

SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2018

Main Room

10:00 Welcome

10:15 Opening Speech- Sir Graham Watson, MEP for South West England 1994-2014

10:50 Policy intro- Jim Williams

11:00 Coffee

11:15 Debates 1 & 2 (see pages x and x for texts of motions)

12:15 Interview: David Hughes interviews Annette Brooke

12:50 Soapbox: All comers- Grab the mike and talk on your chosen topic for 90 seconds!

1300-14:15 Lunch

14:15 Vince Cable speech and Q&A

15:15 Tea (+ Photo session for candidates with Vince Cable - must book)

15:30 Multi-disciplinary activism session with Mark Pack, Dr Paula Surridge, Denise Baron and Gavin Grant

17:30 Close

18:00 AGMs

19:45 for 20:00 Gala dinner. After-dinner speech by Wera Hobhouse

Debates:

Debate 1: Motion on Disability "Taking off the Cloak of Invisibility"

Debate 2: Pay-day Politicians Plan

Training:

Training "Talking to voters" with Cllr Tessa Munt, PPC for Wells

Training 1: Winning again – how we won South Cambridgeshire in May'

Training 2: David Chalmers & Alison Eden- Engagement matters: Building a diverse and successful local party team

Training 3 : 'What is Project Pathway and what it means for your party'

Connect / Campaign - advice drop in session

SUNDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2018

Main Room

9:30 Welcome

9:35 Just a Minute panel game.

Come and watch some of your South West PPCs attempt to talk about policy points for 1 minute without hesitation, deviation or repetition.

10:15 Coffee

10:30 Climate Change with Lord Robin Teverson, Baroness Cathy Bakewell and Cllr Henry Hobhouse (SSDC)

11:15 Debate 3 to follow

11:45: Cllr Clare Cape - "Getting elected and being a councillor"

12:15 Policy feedback Jim Williams

12:30 Tessa Munt closing speech

13:00 End of Conference

Debates:

Debate 3 - to follow

Training:

Training 4 Winning again – how we won South Cambridgeshire in May'

Training 5: Using Social Media

Training 6 : What is Project Pathway and what it means for your party'

Connect / Campaign - advice drop in session

Policy motions

Motion 1: “Motion on Disability”

Proposed by Julie Adnams Hatch (North Devon)
Seconded by Helen Walker (North Devon)

This Joint Regional Conference notes that:-

1. Currently in the UK, not one Political Party is championing the 13.3 million people of the deaf and disabled community.
- 5 2. In spite of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) damning report on the Human Rights' Catastrophe that is the UK Government's neglect of this vulnerable sector of our nation, not only has nothing been done to remedy matters but the situation is worsening month by month.
- 10 3. There are there are increasing reports of mental health issues and deaths occurring every week in the UK directly and indirectly attributable to the current misery of Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payments (PIP) and Universal Credit (UC) assessments and decisions.
- 15 4. Before the instigation of PIP, these awards were paid to claimants dating from the date that paperwork was received in the relevant office. Now they are paid one month from the final decision date, which is often delayed because of the massive backlog of cases awaiting decisions, which means a potential financial shortfall of several months payments.
- 20 5. In spite of the following Federal Conference Motion in September 2017, our Party is remarkably quiet on this stressful, demeaning, emotionally damaging and cruel system.

In September 2017, at Federal Conference, Emergency motion 8: UK Government treatment of disabled people was put to the Party.

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Conference notes that in August 2017 the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) Committee found that the UK Government's cuts to social security and other support for deaf and disabled people had caused "a human catastrophe" which was "totally neglecting the vulnerable situation that people with disabilities find themselves in" and, taken with the UK Government's refusal to either recognise or implement the recommendations of the previous inquiry by the UN CRPD Committee in 2016, concluded that the Conservative Government had committed "grave, systematic violations of the rights of person with disabilities".

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Federal Conference voted with a large majority for the motion:

1. *Liberal Democrats across the UK to fight for the rights of deaf and disabled people in every sphere of their lives, and hold Governments and agencies to account.*
- 40 2. *The UK Government urgently to review its policies, to take immediate steps to remedy those highlighted by the UN and the Lords Select Committee report as failing, and to report back within 12 months.*

45 **This Executive therefore resolves that:-**

- A. **It will publicly, loudly and steadfastly hold Local and National Government, and all bodies such as the NHS and the DWP, with their partner agencies, to account, to support and fight alongside the deaf and disabled community for its, and their individual right to the equity of**
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living a safe, fulfilled, productive life with proper access to housing, financial support, paid and voluntary work, accessibility to all public and social areas free from discrimination and abuse.

55 **B. It will recognise the rights of all carers, regardless of age and ability and recognise the value of the support of family and friends who fulfil the caring role with little support from any government or partner agency and press for legislation to protect those rights.**

60 **C. It will actively engage with the deaf and disabled community in order to allow their voices to be heard on the Political platform whilst encouraging their inclusion within the Lib Dems either as registered supporters, members or candidates at all levels and ensuring that all public access meetings are held in fully accessible venues.**

65 **D. It will ensure that no assumptions of ability or input will ever be made about anyone from the deaf and disabled community and will actively promote the necessity to ask what individuals want to do, feel able to do and what assistance, if any, they require in order to fulfil that desire.**

70 **It will put this same motion forward for inclusion at the next Federal Conference and give its fullest support to ensuring that happens.**

Motion 2: Economic Diversity Proposal (aka “Pay-day Politicians Plan”)

Proposed by Cllr Alison Eden (Newton Abbot)
Seconded by tbc

Conference resolves: To recommend to the Federal Policy Committee that income-based shortlists be implemented urgently as a progressive strategy to enable better representation from all economic groups in Westminster.

Introduction

The biggest practical bar to winning a PPC selection campaign is finance. Candidates need either time or money and preferably both. The expenses ceiling does little to create a level playing field when candidates who don't need to work or who can afford to take unpaid time off are able to campaign full-time for the 3 or 4 weeks that a selection process lasts; members tend to select candidates they have met.

According to the credit card agencies a significant proportion of homes are at risk from poverty. In Torbay for example 38% households are essentially one pay-cheque away from financial disaster and the terror, mental health issues and homelessness that often follows. That's a lot of voters without candidates who can relate to their experience.

We need more candidates and thereby more MPs who know what living on the edge financially means. Not because direct experience matters more than compassion but because we need a better mirror of society representing us.

Conference calls on the Federal Policy Committee therefore to:

1. Recognise that economic disparity impacts negatively on diversity and we, as the party that celebrates diversity, need strategies that increase access by all to political life at a national level.
2. Acknowledge that bursaries are not enough to make a tangible difference to the prevailing socio-demographics of those selected.
3. Reaffirm that bold strategic decisions are a central characteristic of our party and we should not shy away from root and branch change where needed to address pervasive and discriminatory situations.
4. Commit to implementing income-based shortlists for a third of all seats in each constituency where to be eligible a candidate's domestic (joint where appropriate) income is no more than the national median domestic income.

AMENDMENTS must be emailed to judithcole@cix.co.uk by noon on Friday Nov 16

Programme at a glance

SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2018

Time	Main Sessions	Training Sessions	Special Training Sessions
10:00-10:15	Welcome: David Hughes	10:00-11:00	10:15-12:15
10:15-10:50	Opening address: Sir Graham Watson	Training 1: Winning again – how we won South Cambridgeshire in May'	<i>"Talking to Voters"</i> Tessa Munt
10:50-11:00	Policy introduction with Jim Williams		11.15 - 12.45
11:00-11:15	Coffee		Policy Forum
11:15-12:15	Policy debates 1 & 2: See page 2	11:15-12:15 Training 2: Engagement matters: Building a diverse and successful local party team	10 15 - 12.15 Connect / Campaign drop in
		Training 3: 11,15 0 12,15 What is Project Pathway and what it means for your party'	
12:15-12:50	David Hughes interviews Annette Brooke		
12:50-13:00	Soapbox- Grab a mike and talk on your chosen topic for 90 seconds!		
13:00-14:15	Lunch		
14:15-15:15	Vince Cable MP		
15:15-15:30	Tea break + photos with Vince Cable (please book!)		
15:30-17:30	Multi-activism Training session: Main room Mark Pack, Denise Baron, Dr Paula Surridge, Gavin Grant. Learn about messaging, winning elections, etc...		
17:30	Close		

18:00-18:45	AGMs Western Counties: room tbc Devon & Cornwall: room tbc		
19:30-22:00	Gala Dinner After-dinner speaker: Wera Hobhouse		

SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2018

TIME	Main Session		
9:30	Welcome	9:30-10:30	
9:35	Just a Minute PPC panel- come and see your PPCs attempt to hold forth for just one minute on a policy topic without repetition, deviation or hesitation	Training 4: Winning again – how we won South Cambridgeshire in May'	9.30 – 10.30 Policy Forum
10:15	Coffee		10 15 - 12.15 Connect / Campaign drop in
10:30	Climate Change: Lord Robin, Baroness Cathy Bakewell, Cllr Henry Hobhouse		
11:10-11:35	Policy debate 3:	11:10-12:10 Training 5: What is Project Pathway and what it means for your party'	
		Training 6: 'Using Social Media'	
12:10-12:20	Jim Williams policy feedback		
12:20-12:30	Gavin Grant Conference feedback		
12:30-13:00	Closing address: Tessa Munt		
13:00	Close		

Housekeeping

Accessibility:

- Disabled access parking spaces. Please remember to register your car at reception on arrival- you'll need your number plate details.
- Gentle ramp to front door
- Lift between the ground and 1st floors- you are advised to reverse into the lift, as the stairs are right in front of the lift doors on the 1st floor.
- Accessible toilet is on the ground floor.
- please approach Julie Adnams-Hatch if you have any other questions about accessibility over the weekend (the lady with the lovely labradoodle)

Food and Drink:

For times see inside the programme

Saturday Lunch is served in the Topaz Suite

Coffee and tea in x room

Gala dinner

Parking:

The hotel car park is monitored remotely. You MUST register your car at the hotel reception on arrival, using the touch screen, or you will be fined automatically by the parking company when you leave. You'll need your number plate details.

Programmes:

There will only be enough printed programmes for 1 per person. Please hold onto your first one!