

# Scottish Liberal Democrats

11th October 2008  
Autumn Conference  
Edinburgh

Hilton 



SCOTTISH  
LIBERAL  
DEMOCRATS



Tavish Scott MSP  
Leader of the Scottish  
Liberal Democrats



Dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to introduce our first Scottish Conference since I was elected to lead our Party. The hundreds of Liberal Democrats that I spoke to during the course of our leadership campaign urged me to be bold and to seize the initiative. They told me they wanted our Party to be talking about what everyone else in Scotland is talking about - the rising cost of living.

I have set a new pace, making campaigning visits in my first weeks to Inverurie, Inverness, Perth, Argyll and the Scottish Borders. I want to be out of the Holyrood bubble every week, meeting people in factories, supermarkets and farms across Scotland.

I have challenged the Scottish Government to work with the UK Government to help people beat rising prices. They are a Government built on spin. However hard it may be to work with the dithering, divided, and, frankly, finished Labour Government, it's what people expect politicians to do at moments of real economic challenge.

And I have also set a new agenda on tax. At the Bournemouth conference Nick Clegg showed how we can cut the burden of tax for low and middle incomes across the UK.

I want to see money put back into the pockets of people in Scotland at a time when the rising prices are really hurting. A cut of 2p off income tax could be delivered in Scotland and give real, urgent benefit to hard pressed families and individuals. It will put more than £300 into the pockets of average earners.

We can make it happen in Scotland. We Liberal Democrats must make helping people at this tough financial time our central purpose.

Yours sincerely,

Tavish Scott MSP



# Welcome to the City of Edinburgh!



We hoped. We dreamed. We worked hard. And we delivered real change in May 2007. It is an absolute thrill to be able to welcome conference to our capital city now that we are the largest party on the Council - in a Liberal Democrat led coalition with the SNP. Despite inherited budget fragility, uncertain global financial pressures and increasing demands for services, we are providing the best for our residents and visitors of all ages. We are also determined to stick to our principles of fairness, openness and accountability in making Edinburgh a truly worthy capital. Enjoy conference and our city.

Cllr Jenny Dawe, Leader, City of Edinburgh Council

I am delighted to be able to welcome the conference to my own Westminster parliamentary constituency of Edinburgh West. From what was a safe Conservative seat, when I joined the party over 25 years ago, it has developed since that time, through determined campaigning and hard work, into a Liberal Democrat held seat at every level. In the future we look forward to making further advances in Westminster, at Holyrood and on the Council, throughout the City of Edinburgh. I hope you enjoy the Conference today and I look forward to welcoming you back to Edinburgh in the future.

John Barrett MP, Edinburgh West



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Autumn conference, my first as Conference Convener. The committee have worked hard to produce a varied and exciting agenda and are looking forward to seeing so many of you on the day. Conference is a key part of the Liberal Democrat year, an opportunity to discuss and set policy, network and share campaign ideas. The agenda is driven by our local parties, so if there is something you have a burning desire to debate we would welcome your thoughts for Spring 2009 at the Perth Concert Halls, an amazing venue and place to gather. I look forward to seeing you all there and remember, book early for a discount. Finally, I want to convey my thanks to the staff at Clifton Terrace, without whom this conference would not have been possible.

Jenni Lang, Conference Convener

# Helpful Information

## Venue

This year's Conference is in the Hilton Hotel, Grosvenor Street, Edinburgh, EH12 5EF. 0131 226 6001

## Registration

Registration badges must be worn at all times for security reasons. These will NOT be sent out in advance of conference but will be available for collection upon your arrival within the main conference centre. Replacement badges are available at a cost of £5.

## Speakers Cards

These are available from the Stewards, from the Speakers Table, and from the Conference Registration Desk. All Party members are entitled to speak, whether registered as Representatives, Observers or day Visitors. Each member who wishes to speak must complete a card in respect of each item on the Conference Agenda on which they wish to speak. This should be returned to the stewards well in advance of the calling of the motion. Before speaking, representatives should clearly state at the microphone their name and the name of the Local Party or Organisation of which they are a representative.

## Deadline for Submission

Emergency motions must be submitted before 12 noon on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008. E-mail to [conference@scotlibdems.org.uk](mailto:conference@scotlibdems.org.uk); fax to

0131 337 2314; or by post to the Conference Committee, 4 Clifton Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5DR  
Emergency Motions must be from either a Local Party or signed by 5 Conference Representatives. Motions selected for debate will be printed in the Conference Bulletin.

## Badge Identification

Category	Colour
Voting Representative	Yellow
Non-Voting Representative	Purple
Observer/ Guests/Exhibitors	Grey
Media Representatives	Blue
Conference Committee	Green
Staff/Stewards	Red

## Distribution of Literature

Please be aware that the distribution of literature within the conference venue is not permitted without the prior approval of the Conference Committee.

## Smoking

All buildings, including hotel rooms are non-smoking for the entire duration of the conference.

## Security

Would attendees please note that they are requested to participate in any security measures in place at the conference venue, whether this is the wearing of name badges or participation in bag checks. Any unattended packages found in this venue will be notified to the Police.

## Further Questions

If you have any questions regarding the conference you can contact Andrew Reeves at Clifton Terrace in advance of

conference; or at conference itself contact a member of the Stewards Team.

### **How to Get There**

**TRAIN:** For times call National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950. Edinburgh Haymarket station is just 200 metres from the Hotel.

Due to engineering works on the Bathgate and North Berwick rail lines over the weekend of conference, buses will replace the scheduled train services into and out of Edinburgh from these two towns.

**BUS:** For services contact National Express on 08717 818181 or Citylink on 08705 505050. Most national and local services stop at Haymarket Station.

**CAR:** There is limited on-street metered parking around the venue, and a NCP carpark on Morrison Street. Due to roadworks in the area Grosvenor Street itself can only be accessed by car from the West along Rosebery and Lansdowne Crescents. There are other temporary one-way systems in the City and traffic can be slow, those unfamiliar with the area should allow extra time for their arrival. For a map of the streets surrounding the venue go to page 21.

### **Thanks**

Many thanks are extended to Sound and Vision for all their assistance with the stage set; also to all the team at Hilton Grosvenor; our team of volunteers for all the help with conference and other mailings; thanks too to Stuart Smith, his stewarding team and Kirsty Smith in the Conference Hall.

### **Party Office Bearers**

Leader: Tavish Scott MSP  
Deputy Leader: Michael Moore MP  
President: Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP  
Convener: Audrey Findlay CBE  
Treasurer: Brian Logan  
Policy Convener: Siobhan Mathers  
Campaigns Convener: Stephen Peters  
Conference Convener: Jenni Lang

### **Conference Committee**

Jenni Lang (Convener)  
Cllr. Debra Storr  
Cllr. Stuart MacKinnon  
Audrey Findlay  
Shabnum Mustapha  
Patricia Carruthers  
Mike Falchikov  
Sandy Leslie  
Cllr. Ian Yuill  
Fraser Grieve  
Norman Fraser  
Judy Hayman  
Elspeth Attwooll MEP  
Danny Alexander MP  
Hugh O'Donnell MSP  
Siobhan Mathers (Policy)  
Stuart Douglas (LDYS)  
Cllr. Jacquie Bell (SWLD)  
Caron Lindsay (ASLDC)

### **Clifton Terrace Staff**

Chief Executive: Martin Hayman  
Campaigns Director: Andrew Reeves  
Campaigns Officer: Cllr Charles Dundas  
IT Officer: Charlie Mollison  
Development Officer: Graeme Littlejohn  
ASLDC Officer: Dr Derek Barrie

# Exhibitors



Scottish Environment LINK is the voice of Scotland's environment movement - 36 member bodies representing a wide variety of interests working for the common goal of a more environmentally sustainable



The local branch offers secondhand books for sale at our conference stall today. Come and browse and help fundraising for this key target seat



Action for Children Scotland is a leading children's charities. We support over 7000 of the most vulnerable children, young people and families at 66 projects across Scotland so that they have the opportunity to reach their full potential.



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**Quarriers**  
Caring and support for positive living

Quarriers' "Missed Out, Missing Out" report identifies that where, and with whom, an adult with a learning disability lives are key determinants of opportunity, choice and service availability.

**LIBERAL DEMOCRAT  
IMAGE**

Liberal Democrat Image for all your campaign supplies. Order online for a growing range of Liberal Democrat party products in the Scottish product category. [www.libdemimage.co.uk](http://www.libdemimage.co.uk). 01252 510005

# digitaluk

Digital UK is the independent, non-profit organisation leading the process of digital TV switchover in the UK. Digital UK provides impartial information on what people need to do to prepare for the move to digital, and when they need to do it.

# The Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is an independent body set up by the UK Parliament in 2000. Our aim is to foster integrity and public confidence in the UK's democratic process

## Agenda at a glance

- 9.00** Conference Opens
- 9.30** Welcome from Lord Provost of Edinburgh
- 9.40** SC1: Improving Scotland's Education
- 10.20** SC2: Centralisation of Economic Development
- Agencies 10.45** SC3: Alcohol and Young People in Scotland
- 11.30** Financial Appeal
- 11.40** Tavish Scott MSP
- 12.10** Lunch
- 12.30** Fringe Meetings
- Electoral Reform Society with Tavish Scott MSP
  - Parliamentary Candidates Association
  - Liberal International with Ed Davey MP
- 14.00** Down my way - a view from our target seats
- 14.40** EM1: Emergency Motion
- 15.25** Highlands to the Borders: A Record of Success
- 16.00** Election Focus
- 16.30** PB1: Membership Motion
- 17.00** Close of Conference

# Park

Park is one of the leading printing companies in the UK. We print exclusively for Liberal Democrats providing the quality and reliability to make your campaigns even more successful.

The Electoral Reform Society Scotland campaigns for Improvements in Scottish democracy. Information on our research and campaigns will be available at our stand.

Electoral  
 Reform  
 Society  
Scotland

## 09.30 Conference Opens

Chair: Audrey Findlay  
Aide: Martin Hayman

### Welcome from Rt Hon George Grubb, Lord Provost of Edinburgh

## 09.40 Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Jackie Bell  
Aide: Richard Coxon

## SC1 Improving Scottish Education

### *Policy Committee*

- 1 Conference believes that improving our education system is of the utmost  
2 importance for Scotland's future and is concerned that too many young people  
3 still fail to reach their full potential because they are not afforded the educational  
4 opportunities they need to play a full role in society.
- 5 Conference notes that the SNP cannot be trusted on education having let down  
6 parents, pupils, teachers and students through a raft of broken promises, including  
7 class sizes, new school buildings, nursery education and student debt.
- 8 Conference believes that determined, long term action is required to build on the  
9 considerable successes of Scotland's education system and to tackle the real  
10 challenges facing Scottish education, including: a) a greater focus on early years  
11 education to ensure that every child has the best start in life, no matter their  
12 family background; b) ensuring that pupils' attainment is not impaired during the  
13 transition periods through the education system from nursery to primary and  
14 primary to secondary; c) improving strategies to widen participation in further  
15 and higher education and raise pupils' awareness and aspirations; d) specific  
16 support for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to improve attainment and  
17 improve opportunities post formal education meet their full potential; e)  
18 delivering high quality school buildings that provide the best learning environment  
19 for pupils and teachers and; f) developing excellent school leadership to lead  
20 outstanding schools and to turn around schools facing real challenges.
- 21 Conference therefore calls for:
- 22 1. Primary 1 to become a transition year focused on learning through play to  
23 equip children from all backgrounds with the skills they need to make a  
24 success of education and allow early support from a wide range of  
25 professionals for children who need extra help;

- 26 2. Greater focus on the transition periods from primary to secondary, further  
 27 and higher education with support for local authorities to improve transition  
 28 teaching support;
- 29 3. Specific support for colleges and universities to develop partnerships with  
 30 every primary school in Scotland, targeted firstly at areas where there are  
 31 currently fewer pupils going on to study at further or higher education;
- 32 4. Additional support to improve the educational outcomes for disadvantaged  
 33 pupils through a Pupil Premium, funded through savings in the UK tax  
 34 credits system, which would deliver additional funding of at least £150  
 35 million to Scotland;\*
- 36 5. Greater recognition of the benefits to all children of excellent leadership in  
 37 schools which inspires teachers, pupils and parents to improve learning  
 38 outcomes for all, including:
- 39 i. HMIE, in partnership with the teaching profession, to establish a  
 40 National Academy for School Leadership to help improve standards in  
 41 schools
- 42 ii. A review of the terms and conditions of employment for headteachers  
 43 to ensure that they are properly rewarded for outstanding achievement  
 44 and given incentives to turn around schools facing real challenges
- 45 6. The Scottish Government to bring an immediate end to the delay in the  
 46 school building programme to allow local authorities to refurbish and build  
 47 new schools to meet their local needs.

*Note: Further details of the Pupil Premium policy are contained in Federal Policy Paper number 80. Its introduction would lead to additional funds being made available to Scotland which could be used for additional support for disadvantaged pupils.*

### **Amendment One**

*Glasgow North Liberal Democrats*

48 Add an additional point 3, immediately after line 28, and renumber subsequent  
 49 points accordingly:

50 The Scottish Government to review the 'winter leavers' system of two separate  
 51 school leaving dates, considering the benefits and drawbacks for schools, colleges  
 52 and learners associated with the current arrangements.

## **10.20 Policy Motion**

### **SC2 Centralisation of Economic Development Agencies**

*Galloway and Upper Nithsdale Liberal Democrats*

1 Conference condemns the centralisation of economic development agencies,  
 2 such as Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and VisitScotland by

3 the SNP Government and the resulting loss of financial discretion and staff  
4 resource in regional offices.

5 Conference further condemns the failure of the SNP Government to provide  
6 adequate resources to local authorities to fund their additional economic  
7 development responsibilities.

8 Conference calls on the Scottish Government to:

- 9 1. Recognise the need for support to small businesses and business networks
- 10 2. Restore meaningful local accountability and influence on national quangos to  
11 ensure locally appropriate delivery in every region of Scotland
- 12 3. Provide adequate financial resources to local authorities to fulfil their  
13 economic development remit

### **10.45 Policy Motion**

Chair: Jenni Lang

Aide: Sandy Leslie

### **SC3 Alcohol and Young People in Scotland**

*Liberal Youth Scotland*

1 Conference notes the publication in June 2008 of the Scottish Government's  
2 alcohol strategy: 'Changing Scotland's relationship with alcohol', and the action  
3 areas identified in the strategy: reducing alcohol consumption, supporting families  
4 and communities, promoting positive public attitudes towards alcohol and  
5 improving support and treatment for those who require it.

6  
7 Conference reaffirms its commitment to taking sustained and consistent action to  
8 help individuals in Scotland rebalance their relationship with alcohol, recognising  
9 that whilst the state can and must take steps to address the problems associated  
10 with alcohol misuse individuals must also accept a personal responsibility for their  
11 own alcohol consumption.

12 Conference believes that the proposal in the strategy to raise the age at which  
13 alcohol can be purchased in off-sales premises to 21 unfairly penalises and  
14 demonises young people by introducing a presumption of culpability for all 18-20  
15 year olds, and represents a misguided move that will not contribute to the long-  
16 term cultural change in respect of alcohol that is required in Scotland.

17 Conference welcomes the online petition launched by the party in response to  
18 this proposal and the many signatures that it has received thus far.

- 19 Conference calls on the Scottish Government to:
- 20 i. Scrap plans to increase the legal age for purchasing alcohol at off-sales premises
- 21 ii. Ensure that current legislation is properly enforced with particular regard to
- 22 retailers who sell alcoholic products to those that are under-age
- 23 iii. Hold a summit of the country's alcohol suppliers, distributors and retailers to
- 24 discuss their corporate social responsibility in relation to the sale of alcohol and
- 25 tackle the issue of deeply discounted alcoholic products
- 26 iv. Improve the information that people have about alcohol in terms of labelling
- 27 and alcoholic strength and engage with young people on how to promote
- 28 responsible drinking

### **Amendment One**

*Scottish Policy Committee*

29 After line 28 insert:

- 30 (v) introduce a national bottle marking scheme to help police identify where
- 31 under-age people source their alcohol
- 32 (vi) abandon its plans for separate 'alcohol only' checkouts in off-sales
- 33 premises
- 34 (vii) support a reduction in the drink drive limit from 80mg to 50mg per
- 35 100ml of blood
- 36 (viii) oppose proposals to give police officers the power to carry out random
- 37 breath tests on any driver at any time and anywhere, regardless of
- 38 whether they have committed another offence or have been involved in
- 39 an accident, and in the absence of reasonable suspicion.

## **11.30 Party Business**

**Financial Appeal by Ross Finnie MSP followed by:**

**Speech by the Leader of the  
Scottish Liberal Democrats,  
Tavish Scott MSP**



**12.10 Lunch**

**12.30 Fringe Meetings**

Electoral Reform Society with Tavish Scott MSP  
Parliamentary Candidates Association  
Liberal International with Ed Davey MP

**14.00 Down my way - a view from our target seats**

Chair: Judy Hayman

With key seat PPCs; Fred Mackintosh (Edinburgh South); Kevin Lang (Edinburgh North & Leith); Amy Rodger (East Lothian); Katy Gordon (Glasgow North) and John Sleigh (Aberdeen South)

**14.40 Policy Motion**

**EM1 Emergency Motion**

Emergency motions must be submitted before 12 noon Wednesday 8th October 2008. They must be from either a Local Party or signed by 5 Conference Representatives. Motions selected for debate will be printed in the Conference Bulletin.

**15.25 Party Business**

Chair: Michael Moore MP

**Highlands to the Borders - A Record of Success**

A question and answer session with leading councillors from key administrations across Scotland,

**16.00 Party Business**

Chair: Alistair Carmichael MP

Aide: George Lyon

**Election Focus**

A session on the party's campaigns for the next European, Westminster, Holyrood and Council elections.

**16.30 Party Business**

**17.00 Close of Conference**

Followed by City of Edinburgh civic drinks reception.

## The Calman Commission: Advancing Scotland's Democracy

*A discussion with*

**Tavish Scott**

Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

**Audrey Findlay**

Convener of the Scottish Liberal Democrats  
and Member of the Calman Commission

**Amy Rodger**

Centre for Scottish Public Policy and  
Director of the Electoral Reform Society  
Scotland

*Lunchtime in the Grosvenor Hilton Hotel*



# Standing Orders

## I The Conference Committee

- 1.1 The Conference Committee shall be constituted as specified in Section E20 of the Constitution. The annual election of members by the conference shall be by Single Transferable Vote in a ballot of all voting members.
- 1.2 The Conference Convener shall be the Chair of the Conference Committee. At its first meeting after a new election under Section E20 of the Constitution, the Conference Committee may elect one or more Vice-Conveners.

## 2 The Timetable and Agenda - Normal Meetings

- 2.1 The Agenda for the Conference shall include time for:
  - a. Motions;
  - b. Emergency motions;
  - c. A business session or sessions; and (d) any other business deemed appropriate by the Conference Committee. The time to be allocated to each type of business and the order of business shall be decided by the Conference Committee.
- 2.2 The Conference Agenda Committee shall, before each meeting of the Conference, prepare a timetable which includes:
  - a. The closing date for the receipt of motions (other than emergency motions) which shall not normally be less than ten weeks before the start of the meeting;
  - b. The due date for the publication of the Preliminary Agenda which shall not normally be less than eight weeks before the start of the meeting, and
  - c. The closing date for receipt of amendments which shall not normally be less than three weeks before the start of the meeting. The Conference Committee may, in special circumstances, specify dates later than the normal dates under this Standing Order. It shall report to the Conference its reasons for doing so.
- 2.3 Submitting organisations shall detail at the time of submission the name and contact details of a person authorised to agree any redrafting of a motion or amendment.
- 2.4 The Conference Committee shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included within the Preliminary Agenda. The Preliminary Agenda shall be circulated to Local Parties and other bodies entitled to submit motions and amendments under the provisions of Section E19 of the Constitution. Copies of motions not selected for inclusion in the Preliminary Agenda shall be available for inspection.
- 2.5 The Conference Committee shall as soon as is practicable after the closing date for the receipt of amendments select the motions and amendments to be debated and draw up a Final Agenda. The proposers of motions and amendments selected for

inclusion in the Final Agenda shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision and shall be required to indicate to the conference organisers the names of those responsible for moving motions and amendments selected at least seven days prior to the commencement of Conference.

- 2.6 The Conference Committee shall also prepare an agenda for the business session of each Conference. This shall include motions to amend the constitution submitted according to the provisions of Section M of the Constitution and circulated, following their receipt, to Local Parties and conference members.
- 2.7 The Conference Committee may, if the circumstances require, propose to the Conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the Final Agenda. Such variation shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.

### **3 Submission of Motions and Amendments**

- 3.1 The Conference Agenda Committee may refuse to select a motion for the amendment of the Constitution or Standing Orders if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate at the same Conference. All other motions in these categories shall be included in the Final Conference Agenda.
- 3.2 No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Conference Committee, it is insubstantial, outside the legitimate scope of the motion or tantamount to a direct negative of the motion.
- 3.3 The movers of any motion or amendment which has not been selected shall be notified as soon as is practicable and may appeal to the Conference Committee in accordance with directions given by the Committee. If an appeal is allowed, the motion or amendment shall be treated as an emergency motion or amendment notwithstanding that it does not comply with Standing Order 5.
- 3.4 This Standing Order and Standing Order 2 do not apply to procedural motions under Standing Order 8.

### **4 The Agenda - Special Conferences**

- 4.1 Special Conferences shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of requisition, save that the Conference Committee may allow time for emergency motions and for business which is formal or, in the opinion of the Committee, uncontentious.
- 4.2 The Conference Committee shall, draw up a Preliminary Agenda and specify a date (if appropriate) for submission of amendments and emergency motions. If it is deemed to be necessary, the Committee may proceed straight to a Final Agenda and require any amendments to be submitted as emergency amendments.

- 4.3 The provisions of Standing Orders 2 and 3 shall, so far as they are not inconsistent with Standing Orders 4.1 and 4.2, apply to special meetings of the Conference.

## 5 Emergency Motions

- 5.1 An emergency motion or amendment must relate to significant developments which have occurred since the closing date for receipt of motions or so shortly before that date as to make it impracticable to submit a motion in due time. It must be brief and specific.
- 5.2 An emergency motion or amendment may be submitted by five conference members or by any persons or bodies authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E19 of the Constitution.
- 5.3 Subject to Standing Order 5.7, an emergency motion or amendment must be submitted to the Conference Committee by such time as the Committee may direct before the start of the relevant Conference.
- 5.4 The Conference Committee may refuse to select an emergency motion or amendment if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate or ballot at the relevant Conference.
- 5.5 The Conference Committee will choose the emergency motions or amendments which, in the opinion of the Committee, are most relevant to the concerns of the Conference and can be debated within the time available. The Committee shall make available the text of all emergency motions and amendments chosen for debate.
- 5.6 Where significant developments have occurred since the closing date for receipt of emergency motions, such a motion may be submitted to the Conference Committee during the Conference. The Committee may select such a motion for debate if, in the opinion of the Committee, the matter is of great importance and time can be made available.
- 5.7 No amendments shall be taken to an emergency motion.

## 6 Conduct of Debate

### 6.1 Length of Speeches

- a. The Conference Committee shall decide the time to be allocated for each debate. The Conference Committee shall determine the times allocated to speakers in debates.
- b. Movers of motions shall normally be allocated not more than 12 minutes to move and summate on a motion. Movers of amendments shall normally be allocated not more than 8 minutes to move and summate on a motion. Movers of emergency motions shall normally be allocated 5 minutes to move the motion. Speakers from the floor shall normally be allocated 4 minutes but this may be varied at the discretion of the chair of the debate.

- c. The allocation of the time between moving and summing shall be at the discretion of the mover subject only to notification of the Chair of the debate before the start of the debate. In the absence of such notification the Chair shall be entitled to limit speeches to three quarters of the time allocation for moving and one quarter for summation.

## 6.2

- a. The Conference Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments (or their nominees) shall have the right to summate in the same order, after which the mover of the motion (or their nominee) shall have the right to summate.
- b. Votes will be taken on amendments in the order in which they have been moved and finally, a vote shall be taken on the substantive motion.

6.3 The Conference Committee may direct that parts of any motion or amendment or group of amendments may be the subject of a separate debate the Conference Committee may also direct that a debate may comprise of more than one substantive motion. In this case it shall be up to the discretion of the Chair as to the allotment of speakers, save that the rights of movers of motions or amendments shall not be infringed.

6.4 The Committee may authorise members of other State or Regional Parties to speak. The Committee may also, with the approval of conference, invite any person to address a Conference as a guest.

6.5 On any policy motion or emergency motion not moved on behalf of the Policy Committee, the Policy Committee shall have the right to nominate one of its members to report to the Conference its views on the motions and/or amendments under debate. Such persons shall be called to speak at any time up to the conclusion of the debate and before any replies and shall be entitled to speak for the same length of time as the mover of the motion. The Executive Committee shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution and the Conference Committee shall have similar rights in relation to motions to amend Standing Orders or motions otherwise relating to the proceedings of the Conference.

6.6 Save as provided in Standing Orders, no person may speak more than once in any debate.

6.7 Members including the movers of motions and amendments, wishing to speak in any debate shall submit a speaker's card which shall state whether they wish to speak for or against a motion or amendment. The Chair of the session shall be responsible for providing a balanced debate between the different viewpoints in the Conference. In circumstances where there is a preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side in any debate, the Chair may announce a departure from this rule.

## 7 Voting

- 7.1 Voting cards shall be issued to voting members registered to attend a Conference and shall be shown in respect of all votes taken. A count of voting cards will be taken when either:
- a. This is felt necessary by the Chair of the session to resolve uncertainty as to the outcome, or
  - b. A request for a count has been made by 12 voting members standing in their places and showing their voting cards.
- 7.2 In the event of a count of voting cards being required, the Chair of the session shall appoint tellers for the purpose. A recount will be held only if the Chair of the session is not satisfied that the first count was accurate.

## 8 Points of Order and Procedural Motions

- 8.1 Any voting member may rise on a point of order. A point of order shall be taken immediately, except that, during a vote no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the vote itself. The decision of the Chair of the session on all points of order shall be final.

### 8.2 References Back

- a. A voting member may, at any time before the end of speeches in reply to the debate, submit in writing a motion to refer back the motion under debate. Such a submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a short statement of the reasons.
- b. The Chair may decide either to take the motion to refer back immediately or defer it until the end of debate. If more than one request for a reference back is received, the Chair shall have the discretion as to which to take but shall give consideration to the appropriateness of the bodies to which the motion is being referred, the degree to which the stated reasons for reference back reflect views expressed in the debate and the order in which the requests were submitted, before exercising the rights of discretion. No more than one reference back shall be taken to any motion.
- c. The Chair shall, upon taking the motion to refer back, read it and the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to debate the motion. If the conference decides not to debate the reference back, the reference back automatically falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those voting to debate the reference back the mover of that motion may 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 motion.
- d. The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If the substantive motion is referred to the Executive, Policy Committee or Conference Committee that body shall report to the next meeting of conference stating the action it has taken on the reference back .

### 8.3 Suspension of Standing Orders

- a. A voting member may, during any session of a conference, move for the suspension of Standing Orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 100 words, to the Chair who shall read them to the Conference.
- b. No motion to suspend Standing Orders may suspend any requirement of the Constitution, not Standing Orders 2 and 3.
- c. No motion to suspend Standing Orders to introduce a motion or amendment onto the Agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Conference Committee in accordance with the published timetable and any right of appeal has been exercised.
- d. The Chair shall read the statement of purpose and if the suspension is allowable, ask Conference whether it wishes to debate the request to suspend Standing Orders. If the Conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the Conference decides to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Conference may reply. The Chair has the discretion to call other speakers and all speeches 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 voting Representatives present and voting. If the procedural motion is carried all Standing Orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

### 8.4 Separate Votes

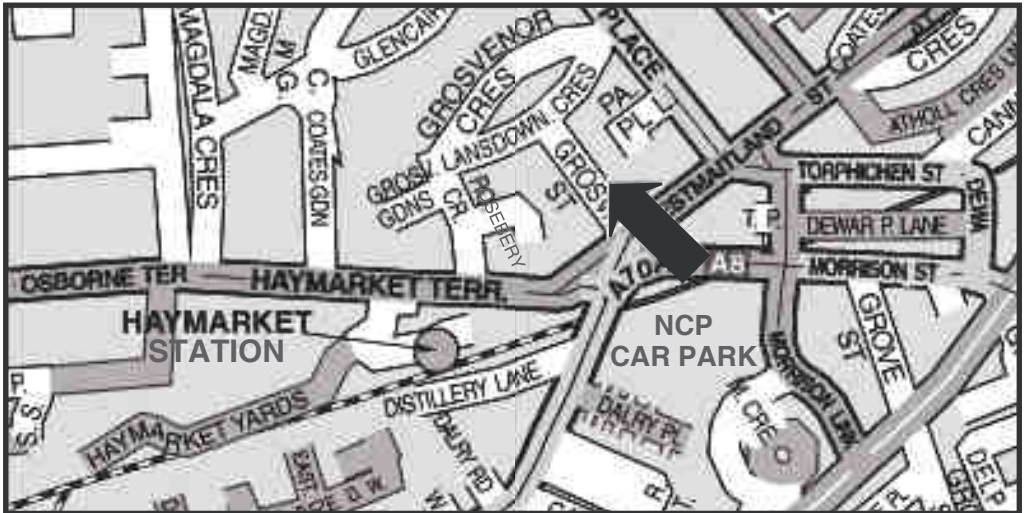
A Separate Vote shall be taken on a part of a motion or amendment.

- a. At the direction of the Conference Committee; or
- b. At the discretion of the Chair, when requested to do so by a voting representative. Any voting representative may submit a request for a separate vote to the Chair of a debate. Such a request must be in writing and received before the commencement of the speeches in reply to the debate. The Chair has complete discretion in such a case on whether to take a separate vote.

- 8.5 These Standing Orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of voting members present and voting on a motion duly submitted under the terms of Standing Order 3. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from Conference to Conference.

# Notes

## How to get there



# Voice of the Candidate

**Got a moment?** Ok. See if you can name five great MPs in our party. Got that? Ok, now name five great MSPs. And now five great MEPs. And, finally, five great Lib-Dem working peers.

Right. Got all twenty? You can go back to previous parliaments, and previous generations if you want. But you probably don't need to.

Now let's make it really hard. Imagine five great *future* parliamentarians.

And here's the main question: Including the future ones you imagined, what were they all *before* they became parliamentarians.

Thinking...

The answer is (of course) they were all candidates.

Every great parliamentarian was once a candidate. Every future parliamentarian will have been a candidate first.

**More than anything else, this party needs great candidates.**

And great candidates need a great voice.



The Parliamentary Candidates Association is the Voice of the Candidate. If you are an approved candidate, join today at the PCA stand, or go to [www.libdempca.org.uk](http://www.libdempca.org.uk)



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