**Electing a proportional and representative Welsh Parliament**

*Welsh National Policy Committee*

Proposer: TBC

Summator: Cllr Peter Black

**Conference Notes;**

* That the electoral arrangements chosen to elect members to the National Assembly for Wales at its inception in 1997 were chosen to deliver more proportional and representative government in Wales than under First Past the Post (FPTP).
* Despite this, the Labour party has continued to dominate Welsh politics and has governed Wales alone or through formal and informal coalitions since 1999.
* That the Liberal Democrats have long advocated for electoral reform, more members, and votes at 16 to ensure fair, transparent and accountable government, which representative of the views and preferences of the electorate.
* The creation of a Political Reference Group by the Llywydd to consider the electoral arrangements of the National Assembly for Wales from 2021, including the voting age, the number of elected members, and the electoral system.
* That proposals will be brought forward before the end of the current Assembly term to re-name the Welsh Assembly the Welsh Parliament and that Welsh Parliament Members (WPM).

Conference notes existing Welsh Liberal Democrat policy on electoral reform, *Paying down the Democratic Deficit*, approved by Conference in 2014.

**Conference Believes;**

* That the electoral system used to elect members to the Welsh Parliament should be fair and proportionate ensuring that every vote counts.
* That Liberal Democrats believe that the most proportional and fair system to ensure that every vote counts is the Single Transferable Vote (STV).
* That the voting age for elections in Wales should be reduced to 16, coupled with improved citizenship education for young people.
* That the number of elected members of the Welsh Parliament should be increased to provide adequate scrutiny of Welsh Government, responsible representation of their electorate, and to deliver effective government for the people of Wales.
* That the number of elected members should be increased to between 80 and 90 members, and should be done so in a way that does not distort effective local representation.

**Conference calls for;**

* The Welsh Liberal Democrats to present a positive case in favour of electoral reform which delivers fairer votes and a more proportional and representative government for the people of Wales.
* The Welsh Liberal Democrats to advocate for the introduction of votes at 16, to increase the number of members to between 80 and 90, and for the Welsh Assembly to be re-named the Welsh Parliament.
* The Welsh Liberal Democrats to advocate for an Assembly elected by STV on the smallest possible number of constituencies so as to maximise proportionality.