



AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2015



SWANSEA - 14 NOVEMBER





9am, Sunday: 15 November 2015

Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea

Liberal Democrat
CAMPAIGNERS & COUNCILLORS

If you've not yet booked your place, you can do so at the Registration Desk - only £10 per person.

BUFFET LUNCH

Members and Observers who have purchased tickets for the Buffet Lunch will be able to collect their tickets from the Registration Desk on Arrival.

NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION

New Members and First-time Conference Attendees will receive details of their reception with Tim Farron MP and Kirsty Williams AM on arrival at the Conference.



Conference Dinner

Guest Speaker:

Rt Hon Tim Farron MP

Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Saturday, 19:30 until late

Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea

SOLD OUT

Welsh Liberal Democrats Autumn Conference 2015

Welcome to Swansea for our Conference. This document contains the outline Agenda for the weekend as well as the text of the motions that have been submitted. An edition of Conference Announcements will be published at Conference which will contain any amendments that have been received.

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Morning Session

MAIN HALL	CARTER ROOM
09:15 - 09:30	
OPENING OF CONFERENCE:	
Mark Williams MP (Deputy Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats)	
09:30 - 10:00	
POLICY MOTION:	
PM1: A Better Deal for Renters in Wales	
10:00 - 11:00	
POLICY MOTION:	
PM2: A Roadmap for 2016	
11:10 - 11:20	
PARTY BUSINESS:	
Questions on the Report of the Groups in the National Assembly for Wales and at Westminster	
11:20 - 11:30	
POLICY MOTION:	
PM3: Mental Health Bus Pass Equality	
11:30 - 11:45	
SPEECH:	
Baroness Brinton President of the Liberal Democrats	
11:45 - 12:00	
PARTY BUSINESS:	
Questions on the Reports from WLD Committee Chairs	
12:00 - 12:45	
LUNCH	

Afternoon Session

MAIN HALL	CARTER ROOM
<p>12:45 - 13:00</p> <p>PARTY BUSINESS</p> <p>Questions on the Reports from Federal Committee Representatives</p>	
<p>13:00 - 14:00</p> <p>PARTY BUSINESS</p> <p>2016 Election Briefing</p> <p>CLOSED SESSION</p>	<p>13:00 - 14:00</p> <p>MANIFESTO BRIEFING FOR OBSERVERS</p>
<p>14:00 - 14:45</p> <p>POLICY MOTION:</p> <p>PM4: A Future for Agriculture in Wales</p> <p>TOPICAL / EMERGENCY MOTION</p>	<p>14:00 - 15:00</p> <p>PARTY BUSINESS:</p> <p>CONSULTATION on the Federal Party’s Governance Review</p>
<p>14:45 - 15:45</p> <p>POLICY MOTION:</p> <p>PM5: Fairness, Growth and Accountability</p>	
<p>15:45 - 16:05</p> <p>BUSINESS MOTIONS:</p> <p>BM1: 2016 Conference Registration Fees for Members</p> <p>BM2: Federal Vice President for Wales</p> <p>BM3: OMOV Consequentials</p>	
<p>16:05 - 16:30</p> <p>POLICY MOTION</p> <p>PM6: Save Hardship Funding for Students in Wales</p>	
<p>16:30 - 17:15</p> <p>POLICY MOTION</p> <p>PM7: Freedom for Schools</p>	
<p>17:15</p> <p>SPEECH:</p> <p>Kirsty Williams CBE AM (Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats)</p>	

POLICY MOTIONS

PM1: A Better Deal for Renters in Wales

IR Cymru

Conference Notes:

1. Over the last decade, the private rented sector has expanded rapidly, and currently houses as many people as the social rented sector.
2. The Welsh Government's Housing Act (Wales) 2014 will include a new licensing and registration scheme for all landlords in Wales from September 2015.
3. Plans were introduced under the Coalition Government to require letting agents to publish full details of the fees they charge.
4. The Citizen's Advice Bureau has revealed that tenants are frequently charged fees on average of around £337, often hidden by letting agents.
5. Evidence by Shelter Scotland demonstrates that after abolishing letting agency fees that landlords in Scotland were no more likely to have increased rents since 2012 than landlords elsewhere in the UK.
6. There are varying planning and licensing arrangements for HMOs across Wales and the UK, with Local Authorities in England being given additional powers to manage Houses in Multiple Occupation and that powers include the use of Article 4 Directives, which removes permitted development rights in specific geographical areas, and requires planning permission for all new development and any renovations to existing buildings.
7. That some tenants in Wales have access to representation and redress through:
 - a. The Residential Property Tribunal Wales, established in 2004, as an independent tribunal set up to resolve disputes relating to private rented and leasehold property, and
 - b. Welsh Tenants which exists to provide a representative voice for tenants in social housing in Wales.
8. The Welsh Government's Renting Homes Bill which seeks to reform the legal basis for renting a home from a private landlord or community landlord, including local authorities and registered landlords.
9. Liberal Democrat plans to reduce carbon emissions emitted by UK households through the Green Deal, the Green Buildings Act, and improving the standard of private rented and social housing, requiring these homes to be upgraded to Band C by 2027.

Conference Supports:

1. Opposition to Welsh Labour Government plans within the Renting Homes Bill to weaken tenants' rights by removing the six-month moratorium on evictions.
2. Plans to clamp down on retaliatory evictions by giving Courts the discretion to refuse to make a possession order.
3. Amendments to add definitions of disrepair to the Renting Homes Bill to ensure the maintenance of standards.

Conference Believes:

1. The Private Rented Sector (PRS) is an important part of a modern housing market and provides homes to a wide variety of households.
2. Tenants should not expect poor-standards, poor-maintenance, and weaker rights than homeowners.
3. Steps taken by the Welsh Government to better regulate the sector are welcome but must go further to achieve real change.

4. Unclear letting agency fees are unfair, and that the Advertising Standards Agency's ruling that advertisers must include all compulsory fees and charges upfront is a first step in the right direction.
5. More must be done to protect tenants from unfair practices.
6. Ensuring energy efficiency in the PRS is key in achieving a reduction in carbon emissions emitted by the UK's households by 80% by 2020.
7. Article 4 Directions have the ability to displace certain groups of 'undesirable' tenants, dividing communities, and does not address many of the issues caused by the overdevelopment of HMOs.

Conference Calls For:

1. The introduction of a Business Rate category for Houses in Multiple Occupation and landlords who own more than 3 properties, subject to Valuation Office Agency regulations, while ensuring:
 - a. Properties where its Energy Performance Certificate achieves at least a C rating will be exempt; and
 - b. The scheme would allow Local Authorities to offer funding to landlords to improve the safety standards and energy efficiency of their properties.
2. All letting agency fees to be capped in Wales, in addition to requiring total transparency.
3. Capping rent increases in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), to ensure that the sector is an affordable and flexible option for all.
4. Planning regulations to be amended to reduce the threshold at which properties require planning permission to be an HMO to five persons or above.
5. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to oppose the use of Article 4 directions, or similar policies, whereby HMOs would only be permitted in specific geographical areas.
6. A review of supplementary Planning Guidance and Best Planning Guidance for HMOs to ensure the maintenance and consistency of standards, and to limit the size of developments.
7. A charter to be introduced setting out obligations for landlords and letting agents under the new registration and licensing process.
8. An independent online resource be developed for tenants and homeowners acting as a one stop advice and information portal, signposting sector agencies.
9. The Residential Property Tribunal to be given the power to;
 - a. Review rents in the Private Rented Sector
 - b. Act as a housing court dealing with challenges to rent increases; and
 - c. Adjudicate in disputes, fitness for human habitation, succession rights, failure to supply contracts, discrimination and mediation.
10. A requirement on local councils to monitor equality issues on exclusions.
11. A Wales Housing Survey for all private rented sector tenants and landlords.
12. The Welsh Government to expand the remit of the Welsh Tenants Federation to include representation for private rented sector tenants and to fund the organisation accordingly.

PM2: A Roadmap for 2016: Manifesto Motion

National Policy Committee

Conference Notes:

1. Elections to the National Assembly for Wales will be held on the 5th of May, 2016.
2. Welsh Liberal Democrats have the deepest roots of any Welsh political party, having been in the front line of progressive and radical reform for over 150 years.
3. The main tasks facing the next Welsh Government will be:
 - a. Building effective and people-centred public services during budget pressures,
 - b. Growing our economy for the benefit of all, and
 - c. Giving everyone in society the opportunity to get on in life, for themselves and their families.

Conference Believes:

1. Wales can only reach its potential by making the most of Wales' strengths such as our culture, our resources, and most of all, our people, and by good governance by a government that values transparency and scrutiny.
2. In a time of further tightening of budgets, Wales needs innovative thinking to improve public services to meet the needs of patients, pupils and parents and achieve social justice.
3. People everywhere in Wales need more say over how they are governed, particularly in their own local areas.

Conference Resolves to present the Welsh electorate with policies which represent our liberal values and vision to revitalise Wales and calls on the Policy Committee to develop a radical and innovative manifesto to:

1. Strengthen our economy and encourage entrepreneurship and growth including;
 - a. Delivering a balanced, integrated, export-led economic strategy;
 - b. Devolving more powers to local areas;
 - c. Stimulating the high street;
 - d. Expanding apprenticeships; and
 - e. Significantly cut burdensome red tape to allow businesses the opportunity to thrive.
2. Ensure the NHS centres care on the dignity, compassion, and choice for individuals within a clean, safe and well-managed environment by;
 - a. Ensuring safe levels of nurse staffing on Welsh wards;
 - b. Guaranteeing patients the best treatment, in the right place, at the right time, including improving access to your GP;
 - c. Ending mental health discrimination and improving support for people with additional learning needs.
3. Develop an education system which helps children flourish and empowers pupils and parents by;
 - a. Helping children develop and supports parents with effective childcare provision;
 - b. Promoting early years delivering lower class sizes;
 - c. Providing flexibility and freedom for teachers to lead, and granting high performing schools extra flexibility and powers;
 - d. Increasing funding through the Welsh Pupil Premium;
 - e. Ensuring fair access to further and higher education.
4. Support rural communities, particularly ensuring stability of the farming industry.
5. Ensure that everybody has access to good quality housing at an affordable price.

6. Protect our natural environment and enhance our renewable energy resources.
7. Ensuring public transport across Wales is efficient and accessible, particularly in rural areas.
8. Reform the way we do politics, emphasising devolution of power to the lowest practical level, empowering communities, and ensuring accountability at all levels.
9. Ensure everyone has the right speak Welsh in their daily life and can access good quality Welsh education and public services.
10. Spread a uniting vision of a self-confident nation, standing on its own two feet, in the United Kingdom and in Europe.

Conference Notes papers endorsed by Conference since 2011, work undertaken by parliamentarians, and European and General election manifestos, and calls on Policy Committee to use these in developing our Assembly manifesto.

Conference Affirms Policy Committee should prioritise spending to ensure effective public services, including dropping or delaying existing proposals, and endorses the aim of a costed manifesto.

PM3: Mental Health Bus Pass Equality

Cardiff and the Vale Local Party

Conference Believes it is unfair that some people in Wales with mental disabilities are unable to qualify for a concessionary bus pass even when their disability would qualify them for a Disabled Persons Railcard.

Conference Calls For the eligibility rules for concessionary bus passes in Wales to be changed to enable those with mental disabilities who can qualify for a Disabled Persons Railcard – due to their entitlement to Personal Independence Payments (PIP) or Disability Living Allowance (DLA) – to be similarly able to qualify for a concessionary bus pass in order to increase parity in the treatment of those with mental disabilities compared to those with physical disabilities.

PM4: A Future for Agriculture in Wales

Montgomeryshire Local Party

Conference Notes that:

1. Agriculture and its ancillary industries make a major contribution to the Welsh economy, with a gross value added of agriculture to the Welsh economy in 2014 of £374 million.
2. Agriculture provides the backbone for rural communities, around which other sources of income can be created.
3. Average Farm Business Income in Wales is forecast to fall to £22,200 in 2014-15, representing a decline of 24 per cent from £29,300 in 2013-14.
4. The average age of Welsh farmers continues to rise from 60.26 in 2013, compared to 59.58 in 2010 and 58.47 in 2007, and that young entrants face particular challenges.
5. The Common Agricultural Policy is, and always has been since its inception, a subsidy on food production which benefits the retailer and consumer at least as much as the primary producer, and that its relationship to farm incomes is complex.
6. Food production is one of very few industries necessary for the most basic of human needs.
7. There is an increasing disconnect between rural and urban communities resulting in a fundamental lack of knowledge around food production and that initiatives such as 'Cows on Tour' introduced by farming unions can help to address this.
8. Farmers wishing to modernise increasingly find themselves facing planning obstructions which can unfairly extend the process and reduce the cost-effectiveness of the steps they need to take to maintain a viable business.
9. Global food markets are increasingly volatile and that the importance of food security is as great as it has been at any time since 1945, with UK food self-sufficiency at around 60%; a decrease from around 75% in 1991.

Conference Believes That:

1. It is important to maintain agricultural production throughout rural Wales, including both lowland and upland production, for the sake of Welsh rural communities as well as farmers.
2. The natural environment is best cared for by a continuation of farming tailored to the needs of individual areas, including their environmental needs.
3. Both large modern units and smaller scale units able to benefit from niche marketing will be necessary and beneficial to Wales and its agriculture.
4. Farmers should be supported in finding the best route to profitability and sustainable production depending on their individual situation.
5. Support for farmers should continue to be given to all farmers in an equitable way so as to maintain the balance between small and large, upland and lowland.
6. We must recognise that Common Agricultural Policy funding will continue to reduce and that it should be used as effectively as possible with an emphasis on maintaining appropriate food production.
7. The maintenance of food security should be central to any agricultural decisions made in Wales and that such decisions should always consider their long term impact on Wales' ability to continue to feed itself.
8. Planning processes should be improved to avoid unnecessary complications and delays and favour maintaining sound businesses of all sorts to support jobs and living standards, whilst remaining sufficiently rigorous to protect communities from inappropriate development.

9. The Welsh people would benefit from knowledge of food production being made more widespread, especially from an early age.

Conference Calls For:

1. The Welsh Government to implement policy initiatives to safeguard agriculture and food production across Wales and especially to embed food production using suitable systems into all environmental decision making in rural Wales.
2. The Farming Connect network to help farmers and landowners to find the best route to both profitability and sustainability according to their situation, in particular to recognise the importance of Field Officers and the harnessing of local knowledge in building confidence and resilience in the farming sector, whilst minimising the level of generic consultancy services funded through Farming Connect.
3. The Welsh Government to work with local authorities to improve the planning process for all Welsh businesses, to ensure minimal delays and long term support for the sustainability of entire communities.
4. A fundamental review of TAN 6 guidance on 'Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities' so as to achieve real progress in the delivery of affordable rural housing across Wales, important both for younger entrants as well as providing appropriate accommodation for farmers wishing to handover to the next generation.
5. The Welsh Government to work with the National Farmers Union, the Farmers Union of Wales and Wales Young Farmers Clubs to support YFC activity in urban areas and to take farming and food production into schools across Wales and beyond, to show children from primary level, both rural and urban, how animals are reared and food is produced and what contribution this makes to the nation.
6. The Welsh Government to maintain its support to farming across Wales in an equitable manner, bearing in mind the needs of communities for a strong farming sector in all areas, as CAP funding tapers down.
7. A full review of agri-environment schemes to ensure that they achieve sustainable farming and environmental management and to ensure that they are fully funded so that farmers are properly rewarded for the conservation work they carry out.
8. The Welsh Government to further develop support for young farming entrants in Wales with an emphasis on the potential contribution of share farming and the significance of local authority owned agricultural holdings across Wales to provide access to the land.

PM5: Fairness, Growth and Accountability

National Policy Committee

Conference Notes:

1. It was the Liberal Democrats who ensured that the Welsh Government can be held to account for their decisions by bringing tax powers to Wales and being the main driver behind the Silk Commission.
2. Wales will be able to control taxes to benefit the country for the first time in 800 years through the Wales Act 2014.
3. A taxation policy should shift the tax burden to aim to:
 - a. provide a stable financial base for funding excellent public services;
 - b. create jobs and help businesses;
 - c. raise standards of living and improve prospects for our families and children;
 - d. help people own their own home;
 - e. ensure environmental sustainability.
4. It was the Liberal Democrats in the UK Government who achieved a fairer tax system by:

- a. Delivering an £820 tax cut for low and middle income earners by ensuring people could earn £10,600 tax free
- b. Reforming stamp duty land tax to help first time buyers and make it easier for people to move house. As a result the stamp duty paid on the average house price is about £4,500 lower.
- c. Encouraging green levies to safeguard our environment
5. Wales needs a taxation policy which re-energises the economy so that entrepreneurs, innovation and ideas flourish.
6. Wales has 4.9% of the UK population yet its income tax receipts are just 3.1% of the UK total.
7. The Autumn 2014 Welsh Liberal Democrats paper, Building a Stronger Economy, included important policy commitments regarding business rates.

Conference Believes:

1. Power and authority derive and flow upwards from the people and power must be exercised at the most appropriate local level.
2. The priority of our society should be to combine economic efficiency, social justice and individual liberty. There should be a stronger economy and fairer society.
3. Tax powers in Wales should be based on the principles of effectiveness, accountability, ease of operation and fairness.

Conference Calls For:

1. Land Transaction Tax (formerly Stamp Duty Tax) policies which will help to lower the cost of buying a house in Wales for the majority of people. Major progressive reforms have already been made to the tax by the Liberal Democrats in the UK Government.
2. Approval to introduce an incineration tax to further encourage recycling.
3. Approval to increase penalties for fly-tipping and make it easier to penalise fly-tippers through on the spot fines in order to clean up our streets and countryside.
4. Income Tax varying powers to be devolved to Wales so that the Welsh Government is more responsible and accountable for its actions.
5. The Policy Committee to be commissioned to provide costed proposals to reduce the basic rate of income tax from 20% to 19% to relieve the tax burden on lower earners.
6. A Council Tax reduction of at least £100 for 10 years, when the resident's home undergoes an energy saving improvement of at least two bands.
7. Commencement as soon as possible of provisions in The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 that enable local authorities to levy up to 200% Council Tax on second homes where they judge this to be appropriate.
8. Councils to have greater scope to keep the revenue from their regulatory activities.
9. Piloting of Tax Increment Finance schemes in Wales so as to help local councils fund regeneration schemes.
10. An in depth review of the Council Tax regime to make it fairer and more equitable.
11. Future business rate multiplier increases to follow the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rather than the Retail Price Index (RPI). This should reduce increases in business rates.
12. Help for companies to expand by removing plant and machinery from the rateable value of commercial premises.
13. Local authorities to have scope to designate town centres and district centres as local footfall business rate zones and alter the business rates in these areas in response to changing trading conditions.
14. Business rates to be applied to out of town retail unit car parks larger than 1,000m² and with spaces for more than 45 vehicles.

15. 50% relief on business rates bills for new occupants of retail premises that have been empty for a year or more.
16. The necessary statistical data to be available on a Wales level to ensure effective financial and tax modelling.

PM6: Save Hardship Funding for Students in Wales

IR Cymru

Conference Notes:

1. Widening access, inclusion, progression and success in higher education is a key part of the Welsh Government's strategy for higher education.
2. That a critical factor in deterring and prohibiting participation in Higher Education and impact on student outcomes is associated with the cost of living for students.
3. That guaranteed financial assistance for those students most in need is essential for ensuring that students can remain and succeed in education.
4. That the Welsh Government provided £2.1m to Welsh Higher Education Institutions, the Financial Contingency Fund, to allocate to students most in need of financial support, until the 2015/16 academic year.
5. The FCF was introduced in 1991 to support further and higher education students facing financial difficulties and who, without support, would be likely to leave their education.
6. NUS Wales' study, Pound in Your Pocket, found that more than 50% of students regularly worried about meeting basic living costs, which affected their studies.
7. NUS Wales' study, Pound in Your Pocket, also found that nearly 40% of students did not understand what financial support was available to them.
8. Students returning to education, accessing part-time education, or from disadvantaged backgrounds struggle to access funding and financial support.
9. That the Welsh Government announced in 2014 that the Fund would not be available for institutions for the 2014/15 academic year, before overturning its decision.
10. That this decision comes at a time when the UK Government plans to scrap the Disabled Students' Allowance, worth up to £144m to institutions.
11. That the Welsh Government intends on scrapping the Fund from 2015/16.

Conference Supports the principles outlined in the Fairness and Freedom in Higher Education policy paper, adopted in 2013.

Conference Believes:

1. That education is the best way to give people the opportunity to reach their full potential, wherever they live and whatever their background.
2. That access to higher education should be based solely on merit and academic ability and not ability to pay.
3. That access to higher education free at the point of use is not enough to ensure fair and equal access for all students from all socio-economic backgrounds.
4. That the debate on Higher Education funding has remained largely focused upon the value to the individual, rather than the public value of higher education.

Conference Calls For:

1. A Fund that enables Higher Education Institutions to provide hardship funding to the most vulnerable students, and that funding be protected throughout the entirety of the next Assembly.
2. Improved information for prospective students and current students on the financial support available to them during their studies.

3. An investment and prioritisation in the levels of grants and bursaries available to students in Wales, in particular for part-time and mature students and student parents.

PM7: Freedom for Schools

Assembly Group

Conference Notes That:

1. Wales has fallen significantly behind the rest of the United Kingdom in reading, maths and science, according to the OECD's PISA rankings;
2. The Welsh Government does not set minimum standards for schools in Wales;
3. Headteachers and teachers deliver the best results when they are given flexibility and support, not smothered by centralising red tape;
4. It is often better to improve accountability and performance through managing risk, not increasing control;
5. The positive impact of the Welsh Pupil Premium, which according to independent analysis has led to "a significant amount of new activity" aimed at supporting disadvantaged pupils.

Conference Believes That:

1. We must be the party of opportunity, enabling people across Wales to make progress in their lives.
2. There is nothing progressive about poor public services, and we must find new and innovative ways to deliver public services that take the side of parents, pupils and patients.
3. In freeing up individuals from restrictive government and empowering leaders to lead, while ensuring that minimum standards are met and accountability is strong and transparent.
4. Head teachers should be given the autonomy to make the right decisions for their pupils.
5. Professionals and experts know better than politicians what should be included in the school curriculum and how schools should be run.
6. Schools should not be run for profit, or operated by private companies.

Conference Calls For:

1. The introduction of individual pupil monitoring, and for schools which do not adequately support the development of all pupils to be automatically placed into special measures.
2. Ensuring children get the individual attention they need by introducing a maximum class size of 25 for Early Years and Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2).
3. Expanding the Pupil Premium to our target of £2,500 per pupil per year aged 5 - 15 and to £1000 per pupil, per year under 5.
4. Establishing a single authority to set the curriculum content in Wales independent of government interference, while maintaining Ministerial powers to set the broad overall direction.
5. Direction to endorse Personal, Social and Health Education – a curriculum for life – being included in the curriculum, including financial literacy, first aid and emergency lifesaving skills, political education, citizenship, and age appropriate sex and relationship education.
6. Establishing a Welsh Academy of Leadership to promote high quality leadership and help the best leaders to work in the most challenging schools.

7. Allowing schools which have demonstrated key values of leadership, innovation and improvement to gain new powers and autonomy from local and central government, providing they maintain a demonstrable track record of excellence.
8. Accountability to be strengthened by giving school governors extra powers to caution, discipline or dismiss head teachers who do not meet mutually agreed targets;
9. Introducing a Talented Head Teachers programme to draw top leaders to the schools where they are most needed.
10. Requiring Local Authorities to establish Head Teacher Boards within their areas to help schools to improve and to advise the Local Authority on intervention and support options.
11. Enabling greater control for head teachers over their school's budget.
12. Reviewing the role of regional educational consortia in light of local government reorganisation.
13. Ensuring elected representation of peers from the teaching profession to the Education Workforce Council to ensure it is properly accountable.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

BM1: 2016 Conference Registration Fees for Members

Conference Committee

Conference Notes:

1. That it was agreed by Conference in 2010 that the proposed rates for the following year's Member Registration to the Welsh Liberal Democrat Conference would be brought annually to the Autumn Conference for approval.
2. In 2013 the rates were increased in line with inflation for 2014 and then subsequently frozen in 2014 for 2015.
3. That the current maximum Standard Member rate for attending Conference is currently £52 and is available for a period of two weeks prior to and at the Conference.
4. That the reduced rate of 15% of the maximum Standard Rate is available between six and two weeks before the Conference.
5. That a further reduced rate of 30% of the maximum Standard Rate is available up to six weeks before the Conference.
6. That the Concessionary Member rates for attending Conference is currently set at 50% of the relevant Standard Member Rate in place at the time of registration.
7. That in addition to the above rates, there is a further discount of 50% for members attending their first Welsh Liberal Democrat Conference.

Conference Resolves:

1. That for 2016, the Standard Member rate for attending Conference shall remain at £52 and the discounted rates and periods of those discounts being available remain unchanged.

BM2: Federal Vice President for Wales

Constitutional Review Panel

Conference Notes:

1. That in the English and Scottish Liberal Democrats the respective Federal Vice Presidents are the chair/convenor of their respective State Party.

Conference Agrees:

1. To ratify the following changes to the Welsh Party Constitution, made by the Constitutional Review Panel at its meeting held in August 2015:
 - a. In Clause E.1, after "The Chair of the National Executive Committee" insert the words "(who shall be the Federal Vice-President for Wales)" and delete the separate line "The Federal Vice-President for Wales".
 - b. In Clause E.4, after the first sentence insert "and shall also serve as the Federal Vice-President for Wales".
 - c. In Clause G.1.1. delete sub-clause f and re-letter accordingly.

BM3: OMOV Consequentials

Constitutional Review Panel

Conference Notes:

1. The decision of Autumn Conference 2014 to move to One Member One Vote for all Welsh Party internal elections.
2. That the Constitutional Review Panel will be conducting a wider review of the Welsh Party's Committee structures including how and when elections take place following next year's Assembly Elections.

Conference Agrees:

1. To ratify the following changes to the Welsh Party Constitution, made by the Constitutional Review Panel at its meeting held in August 2015, which allow for the change from Voting Representatives to members to take place:
 - a. In Clause E.3 replace "5 voting members of Conference" with "5 members of the Party";
 - b. At the end of Clause F.2 replace "at least 20 members of Conference" with "at least 20 members of the Party";
 - c. Delete Clauses F.3, F.4 and F.5 and renumber accordingly;
 - d. In old Clause F.9, delete "as a Non-Voting Member of Conference".
2. To ratify the following changes to Appendix 1 (Election Rules for Annual Elections by Conference) of Annexe I (Election Rules), of the Welsh Party Constitution, made by the Constitutional Review Panel at its meeting in August 2015:
 - a. In Clause B.2.a delete the words "Conference Members";
 - b. In Clause C.1 replace the word "Conference" with "Party";
 - c. In Clause E.3 delete "those members of Conference (and not their substitutes) for the Annual Meeting of the current year." And replace with "all members of the Party who appear as current on the Party's register of members on the next working day following the close of nominations."
 - d. In Clause G.3 delete "A summary of the results shall be made available to the National Executive Committee, and shall be circulated electronically to all members of the Conference."
 - e. In Clause G.3 after the words "publication of the Welsh Party" insert "- this may take the form of an email to members and/or publication on the Party's website."
3. To ratify the following changes to Annexe VIII (Conference Standing Orders) of the Welsh Party Constitution, made by the Constitutional Review Panel at its meeting in August 2015:
 - a. In the Glossary of Terms, in the section headed "Member of Conference", delete the subsections headed "Elected Voting Member", "Ex-Officio Voting Member", "Substitute Voting Member" and "Non-Voting Member".
 - b. In the Glossary of Terms, in the section headed "Member of Conference", delete "A Member of the Party who falls into a number of categories under the umbrella of either Voting or Non-Voting Members" and replace with "Any member of the Party whose membership is current. The distinction between voting and non-voting members of Conference no longer applies. Any reference to voting members within these Standing Orders shall apply to, and be interpreted as, any such member of the Welsh Liberal Democrats. Non-voting rights only apply to 'Federal Member' as defined below."

CONFERENCE EXHIBITION

The following organisations are attending our conference. Please take the time to visit their stands which can be found at the back of the Conference Hall.

Cancer Research UK



Cancer Research UK funds scientists, doctors and nurses to help beat cancer sooner. We are fighting over 200 cancers. In Wales we spend £4 million a year on clinical trials and the Cardiff Cancer Research UK Centre - a collaboration of partners working together to understand how cancer develops, and how more effective targeted therapies can be developed in the future.

Homes for Wales



Homes for Wales (Cartrefi i Gymru) is a coalition of organisations who believe that everyone has a right to a decent, affordable home. The coalition's aim is to campaign to end the housing crisis in Wales for all. End the Housing Crisis and Build a Stronger Wales.

Liberal Democrat Christian Forum



LDCF is a Christian voice in the Liberal Democrats and a voice of liberal democracy amongst Christians. We bring together Christians who support the Liberal Democrats to speak up about issues of injustice; encourage and equip one another to impact public life; and inspire Christians to become more politically engaged.

NASUWT Cymru



NASUWT Cymru is the largest union representing teachers and headteachers in Wales and throughout the UK. With offices in Cardiff and St Asaph and a well established network of activists and caseworkers throughout Wales, NASUWT Cymru provides an unrivalled level of support for its members.

ONEPOST



ONEPOST was established in 2005 to ensure that postal mailers understood all the choices they had and knew how to maximise their postal budget. The business has 500 customers and manages 300 million mail items per annum.

ONEPOST has worked with the Liberal Democrats at a national and local level since 2010 providing low cost postal and production solutions. ONEPOST successfully managed all the head office mailings for the 2010 and 2015 General Elections.

Tenovus Cancer Care



Tenovus Cancer Care is Wales' leading cancer charity, funding research and supporting thousands of cancer patients and their loved ones each year. To find out more about how we are improving the future for people affected by cancer in Wales, pop over to our stand.

Welsh Council for Voluntary Action



WCVA supports and represents Wales' third sector and champions voluntary organisations, volunteers and communities.