

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**The Party AGM will be held at the Spring Conference 2016 on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016, 09.30 to 11.30 in the Music Hall of the Assembly Rooms.**

If you wish to submit a question about any of the reports in the AGM papers, please email your question to [linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk](mailto:linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk) or submit on a speakers' card at conference **by 17.00 on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February**. Amendments to the Business Motion (BM3) must be submitted **by midday on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February**.

# AGENDA

1. Welcome

2. Reports from Office Bearers

a. Convener

b. Treasurer including accounts

c. Conference

d. Campaigns & Candidates

e. Policy

f. Diversity

3. Business motions

# CONVENER'S REPORT

2015 was a difficult year with the loss of 10 out of our 11 MPs following the General Election yet out of that loss came a 1000 new members ready to help us rebuild our party and stand up for our liberal values.



The loss of Charles Kennedy on the back of the election result brought a deep level of grief across the party, his family and his constituents. Tributes came from far and wide across the political sphere. One tribute stated, "He was a proud Highlander, Scot, Brit, and European. In an age marked by meanness of identity his was generous and expansive, tendering loyalty to people and ideals near and far from his wee bit hill and glen. His social philosophy was just as broad, combining a belief in community and egalitarianism with a commitment to individual liberty and a humble, compassionate state."

Each of us will have our own memories of Charles but now it is time for us to act on his legacy as Scots, Brits and Europeans to ensure we remain part of the European Union.

Following the General Election we have taken action to select our candidates for the constituency seats in the upcoming Scottish Election to add to our regional candidates already selected. We have been careful with our resources to ensure we can sustain our campaign staff and give our candidates the best support possible for the upcoming elections.

One area of work which has been developing over this year led by our leader Willie Rennie has been a review of the diversity of our candidates and how we can better represent the people of Scotland. This has led to an opportunity for us to change our constitution and consider how we can take action.

At the end of the year as we moved to the election of a new Scottish Executive and committee members it became clear that a number of key office bearers and our executive secretary would be retiring from their roles. I would therefore like to thank all committee members who left the executive and committees for their commitment to the management of the party.

Particular thanks to Craig Harrow for his service as our Convener and for the role he took on our behalf within the Better Together Campaign. Thanks to Katy Gordon for her work as both Chair of Campaigns and Candidates and Chair of Scottish Liberal Democrat Women and to Hugh Andrew for chairing the Policy Committee. This year the biggest thanks has to go to Derek Barrie for his years of service as the executive secretary.

As we look forward to 2016 the new executive and I look forward to working with our political leader Willie Rennie, our hard working staff under the continued stewardship of our Party Manager Linda Wilson and our members.

Our combined aim for 2016 is to increase our level of representation in the Scottish Parliament to ensure a strong liberal voice for Scotland and to keep Charles Kennedy's legacy alive by remaining in Europe.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Thomson".

Sheila Thomson, Convener

Spring Conference 2016 Edinburgh

# TREASURER'S REPORT



A deficit was planned for in the year to 31 December 2015. We had been carefully building financial reserves over 3 years to ensure the best possible foundation for our Westminster and Holyrood election campaigns. In the end, our deficit was slightly higher than projected in part due to a shortfall in our fundraising target. On a positive note membership subscriptions were higher than expected and we achieved a number of cost savings.

The Scottish Party was able to invest significantly in the General Election campaign. Although the results were devastating, losing 10 of our 11 MPs, we can take some comfort in the knowledge that we remain in contention in most of those seats as the clear challenger to the SNP. In some of the seats that we lost, our vote actually went up. This is in contrast to Labour. They saw eye-wateringly huge majorities melt away to become similarly high SNP majorities.

After the election we had to revise our budget to ensure that we could retain staff to give ourselves the best possible chance of success in the Holyrood elections in 2016. We implemented and are constantly reviewing a strategy to boost our income. Our digital fundraising has considerably exceeded expectations this year.

We were delighted to welcome 1000 new members as part of a spontaneous membership surge after the election. Our membership at year end was 3885. It has been so good to see so many of them speaking at Conference and taking office in local parties.

We are continuing with the new incentive scheme which gives local parties a significant proportion of members' subscriptions provided their membership grows. The Executive decided to suspend the scheme for the 2nd quarter when so many members joined, with these one-off windfall funds being invested in the election campaign. We will continue to prioritise recruitment and retention of members as they are so important to the party, not just for their subscription income, but for their tireless work on councils, in parliaments, knocking on doors, campaigning, making policy and fundraising.

Our budget this year projects another deficit which is to be expected at this stage in the electoral cycle. We believe that we have struck the right balance between investment and future sustainability.

I remain incredibly grateful for the patient, wise and efficient support from our incredibly dedicated and hard-working Party Manager Linda Wilson. Colum Bannatyne, our Admin Assistant, never fails to respond to my persistent requests for information. Our campaign staff, Adam Stachura, Greg Foster and Paul Moat make the best use of our resources.

Ogilvie and Company, our accountants, have again provided an excellent service to ensure that our accounting procedures and internal controls are strong and compliant with all relevant legislation.

I am grateful to the Finance and Membership Committee for their guidance and wisdom as we set our financial priorities for the year ahead and built a budget to meet them. The Committee meets at key times in the financial year to sign off on the audit, review the accounts, approve the budget for the next financial year and concentrate on increasing membership.

*Caron Lindsay*

Caron Lindsay, Treasurer

Spring Conference 2016 Edinburgh

**SCOTTISH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

**Year ended 31 December 2015**

	2015 £	2014 £
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	155,806	141,609
Donations and Appeals	103,783	178,098
Conference Income	57,198	74,371
Draws and Raffles	338	382
Sale of Resources	100,630	75,822
Legacy	60,830	40,000
Rental Income	2,380	3,659
Notional Income	19,962	19,548
Recharges to Local Parties	56,524	15,471
Policy Development Fund Grant	25,000	25,000
Grants Received	31,271	211,418
	<u>613,722</u>	<u>785,378</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Conference Costs	34,530	41,750
Election Costs	160,184	110,296
Party Costs	24,127	123,572
Membership Admin Fees	51,252	30,998
Licences	13,808	13,369
Staff Costs	257,209	157,646
Pensions	6,668	5,096
Rent and Rates	15,000	15,000
Notional Expenditure	19,962	19,548
Property Maintenance	3,688	3,217
Heat, Light and Water Rates	2,818	3,325
Insurance	663	656
Travel and Accommodation	1,369	1,802
Staff Development	190	-
Postage and Printing	84,115	16,015
Stationery	7,176	3,233
Telephone and Email	3,979	3,485
Equipment Hire and Rental	5,452	7,016
Bank Charges and Interest	931	1,039
Depreciation	2,050	1,626
Miscellaneous and Sundry expenses	738	554
IT Support	4,200	5,059
Consultancy Fees	8,500	20,400
Payroll Services	2,453	2,806
Professional Fees	16,397	15,866
	<u>727,459</u>	<u>603,374</u>
<b>Net (deficit) surplus for year</b>	<u>(113,737)</u>	<u>182,004</u>

There are no gains or losses recognised during the year other than those realised in the income and expenditure account.

SCOTTISH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2015

	Notes	2015		2014	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible	6		5,398		3,805
<b>Current assets</b>					
Trade Debtors		9,209		4,631	
Other Debtors	7	13,053		13,130	
Cash at Bank		243,214		318,569	
		<u>265,476</u>		<u>336,330</u>	
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(77,133)</u>		<u>(32,657)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>188,343</u>		<u>303,673</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>193,741</u>		<u>307,478</u>
<b>Reserves</b>					
Funds	10		193,741		307,478
<b>Net funds</b>			<u>193,741</u>		<u>307,478</u>

A full copy of the 2015 Party accounts will be available for examination from the registration desk during conference.



## REPORT FROM CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

2015 saw our spring conference back for a second year at the AECC Aberdeen. Highlights included debates on business issues including training and apprenticeships, the need for a Scottish living wage and a Q&A on energy. We also held a Q&A on health issues and considered our position on compassion, dignity and choice at the end of life. There was a busy fringe programme and members had a great dinner which raised much needed funds for the General Election campaign in the North East.

Following on from the large increase in members joining the party after the General Election we had a large increase in the number of members attending our Autumn Conference including nearly 120 new members. The increase in attendance not only led to a very busy conference, it also led to a financially successful conference.

As in past years both these conferences were a success due to people: from our members who submit motions and actively take part in debates to staff and volunteers who organise the conference. Staff at Clifton Terrace continue to provide the backbone for organising conference and I'd like to thank all the staff especially Linda Wilson, without whom none of this would have happened. I would also like to thank the outgoing Conference Committee for all their hard work. The new committee promises to listen to the members and ensure conference continues to give our members the opportunity to put forward their views and make policy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenni Lang'.

**Jenni Lang**  
Convener, Scottish Conference Committee

# REPORT FROM CAMPAIGNS AND CANDIDATES COMMITTEE



Below is a summary of the key activities that have taken place since March 2015:

## 1. Candidate Approvals

- Two Candidate Approval Days was run in August and November 2015, at which 9 applicants attended and 7 were approved, of which 4 were male, 3 were women, 0 were BAME and 0 with a disability.
- One additional applicant from England attended a Candidate Approval Day to ensure we had sufficient applicants to run the Approval Day (minimum of 4 are required.)

## 2. Westminster and European Seat Selections

- A 5 year Approval & Selection Timetable was agreed by the Scottish Executive in May 2012, which has led seat selection activity, with planned pauses for the European elections, independence referendum and Scottish Parliament regional list selections.
- Early discussions are taking place at federal level to start selection of candidates for former held seats from summer 2016, with the impact of the possible date of the European referendum being taken into account.
- Selections for European seats are provisionally planned for autumn 2016, again with the impact of the possible date of the European referendum being taken into account.

## 3. Scottish Seat Selections

- The regional list selections were held in Sept – Nov 2014, to select the top 3 candidates for each of the 8 regions. While there is a gender balance across the 24 candidates, it is disappointing that only one region has a female candidate at the top of the list.
- At time of going to print (17/2/16), all but 13 constituency seats have either selected candidates or have identified names going through the process of selection. A further update will be given at the AGM.

## 4. Campaigning & Candidate Support

- The C & C Committee has encouraged local parties to see council by-elections as the launch-pad for stimulating activity and has actively encouraged participation.
- A very well received hustings training session took place at Scottish spring conference to support Westminster candidates for 2015. This will be run again at spring 2016 conference to support Scottish Parliament candidates.
- A Deposit Guarantee Scheme is in place for Scottish Parliament elections in May 2016.
- C & C has supported Adam Stachura, Director of Campaigns, and his team in their tireless work throughout the year to encourage campaigning and provide resources to do so.
- After 4 years in post, Katy Gordon stepped down as C & C Convener in December to concentrate on her candidacy and was replaced by Dan Farthing.

## 5. Diversity

- C & C Committee has actively sought applicants for candidate approval, national committees and policy development from under-represented groups, working in conjunction with the Scottish Party Leader and SLDW. Further details are contained within the Diversity Report presented to this Conference.

Dan Farthing-Sykes, Convener, Scottish Campaigns and Candidates Committee

Spring Conference 2016 Edinburgh

# REPORT FROM POLICY COMMITTEE



The Policy Committee held ten regional roadshows in the summer of 2015. This was an opportunity for members to suggest policies for the manifesto. Each was led by a member of Policy Committee. A total of around 320 members attended the meetings. Detailed notes were taken. There has been a lot of very positive feedback from the exercise from those who attended.

As a result of the roadshows, the Policy Committee drafted the motion on policing that was passed by the Autumn Conference 2015. The detailed points in the motion came from a suggestion made at a roadshow.

The Policy Committee also drafted a Statement of Values which was presented to the Autumn Conference. There was a short session at the conference for people to speak about them. These have been taken forward into the pre-manifesto to reflect the suggestion made by members at the roadshows for a "values led" approach.

During the autumn the Policy Committee met the Holyrood MSPs to discuss the manifesto, as required by the Constitution. The result of this work is also summarised in the pre-manifesto.

In the summer a number of party members also formed a welfare policy advisory group. The Policy Committee agreed to work with them and supported their advert in the recent members' newsletter asking for additional members to join them.

For the Spring Conference of 2015 the Policy Committee developed a motion on the environment and energy that was passed.

The new Policy Committee met in January and it was good to welcome along new faces and see some of the old ones again. Since January we have concentrated on developing the pre-manifesto, putting together information gathered over the Manifesto Roadshows and interviews with MSPs. We hope that it initiates a good debate at conference and look forward to members' input. We have also submitted motions for the Spring Conference 2016 on climate change and empowering public sector workers and prepared for a consultative session on council tax reform.

Our next steps following conference are to produce the full Manifesto and then to review and develop policies. To do this we propose to meet with relevant experts from within and outwith the Lib Dems to gather information and to become better informed on current issues.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isobel Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Isobel Davidson**  
Convener, Scottish Policy Committee

# DIVERSITY REPORT TO THE SCOTTISH PARTY

This is the fifth Diversity Report to be presented to Conference by the Party Convener. Its aim is to report on progress towards achieving the Party's equality and diversity priorities. Diversity Reports are presented to Conference annually at each Spring Conference by the Party Convener.

## Summary of Objectives of the Scottish Executive:

The key elements include:

- Improving the diversity of our elected parliamentarians group
- Tackling the elements of party culture that create barriers to greater diversity
- Support for the existing Federal Candidate Leadership Programme
- Introduction of diversity monitoring
- Addressing the diversity imbalance on the Party's national committees
- Engaging with organisations working on behalf of under-represented groups in policy development
- Incorporating equality impact assessment into the Party's policy making process
- Providing appropriate training and development to address diversity issues
- Engaging with under-represented groups to encourage membership of the Party

Further details on the specific actions are available from the Convener of Campaigns & Candidates Committee who is leading the implementation of the action plan.

## Diversity Statistics for the Scottish Party

The Scottish population statistics (2011 Census) show 51% as female, 4% identified as from a BAME (Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic) background and 19% identified as having a long-term activity-limiting health problem or disability. The figures below are correct at 17/2/16.

- Candidates already approved = 132 (down from 148 in 2015 as non-standers left the list after May 2015), of which:
  - **34% are female** (33% in 2015)
  - 7% identified as from a BAME background (4% in 2015)
  - 5% identified as having a disability (7% in 2015)
- Candidates awaiting approval = 0
- Candidates selected for Scottish Parliament @17/2/16 - all bar 13 are selected or about to complete selection with a sole applicant, of which:
  - 32% are female
  - 2% identified as from a BAME background
  - 1% identified as having a disability
- Gender balance of Scottish Party Committees (2015 figures in brackets)
  - **Office bearers – 63% female (38%)**
  - **Executive – 50% female (28%)**
  - Conference – 36% female (41%)
  - Appeals Tribunal 50% female (33%)
  - **Policy – 54% female (33%)**
  - Finance & Membership – 44% female (44%)
  - Campaigns & Candidates – 43% female (57%)

The Party's goal is to ensure that its elected representatives and its internal decision making structures more accurately reflect the diversity of the Scottish population as a whole. Elections to

Spring Conference 2016 Edinburgh

all Scottish Party Committees took place in Nov 2015. The figures above incorporate full current committee membership (including elected reps, co-optees and allocated places). Conveners have a duty to consider diversity in any co-options. Some co-options and spaces reserved for SAOs have still to be filled.

It is a cause for satisfaction that the gender balance of Office Bearers, Scottish Executive and Policy Committees has significantly improved since last year. While this is no cause for complacency, it is encouraging to see greater engagement of women members in almost all the national committees.

### **Candidate Initiatives**

- The major initiative to improve the gender balance of our elected parliamentarians has been the creation of a Working Group on Gender Balance in autumn 2015, chaired by the Party Leader. This was in response to widespread concern within the party over the past year at the lack of women in winnable seats for the Scottish Parliament elections in 2016 and the loss of the sole female MP in Scotland.
- The resultant proposals to radically improve gender balance within the Scottish Party are being voted on later in this AGM.

### **Diversity training within the Party**

- Progress on reviewing the manifesto for the Scottish Parliament elections in May 2016 in relation to Equality Impact Assessments is being made and should continue to be monitored by the Office Bearers. Training in EIAs will be needed for new members of the Policy Committee. The goal is to ensure all those involved in policy making take account of the impact of policies on under-represented groups.
- Committee conveners have been trained in video conferencing, to ensure meetings are more accessible. This has been used at Scottish Executive meetings in 2015, with some technical issues still to be resolved. It is important that SAOs and national committees are reminded of the importance of using video conferencing (Skype, Google Hangouts etc) to encourage members from under-represented groups to get involved.
- Unconscious bias training has still to be delivered for members of all national committees, despite the request from SLDW being made over a year ago.
- Sal Brinton, Federal Party President met the Scottish Executive in summer 2015 to explore progress on diversity and the Morrissey Report.

### **Regional & State Diversity Champions**

- Diversity Champions, supported by the Federal Diversity Unit, and their teams are responsible for driving through strategic action plans within each region / state, to promote and support the diversity of the local parties and candidates
- The Scottish Party has a vacancy for the Diversity Champion in Scotland. In the interim, the Campaigns & Candidates Convener sits on the Federal Diversity Engagement Group and leads on progress on the Diversity Action Plan
- A draft Diversity Plan for the Scottish Party for 2016-18 is to be considered at the next Scottish Executive



**Sheila Thomson**  
Scottish Party Convener

# BUSINESS MOTIONS

## **BM1: Constitutional amendment – the Deputy Leader**

*Liberal Youth Scotland*

Mover: Robbie Simpson

Summator: Robbie Simpson

- 1 Delete Section F7 and replace with:  
2 “F7. Nominations for the Leader must be proposed by at least ten percent of the Scottish  
3 Liberal Democrat Members of the Scottish Parliament. Nominations for the Deputy Leader must  
4 be proposed by at least ten percent of the Scottish Liberal Democrat members of the House of  
5 Commons representing Scottish constituencies.”

## **BM2: Constitutional amendment – gender balance**

Willie Rennie MSP and 30 members

Mover: Willie Rennie MSP

Summator: Willie Rennie MSP

- 6 Amendment 1:  
7 Add at the end of Clause H7 (b) (iii)  
8 “(iv) The makeup and ordering of the list may be constrained to accommodate gender balance  
9 requirements specified by rules approved by Conference.”  
10 Amendment 2:  
11 Add at the end of Clause H10  
12 “The composition of the shortlist may be constrained to accommodate gender balance  
13 requirements specified by rules approved by Conference.”

## **BM3: Advancing diversity in the Scottish Liberal Democrats**

*Willie Rennie and 33 members*

Mover: Willie Rennie MSP

Summator: Jo Swinson

- 1 Conference notes:  
2 1) The track record of Scottish Liberal Democrats for electing women and people from  
3 diverse backgrounds does not reflect the party’s values of equality and opportunity.  
4 2) There has only ever been one woman MP at any one time.  
5 3) There have only ever been two women MSPs at any one time.  
6 4) There has never been a parliamentarian from an ethnic minority.  
7 5) In the last 20 years, of 36 new Liberal Democrat parliamentarians in Scotland only 5 have  
8 been women.  
9 6) In the last 10 years, of 9 new Liberal Democrat parliamentarians in Scotland only 1 has  
10 been a woman.  
11 7) Only 36% of Scottish Liberal Democrat councillors are women.  
12 8) Only 30% of Scottish Liberal Democrat council group leaders are women.  
13 9) Whilst 42% of members attending the Scottish Spring Conference in 2015 were women  
14 only 32% of speakers at that conference were women.  
15 10) Whilst 46% of local party secretaries are women, only 21% of Conveners are women.  
16 11) The party has deployed a variety of mechanisms and efforts to improve diversity including  
17 Diversity Champions, diversity training, candidate initiatives, mentoring, a Leadership  
18 Programme and engaging with underrepresented groups.  
19 Conference believes:

**Spring Conference 2016 Edinburgh**

- 20 a) The party's parliamentary representatives should properly reflect the country we seek  
21 to represent, legislate for and govern.  
22 b) The imbalance in our representation at all levels damages our electoral prospects.  
23 c) We are losing out on some great talent that exists in our party and the broader liberal  
24 movement.  
25 d) Despite the deployment of a variety of techniques and efforts, bolder action is now  
26 required.  
27 e) New measures should be deployed to bring about greater diversity of elected  
28 parliamentarians and councillors and participation in the party's activities.  
29 f) The party should send a powerful signal to women and people from  
30 underrepresented groups that their participation is actively encouraged.  
31 g) The automatic assumption that a candidate must be able to commit all evenings and  
32 weekends to campaigning even if they have caring responsibilities should change.  
33 h) An environment and culture should be created in the party that gives women and  
34 people from diverse backgrounds opportunity to succeed in the party and to access  
35 elected office at all levels.  
36 i) Half of the party's parliamentary representatives should be women.  
37 j) Our party's parliamentary representatives should broadly reflect society in terms of  
38 ethnic background, LGBT+, disability and other characteristics.

39 Conference agrees:

- 40 A. The actions set out in this Business Motion apply to the next round of elections only.  
41 B. The top candidate on our list in Scotland for the European Parliament Elections  
42 scheduled for June 2019 will be a woman and the second placed candidate will be a  
43 man. The remaining places on the list will be filled without reference to the gender of the  
44 candidates. When the votes of the members are counted to determine the order in  
45 which the candidates are to be placed (in the process set out in Clause H7(b)(iii) of the  
46 Constitution), EITHER the last remaining woman will be placed first on the list and her  
47 votes redistributed among the remaining men (if more than one) to determine  
48 subsequent places; OR the last remaining man will be placed second on the list and his  
49 votes redistributed among the remaining women (if more than one) to determine the first  
50 and any other subsequent places. The same arrangements will be applied to select the  
51 man for second place.  
52 C. Candidates for the General Election of 2020 in the five most winnable seats by  
53 percentage majority to be overcome to win the seat that do not have an incumbent  
54 Liberal Democrat MP at the time of selection should each be selected from a shortlist  
55 comprising only women members. All the remaining 53 seats not currently held will be  
56 open contests.  
57 D. Our candidates for the Scottish Parliament Election of 2021 for five of the ten most  
58 winnable seats (whether constituencies or top regional places) will be women. A motion  
59 will be presented to the October 2016 Conference specifying which constituencies or  
60 regional lists would be affected by this change, taking into account the results of the  
61 May 2016 election.  
62 E. The Scottish Party Leader will have a responsibility to oversee the drive to select and  
63 secure the election to parliament of more women and candidates from other  
64 underrepresented groups. The Leader will report twice a year to Conference on  
65 progress made.  
66 F. The Scottish Party Leader will appoint a group of party spokespeople from our  
67 councillors and candidates to speak for the party as well as parliamentarians. At least

68 half of that group will be women and it will include members who are from ethnic  
69 minorities and other underrepresented backgrounds.

- 70 G. All members of the Scottish Executive will have a responsibility to support the drive to  
71 secure the election to parliament of more women and candidates from other  
72 underrepresented groups. They will also encourage and support more women and  
73 candidates from underrepresented groups to be elected to councils and internal  
74 committees in the Party. The Executive will agree a plan to advance this objective and  
75 the effectiveness of the plan will be the subject of a debate at the Committee once a  
76 year.
- 77 H. The job descriptions of party staff will be amended to include specific responsibilities for  
78 promoting diversity of candidate selection. This will include monitoring, communications  
79 and campaigning.
- 80 I. In parallel with their obligation to provide an annual PPERA return to Party Headquarters,  
81 all local parties will be required to report annually on: the number of local party  
82 officeholders who are women and from other underrepresented groups, the percentage  
83 of approved candidates locally who are women and from other underrepresented  
84 groups and the percentage of new members who attend local party meetings and join  
85 the local party committee. This information will be reported by party staff to the  
86 Executive and by the Executive to Conference on an annual basis.
- 87 J. A new model job description and specification for candidates will be agreed by the  
88 Executive Committee based on the model in England with input from the Campaigns  
89 and Candidates Committee, Scottish Liberal Democrat Women and other interested  
90 party organisations. This will build on the Memorandum of Understanding agreed by the  
91 Scottish Executive in 2013.
- 92 K. There will be a new Diversity Campaign Fund for use in supporting candidates in  
93 winnable seats from underrepresented groups for personal or campaign expenses. This  
94 fund will be used to reduce the practical barriers that stop people from  
95 underrepresented groups from standing for election, for example transport for people  
96 with mobility issues and BSL interpreters, as well as campaign expenditure. It will be  
97 worth at least £10,000 per year in 2016 and index linked thereafter. The Fund will be  
98 managed by the Campaigns and Candidates Committee as delegated by the Executive  
99 Committee.
- 100 L. A team of campaign mentors will be established by the Campaigns Department and  
101 Campaigns and Candidates Committee to support candidates in winnable seats from  
102 underrepresented groups.
- 103 M. Between autumn 2016 and late 2017 there will be a programme of information and  
104 training events to provide support and information for aspiring candidates. Local parties,  
105 parliamentarians, councillors and members of party committees will be asked to  
106 encourage those members who have not previously sought approval to attend these  
107 events. The numbers of members who attend these events and the local parties from  
108 which they arise will be reported to the Executive and annually to conference. The team  
109 and training will be managed by the Campaign and Candidates Convener with the  
110 support of party campaign staff in Scotland.
- 111 N. Communications to members will include positive promotion to women and from other  
112 under-represented groups. The work of candidates and spokespersons who are not yet  
113 elected parliamentarians will be promoted widely to members.
- 114 O. In interpreting this motion any approved candidate who does not identify as male or as  
115 female shall be able to access the same arrangements as are proposed for women.

*Deadline for amendments is midday 24th February. Send to: [linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk](mailto:linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk)*

**Spring Conference 2016 Edinburgh**