10.20 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Chris Maines
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

F5 Giving Young People a Future (Policy Paper on Combating Youth Unemployment)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Jenny Willott MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Work and Pensions)

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference condemns the disproportionate impact the economic downturn has had on young
2 people.
- 3 Conference is concerned that youth unemployment, which rose by nearly 75% under Labour
4 between 2001 and 2010, is still increasing, and that young people face barriers to employment
5 which have a significant impact on their life chances.
- 6 Conference is also concerned that youth unemployment disproportionately impacts on people
7 from poorer and BAME communities, those with disabilities, young offenders and young people
8 leaving care.
- 9 Conference believes:
- 10 I. A growing economy, which creates new jobs, is vital for tackling youth unemployment.
11 II. Young people need to have the skills and opportunities to find meaningful employment.
12 III. All career options, including higher education, apprenticeships and on-the-job training
13 should be treated as equally valid.
14 IV. The education system should prepare young people for a full and active part in adult society
15 and enable them to make informed choices about their future.



saturday 10th march continued

16 Conference welcomes the Coalition Government's intervention to combat youth unemployment
17 and its commitment to place young people at the heart of its growth strategy through:

- 18 i) Providing opportunities for nearly half a million young people with the £1bn Youth Contract.
- 19 ii) Creating jobs through a £30bn investment in infrastructure and supporting young
20 entrepreneurs with a £10m Innovation Fund and the New Enterprise Allowance.
- 21 iii) Supporting vocational education, including creating 163,000 extra apprenticeships.
- 22 iv) Ensuring face-to-face careers advice for young people with Special Educational Needs or
23 from low income backgrounds.

24 Conference endorses policy paper 103, *Giving Young People a Future: Policies on Combating*
25 *Youth Unemployment*, and its key priorities to:

- 26 A. Extend the Youth Contract.
- 27 B. Support young entrepreneurs.
- 28 C. Give young people the opportunity to develop their skills once they have left school.
- 29 D. Ensure schools provide high quality careers guidance and mentoring.
- 30 E. Act to prevent schools failing young people who end up not in employment, education or
31 training (NEET).

32 Conference calls for further action to deliver these priorities, including to:

- 33 1. Extend the Youth Contract into the next spending review period so that the protection it
34 offers remains in place, and permanently retain the guarantee for 18 year-olds to ensure all
35 young people leaving school at 18 enter training, education or work within one year.
- 36 2. Support young entrepreneurs through prioritising start-up loans and mentoring for young
37 people under the New Enterprise Allowance, and ensuring the major banks compensate for
38 their failure to lend to young entrepreneurs by funding the development of the community
39 banking sector, which is often better able to support local enterprise.
- 40 3. Give young people more opportunities to develop their skills by:
 - 41 a) Providing loans towards living costs and additional childcare support for 18–24 year-
42 olds on the first year of an apprenticeship programme, funded by both businesses and
43 government.
 - 44 b) Increasing the number of 'higher level' apprenticeships, which provide the best
45 chances of future employment and ensuring wide availability of 'foundation level'
46 apprenticeships.
 - 47 c) Undertaking a review of the effectiveness of Jobcentre Plus in meeting the needs of
48 young people.
 - 49 d) Ensuring that when a young person first claims Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA),
50 their Jobcentre Plus adviser assesses their 'life' and 'employability' skills, such as
51 presentation, communication and customer service, and provides help on improving
52 these skills to those that need it most.
 - 53 e) Enabling jobseekers to volunteer for more than 16 hours per week without losing
54 financial support and encouraging employers to ensure volunteering or work experience
55 schemes are properly mentored and include training opportunities.
 - 56 f) Allowing 'rapid reclaim' of benefits for young people moving off JSA for 12 months to
57 reduce the uncertainty in making the first step into employment.

saturday 10th march continued

- 58 4. Improve careers guidance and mentoring for young people at school, enabling them to
59 make informed choices by:
- 60 a) Providing age-appropriate careers advice from age 10–11 and face-to-face careers
61 advice for all from age 13–14, as recommended in the Hughes Report.
- 62 b) Enabling students to undertake good quality work experience and entrepreneurial
63 projects.
- 64 c) Encouraging companies to work with pupils whilst still at school to support them
65 through their studies and develop ‘school leaver’ programmes similar to graduate
66 training schemes.
- 67 d) Supporting schools to form partnerships with former pupils, local businesses and
68 further education providers to provide mentoring for pupils.
- 69 5. Allow local authorities to class a school as ‘underperforming’ when too high a proportion of
70 its leavers become NEET and to intervene appropriately.

Applicability: Federal, except 3 a) and b) (lines 41–46), 4 (lines 58–68) and 5 (lines 69–70), which are England only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see ‘speeches and interventions’ on page 12 and ‘speaking in conference debates’ on page 14.

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. See ‘speeches and interventions’ on page 12.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See ‘amendments and emergency motions’ on page 9 and ‘separate votes’ on page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday’s Conference Daily.

11.15 Speech

Chair: Qassim Afzal
Aide: Justine McGuinness

F6 Speeches by Brian Paddick and Caroline Pidgeon AM (London), Liberal Democrat Candidates for Mayor and Deputy Mayor of London

11.35 Policy motion

Chair: Baroness Doocey AM (London)
Aide: Jo Shaw



F7 Making Tax Fairer

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Stephen Williams MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on the Treasury)

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference believes that the taxation system should be progressive and proportionate and that it
2 should in particular ensure that:

- 3 I. Those earning the lowest wages are not disadvantaged by working.
4 II. Wealthy individuals and businesses make their fair contribution, as part of a tax system that
5 seeks to reduce inequality and fund public services and national infrastructure.

6 Conference recognises that the UK finds itself in a period of unprecedented economic uncertainty
7 given the current global economic position and that economic activity needs to be supported.

8 Conference therefore welcomes the actions of the Coalition Government in:

- 9 i) Raising the income tax Personal Allowance to £8,105 for 2012/13, lifting over 1.1 million
10 people out of tax altogether, and providing a tax cut for 25 million people.
11 ii) Prioritising this progressive measure over Conservative Manifesto proposals to raise the
12 inheritance tax threshold to £1m for the benefit of just the richest 2% of all estates.
13 iii) Introducing a bank levy that raises £2.5bn in each and every year of the Parliament,
14 compared with Labour's one-off bonus tax that raised just £2.3bn.
15 iv) Limiting the amount of tax relief on pension contributions for the highest earners, which will
16 raise over £4bn per year by the end of the Parliament.
17 v) Raising the Capital Gains Tax rate to 28% for higher rate taxpayers.
18 vi) Cracking down on tax avoidance and evasion, by investing £900m that will bring an extra
19 £7bn in tax each year by the end of the Parliament.
20 vii) Tackling the abuse of non-domicile status by UK residents by increasing the annual levy
21 to be paid by those non-domiciled individuals who have been resident for 12 years to
22 £50,000.

23 Conference calls for further action in lifting the lowest paid out of taxation altogether, and
24 supporting UK economic activity and UK employment by:

- 25 A. Raising the Personal Allowance to £10,000 as set out in the Coalition Agreement as quickly
26 as possible, and in the longer term as resources allow raising it to the level implied by full-
27 time work on the minimum wage and ensuring that it remains linked to minimum wage.
28 B. Ensuring that the tax system supports SMEs and new businesses throughout the country
29 as the Government continues to rebalance the economy away from an overdependence on
30 financial services, for example through National Insurance incentives for small businesses.
31 C. Ensuring that action to tackle the record deficit inherited from Labour continues to be taken
32 fairly by ensuring that those with the broadest shoulders continue to make the largest
33 contribution.

34 Conference also calls for the following immediate steps to ensure that wealthy individuals and
35 businesses pay their fair share of tax and to help fund the proposals above, including:

- 36 1. Introducing a 1% annual levy on the value of the property that exceeds £2m for residential
37 properties (uprated periodically for house price increases) with a deferral mechanism for

saturday 10th march continued

- 38 those who may be asset-rich but income-poor; we anticipate that less than 0.1% of people
39 would be affected by this tax.
- 40 2. Further limiting tax relief for payments into pension funds, which currently offers the greatest
41 benefit to higher rate tax payers.
- 42 3. Further action to tackle tax avoidance, through:
- 43 a) A General Anti-Avoidance Rule aimed at transactions for which the sole commercial
44 purpose is the avoidance of tax.
- 45 b) Reduction of stamp duty avoidance including by the use of companies to hold UK
46 property.
- 47 c) Ensuring that those non-domiciled individuals who have been UK resident for 7 out
48 of the last 10 years are subject to tax on all offshore income in the same way as UK
49 domiciled British citizens.
- 50 4. Arguing through international bodies for a global Financial Transaction Tax.
- 51 Conference resolves that the wealthy and those with the very highest incomes should make
52 the greatest proportionate contribution to the tax measures necessary for the reduction of the
53 structural budget deficit and that the Additional Income Tax Rate of 50% on the top 1% of
54 earners is needed to achieve this.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speeches and interventions' on page 12 and 'speaking in conference debates' on page 14.

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. See 'speeches and interventions' on page 12.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments and emergency motions' on page 9 and 'separate votes' on page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

12.45 Lunch

Ministerial Q&A sessions

Saturday 10th March, 11.00 – 12.00 and 16.30 – 17.30; Sunday 11th March, 09.00 – 10.00;
in The Sage Gateshead, Northern Rock Foundation Hall.

See Saturday's Conference Daily for details.



14.15 Constitutional amendment

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Lucy Care

F8 Support For A Government Which Contains Other Political Parties

Federal Policy Committee and Federal Executive

Mover: Tim Farron MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Summation: Norman Lamb MP (Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

1 Conference resolves that the constitution be hereby altered by the addition of the following new
2 Article 15:

3 ARTICLE 15: Support for a government which contains other political parties

4 15.1 This Article applies where the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons ('the
5 Commons Party') enters into negotiations with one or more other political parties with a
6 view to the formation of a government supported by the party and such party or parties;
7 and sets out the procedures to be followed for the party to give its support for such an
8 arrangement.

9 15.2 For this purpose:

10 (a) the Leader shall, with due regard to diversity, appoint a negotiating team to conduct
11 such negotiations; and

12 (b) there shall be a reference group consisting of not more than nine people (none of
13 whom shall be members of the negotiating team) appointed equally by (i) the Federal
14 Policy Committee (ii) the Federal Executive and (iii) the Westminster Parliamentary
15 Parties (in the last case acting jointly).

16 15.3 The negotiating team shall report regularly to the Leader and the reference group, and shall
17 have regard to their respective views.

18 15.4 If as a result of these negotiations the Commons Party determines, after further consultation
19 with (i) the Federal Policy Committee (ii) the Federal Executive and (iii) the Parliamentary
20 Party in the House of Lords (together 'the consultees'), to support a government which
21 contains members of one or more other political parties, it shall seek the approval of
22 conference by submitting a motion to that effect. Such a submission shall state the final
23 views thereon of each of the consultees, and such a motion shall require for its passage a
24 two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the conference.

25 15.5 Upon the submission of such a motion, the Federal Conference Committee shall convene
26 a conference to consider the motion at the earliest practicable opportunity or shall include
27 the motion in the agenda of a conference currently in session or imminently to start.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speeches and interventions' on page 12 and 'speaking in conference debates' on page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments and emergency motions' on page 9 and 'separate votes' on page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

A constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

15.10 Standing order amendment

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Lucy Care

F9 Support For A Government Which Contains Other Political Parties

Federal Policy Committee and Federal Executive

Mover: Tim Farron MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Summation: Norman Lamb MP (Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

- 1 *In conference standing orders section 1.3 ('Who may submit agenda items'), insert:*
- 2 (e) The Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons may submit a motion relating to
- 3 supporting a government containing members of the other parties, in accordance with
- 4 article 15 of the constitution.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speeches and interventions' on page 12 and 'speaking in conference debates' on page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments and emergency motions' on page 9 and 'separate votes' on page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

A standing order amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass. The current standing orders are printed on pages 54–61.

15.15 Speech

Chair: Linda Jack
Aide: Cllr James Gurling

F10 Speech by the Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills



15.35 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball
Aide: Susan Gaszczak

F11 The Greenest Government Ever

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Lord Teverson (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Energy and Climate Change)

Summation: Duncan Hames MP

1 Conference believes that the commitment to be the 'greenest government ever' is in reality not a
2 choice but a necessity.

3 Conference congratulates Liberal Democrat Ministers in the Coalition Government for key green
4 policies, including the Green Deal energy efficiency initiative, the creation of the Green Investment
5 Bank, the legally binding target for a 50 per cent reduction in UK carbon emissions by the mid
6 2020s, the establishment of the low-carbon Technology and Innovation Centre, a 25 per cent
7 improvement in energy efficiency standards for all new buildings, support for green buses,
8 subsidies for the purchase of electric vehicles, a reduction in carbon emissions from central
9 government buildings by 14 per cent over twelve months, and working through the EU to achieve
10 successful outcomes from the UN climate conferences in Cancun in 2010 and Durban in 2011.

11 Conference regrets, however, that a firm commitment to green policies is still not consistently
12 embedded throughout government. Conference particularly condemns public statements by
13 Ministers that undermine confidence in the Government's commitment to its climate targets and
14 inhibit investment in low-carbon technologies such as renewable energy.

15 Conference calls on the Government to place green investment at the heart of its strategies for
16 recovery from recession and the creation of lasting economic prosperity, stimulating new jobs
17 and export opportunities while also reducing emissions and energy bills and improving quality of
18 life.

19 Conference calls on the Government, over the remainder of this Parliament, to:

20 1. Drive significant improvements in energy efficiency, including:

- 21 a) Encouraging rapid take-up of the Green Deal, if necessary through new regulatory and
22 fiscal incentives, with the aims of cutting energy use and energy bills and tackling fuel
23 poverty.
- 24 b) Upgrading building efficiency regulations to deliver the zero-carbon homes standard for
25 new homes by 2016 and to improve dramatically the energy performance of existing
26 homes and public buildings by 2019.
- 27 c) Adopting an ambitious EU Energy Efficiency Directive, with an overall EU energy saving
28 target of 20 per cent by 2020.

29 2. Develop Britain's low-carbon energy infrastructure, through:

- 30 a) Legislating for the reform of the electricity market in order to accelerate investment in

- 31 renewable energy, ensuring that Britain remains a leader in renewable technologies
32 such as offshore wind, tidal and wave power.
- 33 b) Promoting local community-owned renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes,
34 building on the new Local Energy Assessment Fund.
- 35 c) Adopting a sustainable feed-in tariff structure for solar PV and other forms of
36 microgeneration, incorporating gradual reductions in tariff levels in line with falling costs,
37 linking support to energy efficiency measures and including more generous treatment
38 for not-for-profit schemes benefiting local communities.
- 39 d) Accelerating the development of renewable heat technologies, including through an
40 ambitious and well-funded Renewable Heat Incentive.
- 41 e) Putting in place an emissions performance standard for fossil fuel power stations
42 and ensuring rapid implementation of commercial-scale carbon capture and storage
43 demonstration projects, developing a major new UK industry.
- 44 f) Introducing a windfall tax on operators of existing nuclear stations, recovering through
45 taxation the profits they make solely as a result of the introduction of the carbon price
46 floor from April 2013; the proceeds of the windfall tax to be used to help consumers
47 adapt to higher energy prices.
- 48 3. Push forward the transition to low-carbon transport, by:
- 49 a) Encouraging the deployment of low-carbon vehicles, including supporting the
50 replacement of urban buses and taxis by electric equivalents, accelerating the
51 installation of charging points and amending planning and building regulations to
52 require charging points in all new building developments.
- 53 b) Increasing the use of biofuels from environmentally sustainable sources, including
54 waste.
- 55 c) Arguing for ambitious EU vehicle carbon emissions standards.
- 56 d) Reducing the need for reliance on cars by promoting the expansion of public transport,
57 cycling and walking.
- 58 e) Aiming to reduce emissions from aviation and maritime transport, including incorporating
59 emissions from both sectors in UK carbon targets and budgets, promoting international
60 taxation of bunker fuels and reforming UK taxation of air travel.
- 61 4. Support low-carbon technologies through:
- 62 a) Investing in low-carbon and other green projects through the Green Investment
63 Bank, legislating to establish the Bank's remit and guarantee its permanence and
64 independence, and ensuring it has full borrowing powers.
- 65 b) Implementing the coalition commitment to create green financial products to boost
66 investment in low-carbon and green infrastructure.
- 67 c) Ensuring that the public sector plays a leading role in reducing emissions, including
68 rapid improvements in energy efficiency, and public procurement policies promoting
69 environmentally sustainable technologies and services.
- 70 d) Introducing mandatory company carbon reporting, initially for quoted companies and in
71 due course for wider categories.
- 72 e) Increasing support from UK Trade & Investment and UK Export Finance to exports of
73 low-carbon technologies and services, and ensuring that these agencies withdraw
74 fully from supporting all fossil fuel-related sectors, including legislating, if necessary, to
75 modify their remits.



- 76 5. Protecting the natural environment, including:
- 77 a) Ensuring that the new planning regime and other legislation enables all future
78 development to be genuinely sustainable, including sustainable transport, protecting
79 and enhancing the natural environment wherever possible and increasing resilience to
80 the impacts of climate change.
- 81 b) Making faster progress towards the coalition commitments to work towards a zero-
82 waste economy, including banning by 2015 the disposal of biodegradable waste
83 to landfill, and promoting a huge increase in energy from waste, in line with the
84 waste hierarchy, through anaerobic digestion and other environmentally sustainable
85 technologies.
- 86 6. Take action at the EU and global levels, including:
- 87 a) Securing agreement to a more ambitious EU target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
88 (from 20 per cent to 30 per cent by 2020), and arguing for a substantial shift in EU
89 financial resources towards low-carbon innovation, technology and infrastructure.
- 90 b) Encouraging international cooperation for the development of low-carbon economies,
91 including pressing for ambitious climate change targets at global and EU levels, and
92 making climate change a top priority for the UK's presidency of the G8 in 2013.
- 93 Conference further calls on the Government to put appropriate coordinating structures in place to
94 ensure that all government departments and agencies pursue and achieve ambitious sustainable
95 development goals.

Applicability: Federal, except 1 b) (lines 24–26), 2 b) (lines 33–34), 3 a) (lines 49–52), 3 d) (lines 56–57), and 5 (lines 76–85), which are England only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speeches and interventions' on page 12 and 'speaking in conference debates' on page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments and emergency motions' on page 9 and 'separate votes' on page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

16.20 Question and answer session

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Baroness Doocey AM (London)

F12 Question and Answer Session with Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister

A chance for conference representatives to put questions, on any topic, to the leader of the Liberal Democrats in a 'Town Hall' style event. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 12.45, Saturday 10th March. Questions may also be emailed to questions@libdems.org.uk until 17.00, Thursday 8th March. See 'question and answer sessions' on page 11.

17.00 Policy motion

Chair: Baroness Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

F13 Public and Private Sector Pensions

26 conference representatives

Mover: Janice Turner
Summation: David Hall-Matthews

1 Conference notes:

- 2 I. The commitments in the Coalition Agreement to “safeguarding key benefits and pensions”
3 and to “simplify rules and regulations relating to pensions to help invigorate occupational
4 pensions encouraging companies to offer high quality pensions to all employees”.
- 5 II. That there is now a major crisis in private sector occupational pension provision and, while
6 welcoming the introduction of auto-enrolment, NEST and the Coalition proposals for reform
7 of the state pension as important steps forward, acknowledges that these proposals cannot
8 in themselves resolve this major crisis.

9 Conference reaffirms:

- 10 a) The party’s historic commitment to fighting poverty in old age which a century ago brought
11 our introduction of the Old Age Pension.
- 12 b) The fundamental Liberal Democrat principle that “none shall be enslaved by poverty”.

13 Conference notes with concern that:

- 14 i) The retreat of private sector employers from providing quality pensions is in large measure
15 the result of the failures of previous Labour and Conservative governments.
- 16 ii) The severe market volatility and its uncontrollable impact on Defined Benefit (DB) pension
17 fund deficits demonstrates that current actuarial funding policies introduced by Labour
18 are not fit for purpose and are needlessly damaging sponsoring employers’ finances and
19 destroying DB pension schemes.
- 20 iii) DB pension schemes are under further pressure from over-regulation, in particular regulatory
21 demands to pay off long-term theoretical deficits in short-term time frames.
- 22 iv) Growing numbers of private sector workers are losing confidence in occupational Defined
23 Contribution (DC) pension schemes which push all risk onto the individual, are too expensive
24 and complicated and provide no guarantee of even a minimum pension.
- 25 v) There is too little transparency in the fees and charges of pension industry companies
26 including investment companies and that there is a case to answer regarding the levels and
27 structures of fees and charges.
- 28 vi) The growing number of pension schemes that have no oversight by representatives of the
29 beneficiaries.
- 30 vii) The proliferation of a multitude of local government pension schemes with their costly
31 duplication of administration costs, fees and charges, inadequate regulations to ensure
32 member-nominated representatives on all LGPS boards and inadequate provision of training
33 for LGPS representatives.



34 Conference welcomes:

- 35 A. The Coalition Government's concessions in November/December 2011 regarding its public
36 sector pension proposals.
- 37 B. The announcement dropping proposals that would have allowed companies winning
38 public sector contracts to lower their bids and increase profits by abolishing the privatised
39 workforce's 'Fair Deal' entitlements.
- 40 C. The 'big pots' proposals to allow private sector workers to put their pension savings from
41 multiple schemes into one place.

42 Conference calls upon Liberal Democrats in government to:

- 43 1. Act with great urgency to protect private sector DB schemes including:
- 44 a) Immediate reform of pension scheme actuarial valuation rules that make pension
45 scheme costs so volatile for employers.
- 46 b) Lifting such overly interventionist regulatory practices as automatic investigation of
47 longer deficit repair periods.
- 48 c) Opposing European-level legislation that would inadvertently have the effect of closing
49 DB schemes.
- 50 2. Radically reform and simplify the design of occupational defined contribution pension
51 schemes in order to achieve greater certainty of pension.
- 52 3. Legislate to ensure real transparency and accountability to scheme beneficiaries of contract-
53 based schemes and make it a requirement that all trust-based schemes have member-
54 nominated trustees.
- 55 4. Investigate and act in relation to pensions industry charges, fees, annuity prices,
56 benchmarks, transparency and disclosure, including investment charges and charging
57 structures, in order to ensure that pension schemes and their members achieve better value
58 for money.
- 59 5. Save money from the local government pension schemes by merging them into one or more
60 schemes, while ensuring more effective control by member and employer representatives,
61 with the resulting benefits shared with the scheme members.
- 62 6. Investigate the extension of the Pensions Regulator's Online Toolkit, the foundation stone of
63 private sector trustee training, to include training modules for public sector representatives,
64 and introduce an entitlement for all pension scheme trustees and representatives to have
65 specified minimum levels of paid time off for training and preparation.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speeches and interventions' on page 12 and 'speaking in conference debates' on page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments and emergency

saturday 10th march continued

motions' on page 9 and 'separate votes' on page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

17.40 Party business

Chair: Sandra Gidley
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

F14 Report of the Federal Executive

Mover: Tim Farron MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 11. Questions selected will be detailed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.40 on Saturday 10th March.

F15 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee

Mover: Duncan Greenland (Chair, Federal Finance and Administration Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 11. Questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.40 on Saturday 10th March.

18.00 Close of session

Ministerial Q&A sessions

Saturday 10th March, 11.00 – 12.00 and 16.30 – 17.30; Sunday 11th March, 09.00 – 10.00;
in The Sage Gateshead, Northern Rock Foundation Hall.

See Saturday's Conference Daily for details.



sunday 11th march

09.00 Party business

Chair: Jo Shaw
Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F16 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats

Commons: Alistair Carmichael MP (Chief Whip) and
Lorely Burt MP (Chair of Parliamentary Party)
Lords: Lord McNally (Leader) and Lord Shutt (Chief Whip)
Europe: Fiona Hall MEP (Leader of the Liberal Democrat European Parliamentary Party)

Each of the reports will be moved briefly, and voted on at the end of the session, but the bulk of the session will be used to allow conference representatives to put questions on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the Westminster and European Parliaments to the panel. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 18.00, Saturday 10th March. Questions may also be emailed to questions@libdem.org.uk until 17.00, Thursday 8th March. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See 'questions to reports' on page 11.

09.20 Party business

Chair: Jo Shaw
Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F17 Report of the Diversity and Engagement Group

Mover: Baroness Brinton (Chair, Diversity Engagement Group)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 11. Questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 18.00 on Saturday 10th March.

F18 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance

Mover: Ros Gordon (Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 11. Questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 18.00 on Saturday 10th March.

09.30 Emergency motion or topical issue

Chair: Justine McGuinness
Aide: Cllr Arnie Gibbons

F19 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or topical issue discussion. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments and emergency motions' on page 9 and 'topical issues' on page 10. Emergency motions selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

Topical issue timing – introducer of issue and spokesperson's response: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speeches and interventions' on page 12 and 'speaking in conference debates' on page 14.

10.00 Policy motion

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)
Aide: Sandra Gidley

F20 Trusted, Professional and Effective: British Policing at its Best

Islington and 10 conference representatives

Mover: Brian Paddick

Summation: Rt Hon Tom Brake MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Home Affairs, Justice and Equalities)

- 1 Conference notes that
- 2 A. This country has a highly effective police service, with dedicated and able officers doing their
- 3 best for the communities they serve.
- 4 B. Some groups, however, such as many young people and some ethnic minority communities,
- 5 have a less positive view of the police.
- 6 C. Wider public confidence in the police has been shaken recently by the riots, by phone
- 7 hacking, and by the way that protest marches have been policed.
- 8 Conference believes that:
 - 9 I. Policing by consent is at the heart of our approach to policing – it is essential to restore
 - 10 public confidence and address the sense that some parts of the public feel over-policed and
 - 11 under-protected.
 - 12 II. The rapport built by visible police presence on the streets is an essential part of policing and
 - 13 should be supported as a core activity by all police officers and all ranks, whether formally in
 - 14 neighbourhood policing, responsive policing or specialist roles.
 - 15 III. Recruitment and promotion processes need to be reviewed to increase diversity in the
 - 16 police service at all ranks.
 - 17 IV. Action is needed to ensure that we have a police service that is more trusted, more
 - 18 professional and more effective.



sunday 11th march continued

- 19 Conference calls on the Government to work with Chief Constables and Police and Crime
20 Commissioners to ensure that:
- 21 1. Trust in the police increases because they listen to local people and make policing much
22 more responsive to communities' priorities.
- 23 2. Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables set up genuine consultative
24 mechanisms to listen to the public and use that feedback to drive what the police do and
25 how they do it. Such mechanisms should:
- 26 a) Be very local.
27 b) Reach out to all sections of community and not be confined to vocal minorities.
28 c) Provide effective feedback relating to both force-wide and more local issues.
- 29 3. The police become more professional by ensuring the new police professional body is
30 established on schedule in 2012 and within its first year:
- 31 a) Recommends detailed national minimum recruitment standards for the police.
32 b) Considers additional entry routes, such as Police First, based on the highly successful
33 Teach First scheme.
34 c) Makes recommendations on how to make promotion processes more objective,
35 including 'blind marking' of written papers and assessments carried out by a number of
36 different assessors, to avoid any personal bias.
37 d) Works on a strategic framework that provides guidance to Police and Crime
38 Commissioners and Chief Constables on civilianisation and outsourcing of policing
39 activities.
- 40 4. The police become more effective by making evidence-based policing the defining feature
41 of 21st century policing and establishing the world's first Institute for Policing Excellence.
- 42 5. Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables do everything possible to protect
43 spending on front-line policing, both response policing and neighbourhood policing.
- 44 6. Police and local authorities collaborate to bring together neighbourhood policing and local
45 authority crime prevention, enforcement and regulatory roles into a joint service.
- 46 7. Police and Crime Panels are able to act as an effective check and balance on the powers of
47 individual Police and Crime Commissioners by having:
- 48 a) Regular access to experts in policing and crime matters, people from the voluntary
49 and community sector and from those groups who are most often victims of crime and
50 anti-social behaviour.
51 b) Access to the Chief Constable and other senior police officers when they require it.
52 c) Sufficient dedicated independent organisational and financial support, including access
53 to data and independent financial advice and analysis.
- 54 Conference further calls on the Government to ensure that:
- 55 i) A systematic and independent evaluation of the new structure of Police and Crime
56 Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels is commissioned, which should:

sunday 11th march continued

- 57 a) Begin immediately, in line with the new arrangements put in place in London from the
58 start of 2012, and look at the preparations being made for the changes in other areas.
59 b) Consider whether Police and Crime Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels have
60 achieved the objectives set for them across their crime and policing remit.
61 c) Report by the summer of 2014, the mid-point of their term of office.
- 62 ii) There is no expansion of the role of Police and Crime Commissioners until the independent
63 review has reported.

Applicability: England and Wales

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speeches and interventions' on page 12 and 'speaking in conference debates' on page 14.

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. See 'speeches and interventions' on page 12.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments and emergency motions' on page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Saturday 10th March. See 'separate votes' on page 10.

10.45 Policy motion

Chair: Susan Gaszczak
Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F21 Civil Liberties

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Dr Julian Huppert MP (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)
Summation: Rt Hon Tom Brake MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Home Affairs, Justice and Equalities)

- 1 Conference believes that:
- 2 i) This Government needs to undo the damage done to civil liberties, including Labour's
3 sustained assault on basic freedoms.
4 ii) It is the duty of Liberal Democrats to safeguard basic freedoms against the encroachment of
5 state power and unfair discrimination in society.
6 iii) Liberal Democrats have an excellent tradition of promoting human rights, and should
7 continue to support both the Human Rights Act and our 2009 conference motion *Standing*
8 *Up for Civil Liberties*.
- 9 Conference therefore welcomes the introduction of the Protection of Freedoms Bill and other



sunday 11th march continued

10 measures taken by this Government to restore civil liberties, including:

- 11 A. Scrapping of ID cards.
- 12 B. Removal of innocent people from the national DNA database.
- 13 C. Controls on the misuse of CCTV and local authority surveillance.
- 14 D. Ending the taking of biometric material from children without their parents' consent.
- 15 E. Abolition of the ContactPoint database.
- 16 F. Ending of 28 day detention without charge.
- 17 G. Abolition of Control Orders and the end of internal exile.
- 18 H. Rolling back of government powers of entry into your home.
- 19 I. Commitment to review the powers of bailiffs.
- 20 J. Dramatically increasing openness of government data.
- 21 K. The repeal of provisions which banned protest near Parliament.
- 22 L. Reform of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- 23 M. Ending Labour's policy of routinely detaining children for immigration purposes.

24 But conference notes that:

- 25 I. The government needs to go further in protecting the right to free speech when:
 - 26 a) Police can still prosecute those who use words and behaviour which are merely
 - 27 insulting, not abusive or threatening.
 - 28 b) The cost of defamation proceedings limits freedom of expression and the protection of
 - 29 reputation to the rich and powerful.
- 30 II. Vigilance is needed as the right to peaceful protest is constantly under threat – for example
- 31 international attempts to control recent protests, such as the 'Occupy' movement, have led
- 32 to disproportionate policing and an undermining of the right to peaceful protest.
- 33 III. Individual freedom must be upheld:
 - 34 a) Police powers, such as stop and search, have been used in a discriminatory way,
 - 35 which has caused a breakdown in relationships with the police and has been identified
 - 36 as one of the factors in the summer riots.
 - 37 b) People must have equal access to justice for society to be free and fair.
- 38 IV. The public's right of access to information and individual private data must be protected:
 - 39 a) Public organisations, and private companies contracted to deliver public services,
 - 40 continue to withhold information.
 - 41 b) Police and other agencies tend to hoard private data, with risks to individual liberty as
 - 42 technology allows more efficient cross-referencing.
 - 43 c) Government has a poor record of protecting private data from wider dissemination.

44 Conference therefore calls for:

- 45 1. The right to free speech to be protected through:
 - 46 a) The repeal of section 5 of the Public Order Act, which creates 'non-intentional' speech
 - 47 offences, and the removal of 'insulting' from Section 4A of the Public Order Act, both
 - 48 of which have been used to criminalise legitimate freedom of expression.

sunday 11th march continued

- 49 b) Amendment of Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 to include context and
50 intentionality to prevent the criminalisation of jokes.
- 51 c) Review of the Malicious Communications Act 1988 to ensure that it covers intentional
52 conduct only.
- 53 d) The introduction of a libel reform bill in the next Queen's speech to provide better
54 protection for every citizen for free speech and protection of reputation.
- 55 e) The creation or development of effective public interest defences in relevant
56 criminal and civil offences to protect and foster investigative journalism.
- 57 2. The right to protest to be restored through:
- 58 a) The repeal of the offence of 'Aggravated Trespass', as set out in Sections 68 and 69
59 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and used in the Fortnum and Mason
60 trial.
- 61 b) A properly regulated right to protest in quasi-public spaces to balance the interests of
62 citizens and landowners.
- 63 c) An end to threats being made against protestors who have done nothing wrong, such
64 as the threatened use of rubber bullets before demonstrations.
- 65 d) The end of kettling large groups of people.
- 66 e) Resisting new powers to impose curfews on unconvicted people.
- 67 f) Not extending the existing powers on people covering their faces.
- 68 3. The restoration of individual freedom and policing by consent through:
- 69 a) Greater control of the use of stop and search powers; in particular provisions in the
70 Terrorism Act 2000 and the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, which have
71 been used indiscriminately and beyond their stated intent.
- 72 b) A review to reduce the use of civil orders, such as ASBOs, for criminal activity.
- 73 c) Stronger controls over the use of mobile fingerprint devices and non-lethal devices
74 such as tasers, sound cannons and laser lights.
- 75 d) A guarantee that where citizens are not required to provide their name and address this
76 will be made clear to individuals by the police.
- 77 e) Guidelines to regulate the collection, storage and use of videos and photos of innocent
78 people taken by the police, particularly Forward Intelligence Teams.
- 79 f) A ban on high frequency Mosquito devices which discriminate against young people.
- 80 g) Tighter controls to ensure the ban on police covering their badges.
- 81 h) The introduction of safeguards to prevent pre-emptive arrests and pre-charge bail
82 conditions being used to restrict civil liberties and stifle peaceful protest.
- 83 i) Full review of the powers of bailiffs and the repeal of the power for the Secretary of
84 State to further enable bailiffs to use force against people.
- 85 j) An end to the ban on photography of police and preventing police from forcibly deleting
86 photos with no grounds.
- 87 k) Oversight of undercover police tactics to protect citizens from unfair and unwarranted
88 surveillance.
- 89 4. The right of access to information and individual data protection to be expanded through:
- 90 a) A review to reduce exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act.
- 91 b) A review of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.
- 92 c) Increased powers for the Information Commissioner and tougher sentences for
93 breaches of the Data Protection Act.



sunday 11th march continued

- 94 d) An end to the Ministerial veto over information tribunal decisions.
95 e) The creation of one overall Privacy Commissioner with specialists leading on each
96 separate area.
- 97 5. A second Protection of Freedoms Bill to enact any necessary legislative changes.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see 'speeches and interventions' on page 12 and 'speaking in conference debates' on page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 6th March; to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments and emergency motions' on page 9. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Saturday 10th March. See 'separate votes' on page 10.

11.45 Party business

Chair: Tim Farron (President of the Liberal Democrats)
Aide: Baroness Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F22 Speech by the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister

13.00 Close of conference (approx.)

conference timetable autumn 2012

Saturday 22nd – Wednesday 26th September 2012, Brighton

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00	Wednesday	20th June 2012
Motions deadline	13.00	Wednesday	4th July 2012
Drafting advice deadline (amendments and emergency motions)	13.00	Tuesday	28th August 2012
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues and questions to reports	13.00	Monday	10th September 2012

standing orders for federal conference

Business motion

A proposal to conduct the affairs of the Party in a particular way or to express an opinion on the way affairs have been conducted.

Business amendment

A proposal to change a business motion. *Any such proposal should be significant, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.*

Committee

Throughout these standing orders, Committee means the Federal Conference Committee unless otherwise qualified.

Constitutional amendment

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

Secondary constitutional amendment

An amendment to a constitutional amendment. *This must not introduce new material.*

Consultative session

A meeting where selected areas of policy or strategy are considered in greater depth than is possible in full debates.

Day visitor

Someone who has paid the appropriate day visitor fee. Day visitors are not entitled to speak or vote in full sessions of conference.

Elected representative

A person elected by a local party or an SAO to represent them at conference. This term does not include substitutes appointed to replace an elected representative at a particular meeting of conference. It does include elected representatives who have not registered for a particular meeting of conference.

Emergency motion

A proposal which relates to a *specific recent development which occurred after the deadline for submission of motions. Emergency motions must be brief.*

Emergency amendment

An amendment to a motion which relates to a specific event which occurred after the deadline for the submission of amendments. *It must be brief and uncontentious.*

Full session

Any part of the conference agenda during which debates, topical issue discussions or discussion of business, including formal reports, takes place. This specifically excludes formal speeches such as those by the Leader or Party Officers.

Non-voting member

A party member who has paid the appropriate registration fee, but, because they are not an elected representative, is not entitled to vote at conference. A non-voting member is, however, entitled to submit a speaker's card for any

item on which voting members may submit a speaker's card.

Point of order

A suggestion to the chair of a debate that the conduct of the debate, as laid down in the standing orders, has not been followed correctly.

Policy motion

A proposal to adopt a new policy or reaffirm an existing one. This includes motions accompanying policy papers.

Policy amendment

A proposal to change a policy motion. *Any proposal should be of significant importance, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.*

Policy paper

A paper prepared by the Federal Policy Committee and submitted to conference for debate under the terms of Article 5.4 of the Federal Party constitution.

Procedural motion

A proposal that the conduct of a debate should be changed in a specific way. Procedural motions are:

Move to next business

A proposal that the conference should cease to consider an item of business and immediately move to the next item on the agenda.

Reference back

A proposal to refer a motion or amendment to a named body of the Party for further consideration.

Request for a count

A request to the chair that a specific vote be counted and recorded rather than decided on the chair's assessment of a show of voting cards.

Separate vote

A request to the chair of a debate that a part or parts of a motion or amendment should be voted on separately.

Suspension of standing orders

A proposal to relax specific standing orders for a stated purpose.

Special conference

An additional meeting of the conference requisitioned by the Federal Executive, Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 200 conference representatives under the provisions of Article 6.6 of the Federal constitution.

Standing order amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

Secondary standing order amendment

An amendment to a standing order amendment. *This must not introduce new material.*



Topical issue discussion

A discussion on a policy issue of significant and topical relevance, conducted without a vote.

Voting member

A person who is entitled to vote at conference. This term includes substitutes replacing conference representatives

for a particular meeting of conference. It does not include conference representatives who have not paid any registration fee that may be in force nor does it include day visitors or observers who are not conference representatives.

standing orders

1. The conference agenda

1.1 What is on the agenda

The agenda for each meeting of conference, other than a special conference, shall include time for:

- a) One or more consultative sessions; save that the Committee may decide not to hold any consultative sessions at a spring conference.
- b) A business session or sessions for the consideration of reports from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords, the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament, the Federal Executive, the Federal Finance and Administration Committee, the Federal Policy Committee and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, reports from any other body the Committee considers appropriate, accounts, the annual report, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments.
- c) Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers).
- d) Emergency motions.
- e) Topical issue discussions.
- f) Any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate.

The time to be allocated to each type of business and the order of that business shall be decided by the Committee provided that conference may decide not to take any particular item on the agenda.

1.2 Conference or council of state parties

In addition, time before or after any meeting may be agreed with the relevant state party for a meeting of the conference or council of that party.

1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).
- b) Business motions (including amendments and emergency business motions and amendments), constitutional amendments and secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal Executive, Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England,

local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives. Business motions, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.

- c) Motions accompanying policy papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives.
- e) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any voting member.

1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

All motions and amendments must be submitted to the Committee. They must be typed clearly and accompanied by the name, address and telephone number(s) of a person authorised to agree to their being composited or redrafted. Motions submitted by conference representatives must be accompanied by all their signatures, names and addresses.

1.5 The deadlines by which motions, amendments, reports and questions to reports must be submitted

The Committee shall specify:

- a) The closing date for the receipt of policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers), business motions, constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders, which shall be at least eight weeks before the start of conference.
- b) The closing date for the receipt of amendments to motions published in the agenda and emergency motions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- c) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with the agenda. Any supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference with the permission of the Committee.
- d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the agenda, which shall

be at least two days before the start of conference, except for questions to the reports of the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament, where the closing date shall be at least one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.

- e) Notwithstanding 1.5(d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(d). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference

1.6 Notification of deadlines

All dates specified under Standing Order 1.5 shall be notified to conference representatives and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper may be treated as notice for this purpose.

1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances

In special circumstances the Committee may specify later dates than those indicated above. In particular, where developments which, in the opinion of the Committee, are of great importance have taken place after the closing date for emergency motions and questions to reports, the Committee may make time available for an additional emergency motion or for a statement to be made on behalf of the Party or for additional questions to be submitted to reports.

2. Consultative sessions

2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions

The subjects for debate at consultative sessions shall be chosen by the Committee on the advice of the Federal Policy Committee and, where appropriate, the Federal Executive, and published in the agenda. Two or more such sessions may be held simultaneously.

2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

Any member of the Party may be called to speak at a consultative session and, with the approval of the chair, non-members with relevant expertise may also be called.

2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

At the discretion of the chair a vote by show of hands may be taken to indicate the weight of opinion among members present on any issue that has been debated.

3. The agenda

3.1 The shortlisting of motions

The Committee shall draw up the agenda and shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included in it.

The Committee may allocate time for one or more policy or business motions to be selected by ballot. Copies of motions not selected shall be available for inspection and will be supplied to any conference representative on payment of a copying charge and postage.

3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

Save as detailed below in Standing Order 4.3, all proposed amendments to the constitution or standing orders must be either selected for debate or included in a ballot to allow conference representatives to determine an order of priority for allocating time.

3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

The Committee shall, in drawing up the agenda, have due regard to the balance of State and Federal policy debates and in particular shall as far as possible organise the agenda so that all matters which relate solely to one or more state parties but not all State Parties or the Federal Party shall be considered at either the beginning or the end of the conference.

4. Selection of motions and amendments

4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

In drawing up the agenda the Committee shall seek to reflect the range of views in the Party as indicated by the motions and amendments submitted. The Committee may:

- a) Treat any severable part of a motion or amendment as a separate motion or amendment.
- b) Redraft a motion or amendment so as to improve expression, remove inaccuracy or superfluity or take account of new developments.
- c) Composite similar motions or amendments.

4.2 Selection of amendments

The Committee shall decide which of the amendments duly submitted to each motion shall be selected. No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Committee it is insubstantial, outside the scope of the motion, or tantamount to a direct negative of the motion.

4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

The Committee may refuse to select a motion for amendment of the constitution or standing orders if, in their opinion, it is:

- a) Similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate or ballot at the same meeting of conference.
- b) Similar in effect to a motion that has been rejected at either of the last two meetings of conference.
- c) In the case of amendments to the constitution, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other



part of the constitution which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.

- d) In the case of amendments to standing orders, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of standing orders which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- e) Ambiguous.

4.4 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

- a) It is similar in effect to another motion that has been selected for debate or ballot.
- b) It is similar in effect to a subject chosen for a topical issue discussion.
- c) It is unclear as to its meaning or intent or is, in the opinion of the Committee, too poorly drafted to provide a sensible basis for debate.
- d) It falls outside the definition of emergency motions.

No amendment shall be taken to any motion selected under this Standing Order.

4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.4, must be placed either on the agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection by Conference. The Committee may hold separate ballots to select which of a range of emergency policy motions and which of a range of emergency business motions to debate. If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the representatives attending Conference as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall decide how many motions shall be debated in the time available.

4.6 Emergency amendments

The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to select emergency amendments for debate.

4.7 Topical issue discussions

The choice of subjects for topical issue discussions shall be made by the Officers of the Committee in consultation with the Officers of the Federal Policy Committee. In choosing the subjects, the Officers shall have regard to the significance and topicality of the subjects proposed and whether they are likely to provoke a lively discussion.

5. Special Meetings

5.1 Timetabling of special meetings

The Committee shall, as soon as practicable after the requisitioning of a special meeting of the conference, fix a date for the meeting, draw up the agenda and, if appropriate, specify a date for the submission of amendments. The meeting shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of requisition save that the Committee may allow time for emergency motions and for

business which is formal or, in its opinion, uncontentious.

5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

In setting dates for the submission of motions and amendments and giving notice thereof and of the conference itself the Committee shall endeavour to follow the timescales laid down elsewhere in these standing orders but, where this is not practicable, the Committee shall set such dates as it sees fit.

6. Appeals

6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

The Committee shall provide written reasoning to the nominee of the proposers for the rejection of any motion or amendment. The proposers may appeal, in writing, to the next meeting of the Committee. Any such appeal shall provide reasons why, in the opinion of the proposers, the expressed reasons for rejection are not valid. If the appeal is allowed, the motion or amendment shall be treated as an emergency motion or amendment according to the stage of the agenda-setting process at which the appeal has been allowed.

6.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference

Any person excluded from conference by a decision of the Chief Steward shall have the right of appeal to the Committee at the next of its regular meetings. The exclusion shall remain in force pending the appeal. If the person who is excluded is a voting member of conference, their local party or SAO shall be contacted immediately and invited to appoint a substitute for the remainder of the conference.

7. The Chair

7.1 Who chairs conference

The President, if present, shall normally take the chair at the formal opening and closing of conference and when the Party Leader is making a formal speech from the platform. At all other sessions the chair shall be appointed by the Committee. Normally no person shall chair more than one session at any meeting.

7.2 The chair's aide

The Committee may appoint an aide or aides to assist the chair of each session.

8. Conduct of Debate

8.1 Variation in the order of business

The Committee may propose to the conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the agenda. Such variation shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.

8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

Once the Committee has included a motion or amendment, or part of a motion or amendment, in the agenda, may not be withdrawn except by leave of conference.

8.3 The order of debate

The Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments and options will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments and options (or their nominees) shall have the right of reply in the same order (except that where an amendment or option has not been opposed during the debate, the chair of the session shall have the right to direct that its movers shall not exercise their right of reply), after which the mover of the motion (or the mover's nominee) shall have the right of reply. Votes shall then be taken on the amendments and options in the order in which they have been moved and, finally, on the substantive motion. The Committee may direct that part of any motion or amendment or groups or amendments may be the subject of a separate debate.

8.4 Topical issue discussions

The Committee shall direct the order of the discussion. Normally the proposer of the subject shall speak first, and a representative of the Federal Policy Committee shall speak last.

8.5 Who may speak

Only voting or non-voting members may speak at a full session of conference, save that other persons may speak in the following circumstances:

- a) As a member of the Federal Policy Committee representing that committee in a policy debate.
- b) As a member of the Federal Conference Committee representing that committee in debates on standing orders and matters of conference procedure.
- c) As a member of the Federal Executive representing that committee on matters of party business.
- d) If called by the chair of the session, after the Committee has given permission. Such permission shall only be given exceptionally.

Additionally the Committee may invite any person to address the conference as a guest.

8.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees

Provided that the Federal Policy Committee is not proposing the motion or any of the amendments to be taken in a debate on a policy motion or on motions relating to the policy-making processes of the Party it shall have the right to nominate a person to report its views on the subject before the conference. The Federal Executive shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution, as shall the Federal Conference Committee on motions relating to the proceeding and procedures of the conference and to amend standing

orders. Such a person shall be called to speak for the same length of time as the person replying on behalf of the mover of the motion.

8.7 The selection of speakers

Voting and non-voting members wishing to speak in any debate shall submit a speaker's card, prior to the commencement of the debate in which they wish to speak, stating whether they wish to speak for or against an amendment, the motion or part of the motion. The chair shall be responsible for the choice of the speakers and shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between the different viewpoints in the conference, but may announce a departure from this rule if there is an overwhelming preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side. The chair shall have the discretion to accept speakers' cards after the start of the debate. Save as provided for in these standing orders, no person may speak more than once in any debate.

8.8 The length of speeches

The Committee shall set out in the agenda time limits for speeches.

9. Voting at Conference

9.1 The method of voting

Voting cards shall be issued at each meeting to voting members. The Committee may direct that voting on any issue be by ballot. Subject thereto all votes at full sessions shall be taken by show of voting cards.

9.2 Counting of votes

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

- a) If the Committee has so directed.
- b) If the chair so directs.
- c) As the result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.5 below.

A recount will only be held if the chair is not satisfied that the first count was accurate.

9.3 Separate votes

A separate vote may be taken on a part of a motion or amendment:

- a) On the direction of the Committee.
- b) At the discretion of the chair.
- c) As a result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.4 below.

10 Points of Order

10.1 Making a point of order

Any voting member may rise on a point of order which shall be taken immediately except that, during a vote, no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the conduct of the vote. The chair's decision on all points of order shall be final.



11 Procedural Motions

11.1 Next business

- a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.
- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.
- d) The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting being to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

11.2 Reference back (moved by a representative)

- a) A voting member, who has not already spoken in the debate, may, at any time before the chair has asked the first speaker in reply to stand by, submit, in writing, a request to refer back the motion under debate. The submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a statement of the reasons, including reasons why voting against the motion would not achieve a similar result, not exceeding 75 words.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. If more than one request is received, the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken with respect to any motion.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to refer. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the reference back, it falls.
- d) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further

debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

- e) If the substantive motion is referred to the Federal Executive, the Federal Policy Committee or the Federal Conference Committee that body shall, in its report to the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

- a) The Federal Policy Committee may, at any time before the beginning of the debate on a motion, submit, in writing, a request to refer that motion to the next meeting of the conference. The chair shall announce the existence of such a request at the start of the debate.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. A nominee of the Federal Policy Committee will speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair shall have discretion whether to allow other speakers on the request.
- c) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- d) If passed, the Federal Policy Committee shall, before the next meeting of the conference, circulate its reasons for acting under this section and its comments on the motion and any amendments thereto accepted for debate.

11.4 Separate vote

A voting member of conference may request that the chair take a separate vote on a part of a motion or amendment provided that such a request is in writing and received by the commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled. If the debate is scheduled for the first day of conference, the request must be received in writing by the same deadline as that for emergency motions. The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to take a separate vote. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair of the debate shall have discretion to accept a request for a separate vote if it is received in writing after this deadline.

11.5 Counted vote

Any voting member may ask for a counted vote, which shall be taken if the request is supported by 50 members rising in their places and showing their voting cards.

11.6 Suspension of standing orders

- a) A voting conference member may, during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of standing orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 75 words, to the chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.
- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the constitution, nor any part of these standing orders which govern:
 - i) The rights of, or timetable for, submission of motions and amendments.
 - ii) Consultative sessions.
 - iii) Procedural motions for next business or suspension of standing orders.
- c) No motion to suspend standing orders to introduce a motion or amendment on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.
- d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.
- e) A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of the conference members voting. If the procedural motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

11.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

12 Reports

12.1 Which reports are tabled

The business session or sessions of the conference must include consideration of reports from the bodies listed in Standing Order 1.1(b).

12.2 Submission and selection of questions

A voting member may submit questions to any report tabled for consideration, by the deadlines set under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e). The Committee shall publish in advance of the report session all the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (d) which are in order, compositing similar questions where appropriate.

12.3 Whether questions are in order or not

A question shall be ruled out of order if it asks the body submitting the report about issues which are outside its duties and responsibilities. If the question could be answered by another body reporting to the same conference, the Committee may transfer the question to that body.

12.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered

After the report is moved, the mover, or their nominee, shall answer the questions in turn. After each question has been answered, the voting member who submitted the question will be given the opportunity to put a supplementary question, speaking for a maximum of two minutes, and the mover, or their nominee, will be given an opportunity to respond. The chair shall determine the time given to the mover in moving the report and replying to questions. The chair shall also determine how many of the published questions, and how many of the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (e), can be taken. After the conference the Committee shall publish the answers to all questions submitted under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e) which are in order, and to all supplementary questions asked.

12.5 Approval or rejection of reports from Federal Party committees or sub-committees

Any report tabled by a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for approval by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move the rejection of any part of the report or of the report as a whole. A voting member wishing to move a rejection shall submit a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report, stating the section(s) which they wish to have rejected. All moves to reject a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between moves to reject the same part of the report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

12.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies

Any report tabled by a body other than a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for receipt by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move not to receive the report, by submitting a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report. A move not to receive a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between more than one move not to receive the same report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine



the time given to all speakers.

13 Amendment of Standing Orders

13.1 Amendment of standing orders

These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of conference voting on a motion duly submitted and selected in accordance with standing orders. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from meeting to meeting.

14 The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

14.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

At its first meeting after a new election the Committee shall elect a Chair, who must be a member of the Committee directly elected by conference, and at least one Vice Chair, who must be members of the Committee either directly elected by conference or elected by one of the State Parties.

the federal party

officers of the federal party

Leader	Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
President	Tim Farron MP
Chair of FFAC	Cllr Duncan Greenland
Treasurer	Sir Ian Wrigglesworth
Vice President (England)	Peter Ellis
Vice President (Scotland)	Craig Harrow
Vice President (Wales)	John Last CBE
Chief Executive	Tim Gordon

federal executive

The FE is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Federal Party, including overall strategy, campaigning, organisation and staffing. The Federal Finance and Administration Committee and the Campaigns and Communications Committee both report to the FE.

The FE has 29 voting members: the Party President (who chairs it) and three Vice Presidents; the Leader and two other MPs; one peer; one MEP; two councillors; three state party representatives; and fifteen members directly elected by conference representatives.

federal finance and administration committee

The FFAC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party, directing its administration and ensuring its compliance with the provisions of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. It is responsible to the FE, but also reports directly to the Federal Conference.

The FFAC has 14 voting members: the Chair (currently Cllr Duncan Greenland), Party Treasurer and five other members (elected by the FE); the Party President; three

state party representatives; and the Chief Executive and two other members of Federal (HQ and Parliamentary) staff.

federal policy committee

The FPC is responsible for researching and developing policy and overseeing the Federal Party's policy-making process. This includes producing policy papers for debate at conference, and drawing up (in consultation with the relevant parliamentary party) the Federal election manifestos for Westminster and European elections.

The FPC has 29 voting members: the Party Leader and four other MPs; the Party President; one peer; one MEP; three councillors; three state party representatives; and fifteen members directly elected by conference representatives. It must be chaired by one of the five MP members, and is currently chaired by the Leader.

federal conference committee

The FCC is responsible for organising the two Federal conferences each year. This includes choosing the agenda from the policy and business motions submitted by conference representatives, local, regional and state parties, specified associated organisations and Federal committees, and taking decisions on topics such as venues, registration rates and other administrative and organisational matters. It works within a budget set by the FFAC.

The FCC has 21 voting members: the Party President; the Chief Whip; three state party representatives; two representatives from the FE and two from the FPC; and twelve members directly elected by conference representatives. It elects its own chair (currently Andrew Wiseman), who must be one of the directly elected representatives.

The members of the FCC are shown on page 2.

