

# Conference Daily

## Sunday 17 March 2019

Spring Conference York



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Sunday 17 March and report back for Saturday 16 March. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda & Directory* and *Conference Extra*.

## Timetable and contents

### Report back for Saturday 16 March

### Timetable for Sunday 17 March

09.00–09.40	F12 Policy motion: Access to Justice for All	3
09.40–10.00	F13 Report: Federal Board	3
10.00–10.45	F14 Emergency motion: Knife Crime and Youth Services	5
10.45–11.30	F15 Policy motion: Town Centres Fit for the Future	6
11.30–12.15	F16 Policy motion: No to Unpaid Internships, Yes to Real Opportunities	7
12.15–13.30	F17 Speech: Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats	7

*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 & Directory or Conference Extra.*

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

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# Report back for Saturday 16 March

F2	Report: Federal Conference Committee	Approved
F3	Report: Federal Policy Committee	Approved
F3a	Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	Approved
F4	Policy motion: <i>Eradicating Race Inequality</i> (Race Equality Policy Paper)	Passed
F6	Policy motion: Europe	Passed (Amendment One Passed)
F8	Policy motion: Cleaning Up the Air We Breathe – How to Tackle Road Pollution	Passed (Amendment One and Amendment Two Passed)
F9	Business motion: A Registered Supporters' Scheme	Passed as amended in accordance with the votes on F10 (lines 96–97 retained).
F10	Constitutional amendment: A Registered Supporters' Scheme	Group One passed (Amendment One passed); Group Three Passed. Group Two (A) and Group Two (B) defeated.
F11	Reports: Parliamentary Parties	Received

Emergency motion: Youth Crime and Youth Services was selected for debate as item F14.

For the text of motions and amendments, please refer to the Spring 2019 Conference Agenda & Directory and Conference Daily for Saturday 16 March 2019.

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## Conference timetable Autumn 2019

### 14–17 September 2019, Bournemouth

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00	Wednesday	12 June 2019
Motions deadline	13.00	Wednesday	26 June 2019
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00	Tuesday	20 August 2019
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00	Monday	2 September 2019



# Sunday 17 March

## F12 Access to Justice for All

*This item will end at 09.40.*

Aide: Cllr Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC).

Summation: Wera Hobhouse MP (Commons Spokesperson for Justice)

### Amendment One

*Southwark*

Mover: Jonathan Hunt.

Summation: James Sandbach.

1 *After B. (line 6) insert:*

2 C. Physical access to court buildings in terms of distance and costs are frequently important  
3 factors.

4 *After vi) (line 26) insert:*

5 vii) Government is closing many court buildings, selling the premises and transferring  
6 hearings to places often some distance away at great inconvenience and cost to  
7 defendants, witnesses, lawyers, magistrates, judges and journalists.

8 *After 4. (line 49) add:*

9 5. The restoration of community court buildings where still available, or Government  
10 investment in new user-friendly premises where required and justified; or alternatively,  
11 subsidy of fares to persons affected.

### Background Briefing

This motion substantially updates and develops policy regarding legal aid: in particular it calls for legal aid to be restored for early legal advice in a wide range of circumstances including welfare, debt, and immigration and for it to be more readily accessible. Existing policy is set out in 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future* and policy motion *Restoring Access to Justice* (2016).

## F13 Federal Board Report

*This item will start at 09.40.*

*There will be a vote on the names of the Lead Adjudicator and Adjudicators listed in the Federal Board Report as part of this item.*

### Addendum to Federal Board Report

In line with Article 20.5 of the Constitution, the Federal Board hereby informs Conference that a decision has been taken at the Federal Board's meeting of 2nd March 2019, after the publication of



# Sunday 17 March

the Board's normal report to Conference, to suspend the Associated Organisation "Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine" (LDFoP).

The reason for suspension was materials that had been posted or shared to LDFoP's social media accounts which prompted complaints of anti-semitic content. The Board has authorised an investigation into the issue and decided to suspend the organisation whilst the investigation is underway due to the gravity of the allegations, the repeat nature of them and concerns with the initial response of LDFoP to the allegations.

The Board asked that LDFoP should be given support and training during their time in suspension to better understand issues around social media use, and the Party's adopted definition of anti-semitism.

## **Q1. Submitted by: Gareth Epps**

With the suspension of the Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine, is the Party now a hostile environment for those critical of the Netanyahu Government?

## **Q2. Submitted by: Nick Da Costa**

Now that Hatch has shed its Liberal Democrat shell, will they still receive office space and HQ support?

## **Q3. Submitted by: Lois Norton**

Regarding the membership system problems late in 2018 – (a) who bears ultimate responsibility financially – the Party or Salesforce?, (b) when does the party's contract with Salesforce end and (c) what is the service level agreement with Salesforce?

## **Q4. Submitted by: Gareth Epps**

At what point was a) the Party's Chief Executive, b) the Federal Finance & Resources Committee, and c) the Federal Board made aware of the significant financial shortfall that occurred in late 2018?

## **Q5. Submitted by: Gareth Epps**

What changes have been made to financial reporting as a result of the issues that came to light in Autumn 2018 regarding a previously unidentified significant financial shortfall?

## **Q6. Submitted by: Jennie Rigg**

What progress has been made towards allowing SAOs other than Young Liberals to sign up members since the answer you gave me last conference? It has now been several years – and several renamings of the youth SAO – since conference passed a motion saying that SAOs other than Young Liberals should be able to enrol directly.

## **Q7. Submitted by: Jon Ball**

What process will Federal Board establish to enable the wider Party membership to decide whether or not to accept any proposed seat deal or other arrangement with The Independent Group?



# Sunday 17 March

## Q8. Submitted by: Toby Keynes

On 2nd March, Federal Board adopted the following definition of Islamophobia, at the request of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims and Baroness Warsi:

“We recommend the adoption of the following definition following widespread consultation with academics, lawyers, local and nationally elected officials, Muslim organisations, activists, campaigners, and local Muslim communities: Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.”

There was certainly no “widespread consultation” or even warning of the proposal within the party prior to this decision, which I and members of the HSLD committee only learned of three days beforehand – far too late for concerns to be raised and taken up effectively with FB members.

Does FB now recognise that the term and the definition are both highly contentious?

Does FB recognise concerns that the term and definition may give comfort and protection to those who would attack my rights and freedoms as a gay man as well as the rights and freedoms of other oppressed and discriminated-against groups, including women, LGBT+ people and ex-Muslims, most of all within religiously conservative Muslim communities in the UK and abroad?

Will FB suspend this decision, so as to allow party members to engage in a full, open and honest debate – perhaps through the Policy Working Group on the Nature of Public Debate?

## Q9. Submitted by: Adam Bernard

Which bodies were involved in the drafting of the questionnaire sent to all members to gauge support for elements of the Reforms?

What was the remit given to those involved in the drafting of the questionnaire?

What steps were taken to ensure that the questionnaire did not contain leading questions?

## F14 Emergency motion: Knife Crime and Youth Services

*10 members and ALDC*

Mover: Cllr Jon Hubbard.

Summation: Cllr Lucy Nethsingha.

1 Following the death of a 14-year-old in London on 8th January and further fatal stabbings  
2 since that date, the stabbing of three teenagers in Birmingham within 12 days in February  
3 2019, reports showing that knife crime in 2018 was at the highest level since 2010, and a  
4 report by the Children’s Commissioner on 28th February 2019 showing that around 34,000  
5 children are preyed on by “ruthless” criminal gangs.

6 Conference notes:

- 7 1. The rise in the number of young people involved in knife crime, with 813 under-18
- 8 admitted to hospital with stab wounds in 2017–18, compared to 451 in 2014–15.
- 9 2. The rise in the number of young people excluded from school.



# Sunday 17 March

- 10 3. The impact that high quality youth work can have in keeping young people in school, and  
11 away from the influence of gangs, particularly the gangs involved with county lines drug  
12 dealing.
- 13 4. The massive reduction in youth service budgets since 2015.
- 14 Conference further notes the research evidence showing that having a strong long-term  
15 relationship with a trusted adult outside the family or school can have a significant protective  
16 effect against mental ill-health, and that youth workers can provide this support.
- 17 Conference also recognises the need for a public health approach involving all agencies  
18 including the NHS and police to tackle the issue of knife crime and the need for cuts to police  
19 numbers to be reversed.
- 20 Conference therefore calls for a major re-investment in youth services, both universal and  
21 targeted, with national government making youth services clearly a statutory service, working  
22 with local government to develop clear guidance on what councils should be providing, and  
23 ensuring there is sufficient grant funding to match that service provision.

*Applicability: England.*

## Background Briefing

This motion updates and restates policy on youth services, community policing and tackling knife crime. Existing policy is set out in policy motion *Gun and Knife Crime* (2017) and the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*.

## F15 Town Centres Fit for the Future

### Amendment One

*12 members*

Mover: Gareth Epps.

Summation: to be announced.

- 1 *After III. (line 16) insert:*
- 2 IV. Conference further notes the continued trend of loss of pubs, particularly community  
3 pubs, due to closure for redevelopment and conversion to managed chain bars or  
4 franchises.
- 5 *In 1. a) (line 53), after 'empty' insert 'while retaining existing protection for community assets  
6 and pubs in the planning system'.*
- 7 *After 4 (line 76), insert:*
- 8 5. Require, as part of the review of the Pubs Code, the extension of the definition of unfair  
9 business practice to include a pub company issuing a Section 25 notice principally to  
10 change operating model to end a tenancy.



# Sunday 17 March

## Background Briefing

This motion substantially updates and develops policy to improve town centres, including by reforming commercial planning law, sharing good practice, establishing an industry-led body to help retailers adapt, and expanding the funding of the 'Future High Streets Fund'. Existing policy is set out in policy paper 130, *Power for People and Communities* (2018) and policy paper 133, *Good Jobs, Better Businesses, Stronger Communities* (2018). The motion also restates existing policy on the replacement of the business rates with a Commercial Landowner Levy, as set out in policy motion *Taxing Land, not Investment* (2018).

## F16 No to Unpaid Internships, Yes to Real Opportunities

Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley.

## Background Briefing

This motion creates new policy.

## F17 Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

*The speech will be preceded by a minute's silence in memory of Paddy Ashdown.*

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