



Motions for debate

Cardiff Spring Conference 2016

Contents

PM1: Policing in Wales.....	2
PM2: A Manifesto for 2016 [National Assembly for Wales Election Motion]	4
PM3: Mitigating the Impact of Flooding in Wales	5
PM4: A Good Start in Life for Every Child	7
PM5: Winning in Europe [European Referendum Motion]	9
PM6: Let's talk about sex.....	11

Motions will only become Party policy if passed at Conference.

Motions can be amended. Amendments can be submitted by Local Parties, groups of 20 members, IR Cymru, or Welsh Lib Dem groups in the Assembly and Westminster.

Please submit amendments to:

Morgan.Griffith-David@WelshLibDems.org.uk by midday on Wednesday January 27th.

Please contact Morgan Griffith-David well in advance if you would like drafting advice.

PM1: Policing in Wales

Submitted by Montgomeryshire Liberal Democrats

Conference welcomes the decision of National Executive Committee to stand candidates in the Police Commissioner elections in May 2016, while reaffirming our policy to abolish Police Commissioners.

Conference notes:

- 1) That the staff costs of the four Welsh Police Commissioner's Offices totalled £2,816,000 in 2014
- 2) That despite the Conservative Government's announcement in the current spending review, the pressures on police budgets will continue to increase.
- 3) That inadequate funding for other public services, particularly mental health, social care and youth services, adds to demands on police resources.

Conference endorses the Liberal Democrat Federal Policy Paper *Doing What Works to Cut Crime*, adopted in 2014. In particular conference welcomes the policies it contains -

- to introduce a new preventative health based approach to tackle the problems caused by drug abuse;
- to increase the accountability of the police;
- to promote the rehabilitation of offenders;
- to tackle the new threats of cyber crime;
- to promote restorative justice which places the victim at the heart of rehabilitation.

Conference believes:

- 1) That the bedrock for effective public accountability in the Police Service rests in the relationship between neighbourhood policing teams and the communities they serve.
- 2) Crime policy must be based on evidence of what works
- 3) Preventing crime requires close co-operation between the police, other public services and local communities.
- 4) Effective engagement with minority communities, including black and ethnic minorities, the LGBT community and people with disabilities is vital to ensure that the police service operates for all people without prejudice.

Conference calls for:

- 1) The Westminster Government to devolve responsibility for policing from the Home Office to the Welsh Assembly to enable the Welsh Government to abolish Police Commissioners.
- 2) The Welsh government to conduct a wholesale strategic review of the policing in Wales to identify the most appropriate structure for the efficient delivery of command, specialist operational capabilities and back office functions for the Police and the most effective means of democratic accountability at local, regional and national level through elected councillors and assembly members.
- 3) Conference calls on the two most expensive Police Commissioners in Wales, Dyfed-Powys and Gwent, to cut the staff costs of their offices to no more than £1 per person per year, releasing nearly £250,000 to each to invest in front line policing.

Conference calls on all four Police and Crime Commissioners:

- 1) To adopt a presumption in favour of shared back office costs, specialist services and assets, where that will provide better value for money, while retaining the strong links between the police and the communities they serve.
- 2) To promote as a priority the development of more effective accountability for policing at a neighbourhood level and at local government level
- 3) Devolve appropriate decisions downwards to local commanders in consultation with local councillors.
- 4) To share resources with local authorities to provide effective community safety teams.
- 5) To tackle failings identified by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in all four forces both in the recruitment of police officers from black and minority ethnic groups and in preparedness for dealing with honour crimes and female genital mutilation.

PM2: A Manifesto for 2016 [National Assembly for Wales Election Motion]

Submitted by the National Policy Committee

Conference looks forward to this year's elections to the National Assembly, recognising the influential role played by our AMs and determined to win seats across Wales.

['Holding motion' to be supplemented by a full text not later than 28 January.]

PM3: Mitigating the Impact of Flooding in Wales

Submitted by 23 Members.

Conference notes:

1. The significant high-energy rainfall events that have had a major impact across the North of Wales and England in December 2015.
2. The current trend towards more frequent extreme weather events is consistent with that expected in a warming world.
3. The events in 2015 again exceeded previous recorded levels in many river catchments.
4. That existing guidance in development in the flood plain has been overridden within the planning process.
5. That flood management can only be successfully achieved at a whole catchment level.
6. That short catchment rivers are more prone to catastrophic flooding for which there is little or no time for communities to respond.
7. The significant overlap between areas affected by flooding and the licences granted for shale gas exploration.

Conference believes:

1. That the current modelling of 100 year returns events is no longer appropriate for use as a risk management tool in respect of river flooding.
2. The current planning guidance has failed to prevent inappropriate development in the flood plain.
3. That the current approach to flood prevention is piecemeal and only moves the problem elsewhere in the catchment.
4. That partnership working with the farming, shooting and forestry community is essential to the management of future flood risk.
5. That insurance companies have a duty to promote renovation work that is designed to reduce the impact of subsequent events.
6. That the failure to properly manage surface water runoff in new development has increased the risk of flooding in some areas.
7. The pollution risk presented by shale gas exploration in flood risk areas should be mitigated.
8. That post flooding renovation of properties at risk of flooding should improve the resilience of the property to a repeat event.
9. That natural courses of river and flood plain development should be retained and recreated wherever possible.

Conference calls for:

1. The Welsh Government to replace existing planning guidance with respect to development in the flood plain with a new robust strategy.
2. All future risk modelling be based on a "known record level extent model" for flood management.
3. The Welsh Government to introduce new Planning Design Notes and Building Regulations to improve the resilience of properties identified as being at risk of flooding and reduce the impact of surface water run off.
4. The Welsh Government to develop whole-catchment plans for Welsh rivers designed to reduce the flow rates of water through the catchment.

5. The Government in both Cardiff and Westminster to make grants available to householders in flood risk areas who want to put in place improvements to their properties that improve the resilience of the property to future flood events.
6. The Government in Westminster to work with the insurance industry to produce new renovation guidelines designed to increase the resilience of properties in the face of repeated flood events.
7. Local Authorities to immediately remove all housing allocations on areas identified to be at risk of flooding from their development plans except where planning permission has already been granted and work commenced.
8. The Government in Westminster to introduce a presumption against siting well heads for fracking in areas identified as falling within a flood risk zone.
9. The Welsh Liberal Democrats to actively participate in any review of flood management including making a submission for policy changes based on this debate.
10. The introduction of lowland farm management plans which promote the development of water meadows and the use of lower grade agricultural land for flood control measures.

PM4: A Good Start in Life for Every Child

Submitted by Assembly Group

Conference welcomes that:

- i. In 2014, the Welsh Liberal Democrats secured £4.6million to introduce the Early Years Pupil Premium for three and four-year-olds, to help ensure every child gets the care and attention they need when they are very young.
- ii. In government in Westminster, Liberal Democrats:
 - a. led the introduction of shared parental leave, giving working parents in Wales greater flexibility with childcare arrangements and recognising the importance of time parents spend with their child;
 - b. fought for the introduction of tax-free childcare which will save working parents up to £2000 on childcare costs per year for each child under 12; and
 - c. prioritised investment in early years education and childcare, by increasing the free entitlement in England for all three and four year olds to 15 hours per week and extending this to the most disadvantaged 40% of 2 year olds.

Conference notes that:

- A. The current system of childcare and free early years education in Wales is far less effective than in England, with inconsistent provision across the country, high costs and a lack of flexibility to adapt to parents' work circumstances.
- B. The current provision of free childcare and early years education in Wales is less generous than in England, with only 10 hours per week for three and four year olds and 12.5 hours for children aged two in Flying Start areas.
- C. The Liberal Democrat 2015 Manifesto committed to an increase to 20 hours' free childcare a week for all parents with children aged from two to four-years, and all working parents from the end of paid parental leave (nine months) to two years.
- D. The Sutton Trust highlights that while early years provision has significant potential to narrow the attainment gap and improve developmental outcomes for children, good quality provision is essential to meet these aims.

Conference believes that:

- a) Every child deserves a great start in life.
- b) Wales must have a comprehensive system of early years support focused on the needs of children and their families in order to help every child to achieve their potential.
- c) High quality early years education is vital in determining a child's life chances, especially in improving life chances for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- d) Accessible and affordable childcare is an important means of enabling parents to return to work if they wish and can help improve a child's social skills and reduce child poverty.

Conference calls for:

- 1) An increase in the Early Years Pupil Deprivation Grant each year to reach £1000 per child by the end of the next Assembly.
- 2) The extension of free childcare provision to working parents from the end of paid parental leave and increased provision of free childcare and early years education for children from age two to four, with greater flexibility to adapt to work circumstances.

- 3) The introduction of a new Qualified Early Years Teacher qualification and increased promotion of Apprenticeships in Early Years and Childcare, to help enhance the specialist skills of the workforce and ensure high quality in provision.

PM5: Winning in Europe [European Referendum Motion]

Submitted by the National Policy Committee

Conference recognises that the creation of the European Union has led to peace, prosperity, democracy and security for the peoples of Europe.

Conference believes that winning a decisive victory for ‘*Remain a member of the European Union*’ in the referendum on the UK’s membership is essential because our position as one of the EU’s largest member states gives us:

- i. greater political and economic influence in the world;
- ii. free access to our principal export market – the world’s largest single market of over 500 million consumers – together with a major role in shaping its rules;
- iii. the ability to tackle more effectively shared problems, such as climate change, declining biodiversity, unsustainable fishing, and cross-border crime; and
- iv. a wide range of future opportunities as the EU continues to develop, focusing on those actions which are most effective if undertaken at the EU level.

Conference draws attention to especially important aspects for Wales:

- A. At least 150,000 jobs in Welsh firms depend on exporting to the EU and more than 50,000 jobs are in firms from other Member States located in Wales, so all are linked to the Single Market, as are many in global firms based in Wales.
- B. Wales is a net beneficiary from the EU Budget, receiving more in EU grants – from structural funds, regular payments to Welsh farmers and fishing industry, and grants to Welsh universities and students – than its taxpayers contribute to the EU budget, with the financial value of increased trade among the additional benefits.
- C. UK withdrawal from the EU could lead to Scotland withdrawing from the UK and so unbalance the Union.

Conference emphasises that our party has always combined its recognition of the essential role of EU membership with a constant drive to make EU institutions and decision-making more democratic, effective, efficient and transparent, which places us in a strong position to present a clear and convincing case to voters.

Conference calls upon all Liberal Democrats to play an active role in our Party’s own campaigning and in the wider *STRONGER IN* campaign.

Conference urges the other major parties in Wales to join with us in a coordinated effort within the *STRONGER IN* campaign, involving members of all parties, businesses, trade unions, civil society organisations and other groups.

Conference hopes that the campaign will achieve much wider public recognition that:

- a) the EU provides our best hope for building a more peaceful world, constructed on firm foundations of shared democracy, human rights and openness;
- b) the EU continues to reform, intensifying its focus on job creation through sustainable economic growth, boosting trade, and getting rid of unnecessary regulations – an agenda which demands that the UK continues to play a leading role;
- c) EU research programmes are crucial to the success of British universities and UK science, promoting innovation and competitiveness in the UK economy and laying the foundations for faster advances in medicine, low-carbon energy, new materials, food

- security and other fields of cutting-edge science; and enabling speedier development into viable products with real commercial potential;
- d) the EU and our membership provides the UK with the best chance of tackling climate change and biodiversity loss, while creating green jobs in potentially world-leading industries, especially through the development of low-carbon and energy-saving technologies;
 - e) EU membership – and the large scale of the EU single market – gives the UK a voice in setting environmental, consumer safety, animal welfare and other standards which govern European trade and are often adopted globally, enabling expanded and more sustainable worldwide trade;
 - f) EU membership guarantees a wide range of workplace, consumer and citizens' rights, including free movement, employment rights and other protections enjoyed by an estimated 2 million British citizens living in other EU countries, as well as those in the UK;
 - g) EU membership enables UK law enforcement agencies to work collaboratively across borders and so respond to the growing threat of organised crime in areas such as human trafficking, drugs and other smuggling, counterfeit products, wildlife trafficking and money laundering;
 - h) our young people are increasingly benefitting from the opportunities EU membership gives of academic learning and industrial training in other EU countries, enriching their lives and capacities, and enlarging Europe's great pool of shared knowledge;
 - i) the UK's participation in the EU's extensive international development programmes and humanitarian assistance budgets represents a recognition of our common humanity, as well as our global inter-dependence.

Conference wholeheartedly declares its ambition for Britain to stop glancing at the exit door and fulfil the leading role in our continent which our size, history and strengths offer to us.

PM6: Let's talk about sex

Submitted by Cardiff and the Vale Liberal Democrats, IR Cymru, and 17 members

Conference notes that:

- A. Basic sex education is currently offered from age 11 in Welsh schools, and parents or legal guardians can exclude their children from any part of it.
- B. Access to sexual health clinics in Wales is poor, particularly in rural areas, due to location, restricted opening hours or a lack of capacity.
- C. Some sexual health clinics in England offer same-day testing/results services, while no similar provision exists in Wales.
- D. There are strict confidentiality practices surrounding sexual health clinics, and the sharing of patient records with GPs and other health professionals.
- E. Research by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health found a correlation between teenage pregnancy rates and increased deprivation in Wales.
- F. Free HIV home testing kits, provided by the Terrence Higgins Trust and funded by the NHS, are available in England; while no similar provision exists in Wales.
- G. Stigma and misinformation surrounding the true nature of HIV and its effects is still widespread.
- H. Clinical trials of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) medication have shown significant success in preventing the transmission and contraction of HIV.
- I. The Welsh Government recently decided to extend human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination to men who have sex with men (MSM) through sexual health clinics.

Conference believes that:

- I. Every child in Wales should receive good quality sex and relationships education (SRE), which is vital in improving sexual health, eradicating stigma and ending sexual violence.
- II. The issues of consent, sexuality and gender identity are not dealt with by the current SRE curriculum in enough depth, nor early enough in a child's education.
- III. Every person in Wales should have easy access to timely, non-judgemental sexual health and family planning services, regardless of personal characteristics or circumstances.
- IV. The severe restrictions placed on sharing patient records between sexual health clinics and other parts of the NHS can be problematic, and in some cases can harm patient care.
- V. A proactive, rather than reactive, approach to sexual health is more likely to decrease rates of STIs.
- VI. Persistently higher HIV diagnosis rates among MSM and the continued stigmatisation of people who are HIV-positive mark a failure of public health policy, and that the mistakes made in dealing with HIV must be learned from.
- VII. In order to fully protect MSM from HPV and its associated cancers, boys should be vaccinated against it on the same basis as their female peers.

Conference calls for:

1. The creation of a stronger and more inclusive SRE curriculum in Wales which properly deals with issues of gender identity, sexuality, consent and healthy relationships at the earliest appropriate age.
2. The removal of a parent's or legal guardian's right to exclude their child from any part of SRE in any school in Wales.

3. Local authorities to set aside specific funds allowing schools to invite expert speakers from specialist third sector bodies, ensuring that no school is hampered by a lack of knowledge of SRE issues among its teaching staff.
4. Wales' HPV vaccination programme to be extended to cover all adolescent boys on the same basis as their female peers.
5. A pilot programme offering STI testing at the same time as other regular health checks, upon admittance to hospital, in pharmacies, GPs' surgeries and other community locations across Wales.
6. An increase in the availability and efficiency of sexual health and family planning services, particularly in deprived and rural areas, by:
 - a) extending opening hours of existing clinics,
 - b) establishing new clinics where demand exists, and
 - c) offering same-day results services where possible.
7. Businesses to offer STI testing as part of occupational health events.
8. A review into the confidentiality of patient records in Welsh sexual health clinics to ensure that health professionals who need patient records are able to access them, while maintaining a patient's right to opt out of such sharing.
9. NHS Wales to fund HIV home-testing kits similar to existing provision in England.
10. A public health information campaign explaining the true nature of HIV and its transmission, diagnosis and treatment, in order to reduce the stigma attached to the virus and reduce transmission rates.
11. PrEP to be made available by the AWMSG to those at high risk of contracting HIV.