

Spring Conference

York Sunday 19th March 2017

Conference Daily



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Sunday 19th March and report back for Saturday 18th March. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda & Directory*.

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| 11.45–13.00 (approx.) | F18 | Speech: Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats | |

If no page number is indicated next to a session or item of business, there are no changes or additional information to that in the Conference Agenda.

Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated. Conference representatives wishing to speak are requested to submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.

Conference Daily and other conference publications are available online in PDF and plain text formats:



www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

or ask at the Information Desk in York Barbican.

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Sunday 19th...

BIG PUSH!

By-Election Rally with Sarah Olney MP

Hear from Sarah Olney MP and Cllr Keith Aspden, Deputy Leader of City of York Council from 10am to 10:30am

Come along and help from 9:30am until 1:30pm, coffee, tea and biscuits will be available

- 1. Help deliver our Brexit Focus**
- 2. Knock on doors with our residents' survey**
- 3. Help us with clerical tasks**

**Priory Street Centre, 15 Priory
Street, York, YO1 6ET**

**Just a 10 minute walk from York Barbican
Centre fully accessible, near to York Station**

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Report back for Saturday 18th March

| | | |
|-----|--|---------------------------------|
| F2 | Report: Federal Conference Committee | Approved |
| F3 | Report: Federal Policy Committee | Approved |
| F4 | Policy motion: A Rational Approach to Harm Reduction | Passed (Amendment One defeated) |
| F5 | Policy motion: Tackling Overcrowding in the Prison System | Passed (Amendment One passed) |
| F7 | Emergency motion – Britain and the EU: Negotiating the Future – Next Steps for Brexit | Passed |
| F8 | Policy motion: The Crisis in Health and Social Care | Passed (Amendment One passed) |
| F11 | Policy motion: Towards a World Free of Nuclear Weapons | Passed (Amendment One defeated) |
| F12 | Reports: Parliamentary Parties | Received |

English Party Governance Review - consultation process

Survey open until 26th March

To complete the survey you need first to login to libdems.org.uk website so that you are recognised as a member.

Then access www.libdems.org.uk/english-party-governance-review

OR visit **exhibition stand 30 on Sunday 19th March between 9am and 12 noon.**

Spokespersons Q&A session

Sunday 19th March

10.00–11.00 Brexit

Lendal Room in York Barbican.

Lost property

If anyone has lost any travel documents in the Barbican Centre, please go to the Information Desk.

Conference timetable 2017

16th–19th September 2017, Bournemouth

| | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|--------------------|
| Drafting advice deadline (motions) | 13.00 | Wednesday | 14th June 2017 |
| Motions deadline | 13.00 | Wednesday | 28th June 2017 |
| Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions) | 13.00 | Monday | 21st August 2017 |
| Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports | 13.00 | Monday | 4th September 2017 |

Sunday 19th March

Additions and updates to the Agenda for Sunday 19th March.

F13 Emergency motion: Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children

10 members

Mover: Baroness Shas Sheehan (Shadow Secretary of State for International Development)

Summation: Cllr Chris White

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 A. More people have been internationally displaced by conflict and crisis than at any time since World
3 War II and many of the displaced are currently seeking refuge in Europe – from Syria alone, three
4 million have been displaced by conflict and crisis.
- 5 B. In 2015 over 90,000 unaccompanied minors applied for asylum in Europe – many tens of thousands
6 more have reached Europe but not claimed asylum.
- 7 C. The Government continues to obstruct efforts to create safe and legal routes for refugees arguing
8 that this creates ‘pull factors’, an argument that has not been evidenced.
- 9 D. Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, which established a scheme to allow the resettlement of
10 unaccompanied child refugees, was passed as an amendment to the Act (known as the ‘Dubs
11 Amendment’) with cross party support after a groundswell of public support and campaigning.

12 Conference notes with concern that:

- 13 i) In February 2017, the Government announced the closure of the resettlement scheme expecting to
14 take only 350 child refugees via this route – predominantly from Calais.
- 15 ii) The Government cited limitations in council capacity to accommodate unaccompanied child refugees
16 contrary to evidence suggesting that councils had spare capacity and would be willing to take more
17 unaccompanied minors from Europe.
- 18 iii) A recent amendment which, if accepted, would have obliged councils to identify their capacity to
19 accommodate unaccompanied child refugees, was defeated in the Commons by a very slim majority.

20 Conference believes that:

- 21 a) The decision to close the resettlement scheme is a betrayal of the wishes of the British people.
- 22 b) Government should live up to the spirit of the Dubs amendment.
- 23 c) It is the responsibility of central government to provide funding for the resettlement of
24 unaccompanied child refugees to ensure councils are able to deliver on the UK’s obligations to act as
25 a sanctuary for those in need.

26 Conference calls for the Government to:

- 27 1. Reopen the Dubs scheme immediately.
- 28 2. Re-engage with local authorities to establish actual capacity for resettlement, and publish this
29 capacity.
- 30 3. Continue to work with European and other international partners to establish safe and legal routes to
31 resettlement.

Applicability: Federal except 2. (lines 28–29) which is England only.

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Background briefing

This motion develops and updates policy on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Existing policy is set out in policy motion *Local Communities Welcoming Refugees* (2016),

F14 Federal Board Report

Q1 Submitted by: Simon McGrath

Following the Electoral Commission fine in 2016 and the news of a further investigation in 2017, what steps are being taken to ensure the party's compliance processes are fit for purpose?

Q2 Submitted by: Simon McGrath

Following the revelation last year that the Federal Levy is only applied to England, what progress has been made in applying it to Scotland and Wales?

Q3 Submitted by: Teena Lashmore

BAME (Black Asian Minority Ethnic) singles out a cultural group and therefore places a hierarchy within the political movement for race equality. Will the Federal Board consider standardising our party's literature to BME which places our anti-racism commitments back in line with the broad anti-racist movement while at the same time encouraging better equality among ethnic groups?

F16 The Role of Faith in State-Funded Schools

The Federal Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendment to the motion:

- 1 *In line 41, delete 'faith'.*

Amendment One

48 members

Mover: Chris Ward

Summation: Dr Julian Huppert

- 1 *In B. (line 6), delete 'against the wishes of their parents'.*
- 2 *Delete i) and ii) (lines 17–20).*
- 3 *Delete v) (lines 28–30) and insert:*
- 4 v) Religious instruction should not take place in state-funded schools.
- 5 *In vi) (line 31–32), delete '(other than those who are mainly or exclusively responsible for providing religious*
- 6 *instruction)'.*
- 7 *Delete 1. a) (line 44) and insert:*
- 8 a) Does not contain any religious instruction.

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9 *In 2. (lines 49–52), delete all words after ‘basis of merit’.*

10 *In 3. (lines 53–57), delete ‘Allows state-funded schools to hold acts of worship and provide religious*
11 *instruction’ and insert ‘Allows children to choose freely whether or not they wish to engage in acts of*
12 *worship of their choice’.*

13 *Delete 4. (lines 58–62).*

The Options and Amendment will be voted on in the following order:

- *The first vote will be between Option A and Option B.*
- *The second vote will be between the winner of the first vote and Option C.*
- *The third vote will be on Amendment One.*
- *The final vote will be on the motion as a whole as amended.*

Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on the role of faith in state schools. The motion supports schools with a religious character having a positive role to play in the education system, while making a clear distinction between religious education and religious instruction, and strictly limiting the roles in schools where the faith of the applicant can be a factor in appointment. The motion also ends the requirement on all non-denominational schools to have a collective act of worship of a broadly Christian character. The motion goes on to set out a series of options for how far faith schools should be allowed to select their pupils by faith when school places are oversubscribed.

Existing policy is set out in policy paper *Equity and Excellence* (2009), as amended by conference.

F17 Associate Citizenship of the European Union

Amendment One

Brussels and Europe Liberal Democrats

Mover: Catherine Bearder MEP

Summation: Giles Goodall

1 *After 3. (line 31), add:*

2 4. The rights of EU citizens in the UK are guaranteed, noting that without a guarantee on EU citizens’
3 rights, EU Member States and the European Parliament may refuse a reciprocal arrangement for
4 British citizens to keep their EU citizenship.

5 *In a) (line 18), after ‘citizenship’ insert ‘as well as British citizens in other EU countries,’.*

6 *In b) (line 21), after ‘anyone’ insert ‘including those British citizens denied a vote due to their residence in*
7 *another EU country for over 15 years’.*

Background briefing

This motion creates new policy on associate citizenship of the EU. In particular, it calls for the government to ensure that British citizens can apply for associate EU citizenship, and that this status provides as many of the rights of full EU citizenship as possible.

Conference Appeal York 2017

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