

# CLEARPRINT AGENDA & DIRECTORY LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SPRING CONFERENCE YORK 13-15 MARCH 2020

## **Clear Print**

This clear print / large text version of the Conference Agenda & Directory matches as closely as possible the text of the published Agenda & Directory. Motion line numbers match those in the printed Agenda & Directory. Page number cross references are correct within this clear print document. Some information may appear in a different place from its location in the published Agenda & Directory. Complex layouts and graphics have been omitted.

The Agenda & Directory and other conference publications, in PDF, plain text and clear print formats, are available online at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

Welcome to the Agenda & Directory for the Liberal Democrat Spring 2020 federal conference.

## **Conference venue**

York Barbican  
Paragon Street  
York YO10 4AH

The conference venue will open at 16.30 on Friday 13 March.

## **Conference hotel**

Novotel York  
Fishergate  
York YO10 4FD

## **Official fringe venue**

Hilton York  
1 Tower Street  
York YO1 9WD

Further information, registration and conference publications (including plain text and clear print versions) are available at:  
[www.libdems.org.uk/springconference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/springconference)

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The published **Agenda & Directory** contains plans of the conference venue and conference hotels, and a map of York City Centre, that are also available as separate documents at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers).

# Welcome to York

**from Ed Davey and Mark Pack**

Welcome to York, a Liberal Democrat led city with a tradition of a strong local government presence.

With our sights firmly fixed on the upcoming local elections across the country, it is a fitting venue for our Spring Conference and the gearing up of our local election campaign.

We meet at a time when our nation's future is deeply uncertain. We know that our relationship with the European Union will now change but we still do not know the details of what our ongoing relationship will look like.

One thing is certain we cannot let the nature of that relationship be set solely on the whim of Boris Johnson and the likes of Jacob Rees-Mogg. We have to fight for our pro-internationalist, pro-trade and pro-environment beliefs, in a Europe that maximises freedom. If we don't do it, nobody else will.

We must not stand back and concede our liberal values and our liberal beliefs, to the authoritarian populist right.

So over the next few months, every Liberal Democrat Parliamentarian will play their part to scrutinise the Government's Brexit experiment. We will challenge and oppose any proposal that weakens our nation's role in fighting the world's climate crisis or keeping us safe from international crime gangs and global terrorism. We know we can keep the British people safer with full-on co-operation with our European and international partners.

The last election was a huge disappointment – with no bigger loss than Jo Swinson. Jo was always a huge part of the parliamentary team and we have lost an important friend and colleague from our Commons ranks. It takes huge courage to lead a political party, especially at a time when the nation is facing the uncertainty and damage of Brexit.

## FEATURE

In leading our party through that time Jo stood up passionately for what we believe in and did not shy away from taking action to try and stop Brexit. And we thank Jo.

Looking to the future, we must not be afraid to reflect, to challenge ourselves and to learn lessons from the last three disappointing elections. It's why an independent elections review has already started work.

The review must be something every member should play a part in. From the preliminary all-member survey before Christmas, over 20,000 replies have already come in – thank you! The party must also learn from local teams with their strong Liberal Democrat electoral success and take those lessons into the local elections in May.

And together we can campaign on themes where we've had such success in the past – and which are more important than ever – like the environment and climate change.

In places like York, Liberal Democrats are taking action to tackle the climate emergency by investing significantly to help create a 'Northern Forest', deliver zero-carbon homes, construct a rapid electric charging network and set up the UK's first voluntary Clean Air Zone. That's real action from Liberal Democrat councillors to bring change to our communities.

With more Liberal Democrat councillors, we can show that Liberal Democrats remain a force to be reckoned with – and a party committed to radical change in our country. From political reform to more caring social policies, from economic realism to environmental passion, we can paint our Liberal Democrat values in technicolour.

Let's do that for this May and beyond.

We look forward to seeing you out on the campaign trail!

**Rt Hon Sir Ed Davey, Acting Co-Leader of the Liberal Democrats**

**Mark Pack, President and Acting Co-Leader of the Liberal Democrats**

# Conference information

If you have any questions at conference, please ask a steward or go to the Information Desk in the foyer of York Barbican.

Be aware that flash photography is frequently used in the auditorium. Please ensure that all mobile phones are on silent before entering the auditorium.

Please note that access to York Barbican is only possible with a valid conference photo pass.

## Accessibility

If you need assistance at the venue, please contact the Information Desk in the foyer of York Barbican, where our dedicated access steward will be on hand to help.

If you need assistance or information in advance, contact the Conference Office on: [conferences@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferences@libdems.org.uk)

## Auditorium facilities

- A wheelchair ramp at the side of the stage; the chair of the session will ensure wheelchair users are called in plenty of time to access the stage.
- An induction loop system, which can be linked to hearing aids.
- Sign language interpretation during all auditorium sessions; a number of seats are reserved for attendees using this service, at the front of the auditorium to the left of the stage.
- Reserved seats at the front of the auditorium for those who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual impairment.

## Mobility aids

The Liberal Democrats have a limited number of electric scooters available for use around the conference venue; they need to be returned each evening for charging.

## **INFORMATION**

To request the use of an electric scooter please email the Conference Office prior to conference: [conferences@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferences@libdems.org.uk)

### **Conference Access Fund**

We have established a Conference Access Fund to improve accessibility for members attending conference.

The fund consists of a contribution from the conference budget as well as donations from Party members. Contributions made by members are ring-fenced; where applicable, unused donations will be carried over to the next conference.

For details see: [www.libdems.org.uk/access-fund](http://www.libdems.org.uk/access-fund)

## **Accommodation**

Accommodation can be booked via our local partner, Visit York:  
tel: 01904 550080

Conference attendees are welcome to stay in York with a local party member, for a low-cost donation to local party funds (cost dependent on type of accommodation). For more information, email Aileen:  
[aileen@yorklibdems.org.uk](mailto:aileen@yorklibdems.org.uk)

## **ATM**

Please note there is no ATM facility inside York Barbican, and bars and catering outlets in the venue are unable to provide cashback. There is an ATM in the nearby Co-op store which is free to use.

## **Cloakroom**

York Barbican does not have a cloakroom; however rails will be available for attendees to leave coats at their own risk. Please do not leave bags unattended at any point within the venue. Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into York Barbican.

## INFORMATION

### **Coffee, tea, water – refills**

As part of the party's green policy:

- Please bring your own water bottle. Free refills will be available in York Barbican.
- Please bring your own reusable coffee cups for use within York Barbican.

### **Conference Extra and Daily**

**Conference Extra** is published ahead of conference and **Conference Daily** each day at conference, containing updates to the agenda including changes to timings, amendments, topical issues, emergency motions and questions to reports, available via the Conference App and at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

Limited hard copies of **Conference Daily** will be available each morning from the Information Desk and of **Conference Extra** from the Riso/Midshire stand in the exhibition.

Be green – Go paperless!

### **Distribution of literature**

Distribution of literature is not allowed inside or directly outside York Barbican. Excessive distribution of promotional literature is not in line with the party's environmental policies.

Anyone attempting to bring a large number of fliers into York Barbican may be prohibited from entering and a dilapidation charge will be levied against any organisation or individual responsible for 'fly-posting'.

### **Federal Board helpdesk**

The Federal Board (FB) helpdesk is situated by the Information Desk in the foyer of York Barbican. Members of the FB will be available to have strategic



## INFORMATION

conversations with members at the following times:

Saturday	14 March	10.30–12.30
Saturday	14 March	14.00–16.00
Sunday	15 March	10.30–12.30

## Federal Conference Committee helpdesk

Members of the Federal Conference Committee (FCC) will be available to give advice at the Information Desk at the following times:

Friday	13 March	17.00–18.00
Saturday	14 March	09.00–10.30
Saturday	14 March	14.00–16.00

## First Aid

In the event of needing First Aid, please speak to a conference steward or go to the Information Desk. The stewards will arrange for First Aiders to attend and/or request a paramedic.

## Information Desk

The Information Desk is located in the main foyer of York Barbican and is open as follows:

Friday	13 March	16.30–18.30
Saturday	14 March	08.30–18.30
Sunday	15 March	08.30–13.30

You can contact the Information Desk by email:  
[conferenceinformation@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferenceinformation@libdems.org.uk)

## Internet access

Free wifi is available in York Barbican, the Novotel and Hilton.

## INFORMATION

### **Barbican**

Network: Barbican Free Wi-Fi.

No password is required.

### **Novotel**

Network: Novotel.

No password is required.

Select complimentary wifi, enter your email address, tick to accept terms and click on connect.

### **Hilton**

As the password changes daily, please check with the front desk.

## **Left luggage**

On Sunday 15 March please store your luggage at your hotel after checkout. Alternatively, there will be a secure, complimentary luggage service at the Novotel in Meeting Rooms 5 and 6; there will be a charitable box if you wish to donate to one of the hotel's chosen charities.

## **Live stream**

In case you miss any sessions or want to watch again, the conference will be streamed live at: [www.youtube.com/libdems](http://www.youtube.com/libdems)

## **Lost property**

Any lost property should be handed in to the Information Desk in the foyer of York Barbican.

## **Q&A sessions**

There will be a series of Q&A sessions during conference where you can ask questions of our spokespeople. All sessions take place in York Barbican, Lendal Room. See **Conference Extra** and **Conference Daily** for details.

## INFORMATION

### Quiet room

Unfortunately, due to venue restrictions we are unable to provide a quiet room at this event. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

### Recycling facilities

Recycling facilities are available throughout York Barbican – please make use of the collection bins. All of the straws, cutlery and crockery at York Barbican are either degradable or reusable and all of the plastics are recyclable.

### Registration on-site

On-site registration is located in the Box Office of York Barbican and is open at the following times:

Friday	13 March	16.30–18.30
Saturday	14 March	08.30–17.30
Sunday	15 March	08.45–11.00

At busy times you may experience queues at on-site registration and we urge all those wishing to attend conference to pre-register via:

[www.libdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference)

### Security and safety

Access to York Barbican is possible only with a valid conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard. Conference photo passes must be worn visibly at all times within the secure zone. Anyone found in the secure zone without a valid pass will be escorted from the venue.

Attendees will be subject to compulsory bag searches at the entrance. To ensure you can access the venue as quickly as possible please only bring essential items with you into the conference venue. Please allow time for queuing during key times – particularly after lunch and ahead of popular events.

## **INFORMATION**

Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the secure zone. Any bag left unattended will be brought to the attention of the police and may be removed and/or destroyed.

## **Transport and travel**

York Barbican is approximately 20 minutes walk (1 mile) from York train station, 4 minutes (0.2 miles) from the Novotel and 8 minutes (0.4 miles) from the Hilton.

### **Train travel to conference**

Discounted travel to conference via LNER is available via:

[www.libdems.org.uk/travel\\_discounted\\_train\\_tickets](http://www.libdems.org.uk/travel_discounted_train_tickets)

### **Local taxi**

If you need to book a local taxi in York, please call Streamline Taxis,  
tel: 01904 656565

### **Parking**

The nearest car park is Q Park on Kent Street (YO10 4AH), just behind York Barbican.

Q Park has 5 dedicated disabled parking spaces. Please note, these are not blue badge parking – for information on blue badge parking in York visit:

<http://bit.ly/1nMYIZu>

## **Conference hotel plans**

The published **Agenda & Directory** contains a plan of the Hilton and Novotel, which is available at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

## Debates and votes at conference

Debates on policy and business motions are at the heart of federal conference. It is through them that the party sets its policy and future direction. Unlike in other parties, Liberal Democrat members are sovereign, and what they decide really matters.

### The structure of debate on policy and business motions:

Proposer of the motion speaks

V

Proposers of any amendments speak in turn

V

Speakers called on all sides of the debate with the chair seeking to ensure balance

V

Interventions taken (if listed on the agenda)

V

Summators of amendments speak in turn

V

The summator of the motion speaks

V

The chair takes votes for and against the amendments and separate votes (if any) in turn

V

A vote will be taken on the motion as a whole

**Interventions:** concise (one minute) speeches made from the intervention microphone(s) on the floor of the auditorium, during debates where it is indicated in the **Agenda**.

**Amendments:** all motions except emergency motions are open to amendment; amendments accepted will be printed in **Conference Daily**.

## INFORMATION

**Voting:** decisions on most motions and all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting (2/3 majority for constitutional amendments). To vote, voting members must show their voting badge whilst seated on the ground floor of the auditorium.

**Separate votes:** a vote to delete or retain the specified words or section. A request for a separate vote may be submitted by any party member: by the start of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled, *or* by the deadline for emergency motions for debates scheduled for the first day of conference; using the online form at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_submissions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions), by email to [separate.votes@libdems.org.uk](mailto:separate.votes@libdems.org.uk), *or* in writing to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium.

**Counted vote:** the chair of the session may decide that a vote needs to be counted. Any voting member may request a count from the floor; if fifty voting members stand and show their voting cards, a count will be taken.

## Speaking and voting in conference debates

### Eligibility to speak and vote

All party members are entitled to speak and vote in conference debates, providing they are:

- attending conference as a party member (and not an exhibitor or observer); and
- not registered as a day visitor.

Party members fulfilling these criteria are known as 'voting members'.

FCC may also give permission for other persons to speak (but not vote) in conference debates.

### Length of speeches

The length of speeches is shown against each motion in the **Agenda**.

## INFORMATION

There are three lights on the speaker's rostrum and visible either side of the stage. The green light is switched on at the beginning of the speech. The amber light is switched on 60 seconds before the end of the allowed time (20 seconds before the end of an intervention). The red light is switched on when all the time is used up, and the speaker must stop immediately.

### **Applying to speak**

To make a speech in a debate you must complete a speaker's card, collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table at the front of the auditorium, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk.

There will be a facility to submit speaker's cards electronically – see **Conference Daily** for details.

### **Completing a speaker's card**

When completing a speaker's card:

**1 Submit your card well in advance.** The chair and aide team for the debate will meet well in advance to plan the debate – sometimes the previous day.

**2 Fill in your card completely.** Including the two sections on the back of the card as well as the front, as this enables the chair and aide to balance the debate and call people with relevant experience and avoid a string of people making the same point.

### **3 Make sure it's readable!**

Don't fill every square centimetre of the card, write illegibly, in very small letters, or in green ink ... The easier the card is to read, the more likely you will be called.

### **Interventions**

To speak during interventions, voting members should complete an intervention card, collected from and returned to a steward in the auditorium. Speakers will be chosen by the chair of the session by random ballot.

## Other conference sessions

### Emergency motions and topical issue discussions

Emergency motions are debated and voted on and make formal party policy like other motions, but refer to a substantial development since the deadline for submission of motions.

Motions selected for debate, and/or for selection by ballot along with the ballot procedure, will be printed in Saturday's **Conference Daily**.

Topical issue discussions allow members and spokespeople to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference; they do not make party policy.

The topical issue to be discussed is chosen by officers of the Federal Conference Committee and Federal Policy Committee and will be printed in Saturday's **Conference Daily**.

### Reports

The reports of Federal Committees and Parliamentary Parties are printed in the separate reports document.

Any party member may submit concise questions on these reports. The chair will select which questions will be asked. Questions to reports of the Parliamentary Parties may relate to any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the Westminster Parliament.

Questions may be submitted using the online form:

- at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_submissions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions).
- by 13.00 Monday 2 March.

Questions received by the deadlines above will be printed in **Conference Daily**.

Questions on events occurring after the deadlines above may be submitted on speaker's cards at the Speakers' Table up until one hour before the start of the relevant session.



## INFORMATION

# **Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals**

## **Amendments and emergency motions**

Amendments and emergency motions must be:

- signed by 10 party members; or
- submitted by one or more of: a local party, state party, regional party in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisation or Federal Party Committee.

Amendments and emergency motions must be submitted by 13.00 Monday 2 March.

Submitters should include:

- For amendments – a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment.
- For emergency motions – a short explanation of its emergency nature.

## **Topical issues**

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any party member by:

- 13.00 Monday 2 March.

The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should not include an expression of opinion; please include full contact details of the submitter and up to 100 words explanatory background.

## **Drafting advice**

Submitters are encouraged to use our drafting advice service: draft amendments and emergency motions should be submitted by:

- 13.00 Monday 17 February.

Amendments, emergency motions and topical issues should be submitted to the Policy Unit:

- using the online form at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_submissions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions)

## INFORMATION

- or by post to Policy Unit,  
8–10 Great George Street,  
London SW1P 3AE.

### Appeals

Appeals against the non-inclusion of emergency motions or amendments must be signed by the original drafting contact and should be no longer than one side of an A4 sheet; give a contact name and telephone number; include a copy of the motion/amendment to which they relate; and give justification for the appeal and new information Federal Conference Committee was unaware of when it made its decision.

Appeals should be sent to:

- [appeals@libdems.org.uk](mailto:appeals@libdems.org.uk)  
and submitted by:
  - 13.00 Thursday 12 March.

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## Conference Extra and Conference Daily

**Conference Extra** is published ahead of conference and **Conference Daily** each day at conference, containing vital updates to the agenda, available via the Conference App and at: [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

Limited hard copies of **Conference Daily** will be available each morning from the Information Desk and of **Conference Extra** from the Riso/Midshire exhibition stand.

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## Conference venue plan

The published **Agenda & Directory** contains a plan of the York Barbican, which is available as a separate document at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

# The exhibition

The exhibition will be open at the following times:

Friday 13 March 16.30–18.15  
Saturday 14 March 09.00–18.00  
Sunday 15 March 09.00–13.00

## Exhibitors listed by stand number

- 1 National Education Union
- 2 Parliamentary Candidates Association
- 3 Green Liberal Democrats
- 4 Liberal Democrat History Group
- 5 Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine
- 6 Rights-Liberties-Justice (LDLA)
- 7 Transport for the North
- 8 Unity Trust Bank
- 9 Social Media Focus Group – Lib Dem
- 10 Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform
- 11 VisitBrighton
- 12 Social Democrat Group
- 13 Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary
- 14 Liberal Democrat Christian Forum
- 15 Liberal Reform
- 16 Prospect Magazine
- 17 LGBT+ Liberal Democrats
- 18 Social Liberal Forum
- 19 National Liberal Club
- 20 Liberator Magazine
- 21 Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists
- 22 Liberal Democrat Women
- 23 Liberal Democrat Education Association
- 24 Prater Raines Ltd

## EXHIBITION

- 25 & 26 ALDC – Liberal Democrat Campaigners & Councillors  
and LGA Liberal Democrats
- 27 RISO UK Ltd / Midshire Business Systems
- 28 ALTER
- 29 Young Liberals
- 30 Liberal Democrat European Group
- 31 Liberal Democrat Disability Association (LDDA)
- 32 Liberal Democrat Friends of Kashmir
- 33 Election Workshop
- 34 Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats
- LD Image Liberal Democrat Image
- VY Visit York

# Directory of exhibitors

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## **ALDC – Liberal Democrat Campaigners & Councillors and LGA Liberal Democrats**

ALDC and LGA Lib Dems provide advice, training and resources for local campaigners and councillors. Get in touch and join a fantastic network of Lib Dems in ALDC.

**[www.aldc.org](http://www.aldc.org)**

**[www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk](http://www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk)**

**Stand 25 & 26**

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## **ALTER**

ALTER seeks to build support for Land Value Taxation amongst Liberal Democrats; and to promote and campaign for this policy as a more sustainable and just resource-based economic system.

**[www.libdemsalter.org.uk](http://www.libdemsalter.org.uk)**

**Stand 28**

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## EXHIBITION

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### **Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists**

The Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists (Aldes) provides a resource of engineering and scientific know-how to support the Party. Meet our members and learn how to get involved.

**[www.aldes.org.uk](http://www.aldes.org.uk)**

**Stand 21**

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### **Election Workshop**

Create great leaflets online with ALDC artworker using ALDC's templates. Learn how in fifteen minutes! Election Workshop provide Liberal Democrats with print, design, envelopes, correx, posters and direct mail.

**[www.electionworkshop.co.uk](http://www.electionworkshop.co.uk)**

**Stand 33**

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### **Green Liberal Democrats**

Promoting sustainability in politics, both within and beyond our party. Visit our stand for advice about how you can make a difference. It's not just about changing the world, it's about saving it!

**[www.greenlibdems.org.uk](http://www.greenlibdems.org.uk)**

**@GreenLibDems**

**Stand 3**

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### **Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats**

For Liberal Democrats who believe the state should treat everyone equally regardless of their religion or belief. Recent campaigns cover caste discrimination, humanist weddings, discrimination by schools and illegal schools.

**[www.hsld.org.uk](http://www.hsld.org.uk)**

**Stand 34**

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### **LGBT+ Liberal Democrats**

LGBT+ Lib Dems are the Party body for gender and sexual minorities, including lesbian, gay, bi and trans people.

**<https://lgbt.libdems.org.uk/en/>**

**Stand 17**

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## EXHIBITION

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### **Liberal Democrat Christian Forum**

We are a Christian voice in the Party and a voice of liberal democracy among Christians. We support Christians of all backgrounds to engage positively and constructively in politics.

**[www.idcf.org](http://www.idcf.org)**

**Stand 14**

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### **Liberal Democrat Disability Association**

Working to win the votes of disabled people. Providing a voice for disabled members. Influencing policies to ensure they reflect the views of disabled people and carers.

**[www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk](http://www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk)**

**Stand 31**

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### **Liberal Democrat Education Association**

The Liberal Democrat Education Association aims to improve education through: publishing articles; running conferences; generating new ideas; promoting Lib Dem education policies and providing advice to Liberal Democrats in power.

**<https://idea.org.uk>**

**Stand 23**

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### **Liberal Democrat European Group**

LDEG works to ensure the closest possible relationship between the UK and EU by supporting activists, online campaigns and study trips. Join at:

**[www.ldeg.org](http://www.ldeg.org)**

**Stand 30**

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### **Liberal Democrat Friends of Kashmir**

Liberal Democrat Friends of Kashmir exists to increase the awareness of the party in the Kashmiri diaspora. Also highlighting what Kashmiri diaspora face in the UK and across the globe.

**Stand 32**

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## EXHIBITION

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### **Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine**

LDFP fights for the rights of the Palestinian People, for immediate recognition of Palestine as a State, and for the human rights of Palestinians as defined in international law.

**[www.ldfp.eu](http://www.ldfp.eu)**

**Stand 5**

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### **Liberal Democrat History Group**

'The past illuminates the present'. Subscribe to the *Journal of Liberal History*. Buy Liberal history publications, including booklets on Liberal thinkers, Liberal thought and a short history of Liberal politics in Britain.

**[www.liberalhistory.org.uk](http://www.liberalhistory.org.uk)**

**Stand 4**

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### **Liberal Democrat Image**

Visit Liberal Democrat Image in the exhibition for all your campaign materials. Follow us on Facebook and on our website:

**[www.libdemimage.co.uk](http://www.libdemimage.co.uk)**

**Stand LD Image**

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### **Liberal Democrat Women**

Liberal Democrat Women, Britain's oldest feminist organisation. Visit our conference stand and discover why we're still needed. Join our campaign for gender equality in Town Halls, Westminster and beyond.

**[www.libdemwomen.org.uk](http://www.libdemwomen.org.uk)**

**Stand 22**

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### **Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform**

The home for Lib Dems who support a fairer and more effective voting system, working to ensure the party gets the arguments and the politics right, to make reform happen.

**<http://lder.org/>**

**[www.facebook.com/libdemsforelectoralreform](http://www.facebook.com/libdemsforelectoralreform)**

**Stand 10**

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## EXHIBITION

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### **Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary**

LD4SOS believe in standing up for asylum seekers in the UK and treating them with compassion, humanity and respect.

**[www.ld4sos.org.uk](http://www.ld4sos.org.uk)**

**Stand 13**

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### **Liberal Reform**

Liberal Reform exists within the Liberal Democrats to promote personal liberty and a fair society supported by free, open and competitive markets. We seek to make these values central to party policy.

**[www.liberalreform.org.uk](http://www.liberalreform.org.uk)**

**Stand 15**

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### **Liberator Magazine**

Read the latest from the Party's leading thinkers. As ever RB, shines light on the dark corners of the Party.

**[www.liberator.org.uk](http://www.liberator.org.uk)**

**Stand 20**

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### **National Education Union**

The National Education Union brings together the voices of more than 450,000 teachers, lecturers, support staff and leaders, to form the largest education union in Europe. Visit our stand to hear what we think are the key issues in education as we start a new decade.

**[www.neu.org.uk](http://www.neu.org.uk)**

**Stand 1**

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### **National Liberal Club**

The London home of Liberalism.

**[www.nlc.org.uk](http://www.nlc.org.uk)**

**Stand 19**

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## EXHIBITION

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### **Parliamentary Candidates Association**

The PCA provides support to Party members wishing to become MPs. It provides guidance and mentoring at every stage from approval and selection through to election campaigning. Membership enquiries: David Naghi (info@davidnaghi.co.uk).

**[www.libdempca.org.uk](http://www.libdempca.org.uk)**

**Stand 2**

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### **Prater Raines Ltd**

Making Liberal Democrat campaigns succeed online for 15 years. We'll help you use your website, social media and emails to WIN. Real support, fair pricing and huge range of features.

**[www.praterraines.co.uk](http://www.praterraines.co.uk)**

**Stand 24**

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### **Prospect Magazine**

Prospect established itself as the home of intelligent debate. It tackles the big challenges confronting society through rigorous analysis and fine writing, in pieces that prompt you to think again.

**[www.prospectmagazine.co.uk](http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk)**

**Stand 16**

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### **Rights-Liberties-Justice (LDLA)**

With an emphasis on Human Rights, Civil Liberties and Access to Justice, R-L-J considers all aspects of the Law and politics. Info on our activities, research groups and events.

**[www.rights-liberties-justice.uk](http://www.rights-liberties-justice.uk)**

**Stand 6**

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## EXHIBITION

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### **RISO UK Ltd / Midshire Business Systems**

Midshire is proud to be the largest reseller of RISO equipment nationally. RISO printers are a favourite with political parties due to their high volume output with various finishing options.

**[www.riso.co.uk](http://www.riso.co.uk)**

**[www.midshire.co.uk](http://www.midshire.co.uk)**

**Stand 27**

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### **Social Democrat Group**

To ensure that social democracy has a voice in policy-making and the party political programme, particularly to promote social justice and reduction of poverty.

**[www.facebook.com/SocialDemocratGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SocialDemocratGroup)**

**Stand 12**

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### **Social Liberal Forum**

SLF exists to create a society where everyone has access to the wealth, power and opportunity to enable us to lead full and rewarding lives, unfettered by conformity and hardship.

**[www.socialliberal.net](http://www.socialliberal.net)**

**Stand 18**

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### **Social Media Focus Group – Lib Dem**

Discussing Social Media, Its Benefits, Volunteering, and Where Improvements Can Be Made.

**Stand 9**

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### **Transport for the North**

Transport for the North is England's first Sub-national Transport Body and is making the case for transformational investment across the region including the up-to £39bn Northern Powerhouse Rail project.

**<https://transportforthenorth.com/>**

**Stand 7**

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## EXHIBITION

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### **Unity Trust Bank**

Unity Trust Bank is a commercial bank with a social conscience. We have over 35 years' experience supporting Trade Unions, because we share the same values. Bank with us, Bank on us.

**[www.unity.co.uk](http://www.unity.co.uk)**

**Stand 8**

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### **Visit York**

Discover your #OnlyInYork experience. Visit us for all the local information you need on what to see and do and where to eat during your stay.

**[www.visit york.org](http://www.visit york.org)**

**Stand VY**

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### **VisitBrighton**

VisitBrighton are the official tourism organisation for the city of Brighton and Hove. Come along to our stand for details on accommodation booking in Brighton for Autumn Conference 2020 and information on the city.

**[www.visitbrighton.com](http://www.visitbrighton.com)**

**Stand 11**

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### **Young Liberals**

We provide a platform for young people and students to have their voices heard and act as a radical pressure group within the Liberal Democrats.

**[www.youngliberals.uk](http://www.youngliberals.uk)**

**Stand 29**

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# Fringe guide

## Official fringe venues

Novotel York  
Fishergate, York, YO10 4FD

Hilton York  
1 Tower St, York, YO1 9WD

Locations of venues are shown on the map of York City Centre on the back cover of the published **Agenda & Directory** – available as a separate document at: [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers).

## Fringe meeting access

All fringe events listed in the Novotel and Hilton hotels (our official venues) are wheelchair-accessible. If you experience any access difficulties, please let the Information Desk know or make a comment on your online feedback.

If you have any concerns or compliments about a fringe event at conference, please contact the event organiser during or at the end of the session.

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### Key to fringe listings

**REF** Refreshments provided

**HEAR** Hearing loop provided

**INV** By invitation only

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# Friday 13 March

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## **Fringe Friday early evening 18.30–19.30**

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### **Members' Rally**

No conference experience is complete without joining Lib Dems from across the country at the conference Rally! Always a highlight of conference, come join leading parliamentarians and special guests.

**York Barbican, Auditorium**

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## **Fringe Friday mid evening 20.15–21.30**

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### **Liberal Democrat History Group**

#### **General Election 2019: Disappointment for the Liberal Democrats**

Professor Andrew Russell (Head of Politics, Liverpool University) and James Gurling (Chair, Federal Campaigns and Elections Committee) will discuss the Liberal Democrats' 2019 General Election campaign and the outcome. Chair: Wendy Chamberlain MP.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 1 + 2**

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### **Green LibDems with Assoc Lib Dem Trade Unionists**

#### **GREENING THE WORKPLACE – How can various stakeholders better combat Climate Change?**

Business UK emissions. What can LD Trade Unionists, Green Lib Dems, employees, business owners, elected representatives ... do to accelerate climate change action? Sir Simon Hughes (President ALDTU), Cllr Jane Brophy (recent MEP), Martin Wiles (Bristol University), Campaign Against Climate Change TU group tbc.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 3**

**REF**

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### **St Albans Liberal Democrats**

#### **How we won in St Albans**

In December, St Albans was the only seat we gained where we had previously had no Lib Dem MP. Come and hear what we think were some key learning points from our campaign.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 4**

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### **Northern Liberal Network**

#### **How we win in the North**

Join Lord Dick Newby (Lib Dem Leader in the Lords), Laura Gordon (Sheffield Hallam), Cllr Lisa Smart (Hazel Grove) and Kamran Hussain (Leeds North West) for the launch of the Northern Liberal Network, the Party's new voice for Northern England.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 5**

**REF**

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### **LGA Liberal Democrat Group**

#### **Councils and commercialisation**

What it is, what it isn't – and how commercial activity can make money to stop service cuts! Speakers include: Councillor Keith House; Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts; and Sarah Olney MP. Chair: Councillor Alan Connett, LGA Liberal Democrat Group.

**Novotel, Riverside Room**

**HEAR, REF**

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## **Fringe Friday late evening 22.15–23.30**

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### **Liberal Democrats**

#### **Conference Quiz**

Come along and watch as Alastair Carmichael MP delivers an entertaining night of questions and laughter.

Tickets may be available on the door, depending on availability.

**Novotel, Fishergate Suite**

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# Saturday 14 March

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## Training & Skills

Training courses are taking place in the Novotel and Hilton between 09.30 and 17.30 on Saturday 14 March. 'GYY'dcU[ Yg'

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### **Fringe Saturday lunchtime 13.00–14.00**

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#### **Social Liberal Forum**

##### **2019 General Election: What next after the Shambles?**

What can we learn from the mistakes and failures of 2019? What are the big lessons for the future about strategy, messages and campaigning? Discussion opened by Alistair Carmichael MP, Commons Chief Whip and Foreign Affairs spokesperson. Chair: Janice Turner.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 1 + 2**

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#### **Green Liberal Democrats**

##### **Rural District & County Green Campaigning Best Practice – Mobilising Zero Carbon Communities**

Empowering local Circular Economies with toolkits and grants interacting with LEPs. Projects from Transport to Housing and Energy with excellent benefits for wellbeing and Sustainable growth. With Layla Moran MP, Cllr Pippa Heylings, Cllr Steve Mason, Sue Jefferson (Realising Possibilities).

**Novotel, Meeting Room 3 + 4**

**REF**

---

#### **LIBDEMS AGAINST TRIDENT**

##### **BAN THE BOMB!**

Do you care about the future of our World? Nuclear Weapons pose a wipe-out threat to our planet as well as climate change does. Chair: Baroness Sue Miller and guest speakers from the Party plus CND's General Secretary.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 5**

**REF**

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**Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats**

**You Can't Say That! Criticising religious beliefs in a hostile environment**

In an environment of widespread hostility towards members of some faith groups, especially Muslims, what criticism of religious institutions, beliefs and practices is acceptable? With Pragna Patel (Director, Southall Black Sisters), Mohammed Amin MBE, Dr Rajin Chowdhury (candidate, Sheffield SE).

**Novotel, Meeting Room 6**

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**National Education Union & Liberal Democrat Education Association**

**The impact of poverty on educational outcomes; do schools need more support?**

Join the NEU and LDEA to discuss the support that schools need given that poverty is on the increase. Speakers: NEU Joint General Secretary Mary Bousted; LDEA Chair Nigel Jones; Lucy Nethsingha MEP; and Layla Moran MP (invited).

**Novotel, Riverside Room**

**REF**

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**Liberal Democrat European Group**

**Liberal Democrat European Group AGM**

Members are invited to review recent activities and discuss how the party can campaign for the closest possible UK-EU relationship. Join LDEG on door £10.

**Hilton, Bootham Room**

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**Lib Dem Business & Entrepreneurs Network / Radical Centre Think Tank,**

**Radix**

**Wherever Next for the Centre Ground**

A panel discussion with: Sir Ed Davey MP, Interim Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Miranda Green, FT Columnist and Deputy Opinion Editor, Joe Zammit-Lucia, co-Founder, Radix and LDBEN member, Jake Field-Gibson, Politika – The Radix Youth Wing.

**Hilton, Micklegate Room**

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**Rights-Liberties-Justice (Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association)**

**The United Kingdom – Can it Survive?**

Has Brexit been achieved at the cost of the Union? What if countries would prefer to be part of the EU rather than the UK? A Panel will consider whether the UK's nations should become federal, confederal or independent. Details: [www.rights-liberties-justice.uk](http://www.rights-liberties-justice.uk)

**Hilton, Minster Suite**

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**Social Democrat Group**

**How broad a church should the Liberal Democrats be?**

Last December, we got 11.6% of the vote and 11 MPs. If we want more success, do we need to be more welcoming of different opinions? And, if so, how should we go about it? Speakers to be announced. [www.facebook.com/SocialDemocratGroup/](https://www.facebook.com/SocialDemocratGroup/)

**Hilton, Walmgate Room**

**INV**

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**Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15–19.15**

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**Transport for the North**

**Devolution in the North and the opportunities it will create**

Join us for a panel chaired by the Leader of the City of York Council and TfN Board member, Cllr Keith Aspden, to discuss what devolution means for the North and the opportunities it will create.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 1 + 2**

**HEAR, REF**

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**Social Liberal Forum**

**Britain and Europe after Brexit: What next for the Lib Dems?**

After four years of anti-Brexit campaigning, what is our plan for the UK outside the EU? What is the LibDem campaign message? William Wallace, Lords Foreign Affairs spokesperson, and Sheila Ritchie, elected MEP for Scotland 2019. Chair: Cllr Louise Harris.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 3 + 4**

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### **Liberal Reform**

#### **The Liberal Democrats and The Decade Ahead**

Join Liberal Reform and special guests to discuss the opportunities and challenges ahead for the Liberal Democrats as we enter the 2020s. Will this be the decade that the Lib Dem Fightback comes into full force?

**Novotel, Meeting Room 5**

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### **Young Liberals**

#### **A Public Health Approach to Knife Crime**

A discussion on the need to tackle knife and gang violence as a public health matter with focus on youth services and early intervention.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 6**

**REF**

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### **Green Liberal Democrats**

#### **Urban & City Green Campaigning – Hear about Key successful campaigns for Sustainable Cities**

Preparing for May Elections? Green projects can be popular from Buildings & Transport to Energy & Green Spaces. Wera Hobhouse MP leads City best practice with Cllr Jane Brophy (Trafford), Cllr Adele Morris (London/LGA), Cllr Paula Widdowson (York), Cllr Kris Brown (Liverpool) and Mary Page (Bristol Mayor Cand).

**Novotel, Riverside Room**

**REF**

---

### **ALDC – Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors & Campaigners**

#### **ALDC Members meet up and drinks**

A chance for ALDC members to network, chat and grab a drink while learning about ALDC's new projects and plans for the May elections.

**Hilton, Micklegate + Bootham**

**REF**

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**Rights-Liberties-Justice (Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association)**

“Europe is the Future”. But, what is our future?

“We’re out” were David Dimbleby’s words on 24/06/2016. Most Liberal Democrats do not accept this to be our country’s fate. We are internationalist and Europe is our future. But how do we get there? Our panel discusses.

Details: [www.rights-liberties-justice.uk](http://www.rights-liberties-justice.uk).

**Hilton, Minster Suite**

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**Liberal Democrats Education Association**

**AGM and Address by Layla Moran MP**

Join the LDEA for our AGM, followed by a speech from Education Spokesperson Layla Moran on “Liberal Democrat Priorities in Education”. All conference attendees welcome; LDEA members will be able to stand for and elect the 2020–2021 LDEA Committee.

**Hilton, Walmgate Room**

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**Fringe Saturday mid evening 19.45–21.00**

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**LGA Liberal Democrat Group**

**Has declaring a Climate Emergency made a difference in your council?**

Hear what Lib Dem Councils are doing and ideas for action you can take locally. Speakers: Councillor Keith Aspden; Councillor Adele Morris, LGA Liberal Democrats; Councillor Bridget Smith; Wera Hobhouse MP. Chair: Councillor Ruth Dombey, Deputy Leader, LGA Liberal Democrats.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 3 + 4**

**HEAR, REF**

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**Green Liberal Democrats**

**GLD AGM with guest speaker Daisy Cooper MP**

Come and vote on key Officer posts for our vital GreenLibDem organisation and have your input on key priorities. Special appearance from our new St Albans MP Daisy Cooper to inspire us for activism coming up to May elections and beyond.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 5**

**REF**

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**Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary (LD4SOS)**

**“Lift the Ban” – campaign for the right to work for asylum seekers**

What Liberal Democrats have done, what the situation is elsewhere and how we can get involved at every level. Mary Brandon from Asylum Matters, Dr. Ruvi Ziegler from LD4SOS and Christine Jardine MP will speak and then answer questions.

**Novotel, Riverside Room**

**REF**

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**Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers & Scientists (ALDES)**

**STEMM Drinks Reception with Layla Moran MP: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine**

Join ALDES and Layla Moran MP for a STEMM drinks and networking reception. Whether you're involved in or enthusiastic about Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, or Medicine – you'll find fascinating people, the importance of evidence-informed policy, and how to get involved.

**Hilton, Micklegate Room**

**REF**

---

**Rights-Liberties-Justice (Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association)**

**Rights-Liberties-Justice: Planning for the future – the forthcoming Constitutional Commission (and R-L-J's AGM)**

The Conservatives' Constitutional Commission will review the 'power balance'. However, where the Executive exerts its will through Parliament, what happens to democracy if we are deprived of independent judicial review? We discuss RLJ's 'counter-commission' and campaign plans (and AGM). [www.rights-liberties-justice.uk](http://www.rights-liberties-justice.uk)

**Hilton, Minster Suite**

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**Fringe Saturday late evening 21.30-late**

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**Glee Club**

Glee Club is back this Spring! Come along and enjoy as we reel out the Liberator Song Book classics with guest appearances. Entry is free on the door.

**Novotel, Fishergate Suite**

Note: this event starts at 22.00 and ends at 01.00

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**Liberal Democrats**

**Whisky tasting with Alistair Carmichael MP**

A unique opportunity to taste, discuss and learn a bit about malt whisky in a relaxed, friendly environment. RSVP by emailing [libdemfow@gmail.com](mailto:libdemfow@gmail.com) or call 07469 714839.

**Hilton, Micklegate + Bootham**

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**We want to hear from you!**

We will be sending round a feedback survey link soon. Please let us know about your experience at conference.

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# Training & Skills Programme

## Welcome to our Spring Conference 2020 training programme!

Whether you're just starting out as a Liberal Democrat member, or whether you've been a member for decades, there's a training session for everyone.

You can learn new skills, brush up on existing skills or even learn how to take on new roles in the party.

Each training session is 'tagged' to indicate what you can expect to learn. You can turn up to any training session you like, unless otherwise indicated.

Please remember that all training is first come first served. If you're unable to attend a session and would like further info email us at

[training@libdems.org.uk](mailto:training@libdems.org.uk)

Enjoy your conference!

## What skills will you learn at conference?

### **diversity**

Learn how to engage diverse people and communities or find out how to build a successful and sustainable political career as a person from an under-represented group.

### **campaigning**

Whether you have been campaigning and fighting elections for decades or are just getting started, learn the latest techniques and brush up on your existing skills.

### **digital**

Learn how to get the most from the party's suite of digital tools. Find out how to engage voters and supporters through a range of digital channels.

### **compliance**

These courses will keep you up to date on legal and compliance issues. Particularly useful for election agents and local party officers.

## TRAINING & SKILLS CONTINUED

### **fundraising**

Whether you are trying to win an election or grow your local party, fundraising is crucial. Learn how to fundraise, get ideas, tips, tricks as well as advice and support.

### **personal**

Personal development courses will help you develop a range of skills that will enable you to grow in your roles within the Liberal Democrats as well as in the outside world.

### **party roles**

Across the party there are many roles you could take on. Learn the skills needed to take on different party roles and find out about how you can develop your skills further.

### **teams**

Building diverse, winning teams is crucial to our success at all levels. These courses will help you build a team and enable your team to thrive and grow further.

## **Training & Skills: Saturday**

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### **Saturday 09.30-10.45**

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#### **Growing through campaigns**

How to use issue based campaigns to grow your organisation and influence.

Campaigns Team

**Novotel, meeting room 1&2**

personal, party roles

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### **Your journey to becoming an MP**

(BAME only)

This will cover all stages of the journey and will cover: becoming approved, choosing your seat, a winning selection campaign and support available throughout from the RDC.

Racial Diversity Campaign

**Novotel, meeting room 4**  
diversity, personal

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### **Introduction to getting the most from Spring Conference**

Find out how to get the best experience at our Conference in York from the team who pull conference together and know all the secrets.

Federal Conference Committee

**Novotel, meeting room 5**  
personal

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### **Speaking at Conference**

(women only)

Find out what is involved in speaking at conference and how to make the most of an opportunity to do so.

Campaign for Gender Balance

**Novotel, meeting room 6**  
diversity, personal

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### **Agent and election law Double session (0930 - 1230)**

What every agent and campaigner needs to know about running an election, from standing candidates to completing your expenses returns.

2 parts - 0930 to 1045 and 1115 - 1230. Please attend both sessions.

Compliance & ALDC

**Hilton, Micklegate room**  
compliance, party roles

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### **Managing casework for candidates and councillors**

We explore different strategies and tools that councillors and candidates use to keep on top of their case load.

ALDC

**Hilton, Bootham room**

party roles, compliance, personal

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### **Pick a ward and win it - What is my message for the local election campaign?**

What will set you apart from the competition on polling day? This module is to help candidates develop their message for leaflets, direct mail and social media.

ALDC

**Hilton, Walmgate room**

party roles, campaigning

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### **You could be an MP**

Thinking about parliamentary candidate approval? We want to encourage candidates from all backgrounds. Hear from inspiring speakers and get tips on completing your application.

Candidates Team

**Hilton, Minster suite**

party roles, diversity, personal

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## **Saturday 11.15-12.30**

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### **Building to win in 2024**

How to build your organisation to win in 2024.

Campaigns team

**Novotel, meeting rooms 1&2**

teams, campaigning

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### **Building a political profile in the Liberal Democrats**

(BAME and women only)

This session looks at ways you can build your brand reputation within the Lib Dems. We will explore how best to navigate the party, where the opportunities are and how to make the most of them.

Racial Diversity Campaign/Campaign for Gender Balance

**Novotel, meeting room 4**

diversity, party roles

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### **Building inclusive teams**

Does your membership reflect the communities that you wish to serve?

Probably not as much as it should, and we all have a part to play in fixing that. Come and find out how you can help to diversify your local membership. This session will explore ways that you can take practical steps to foster inclusion and increase engagement with diverse communities in your area.

Membership & Diversity team

**Novotel, meeting room 5**

diversity, teams

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### **Bouncing Back!**

(Open to all)

Politics is never predictable and there are times when we all need to pick ourselves up and draw on our inner resources to overcome a disappointing result.

Campaign for Gender Balance

**Novotel, meeting room 6**

personal

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### **Be a Councillor - taking the climate agenda forward on your council.**

We can make a difference in our areas and local councils on one of the world's most pressing issues. Come and share your ideas and find out more at this workshop.

ALDC

**Hilton, Bootham room**

personal, teams

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## TRAINING & SKILLS SATURDAY 11.15-12.30 CONTINUED

### **Local and regional media skills**

How can you make a bigger impact in your regional and local media? This session, run by the LDHQ Press Office, will give you the basic tools you need to succeed.

Candidates and Press teams

#### **Hilton, Minster suite**

party roles, campaigning, personal

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### **Technical training - How to do direct mail**

Industry still spends billions on direct mail because it works as part of communication and fundraising. We will discuss who you should write to and what a good piece of direct mail looks like.

ALDC

#### **Hilton, Walmgate room**

digital, campaigning

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## **Saturday 14.30 - 15.45**

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### **Being the credible challenger**

How to position yourself to win the next election in your area.

Campaigns team

#### **Novotel, meeting rooms 1&2**

party roles, campaigning, personal

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### **Intro to Lighthouse**

Lighthouse is the party's new tool for managing your local party, membership and donations. Come along to this practical session and learn how it works and what it can do for you.

Membership team

#### **Novotel, meeting room 3**

party roles, digital, campaigning, fundraising

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### **Powerful political storytelling**

What is the most powerful way to motivate voters? Storytelling! This interactive workshop explains briefly the science underlying why stories work and gives you the framework and tools to create stories to engage different audiences on and offline.

Campaigns team

**Novotel, meeting room 4**  
campaigning, personal

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### **Unconscious Bias - what is it and why it matters**

Unconscious bias is the source of prejudice and discrimination. Understanding how to recognise and challenge unconscious biases appropriately will help build high performance teams.

Diversity Team

**Novotel, meeting room 5**  
diversity, teams

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### **How CGB can help you get elected**

(women only)

Q & A session where you can ask a panel of volunteers about how CGB helped get them elected. Come along and find out how CGB can help you develop your role and help with your aspirations within the party.

Campaign for Gender Balance

**Novotel, meeting room 6**  
diversity, personal

---

### **Pick a ward and win it - Good local election literature**

Hone your local literature to hit the mark and make an impact during your local election.

ALDC

**Hilton, Bootham room**  
campaigning

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### **Compliance training for local party Treasurers**

An essential guide for new and experienced treasurers.

Compliance Team

**Hilton, Micklegate room**  
compliance

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### **Planning to raise, raising to win**

Learn how to upskill your team to plan for ambitious campaign fundraising, including tactics to use when no election is imminent.

Fundraising team

**Hilton, Minster suite**  
fundraising, teams

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### **Technical training - Understanding your audience for Facebook advertising**

Social media can be a powerful and persuasive tool in a campaign. Find out how to best target your efforts for the biggest impact.

ALDC

**Hilton, Walmgate room**  
digital, campaigning

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## **Saturday 16.15-17.30**

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### **Winning control of your council**

This session is aimed at people wanting to win councils within the next four years.

Campaigns team

**Novotel, meeting rooms 1&2**  
campaigning

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### **Intro to Lighthouse**

Lighthouse is the party's new tool for managing your local party, membership and donations. Come along to this practical session and learn how it works and what it can do for you.

Membership team

### **Novotel, meeting room 3**

party roles, digital, campaigning, fundraising

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### **Public speaking**

Everyone gets nervous about speaking in public. This workshop gives you the practical skills to master your nerves and present yourself confidently, powerfully and truthfully both on political and other occasions.

Campaigns team

### **Novotel, meeting room 4**

campaigning, personal

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### **Employment and wellbeing best practices**

Looking at what is best practice in HR - contracts, performance reviews and staff wellbeing.

HR team

### **Novotel, meeting room 5**

personal

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### **Staying safe on social media**

(women only)

Women politicians have particular challenges in the digital world. Come and find out how to manage them.

Campaign for gender balance

### **Novotel, meeting room 6**

diversity, personal

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**Pick a ward and win it - GOTV and using Connect to win your local election**

How we use the data we have gathered throughout the year is vital to getting the best result on polling day. Find out how to do this in this module.

ALDC

**Hilton, Bootham room**  
digital, campaigning

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**Compliance training for local party Treasurers**

An essential guide for new and experienced treasurers.

Compliance Team

**Hilton, Micklegate room**  
compliance

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**Fundraising - how to approach large donors**

Asking for money can be daunting, but only if you are not prepared. Get the skills that you need to approach major donors and ask for the resources that you need to fund a campaign.

Fundraising team

**Hilton, Minster suite**  
fundraising, campaigning

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**Developing skills - Persuading electors to vote for us**

What motivates people to vote for a candidate or a party? We look at the science behind the art of persuading people to vote for us. These practical exercises aim to improve your ability to produce persuasive material.

ALDC

**Hilton, Walmgate room**  
campaigning

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11.05–11.45	F17 Policy motion: Student Mental Health	69
11.45–13.00	F18 Speech: Rt Hon Sir Edward Davey MP, Acting Co-Leader of the Liberal Democrats	71

All conference sessions, except the consultative session on Friday 13 March (see page 50), take place in the Auditorium in York Barbican.

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## Conference timetable Autumn 2020

### 26–29 September 2020, Brighton

Drafting advice deadline (motions): 13.00, Wednesday 17 June 2020.

Motions deadline: 13.00, Wednesday 1 July 2020.

Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions): 13.00, Tuesday 31 August 2020.

Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports: 13.00, Monday 24 September 2020.

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# Friday 13 March

## 15.00–17.00 Consultative session

### Liberal Democrat Principles and Values

Chair: Duncan Brack; Rapporteur: Dr Jonathan Everett.

Novotel, Meeting Rooms 1–4

Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than full-scale conference debates for party members to participate in the party's policy- and decision-making process. Each session examines a particular topic and hears contributions from party members and in some cases outside speakers.

This session will be organised by the Federal Policy Committee. The conclusions of the session will be taken into account when drawing up their final recommendations.

# Saturday 14 March

## 09.00 Party business

Chair: Mark Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats). Aide: Joe Toovey. Hall Aide: Cllr Joe Otten.

### **F1 Opening of Conference by Cllr Keith Aspden, Leader of York City Council @YorkLibDems, #LDconf**

## 09.10 Party business

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Joe Toovey. Hall Aide: Cllr Joe Otten.

### **F2 Federal Conference Committee Report**

Mover: Geoff Payne (Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 2 March. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Saturday 14 March. See page 16 for further information.

### **F3 Federal Policy Committee Report**

Mover: Sally Burnell (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 2 March. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Saturday 14 March. See page 16 for further information.

## 09.30 Policy motion

Chair: James Gurling. Aide: Rachelle Shepherd-Dubey. Hall Aide: Liz Lynne.

### F4 Hong Kong

23 members

Mover: Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP (Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs).

Summation: Nick Chan.

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 i) The UK and China signed the Sino-British declaration in 1984;
- 3 the declaration was lodged at the United Nations and included a
- 4 50-year-long commitment to ensure that Hong Kong continues
- 5 to function under a “one country, two systems” framework in
- 6 order to uphold Hong Kong’s high degree of autonomy and
- 7 progress towards universal suffrage; Hong Kong sovereignty was
- 8 handed from the UK to China on 1st July 1997.
- 9 ii) In 2017 China’s foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said the
- 10 legally binding treaty “no longer has any practical significance”.
- 11 iii) Up to two million people, across different socio-economic
- 12 backgrounds, have taken to the streets of Hong Kong calling for
- 13 democratic reforms.
- 14 iv) Clashes and violence have escalated, with reports of police using
- 15 rubber bullets, tear gas, water cannons, and firing shots of live
- 16 ammunition.
- 17 v) Former Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Lord Ashdown,
- 18 campaigned on providing right of abode in UK if China ever
- 19 reneged on the promises enshrined in the international treaty.
- 20 vi) A recent poll showed that 63% of British people are concerned
- 21 about human rights erosion in the region, while 49% believe that
- 22 British MPs should “speak up about Hong Kong”.

## SATURDAY 14 MARCH F4 CONTINUED

23 Conference believes that:

- 24 a) The sentencing of pro-democracy protestors and reports of  
25 police violence in Hong Kong represent contravention of the  
26 Sino-British declaration.
- 27 b) The UK has a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that  
28 democracy, the rule of law, and human rights are upheld in Hong  
29 Kong.
- 30 c) The UK must stand with Hong Kong in their fight for human  
31 rights, calling for a full and independent investigation into police  
32 violence, and for further progress towards universal suffrage.

33 Conference calls for:

- 34 1. The Liberal Democrats to pursue in Parliament all routes to  
35 ensuring that the UK honours our legal and moral duty to  
36 the people of Hong Kong by reopening the British National  
37 (Overseas) Passport offer, extending the scheme to provide the  
38 right to abode to all holders.
- 39 2. The UK government to use Britain's diplomatic and trading  
40 relationship with China to help ensure Beijing refrains from using  
41 excessive or military force to end the protests.
- 42 3. The UK government to ensure that the UK and our international  
43 partners indefinitely suspend all export licenses for crowd  
44 control equipment to Hong Kong.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 17 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 14 – is 13.00, Monday 2 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

## SATURDAY 14 MARCH CONTINUED

### 10.10 Consultative session

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Aide: Bex Scott. Hall Aide: Cllr Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC).

#### **F5 General Election Review**

This session forms part of the wider 2019 General Election Review and will include:

- An introduction from the Chair of the 2019 Election Review, Baroness Thornhill.
- Contributions from the floor on three key themes under discussion in the review (to be set out in Conference Extra preceding conference, based on the first stage investigation by the review panel).
- An opportunity for general feedback to the review panel.

This session is for party members only. Any party member wishing to make a concise contribution should submit a speaker's card, collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table at the front of the auditorium, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk. See page 14 for further information.

### 11.40 Policy Motion

Chair: Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon. Hall Aide: John Bridges.

#### **F6 Children's Social Care**

11 members

Mover: Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson for Education).

Summation: Cllr Lucy Nethsingha.

## SATURDAY 14 MARCH F6 CONTINUED

1 Conference notes that:

2 A. A child or young person is referred to children's services every  
3 49 seconds on average and the number of children in care has  
4 increased by more than 15% since 2010.

5 B. Looked-after Children (LAC) are five times more likely to be  
6 temporarily excluded from school than their classmates; almost  
7 three-fifths of them have special educational needs or a disability  
8 (SEND), and less than a third of them leave primary school  
9 meeting the expected standards in reading, writing and maths.

10 C. Children's social care budgets have risen faster than any other  
11 area of local council spending; councils spend over two-thirds  
12 of their children's social care budgets on LAC and safeguarding,  
13 meaning that early intervention services have been squeezed.

14 D. Councils struggle to find suitable places for LAC; most children's  
15 homes are privately run and are often located where property  
16 prices are low rather than in areas with the greatest need.

17 E. 'Unregulated accommodation', intended for teenagers  
18 transitioning from care into independent living, varies widely in  
19 quality and is too often used as a stop-gap for young people with  
20 more complex needs who need a children's place in a residential  
21 home.

22 F. Almost two-thirds of foster carers believe their allowances  
23 and expenses do not meet the full costs of looking after foster  
24 children.

25 Conference believes that:

26 i) Every child, no matter where they live or what the circumstances,  
27 deserves a great start in life so they have the support,  
28 relationships, skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

29 ii) The Conservative Government has failed to focus effectively  
30 on children's social care despite council spending on it rapidly  
31 increasing.

32 iii) Local councils should not have to choose between funding  
33 statutory children's services and supporting early intervention

## SATURDAY 14 MARCH F6 CONTINUED

34 programmes such as children's centres and family support  
35 workers.

36 iv) Children in care should be able to live in high-quality  
37 accommodation close to their birth family or their other support  
38 networks if it is in their best interests.

39 v) Foster carers, including kinship carers, should be compensated  
40 and supported properly so that they can care for foster children  
41 well.

42 Conference calls on the Government to:

43 a) Provide additional funding to put children's social care on a  
44 sustainable financial footing, including dedicated funding for  
45 preventative services to stop children from getting into crisis.

46 b) Ensure that LAC are prioritised within the education system; local  
47 councils should administer the admissions process, managed  
48 moves and SEND functions for all schools in their area, including  
49 academies, to support this aim.

50 c) Address the shortfall in places for children in care so that every  
51 child who needs a place has one, by providing both capital  
52 funding and an underwriting mechanism to help councils run  
53 children's homes themselves where needed, taking account of  
54 regional variations in costs.

55 d) Create a new kitemark for unregulated accommodation to help  
56 councils find high-quality places for those older teenagers in care  
57 who are ready to transition into independent living.

58 e) Review the allowances for foster carers so that they reflect the  
59 actual cost of looking after children and require all councils  
60 to pay foster carers at least the minimum weekly allowance  
61 recommended by central government, ensuring councils are  
62 given funding to meet these costs.

63 f) Explore whether an allowance scheme should be set up for  
64 kinship carers.

65 g) Develop a national workforce strategy for social workers and  
66 children's home managers.



## SATURDAY 14 MARCH F6 CONTINUED

- 67 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrats' 2019 manifesto  
68 commitments to stop children getting into crisis, including:
- 69 1. Investing over £1 billion a year extra in children's centres and  
70 providing a dedicated youth services fund for local authorities.
  - 71 2. Reducing child poverty by abolishing the two-child limit and the  
72 benefits cap.
  - 73 3. Introducing new waiting time standards in children's mental  
74 health services.
  - 75 4. Allocating additional funding for SEND to reduce the amount  
76 schools pay towards supporting a child with an Education, Health  
77 and Care Plan.

Applicability: England only.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 17 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 14 – is 13.00, Monday 2 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

### 12.30 Speech

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

**F7 Jo Swinson,**  
**Former Leader of the Liberal Democrats**  
**@joswinson, #LDconf**

### 12.50 Lunch

## 14.10 Policy motion

Chair: Liz Lynne. Aide: Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Joe Toovey.

### F8 Electoral Reform

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Spokesperson for Political and Constitutional Reform).

Summation: Tara Copeland.

- 1 Conference deplores the damage that the UK's current electoral
- 2 system is doing to our democracy, leaving millions of people feeling
- 3 powerless, excluded and robbed of their rightful say over how our
- 4 country is run.
  
- 5 Conference deeply regrets that First-Past-the-Post:
  - 6 A. Is fundamentally unfair and unrepresentative – in the December
  - 7 2019 General Election it took just 25,883 votes to elect each
  - 8 SNP MP and just 38,264 votes to elect each Conservative, while
  - 9 it needed 336,038 votes to elect each Liberal Democrat and
  - 10 865,715 votes to elect the lone Green.
  - 11 B. Has allowed the Conservative and Labour parties to maintain
  - 12 their grip on the vast majority of seats in Westminster, even
  - 13 as they have shifted far from the views of the vast majority of
  - 14 British people.
  - 15 C. Creates far too many safe seats where the outcome is a foregone
  - 16 conclusion; people are taken for granted by politicians and
  - 17 parties, unable to properly hold their representatives to account.
  - 18 D. Denies voters a genuine choice, as it forces many to vote
  - 19 tactically against their least favoured candidate instead of for
  - 20 their most favoured one.
  - 21 E. Entrenches the power of party establishments, as it allows voters
  - 22 no choice between candidates of the same party.

## SATURDAY 16 MARCH F8 CONTINUED

23 Conference believes that:

- 24 i) Improving our democracy is an important end in itself, but it is  
25 also a necessary means to building a better country, with good  
26 schools and hospitals, affordable housing, safe communities and  
27 clean air.
- 28 ii) With a better electoral system and more democratic institutions,  
29 politicians and parties will have to be more focused on the things  
30 that really matter to people, leading to improved public services  
31 and a fairer society as a result.

32 Conference also regrets that in the 2019 General Election 16- and  
33 17-year olds, EU citizens living in the UK and many UK citizens living  
34 abroad were denied their votes despite the impact of the election on  
35 their rights and long-term interests.

36 Conference further regrets that elections for single positions such  
37 as Mayors are conducted using the Supplementary Vote system in  
38 which voters can express only a first and second preference, thus  
39 still giving incentives to vote against their least preferred candidates  
40 rather than positively for their favourites.

41 Conference notes with alarm the Conservative plans to introduce a  
42 compulsory voter ID law, despite their trial in the 2019 local elections  
43 having denied hundreds of people their vote and warnings from  
44 charities and academics that the proposals “present a significant  
45 barrier to democratic engagement and risk compromising a basic  
46 human right for some of the most marginalised groups in society”,  
47 including older people, people from BAME communities and  
48 homeless people.

49 Conference therefore calls for:

- 50 1. Proportional representation by the Single Transferable Vote  
51 system to elect all MPs and local councillors in England, which  
52 would:
- 53 a) Allow voters to give their support to their preferred parties

## SATURDAY 14 MARCH F8 CONTINUED

- 54 and candidates, without the risk of helping the worst party  
55 sneak through.
- 56 b) Force politicians and parties to compete for every vote, in  
57 every part of the country.
- 58 2. 16- and 17-year olds to be given the right to vote in elections and  
59 referendums.
- 60 3. The existing rights of all EU citizens in the UK to stand and vote in  
61 Local Elections to be protected, and the right to full participation  
62 in civic life to be extended to EU citizens who have lived in the UK  
63 for five years or more, including the ability to stand for office or  
64 vote in UK referendums and General Elections.
- 65 4. All UK citizens living abroad to be able to vote for MPs in  
66 separate overseas constituencies, and to participate in UK  
67 referendums.
- 68 5. The Alternative Vote system to be introduced for elections to  
69 single positions such as directly-elected Mayors.
- 70 6. Plans to require voters to bring identification with them to vote  
71 to be scrapped.
- 72 7. The introduction of a legal requirement for local authorities to  
73 inform citizens of the steps they must take to be successfully  
74 registered with far greater efforts in particular to register under-  
75 represented groups.
- 76 Conference notes the statement in the 2019 Conservative Manifesto  
77 that “making sure every vote counts the same [is] the cornerstone of  
78 democracy”.
- 79 Conference calls on the Government to deliver on its commitment  
80 to hold a Constitution, Democracy and Rights Commission, which  
81 should address all of these proposals; the Commission must be  
82 carefully composed so as to be genuinely representative of the UK  
83 public.

## **SATURDAY 14 MARCH F8 CONTINUED**

Applicability: Federal, except 5. (lines 68–69) which is England only.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 17 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 14 – is 13.00, Monday 2 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

### **14.50 Consultative session**

Chair: Cllr Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Chris Adams.

#### **F9 Manifesto Feedback Consultation**

The party's manifesto for last year's general election is available at [www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto](http://www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto).

After the election was called, the Federal Policy Committee (FPC) agreed the text of the manifesto at speed. Although it was of course based on existing party policy, inevitably the FPC was unable to conduct the same kind of consultation within the party that it would normally expect to carry out.

This session is your chance to tell the FPC what you thought of the manifesto. Were its main messages the right ones, or should they have been different? Which particular policies worked well with the voters in your area, and which worked badly? What issues were often raised by voters which were not covered adequately, or at all, in the manifesto? Did we get our proposals for additional taxation and public spending, and the balance between them, right?

Party members wishing to make concise comments should submit speaker's cards. For eligibility and procedures for speaking, see page 14.

## SATURDAY 14 MARCH F9 CONTINUED

The session will be split into four sections:

- 1 Main messages and manifesto introduction and chapter 1 (Europe).
- 2 Manifesto chapters 2 (Economy) and 4 (Environment).
- 3 Manifesto chapters 3 (Education), 5 (Health and Care) and 6 (Fair Society).
- 4 Manifesto chapters 7 (Freedom, Rights, and Equalities), 8 (Political and Constitutional Reform) and 9 (International).

A panel of speakers will introduce the session and give brief responses to the points made. The panel will include Lord Newby (Chair, Manifesto Group); Dr Christine Cheng (FPC and Manifesto Group Member); and Wendy Chamberlain MP.

This session is for party members only.

### 16.00 Topical issue discussion

Chair: Duncan Brack. Aide: Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon. Hall Aide: Geoff Payne.

#### **F10 Topical Issue discussion on Europe**

The Federal Conference Committee (FCC) understands that the UK's relationship with Europe is a critical issue which many party members are passionately concerned about. The development of Liberal Democrat policy on this is the subject of widespread debate and reflection within the party, and will clearly be a major aspect of the party's debates during our forthcoming leadership election. The FCC has therefore decided to reserve this slot for a topical issue discussion about Europe as part of this process of reflection, which will allow views to be expressed while not yet making any firm decisions. It is the FCC's intention to hold a policy-making debate on Britain's relationship with the EU at the Autumn conference.

As explained in conference standing orders, a topical issue discussion is a discussion on a policy issue of significant and topical relevance, conducted without a vote. Any party member can propose a title for the

## **SATURDAY 14 MARCH F10 CONTINUED**

topical issue discussion (maximum ten words); the deadline for suggested titles is 13.00, Monday 2 March. The title selected will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. See page 16 and 17.

Introducer of issue and spokesperson's response: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the discussion. For eligibility and procedures for speaking see page 14.

### **17.05 Party business**

Chair: Cllr Joe Otten. Aide: Liz Lynne. Hall Aide: Bex Scott.

#### **F11 Federal Board Report**

Mover: Mark Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 2 March. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 16.05 on Saturday 14 March. See page 16 for further information.

#### **F12 Campaign for Gender Balance Report**

Mover: Candy Piercy (Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 2 March. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 16.05, Saturday 14 March. See page 16 for further information.

## 17.20 Business motion

Chair: Jenni Lang. Aide: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

### **F13 Supporting the Trans and Non-Binary Communities within the Liberal Democrats**

LGBT+ Liberal Democrats

Mover: Fraser Graham.

Summation: Charley Hasted.

1 Conference notes that:

2 i) The Trans community has been subjected to widespread attack  
3 within the media in recent years.

4 ii) There has yet to be a Trans or Non-Binary individual elected to  
5 be a member of the House of Commons.

6 iii) All individuals should be able to be addressed using pronouns  
7 with which they are comfortable.

8 iv) All individuals should be able to use toilet facilities at  
9 conferences without fear of harassment.

10 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment that:

11 a) Trans women are women, trans men are men and non-binary  
12 identities are valid.

13 b) All party members should feel able to attend party conferences  
14 and events without fear of harassment or discrimination.

15 Conference calls for:

16 1. Liberal Democrat HQ and all venues for Federal and Regional  
17 conferences to have at least one gender-neutral toilet facility;  
18 this should be separate from the Accessible toilet facility, and  
19 should be clearly signposted within the venue.



## SATURDAY 14 MARCH F13 CONTINUED

- 20 2. Conference passes to include preferred pronouns for all  
21 attendees, with all attendees permitted to specify their preferred  
22 pronouns at the time of registration or to opt not to have  
23 pronouns shown on their pass.
- 24 3. Speakers cards for conference debates to allow for pronouns  
25 to be specified to allow those moderating debates to address  
26 speakers by their preferred pronouns.
- 27 4. Presenters at party events and training sessions to be given  
28 guidance on avoiding unnecessarily gendered language.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 17 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 14 – is 13.00, Monday 2 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

### **18.00 Close of session**

# Sunday 15 March

## 09.00 Party business

Chair: Chris Adams. Aide: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon.

### **F14 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties**

Movers: Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP (Commons); Lord Newby (Lords).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 2 March. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 18.00 on Saturday 14 March. See page 16 for further information.

## 09.20 Emergency motions or topical issue discussions

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: John Bridges. Hall Aide: Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

### **F15 Emergency motions or topical Issue discussions**

This slot has been reserved for the debate of emergency motions and/or discussion of topical issues. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Monday 2 March. The motion selected for debate or the motions proposed for the ballot will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. See pages 16 and 17.

Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers 3 minutes.

Topical issue timing – introducer of issue and spokesperson's response: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedures for speaking, see page 14.

## 10.30 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Maines. Aide: Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon. Hall Aide: Chris Adams.

### F16 Welcoming Child Refugees

12 members

Mover: Christine Jardine MP (Spokesperson for Home Affairs).

Summation: To be announced.

1 Conference believes that:

2 i) Child refugees who have been forced to flee their homes and  
3 separated from their families are some of the most vulnerable  
4 people in the world. We must do all we can to protect them.

5 ii) The UK has a proud history of providing sanctuary to those in  
6 need, but now the Conservative Government is turning its back  
7 on child refugees and failing to live up to our obligations to them.

8 iii) Providing refugees with safe and legal routes to sanctuary in  
9 the UK is the best way to combat people smuggling and human  
10 trafficking, and to prevent people from making dangerous  
11 attempts to cross the Channel.

12 Conference notes with dismay that:

13 a) The Conservative Government has still not fulfilled its  
14 requirement under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016  
15 (the "Dubs Amendment") to resettle 480 unaccompanied child  
16 refugees from elsewhere in Europe as soon as possible.

17 b) In 2016, the Government committed to resettle 3,000 refugees  
18 in the UK under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme  
19 by 2020, but only 1,712 people had been resettled under the  
20 scheme as of the end of September 2019, including just 986  
21 children.

22 c) The Conservative Government has chosen to withdraw the UK

## SUNDAY 15 MARCH F16 CONTINUED

23 from the Dublin System, which enables people applying for  
24 asylum in the EU – including unaccompanied children – to be  
25 reunited with their family members in another member state.  
26 d) Unlike most EU countries, the UK does not allow unaccompanied  
27 child refugees to sponsor family members to join them, and the  
28 Conservative Government has refused to support the Refugees  
29 (Family Reunion) Bill – tabled by Liberal Democrat peer Baroness  
30 Hamwee – which would rectify that.

31 Conference calls on the Government to:

- 32 1. Urgently fulfil its requirement under the Dubs Amendment to  
33 resettle 480 unaccompanied child refugees from elsewhere in  
34 Europe.
- 35 2. Fulfil its commitment to resettle 3,000 people under the  
36 Vulnerable Children’s Resettlement Scheme by the end of 2020.
- 37 3. Maintain rights for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in  
38 Europe to be reunited with family members in the UK.
- 39 4. Support Baroness Hamwee’s Bill to expand family reunion rights  
40 so that unaccompanied child refugees in the UK can sponsor  
41 close family members to join them.
- 42 5. Ensure that all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are  
43 provided with specialist legal advice.
- 44 6. Resettle 10,000 unaccompanied child refugees from elsewhere in  
45 Europe over the next ten years.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 17 – is 13.00, Monday 2 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday’s Conference Daily.

## SUNDAY 15 MARCH F16 CONTINUED

The deadline for separate votes is 09.00 on Saturday 14 March – see page 14.

### 11.05 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Simon McGrath. Aide: Jenni Lang. Hall Aide: Duncan Brack.

#### F17 Student Mental Health Charter

10 members

Mover: Munira Wilson MP (Spokesperson for Health and Social Care).

Summation: Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson for Education).

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
  - 2 A. Many students are struggling with their mental health but are  
3 not receiving the support they need.
  - 4 B. Over a quarter (26%) of UK universities have failed to increase  
5 funding for mental health support within the last five years.
  - 6 C. A third of universities do not record average waiting times for  
7 counselling.
  - 8 D. The average longest wait for counselling faced by a student  
9 in the UK was 43.5 days – over half the length of a standard  
10 university term.
  - 11 E. There is a large disparity in the support and awareness within UK  
12 universities of the mental health support they provide.
- 13 Conference believes that:
  - 14 i) The NHS must transform mental health services to ensure  
15 mental health is treated with the same urgency as physical  
16 health.
  - 17 ii) Universities must fulfil their duty of care to their students by  
18 delivering improved mental health support and services.
  - 19 iii) The government has a role in supporting universities to share  
20 best practice on mental health services.

## SUNDAY 15 MARCH F17 CONTINUED

21 Conference calls on the Government to:

- 22 a) Develop a Student Mental Health Charter for universities in  
23 England in consultation with students, mental health charities  
24 and universities and introduce it through legislation.
- 25 b) Include in the Charter guaranteed access to provision of mental  
26 health support; guaranteed provision of mental health support  
27 of a certain standard; recording and reporting waiting times to  
28 allow students and prospective students to have knowledge of  
29 when they will be able to access services.
- 30 c) Ensure all universities have the aim to reach zero suicide.

31 Conference reaffirms pledges in the Liberal Democrat 2019  
32 manifesto to:

- 33 1. Require universities to make mental health services accessible  
34 to their students, and introduce a Student Mental Health Charter  
35 through legislation.
- 36 2. Ensure all frontline public service professionals, including in  
37 universities, receive better training in mental health.
- 38 3. Introduce further mental health maximum waiting time  
39 standards for Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- 40 4. Use some of the additional revenue raised by putting 1p on  
41 Income Tax to provide additional investment in mental health.
- 42 5. Transform mental health by treating it with the same urgency as  
43 physical health.

Applicability: England only.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 14.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 17 – is 13.00, Monday 4 March. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily.

## SUNDAY 15 MARCH F17 CONTINUED

The deadline for separate votes is 09.00 on Saturday 14 March – see page 14.

### 11.45 Speech

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall  
Aide: Cllr Nicholas da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC).

**F18 Rt Hon Sir Edward Davey MP,  
Acting Co-Leader of the Liberal Democrats  
@edwardjdavey, #LDconf**

### 13.00 Close of conference

# Standing orders

## Standing orders – glossary of terms

### **Business motion**

A proposal to conduct the affairs of the Party in a particular way or to express an opinion on the way affairs have been conducted.

### **Business amendment**

A proposal to change a business motion. Any such proposal should be significant, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.

### **Committee**

Throughout these standing orders, Committee means the Federal Conference Committee unless otherwise qualified.

### **Constitutional amendment**

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

### **Secondary constitutional amendment**

An amendment to a constitutional amendment. This must not introduce new material.

### **Consultative session**

A meeting where selected areas of policy or strategy are considered in greater depth than is possible in full debates.

### **Day visitor**

Someone who has paid the appropriate day visitor fee. Day visitors are not entitled to speak or vote in full sessions of conference.

### **Emergency motion**

A proposal which relates to a specific recent development which occurred after the deadline for submission of motions. Emergency motions must be brief.



## STANDING ORDERS

### **Emergency amendment**

An amendment to a motion which relates to a specific event which occurred after the deadline for the submission of amendments. It must be brief and uncontentious.

### **Full session**

Any part of the conference agenda during which debates, topical issue discussions or discussion of business, including formal reports, takes place. This specifically excludes formal speeches such as those by the Leader or Party Officers.

### **Point of order**

A suggestion to the chair of a debate that the conduct of the debate, as laid down in the standing orders, has not been followed correctly.

### **Policy motion**

A proposal to adopt a new policy or reaffirm an existing one. This includes motions accompanying policy papers.

### **Policy amendment**

A proposal to change a policy motion. Any proposal should be of significant importance, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.

### **Policy paper**

A paper prepared by the Federal Policy Committee and submitted to conference for debate under the terms of Article 7.4 of the Federal Party constitution.

### **Procedural motion**

A proposal that the conduct of a debate should be changed in a specific way. Procedural motions are:

#### **Move to next business**

A proposal that the conference should cease to consider an item of business and immediately move to the next item on the agenda.

## STANDING ORDERS

### **Reference back**

A proposal to refer a motion or amendment to a named body of the Party for further consideration.

### **Request for a count**

A request to the chair that a specific vote be counted and recorded rather than decided on the chair's assessment of a show of voting cards.

### **Separate vote**

A request to the chair of a debate that a part or parts of a motion or amendment should be voted on separately.

### **Suspension of standing orders**

A proposal to relax specific standing orders for a stated purpose.

### **Special conference**

An additional meeting of the conference requisitioned by the Federal Board, Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 2% of party members, in not fewer than 10% of local parties, under the provisions of Article 6.3 of the Federal constitution.

### **Standing order amendment**

A proposal to change these standing orders.

### **Secondary standing order amendment**

An amendment to a standing order amendment. This must not introduce new material.

### **Topical issue discussion**

A discussion on a policy issue of significant and topical relevance, conducted without a vote.

### **Voting member**

A member attending conference who has satisfied the requirements for attendance and has paid the registration fee presently in force for party members as agreed by FCC, and who is not a day visitor [or observer].

# Standing orders

## 1. The conference agenda

### 1.1 What is on the agenda

The agenda for each meeting of conference, other than a special conference, shall include time for:

- a) One or more consultative each sessions; save that the Committee may decide not to hold any consultative sessions at a spring conference.
- b) A business session or sessions for the consideration of reports from the Parliamentary Parties as listed in Article 17 of the Federal Party's Constitution, the Federal Board, the Federal Policy Committee and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, reports from any other body the Committee considers appropriate, accounts, the annual report, a motion accompanying the proposed strategy of the party, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments.
- c) Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers).
- d) Emergency motions.
- e) Topical issue discussions.
- f) Any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate.

The time to be allocated to each type of business and the order of that business shall be decided by the Committee provided that conference may decide not to take any particular item on the agenda.

### 1.2 Conference or council of state parties

In addition, time before or after any meeting may be agreed with the relevant state party for a meeting of the conference or council of that party.

### 1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).
- b) Business motions (including amendments and emergency business motions and amendments), constitutional amendments and secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal Board,

## STANDING ORDERS

Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 party members. Business motions, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.

- c) Motions accompanying policy papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 party members.
- e) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any party member.

### **1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted**

All motions and amendments must be submitted to the Committee. They must identify a person authorised to agree to their being composited or redrafted. The detail of methods of submission will be notified for each conference via the party website.

### **1.5 The deadlines by which motions, amendments, reports and questions to reports must be submitted**

The Committee shall specify:

- a) The closing date for the receipt of policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers), business motions, constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders, which shall be at least eight weeks before the start of conference.
- b) The closing date for the receipt of amendments to motions published in the agenda and emergency motions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- c) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with the agenda. Any supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference with the permission

## STANDING ORDERS

of the Committee.

- d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference, except for questions to the reports of the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament, where the closing date shall be at least one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- e) Notwithstanding 1.5(d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(d). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference

### **1.6 Notification of deadlines**

All dates specified under Standing Order 1.5 shall be publicised to party members and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper/magazine and website may be treated as notice for this purpose.

### **1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances**

In special circumstances the Committee may specify later dates than those indicated above. In particular, where developments which, in the opinion of the Committee, are of great importance have taken place after the closing date for emergency motions and questions to reports, the Committee may make time available for an additional emergency motion or for a statement to be made on behalf of the Party or for additional questions to be submitted to reports.

## **2. Consultative sessions**

### **2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions**

The subjects for debate at consultative sessions shall be chosen by the Committee on the advice of the Federal Policy Committee and, where

## **STANDING ORDERS**

appropriate, the Federal Board, and published in the agenda. Two or more such sessions may be held simultaneously.

### **2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions**

Any member of the Party may be called to speak at a consultative session and, with the approval of the chair, non-members with relevant expertise may also be called.

### **2.3 Voting at consultative sessions**

At the discretion of the chair a vote by show of hands may be taken to indicate the weight of opinion among members present on any issue that has been debated.

## **3. The agenda**

### **3.1 The shortlisting of motions**

The Committee shall draw up the agenda and shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included in it. The Committee may allocate time for one or more policy or business motions to be selected by ballot. Copies of motions not selected shall be available for inspection and will be supplied to any party member on payment of a copying charge and postage.

### **3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders**

Save as detailed below in Standing Order 4.3, all proposed amendments to the constitution or standing orders must be selected for debate.

### **3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates**

The Committee shall, in drawing up the agenda, have due regard to the balance of State and Federal policy debates and in particular shall as far as possible organise the agenda so that all matters which relate solely to one or more state parties but not all State Parties or the Federal Party shall be considered at either the beginning or the end of the conference.

## STANDING ORDERS

### **4. Selection of motions and amendments**

#### **4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions**

In drawing up the agenda the Committee shall seek to reflect the range of views in the Party as indicated by the motions and amendments submitted.

The Committee may:

- a) Treat any severable part of a motion or amendment as a separate motion or amendment.
- b) Redraft a motion or amendment so as to improve expression, remove inaccuracy or superfluity or take account of new developments.
- c) Composite similar motions or amendments.

#### **4.2 Selection of amendments**

The Committee shall decide which of the amendments duly submitted to each motion shall be selected. No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Committee it is insubstantial, outside the scope of the motion, or tantamount to a direct negative of the motion.

#### **4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders**

The Committee may refuse to select a motion for amendment of the constitution or standing orders if, in their opinion, it is:

- a) Similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate or ballot at the same meeting of conference.
- b) Similar in effect to a motion that has been rejected at either of the last two meetings of conference.
- c) In the case of amendments to the constitution, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of the constitution which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- d) In the case of amendments to standing orders, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of standing orders which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- e) Ambiguous.

## STANDING ORDERS

### 4.4 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

- a) It is similar in effect to another motion that has been selected for debate or ballot.
- b) It is similar in effect to a subject chosen for a topical issue discussion.
- c) It is unclear as to its meaning or intent or is, in the opinion of the Committee, too poorly drafted to provide a sensible basis for debate.
- d) It falls outside the definition of emergency motions.

No amendment shall be taken to any motion selected under this Standing Order.

### 4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.4, must be placed either on the agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection by Conference. The Committee may hold separate ballots to select which of a range of emergency policy motions and which of a range of emergency business motions to debate. If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the voting members as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall organise the debates on the motions in the order chosen by conference in the ballots.

### 4.6 Emergency amendments

The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to select emergency amendments for debate.

### 4.7 Topical issue discussions

The choice of subjects for topical issue discussions shall be made by the Officers of the Committee in consultation with the Officers of the Federal Policy Committee. In choosing the subjects, the Officers shall have regard to the significance and topicality of the subjects proposed and whether they are likely to provoke a lively discussion.



## STANDING ORDERS

### **5. Special meetings**

#### **5.1 Timetabling of special meetings**

The Committee shall, as soon as practicable after the requisitioning of a special meeting of the conference, fix a date for the meeting, draw up the agenda and, if appropriate, specify a date for the submission of amendments. The meeting shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of requisition save that the Committee may allow time for emergency motions and for business which is formal or, in its opinion, uncontentious.

#### **5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings**

In setting dates for the submission of motions and amendments and giving notice thereof and of the conference itself the Committee shall endeavour to follow the timescales laid down elsewhere in these standing orders but, where this is not practicable, the Committee shall set such dates as it sees fit.

### **6. Appeals**

#### **6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions**

The Committee shall provide written reasoning to the nominee of the proposers for the rejection of any motion or amendment. The proposers may appeal, in writing, to the next meeting of the Committee. Any such appeal shall provide reasons why, in the opinion of the proposers, the expressed reasons for rejection are not valid. If the appeal is allowed, the motion or amendment shall be treated as an emergency motion or amendment according to the stage of the agenda-setting process at which the appeal has been allowed.

#### **6.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference**

Any person excluded from conference by a decision of the Chief Steward shall have the right of appeal to the Committee at the next of its regular meetings. The exclusion shall remain in force pending the appeal.

## STANDING ORDERS

### **7. The chair**

#### **7.1 Who chairs conference**

The President, if present, shall normally take the chair at the formal opening and closing of conference and when the Party Leader is making a formal speech from the platform. At all other sessions the chair shall be appointed by the Committee. Normally no person shall chair more than one session at any meeting.

#### **7.2 The chair's aide**

The Committee may appoint an aide or aides to assist the chair of each session.

### **8. Conduct of debate**

#### **8.1 Variation in the order of business**

The Committee may propose to the conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the agenda. Such variation shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.

#### **8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments**

Once the Committee has included a motion or amendment, or part of a motion or amendment, in the agenda, may not be withdrawn except by leave of conference.

#### **8.3 The order of debate**

The Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments and options will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments and options (or their nominees) shall have the right of reply in the same order (except that where an amendment or option has not been opposed during the debate, the chair of the session shall have the right to direct that its movers shall not exercise their right of reply), after which the mover of the motion (or the mover's

## **STANDING ORDERS**

nominee) shall have the right of reply. Votes shall then be taken on the amendments and options in the order in which they have been moved and, finally, on the substantive motion. The Committee may direct that part of any motion or amendment or groups or amendments may be the subject of a separate debate.

### **8.4 Topical issue discussions**

The Committee shall direct the order of the discussion. Normally the proposer of the subject shall speak first, and a representative of the Federal Policy Committee shall speak last.

### **8.5 Who may speak**

All voting members may speak at a full session of conference. Additionally, the Committee may invite any person to address the conference as a guest. Neither such provision shall prejudice the right of the chair of a session to select speakers.

### **8.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees**

Provided that the Federal Policy Committee is not proposing the motion or any of the amendments to be taken in a debate on a policy motion or on motions relating to the policy-making processes of the Party it shall have the right to nominate a person to report its views on the subject before the conference. The Federal Board shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution, as shall the Federal Conference Committee on motions relating to the proceeding and procedures of the conference and to amend standing orders. Such a person shall be called to speak for the same length of time as the person replying on behalf of the mover of the motion.

### **8.7 The selection of speakers**

Voting members wishing to speak in any debate shall submit a speaker's card, prior to the commencement of the debate in which they wish to speak, stating whether they wish to speak for or against an amendment, the motion or part of the motion. The chair shall be responsible for the choice of the speakers

## **STANDING ORDERS**

and shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between the different viewpoints in the conference, but may announce a departure from this rule if there is an overwhelming preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side. The chair shall have the discretion to accept speakers' cards after the start of the debate. Save as provided for in these standing orders, no person may speak more than once in any debate.

### **8.8 The length of speeches**

The Committee shall set out in the agenda time limits for speeches.

## **9. Voting at conference**

### **9.1 The method of voting**

Voting cards shall be issued at each meeting to voting members. The Committee may direct that voting on any issue be by ballot. Subject thereto all votes at full sessions shall be taken by show of voting cards.

### **9.2 Counting of votes**

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

- a) If the Committee has so directed.
- b) If the chair so directs.
- c) As the result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.5 below.

A recount will only be held if the chair is not satisfied that the first count was accurate.

### **9.3 Separate votes**

A separate vote may be taken on a part of a motion or amendment:

- a) On the direction of the Committee.
- b) At the discretion of the chair.
- c) As a result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.4 below.

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### **10 Points of order**

#### **10.1 Making a point of order**

Any voting member may rise on a point of order which shall be taken immediately except that, during a vote, no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the conduct of the vote. The chair's decision on all points of order shall be final.

### **11 Procedural motions**

#### **11.1 Next business**

- a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.
- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.
- d) The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting being to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

#### **11.2 Reference back (moved by a voting member)**

- a) A voting member, who has not already spoken in the debate, may, at any

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time before the chair has asked the first speaker in reply to stand by, submit, in writing, a request to refer back the motion under debate. The submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a statement of the reasons, including reasons why voting against the motion would not achieve a similar result, not exceeding 75 words.

- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. If more than one request is received, the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken with respect to any motion.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to refer. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the reference back, it falls.
- d) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- e) If the substantive motion is referred to the Federal Board, the Federal Policy Committee or the Federal Conference Committee that body shall, in its report to the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

### **11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)**

- a) The Federal Policy Committee may, at any time before the beginning of the debate on a motion, submit, in writing, a request to refer that motion to the next meeting of the conference. The chair shall announce the existence of such a request at the start of the debate.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. A nominee of the Federal Policy

## STANDING ORDERS

Committee will speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair shall have discretion whether to allow other speakers on the request.

- c) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- d) If passed, the Federal Policy Committee shall, before the next meeting of the conference, circulate its reasons for acting under this section and its comments on the motion and any amendments thereto accepted for debate.

### **11.4 Separate vote**

A voting member of conference may request that the chair take a separate vote on a part of a motion or amendment provided that such a request is in writing and received by the commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled. If the debate is scheduled for the first day of conference, the request must be received in writing by the same deadline as that for emergency motions. The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to take a separate vote. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair of the debate shall have discretion to accept a request for a separate vote if it is received in writing after this deadline.

### **11.5 Counted vote**

Any voting member may ask for a counted vote, which shall be taken if the request is supported by 50 members rising in their places and showing their voting cards.

### **11.6 Suspension of standing orders**

- a) A voting conference member may, during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of standing orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 75 words, to the chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The

## STANDING ORDERS

chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.

- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the constitution, nor any part of these standing orders which govern:
  - i) The rights of, or timetable for, submission of motions and amendments.
  - ii) Consultative sessions.
  - iii) Procedural motions for next business or suspension of standing orders.
- c) No motion to suspend standing orders to introduce a motion or amendment on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.
- d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.
- e) A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of the conference members voting. If the procedural motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

### **11.7 No procedural motions during votes**

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

## **12 Reports**

### **12.1 Which reports are tabled**

The business session or sessions of the conference must include consideration of reports from the bodies listed in Standing Order 1.1(b).



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### **12.2 Submission and selection of questions**

A voting member may submit questions to any report tabled for consideration, by the deadlines set under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e). The Committee shall publish in advance of the report session all the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (d) which are in order, compositing similar questions where appropriate.

### **12.3 Whether questions are in order or not**

A question shall be ruled out of order if it asks the body submitting the report about issues which are outside its duties and responsibilities. If the question could be answered by another body reporting to the same conference, the Committee may transfer the question to that body.

### **12.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered**

After the report is moved, the mover, or their nominee, shall answer the questions in turn. After each question has been answered, the voting member who submitted the question will be given the opportunity to put a supplementary question, speaking for a maximum of two minutes, and the mover, or their nominee, will be given an opportunity to respond. The chair shall determine the time given to the mover in moving the report and replying to questions. The chair shall also determine how many of the published questions, and how many of the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (e), can be taken. After the conference the Committee shall publish the answers to all questions submitted under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e) which are in order, and to all supplementary questions asked.

### **12.5 Approval or rejection of reports from Federal Party committees or sub-committees**

Any report tabled by a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for approval by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move the rejection of any part of the report or of the report as a whole. A voting member wishing to move a rejection shall submit a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report, stating the section(s) which they wish to have

## **STANDING ORDERS**

rejected. All moves to reject a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between moves to reject the same part of the report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

### **12.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies**

Any report tabled by a body other than a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for receipt by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move not to receive the report, by submitting a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report. A move not to receive a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between more than one move not to receive the same report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

## **13 Amendment of standing orders**

### **13.1 Amendment of standing orders**

These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of conference voting on a motion duly submitted and selected in accordance with standing orders. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from meeting to meeting.

## **14 The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee**

### **14.1 Chair and Vice Chairs**

At its first meeting after a new election the Committee shall elect a Chair, who must be a member of the Committee directly elected by party members, and at least one Vice Chair, who must be members of the Committee either directly elected by party members or elected by one of the State Parties.

# The Federal Party

## Officers of the Federal Party

Acting Co-Leader - Ed Davey MP

Acting Co-Leader and President - Mark Pack

Chair of FFRC - Anthony Harris

Treasurer - Lord German

Vice President (England) - Tahir Maher

Vice President (Scotland) - Sheila Ritchie

Vice President (Wales) - Paula Yates

Chief Executive - Mike Dixon

## Federal Conference Committee (FCC)

The FCC is responsible for organising the two Federal conferences each year. This includes choosing the agenda from the policy and business motions submitted by party members, local, regional and state parties, specified associated organisations and Federal committees, and taking decisions on venues, registration rates and other organisational matters. It works within a budget set by the FFRC.

The FCC has 22 voting members: Party President; Chief Whip; three state party representatives; one representative from the FB, two from the FPC, one from the Federal Communications & Elections Committee (FCEC), one from the Federal People Development Committee (FPDC); and fifteen directly elected members. It elects its own chair, who must be one of the directly elected representatives

## Federal Policy Committee (FPC)

The FPC is responsible for researching and developing policy and overseeing the Federal Party's policy-making process, including producing policy papers for debate at conference and drawing up (in consultation with the relevant parliamentary party) the Federal election manifestos for Westminster and European elections.

The FPC has 29 voting members: Party Leader and six other Parliamentarians; Party President; two councillors; three state party representatives; one

## **FEDERAL PARTY**

representative of the FCEC; and fifteen members directly elected by conference representatives. It must be chaired by the Party Leader.

### **Federal Board (FB)**

The FB is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and overseeing the implementation of the party's strategy and the work of the Federal Party. The FB also has responsibility, at least once per Parliament, for preparing a document outlining the party's strategy, for submission for debate and agreement by conference.

The FB has 35 voting members: Party President (who chairs it); Party Leader and three other Parliamentarians; the chairs of the three state parties; the chairs of each of the Federal committees including a vice-chair of the FPC; a councillor; a Young Liberals representative; three state party representatives; and 15 directly elected members.

### **Federal Finance and Resources Committee (FFRC)**

The FFRC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party, overseeing its administration and ensuring its compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, as well as overseeing the Party's risk management operations and its Risk Register.

The FFRC has 14 voting members: the Registered Treasurer and Chair; the Registered Treasurers of the three state parties; five other members (elected by the FB); Party Treasurer; Party President; one representative of the Parliamentary Office of the Liberal Democrats; Chief Executive; and one member of Federal staff.