

Virtual Autumn Conference

30-31 October, 2020

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Friday 30th October

09:00 Intros

10:00 Welcome and Test Voting

10:15 SC1: A Fair Deal for Student Parents

Submitted by Scottish Liberal Democrat Women

Mover: Mhairi Macdonald Edinburgh West

Summator: Jacqui Bell

Conference notes:

- a) That currently, the childcare provision for student parents only covers teaching time and does not cover the time that students spend on external placements or undertaking independent study;
- b) That the support is limited to £1,215 per year for lone parents only and the Discretionary Childcare Fund, which is entirely needs-based and at the discretion of the educational institution;
- c) That, according to Coram Family and Childcare research from 2019, the average cost of childcare is £111 per week or around £5,800 per year for a part-time nursery placement;
- d) That this support is inadequate, as outlined by the 2016 National Union of Students (NUS) report "Bairn Necessities";
- e) That there is no requirement for Universities and Colleges to report on their number of student parents, and therefore, it is impossible to gauge what level of targeted support is needed;
- f) That the support provided to Scottish Further and Higher education students with parenting responsibilities is less generous than support given to students in England and Wales.

Conference further notes:

that with the unemployment figures likely to rise over the coming months, many people may choose to return to education to retrain or upskill. Conference acknowledges the Scottish Liberal Democrat commitment to lifelong learning.

Conference calls for:

- a) The existing childcare provision to be extended to cover independent study and vocational placements;
- b) The Scottish Government to provide better support for all student parents;
- c) Universities and Colleges to release timetables and schedules a minimum of six weeks before term starts to allow student parents to source suitable childcare, as suggested by the NUS;
- d) All Universities and Colleges to have a parental leave policy for students, at all levels;
- e) All Universities and Colleges to have specific child friendly facilities, including breastfeeding areas, changing areas in all toilets and social spaces where children are welcome.

Cards:

Mover: Mhairi Macdonald, Edinburgh West, called

Summator: Jacqui Bell, North East Edinburgh and Leith, called

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Fraser Graham, South Edinburgh, called
Rebecca Bell, Edin North and Leith, called

Votes:

Motion: Carried 49 for 1 against

10:45-10:50 Break

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10:50 SC2: Helping Nature to Fight Climate Change

Submitted by Scottish Policy Committee

Proposer: Sheila Ritchie

Summator: Liam McArthur

Conference notes:

1. The report from Policy Committee on Helping Nature to Fight Climate Change;
2. The last six years have included the five warmest years on record;
3. There are now 634 million people at risk from rising seas;
4. The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report predicts that, if the temperature increases by over 1.5°C, we will reach a tipping point from which we will be unlikely to recover;
5. Nature currently sequesters 5 billion tonnes of carbon per year, with around half of human CO₂ emissions stored by nature. However, habitation damage caused by climate change is reducing nature's ability to store carbon;
6. Biodiverse ecosystems are more resilient than ecosystems with less diversity, borne out by studies which show a correlation between biodiversity and carbon storage, a relationship particularly noticeable in grasslands and forests;
7. The United Nations has declared 2021–2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Conference calls for:

- A. The Scottish Government to provide funding to fulfil Scotland's Aichi spending targets;
- B. The Scottish Government to guarantee multi-year continued funding to Peatland Action so it can engage in projects that aren't possible to complete in a single year;
- C. The Scottish Government to make sure that the replacement to the Common Agricultural Policy and the Basic Payment Scheme rewards sustainable practices and encourages peatland restoration;
- D. The Scottish Government to take forward the findings and recommendations of the Grouse Moor Management Group Report on the regulation of muirburn and medicated grit, and the Deer Management Review to better manage deer numbers;
- E. The Scottish Government to prepare a draft bill for consultation, to introduce immediate licensing of grouse shooting;
- F. The Scottish Government to amend the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 to make it clear that, when there is a conflict, the responsibility for conservation should take priority over the responsibility for economic development;
- G. The Scottish Government to begin a consultation process on the possibility of new national parks, with the aim of a new national park joining the existing parks if there is local support. Areas with existing campaigns for a national park, such as Galloway and West Dumfries and Argyll & Bute should also be considered;

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H. The Scottish Government to amend planning policy to require full planning permission for all tracks in national parks or on land used for shooting or other recreational sports, clarifying the difference between track maintenance and alterations and widening, which should require prior notification;

I. The Scottish Government to direct its agencies and rural funds to drive an ambitious national programme of reconnecting natural and semi-natural habitats;

J. Councils to sow wild flower seeds in road verges and where safe to do so reduce cutting to once a year in late summer. This will provide bees and butterflies with a self sustaining habitat filled with pollen and nectar;

K. The UK Government to replace any EU funding (received via European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund or European Social Fund) which was being used to fund projects aimed at increasing biodiversity or fighting climate change.

Cards:

Mover: Sheila Ritchie, Aberdeenshire East, called

Summator: Liam McArthur, Orkney, called

Rebecca Bell, Edinburgh North and Leith, called

Fraser Graham, South Edinburgh, called

Votes:

Motion: carried 65 for (nem con)

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11:40 Speech by Sophie in't Veld

12:00 Emergency Motion 1 – The Coronavirus Crisis

Submitted by the Policy Committee

Mover: Alex Cole-Hamilton

Conference notes:

1. The terrible tragedy of Coronavirus, the deaths and ill health, the harms to mental health, and the damage to public services and the economy it has caused;
2. The responses of governments across the world;
3. The broad compliance and support, over a long period of time, by citizens to the restrictions imposed on them by their governments, and the sacrifices they have made;
4. The work of local communities and volunteers to support those in need during the crisis;
5. The uncertainty facing people over the future of their businesses and jobs, and the support offered to them.

Conference further notes the work of Scottish Liberal Democrats in the crisis:

6. Working constructively with the Scottish Government during the crisis;
7. Working in local communities to support volunteer efforts;
8. Securing improvements in financial support for fishing communities, the self-employed, home-traders and micro businesses;
9. Persuading the Scottish Government to test staff in care homes, support residents better with visits, and provide better PPE for essential workers and carers;
10. Challenging Scottish ministers when they have not met expectations on Covid testing, quarantine checks, or proper preparation for resumption of schools and universities;
11. Demanding greater openness on the science and modelling behind thresholds and decisions for new lockdowns;
12. In the UK Parliament, challenging the chaotic planning, communication and management of the crisis by Conservative ministers;
13. Making the case for an extension to furlough and business support until we are clear of the second wave, and leading the campaign to extend support to those who have so far been excluded by the UK Government.

Conference believes:

- A. Recovery from the Covid crisis will need a needle-sharp focus on the economy, the environment, education, and health and social care;
- B. Lessons need to be learned, and a public inquiry, with actions implemented, will help keep us safer in the future.

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C. The needs and challenges faced by different communities in different parts of Scotland should be properly considered by central government, working with local authorities.

Cards:

Mover: Alex Cole-Hamilton, Edinburgh West, Called

Summator: Rosemary Bruce, Aberdeenshire West, called

Jacquie Bell, Edinburgh North East and Leith, called

Wendy Chamberlain, North East and Central Fife, called

Cllr Gordon Adam (usa), Highland, called

Robert Brown, Rutherglen & Hamilton West, called

Christine Jardine, West Edinburgh, called

Fraser Graham, South Edinburgh, called

Malcolm Wood, Edinburgh West, not called

12:30 Lunch

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14:00 SC3: Economic and Community Development

Submitted by Shetland Liberal Democrats

Mover: Alistair Carmichael

Summator: John Waddell

Conferences notes:

The need to rebuild Scotland's economy post Covid-19, especially in rural and island communities. The need for strategic economic development to improve connectivity, infrastructure and long-term economic growth across Scotland. Since the election of the SNP government in 2007, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Scottish Enterprise (SE) have centralised control, cut budgets and reduced local accountability.

Conference believes:

That communities across Scotland require support for economic and social development which allows all communities to meet their own challenges in this area. That democratic accountability is vital for decision making that affects local communities, as those who live within the community understand best what is needed to ensure their future success. The people who know best what will help business to thrive are the people who run the businesses themselves.

Conference calls for:

The replacement of Highlands and Islands Enterprise with a revitalised development body, with local democratic accountability and a remit for the delivery of economic development, infrastructure construction and community empowerment. The creation of a new economic development agency for the North East of Scotland in this model. The Scottish Government to support regional and community decision-making at a local level and reverse its attempts to centralise economic and community development.

Amendments:

Submitted and moved by Rosemary Bruce

Summated by Malcolm Bruce

Supported by 8 Members

In the "conference calls for" paragraph:

Delete from "The creation..." to end.

Insert

"Promote legislation to restore economic development powers and significant resources to local authorities and facilitate public private development cooperation".

Cards:

Mover: Alastair Carmichael, Orkney & Shetland, called

Summator: John Waddell, Shetland

Move Amd 1: Malcolm Bruce, Aberdeenshire West, called

Sum Amd 1: Rosemary Bruce, Aberdeenshire West, called

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Molly Nolan, Highland - withdrawn

Michael Crichton, Dundee, not called

Alison Simpson, Banffshire and Buchan Coast, called

Beatrice Wishart, Shetland, called

Ben Lawrie, Angus & Mearns, called

Stephen Harte, north & east Edinburgh and leith Lib Dems, called

Jack Clark, Paisley & Renfrewshire, not called

Votes:

Amendment – defeated: For 27, Against 45

Motion: carried: For 76 Against 4

14:30 Break

14:35 Speech by Ed Davey

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14:50 SC4: [Reforming the UK for a federal future](#)

Submitted by Scottish Policy Committee

Mover: Wendy Chamberlain MP

Summator: Alastair Carmichael MP

Conference Notes:

1. The results of the 2019 UK General Election left two governments, one in Westminster and one at Holyrood, each using their 45% of the vote at that election to claim a mandate for far reaching and divisive constitutional change;
2. The report of the Electoral Reform Society which calculated that the current unfair First Past The Post electoral system for Westminster meant it took 38,264 votes to elect a Conservative MP, 50,835 votes for a Labour MP, 336,038 votes for a Liberal Democrat and just 25,882 votes to elect an SNP MP;
3. The appointment of defeated MPs and close colleagues of the Prime Minister to the House of Lords to continue their ministerial careers.
- “4. The Party’s Federal Spring Conference in September approved a far ranging motion on “The Creation of a Federal United Kingdom” providing inter alia for a United Kingdom Constitutional Convention, a United Kingdom Federal Council of Ministers, a requirement for partnership working between the UK and Scottish Governments and reform of UK-wide institutions to enable them to serve all governments and parliaments within the United Kingdom.”

Conference believes:

- A. The United Kingdom needs a constitution fit for a 21st century liberal democracy;
- B. The United Kingdom needs reform to respect the views of the majority of voters at elections and to recognise the importance of voices from the different nations and regions in setting the direction of the UK;
- C. The best way forward for Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland is to create a truly federal United Kingdom;
- D. A federal future would mean better governance across the whole UK, recognise different needs and demands in each nation, and equip each sphere of government with its own powers that could not be interfered with by another, supported by a new dispute resolution process;
- E. Federalism would provide the opportunity to share the powers being repatriated from the European Union through common frameworks agreed between the administrations;
- F. The House of Lords should be changed to work as a democratically chosen chamber designed to reflect national and regional voices, as part of a federal United Kingdom;
- G. A further referendum on Scottish independence in the next parliamentary term would pile division on top of the division of Brexit, and would lead to a deprioritisation of Scottish Government effort on domestic public services and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

Conference calls for:

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1. A new constitution for the United Kingdom that includes:

i. A declaration that the United Kingdom is a federal union that exists by the consent of the people of Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland;

ii. Reform of the Westminster voting system to Single Transferable Vote to make sure the outcome of elections more closely reflects the views of the voters;

iii. Reform of the House of Lords to a democratic basis with strong voices for the nations and regions;

“iii.a) A duty of co-operation on both the Federal and State governments to work for equality of opportunity, guarantee the essentials of a decent life for our citizens, tackle climate change and meet the challenges of a global economy”

iv. A dispute resolution process to help the ~~four UK administrations~~ various work together more effectively in a federal UK.

2. Change of the voting system for the Scottish Parliament to single transferable vote “with multi member STV seats based on the current additional member Regions” to support change at a UK level and to remove the existing two-tier nature of regional and constituency MSPs;

~~The Scottish Liberal Democrats to continue to offer voters the opportunity at the 2021 Scottish Parliament election to reject a further divisive independence referendum and to endorse the transformation of the United Kingdom to a federal union.~~

“3. The Scottish Liberal Democrats to campaign vigorously at the 2021 Scottish elections for the reform of the United Kingdom into a truly federal country, to use the power and influence of Liberal Democrat MSPs in the new Scottish Parliament in co-operation with other Parties and with Liberal Democrats across the UK to secure a federal future for our country, and to reject the negative option of a further divisive independence referendum”

Amendment:

Amendment 1

Submitted and moved by Robert O’Riordan

Summated by TBA

Supported by East Lothian Local Party

~~From ‘Conference believes’ point G, delete the words:~~

~~“would pile division on top of the division of Brexit, and would lead to a deprioritisation of Scottish Government effort on domestic public services and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.”~~

~~Replace with:~~

~~“is not our Party’s desired constitutional proposition; however, if opinion polls and election results show a consistent majority of participants polled as being in favour of independence, the democratic mandate for holding a referendum should not be denied especially given the UK’s changed constitutional position since the last Scottish Referendum and following the UK’s departure from the EU.”~~

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~~From 'Conference calls for' point 2 second para (line 40) delete the words:~~

~~"continue to offer voters the opportunity at the 2021 Scottish Parliament election to reject a further divisive independence referendum and to endorse the 43 transformation of the United Kingdom to a federal union."~~

and replace with

~~"end our opposition to a further Scottish independence referendum, while remaining clear that our preferred position is to remain within the UK."~~

Add new 'Conference calls for' Point 3:

~~"For an end to the Party's opposition, under all circumstances, to a Section 30 Order being passed at Westminster enabling a further Scottish Referendum on independence."~~

Amendment 2

Submitted and moved by Robert Brown

Summated by TBA

Supported by Rutherglen & Hamilton West Liberal Democrats

1. Line 10 – add new clause –

"4. The Party's Federal Spring Conference in September approved a far ranging motion on "The Creation of a Federal United Kingdom" providing inter alia for a United Kingdom Constitutional Convention, a United Kingdom Federal Council of Ministers, a requirement for partnership working between the UK and Scottish Governments and reform of UK-wide institutions to enable them to serve all governments and parliaments within the United Kingdom."

2. Line 36 Delete "four UK administrations" and substitute "various"

Note – This is unsatisfactory because it presupposes an English Parliament which the Party has previously rejected rather than a federation of the "nations and regions of the UK".

3. Line 36 Insert new subclause –

"iii.a) A duty of co-operation on both the Federal and State governments to work for equality of opportunity, guarantee the essentials of a decent life for our citizens, tackle climate change and meet the challenges of a global economy"

4. Line 38 – add after "single transferable vote" – "with multi member STV seats based on the current additional member Regions"

5. Delete Lines 41-43 and substitute –

"3. The Scottish Liberal Democrats to campaign vigorously at the 2021 Scottish elections for the reform of the United Kingdom into a truly federal country, to use the power and influence of Liberal Democrat MSPs in the new Scottish Parliament in co-operation with other Parties and with Liberal Democrats across the UK to secure a federal future for our country, and to reject the negative option of a further divisive independence referendum"

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Cards:

Mover: Wendy Chamberlain, North East Fife, called

Summator: Alastair Carmichael, Orkney & Shetland

Move Amd: Robert O'Riordan, East Lothian, called

Sum Amd: Kit Fraser, East Lothian, called

Move Amd 2: Robert Brown, Rutherglen, called

Sum Amd 2: Galen Milne, Stirling & Clackmannanshire – tech issue, Robert Brown took over

David McKenzie, Derby City

Ben Lawrie, Angus & Mearns

Ewan Hoyle, Glasgow City

Jill Reilly, NEELLD

John McKerchar, Ayrshire and Arran, called

Ross Stalker, Paisley and Renfrewshire, called

Joan Mitchell, Galloway, called

Fred Mackintosh, South Edinburgh, called

Denis Mollison, East Lothian, called

Robin Bennett, NE & Central Fife

Jack Clark, Paisley & Renfrewshire, called

Paul Robinson, East Lothian

Galen Milne, Stirling & Clackmannanshire

Will McLean, North East Lib Dems, called

Katy Gordon, East Dunbartonshire, called

Caron Lindsay, West Lothian, called

Veronica Crerar, Edinburgh West, called

Christine Jardine, West Edinburgh, called

Nigel Lindsay, Central Scotland, called

Swynn Hunter, Orkney (and maybe Shetland!), called

Votes:

Sep Vote on Amendment 1 lines 1-17 (all of it bar last 3 lines): Lines are removed: For 44 Against 54

Amendment 1 as amended: Defeated: For 18 Against 93

Amendment 2: Carried: For 103 Against 9

Motion as amended by amd 2: Carried: For 107 Against 8

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16:15 Break

16:20 Candidate Announcement

17:00 Fringe

18:00 In conversation with Malcolm Bruce

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Saturday 31st October

09:45 Party Business

Constitutional Amendment

Constitutional amendment submitted by ASLDC in February 2019, due to cancelled Conferences has been forwarded to Autumn 2020 Conference.

Proposer - Robert Brown

Add new H26a

"H26a The Executive may draw up model rules for the selection of Council candidates (including rules to facilitate the speedy selection of candidates for council by elections). Such rules may be adopted by a Local Party or co-ordinating body with such changes as they feel appropriate but, in the absence of a Local Party adopting its own rules, the model rules drawn up by the Executive shall apply to selection of Council candidates in the relevant area."

Cards:

Mover: Robert Brown, called
Robert Bell, Rutherglen and Hamilton West, not called

Votes:

Motion: Carried: For Against – not announced

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10:25 SC5: Motion: Shipbuilding on the Lower Clyde

Submitted by Inverclyde Liberal Democrats

Mover: Alasdair Higgins

Summator: Jacci Stoyale

Conference notes that:

1. the heritage of shipbuilding and marine engineering is significant to communities along the Lower Clyde.
2. Ferguson Marine, the last shipbuilding company based in the area, is a world leader in innovation in the marine industry, having:
 - a. designed and built a new generation of environmentally friendly ferries, including the world's first hybrid ferry, MV Hallaig.
 - b. commenced construction of a new class of liquefied natural gas ferries.
 - c. begun development on the world's first hydrogen powered car and passenger ferry, MV HySeas III, for Orkney Islands Council.
3. Ferguson Marine was nationalised by the Scottish Government towards the end of 2019 as the culmination of a long-running dispute with the wholly owned public corporation Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) over the construction of two ferries.
4. the contract overrun and subsequent nationalisation of Ferguson Marine has cost the Scottish taxpayer £230 million.
5. under Scottish Government control, Ferguson Marine appears no closer to completing the work on the two commissioned ferries, while other commercial contracts are at risk of cancellation due to delays and overruns.

Conference further notes that:

1. there is a dry dock at Inchgreen that is not being put to full use by the current owner, Cammell Lairds, a subsidiary company of Peel Ports; the facility has been allowed to deteriorate and the mobile cranes were demolished in 2017.
2. the Campaign to Save Inchgreen Dry Dock was launched in December 2017 with the ambition that the dry dock would once again become fully operational, providing much needed work and skilled jobs for the population of Inverclyde and surrounding areas.
3. currently Cammell Lairds has contracts with CalMac to service its Scottish Ferry Fleet at their Merseyside shipyard, thereby bypassing the Inchgreen facility entirely, at a huge cost to the Scottish taxpayer in extra fuel and increased carbon emissions. 4. if it were to be operated by Ferguson Marine, the Inchgreen dry dock would facilitate a greater diversity of operations for the company, allowing expansion into new markets such as ship repair and overhaul.
- "4. the Ministry of Defence has confirmed that Fleet Solid Support ships will, at least predominantly, be built in the UK, and the tendering for contracts will be re-launched in the Spring of 2021."

Conference believes that:

1. as an area with a falling population which is amongst the highest areas for deprivation in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) statistics, Inverclyde would greatly benefit from a revitalised industrial base that attracts work and enterprise.

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2. there can be a better future for Inchgreen, whereby Ferguson Marine, as a not-for-profit public company, could expand by entering the market to service the Scottish ferry fleet and build larger ships that they are currently unable to do at their existing shipyard.

"3. the MoD's Fleet Solid Support construction programme represents a potential for Ferguson Marine to also enter the defence market, diversifying the work of the yard and further securing jobs and investment on the Lower Clyde."

Conference therefore calls for:

1. The Auditor General to hold a public inquiry into the tendering process of the ferry contracts by CMAL and subsequent nationalisation of Ferguson Marine by the Scottish Government.

2. The Scottish Government to commission a feasibility study into the business benefits of Ferguson Marine acquiring the Inchgreen dry dock.

3. The Scottish Government to restructure Ferguson Marine into a not-for-profit public company which focuses on the construction and servicing of Scottish ferries, public sector vessels and green technology.

"4. The Scottish Government to also position Ferguson Marine as part of a teaming agreement to jointly bid for the Ministry of Defence's Fleet Solid Support construction programme."

Amendments:

Moved by Susan Murray

Summated by David McKenzie

Supported by 5 Members

After Conference further notes 3, add new point:

"the Ministry of Defence has confirmed that Fleet Solid Support ships will, at least predominantly, be built in the UK, and the tendering for contracts will be re-launched in the Spring of 2021."

After Conference believes 2, add new point:

"the MoD's Fleet Solid Support construction programme represents a potential for Ferguson Marine to also enter the defence market, diversifying the work of the yard and further securing jobs and investment on the Lower Clyde."

After Conference therefore calls for 3, add new point:

"The Scottish Government to also position Ferguson Marine as part of a teaming agreement to jointly bid for the Ministry of Defence's Fleet Solid Support construction programme."

Cards:

Mover: Alasdair Higgins, Inverclyde, called

Summator: Jaci Stoye Inverclyde, called

Move Amd: Susan Murray, ?,called

Sum Amd: David McKenzie, Derby City, called

Votes:

Amendment: Carried: For 98% Against "a few"

Motion as amended: Carried: For 96% Against "a small handful"

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10:55 Break

11:00 SC6: Starting School Better

Submitted by Scottish Policy Committee

Mover: Carole Ford

Summator: Rosemary Bruce

Conference notes:

1. Children in Scotland usually start school between the ages of 4.5 and 5.5 years old;
2. Beyond the UK, there are only two countries in Europe which expect children to start formal primary school aged four or five;
3. Compulsory education with an early school starting age was established across the UK in the 1870s. This was driven by concern for child protection and because it would allow children to leave school sooner to join the workforce, rather than developmental and educational criteria;
4. The Upstart campaign, which calls for a statutory kindergarten stage, has the support of dozens of educationalists and frontline professionals, academics, doctors, charity directors and other experts;
5. Parents who believe their child would benefit from a delayed start to formal education have no access to free alternative provision, and are obliged to send their child to school before they are ready;
6. Scottish Liberal Democrats have led the opposition to the SNP Government's national testing of four and five-year-olds which is the antithesis of the play-based system that the Scottish Government claims already exists.

Conference believes:

- A. While some children aged between 4.5 and 5.5 are able to embrace the demands of formal education, there are other children who are not ready, meaning that attainment gaps can quickly develop;
- B. Raising the age at which children start formal primary schooling, replacing P1 and P2 with a statutory, full-time kindergarten stage, could have a positive impact on children's development and long term physical and mental health;
- C. Children should be supported to learn skills at a pace that is appropriate for them, balancing self directed play with teacher-directed activity, in a system that genuinely trusts the judgement of practitioners;
- D. There should be a greater emphasis on play-based learning at this stage, including through more outdoor learning and classrooms with interconnected outside spaces;
- E. Parents and teachers who are attracted to the benefits of a statutory kindergarten stage should have the opportunity to experience it and demonstrate its benefits;
- F. The culture of starting formal learning at four or five years old is deep-seated and public attitudes are embedded. A different approach would need to be backed by robust evidence if it is to persuade parents that it is in the best interests of their child and change cultural expectations.

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Conference calls for the Scottish Government to enable:

- a) Pilots across a number of local authorities to replace P1 and P2 with kindergarten education, and begin formal education in P3 when children will be aged 6/7;
- b) Preparation for the pilots to examine options including:
 - i. Deployment of the new arrangements in a single stream of a large existing primary school of sufficient size to be able to accommodate such an opt-in class alongside existing provision;
 - ii. Drawing a cohort of pupils from a wide catchment area;
 - iii. The adaptation of existing plans for a new primary school, either to ensure that environments are suitably interconnected and reflective of the play-based ethos, or to allow for the new school to fully switch to the new approach whilst still relieving pressures on neighbouring schools.
- c) Pilots to be overseen by an expert group which includes representatives of the teaching and early years professions, local authority representatives, academics and international experts from countries with later school starting ages. It should look at the practicalities of the new arrangements, support for teachers including any additional training that may be required ahead of the pilots, how the design and content of the new kindergarten stage would differ from Primary 1 and 2, for example the potential to set an expectation for the amount of time spent outdoors, and at a later stage how existing teaching qualifications could be tailored to accommodate the wider rollout of this policy;
- d) Pilots be preceded by information campaigns so that uptake is broadly representative of the local community, to avoid uptake being dominated by an entirely self-selecting group which could distort the outcomes;
- e) The outcome of these pilots to inform decisions about a potential wider rollout.

Cards:

Mover: Carole Ford , Glasgow City, called
Summator: Rosemary Bruce, Amerdeenshire, called
Eileen McCartin, Paisley and Renfrewshire, called
Jane Pickard, West Edinburgh, called
Beatrice Wishart, Shetland, called

Votes:

Motion: Carried: For 97% Against 3%

[11:50 Speech by Wendy Chamberlain](#)

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12:05 SC7: Fuel Poverty in Scotland

Submitted by Highland Liberal Democrats

Mover: Molly Nolan

Summator: TBC

Conference notes that:

- i. People in rural areas of Scotland pay disproportionately more for energy distribution than those in other areas, resulting in a fuel poverty level in excess of 60% in Caithness and Sutherland;
- ii. Government figures from 2014 showed that fuel poverty cost NHS Scotland £80m per year;
- iii. Despite accounting for around 20 percent of fuel-poor properties in 2015, less than 1 per cent of rural households have received Energy Company Obligation measures;
- iv. The Passivhaus standard reduces energy usage by three quarters while costing just 5-10% more than current building standards;
- v. Fuel poverty has significant knock-on effects on both physical and mental health;
- vi. The UK has some of the least energy efficient buildings in Europe.
- vii. That whilst Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland (HEEPS) assisted 15,500 households in 2017/2018 the most recent Scottish House Condition Survey (published 4 December 2018) indicates that around 613,000 households (24.9%) were in fuel poverty in Scotland in 2017.
- viii. That an average new-build property constructed to current building standards for thermal efficiency will generally achieve an EPC rating of B or above."

Conference believes that:

- A. Nobody should be enslaved by poverty;
- B. Fuel poverty is a blight on our communities;
- C. The UK is behind on solutions to fuel poverty and climate change compared to the rest of Europe;
- "D. It will be necessary for all existing homes to meet EPC D energy efficiency standard, but meeting that standard will be particularly difficult for owner occupier on low incomes and that the delayed Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (Scotland) Regulations 2019 will be needed to force landlords to meet that standard within five years.
- E. That existing Scottish Government funded HEEPS scheme is not helping sufficient households insulate their homes each year to abolish fuel poverty and meet Scotland's climate change targets.
- F. Creating new-build homes to a higher standard of thermal efficiency will future-proof our new housing stock."

Conference endorses the efforts of Scottish Liberal Democrat MPs and MSPs towards equalising distribution costs of energy across the country.

Conference calls on the Scottish Government to:

1. Roll out a national insulation retrofit scheme to tackle fuel poverty and reduce emissions;

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2. Support councils in building social housing to the high-efficiency Passivhaus standard, massively reducing energy bills and providing high-quality jobs “with the aim of all new social housing, including affordable homes built as part of wider developments, to be built to passivhaus standards by 2025”;

3. Support councils in widening participation in current schemes to help reduce fuel poverty, which are often difficult to access or understand;

4. Support the widening of the Energy Company Obligation, a scheme designed to improve energy efficiency in fuel-poor homes, which remains vastly underused in rural communities.

“5. Increase relevant building standards for thermal efficiency to require all new-build residential properties to meet EPC A ratings by 2025, and passivhaus standards by 2030.”

Amendments:

Mover by Fred Mackintosh

Summator by Fraser Graham

Supported by South Edinburgh Liberal Democrats

Insert after line 11

“vii. That whilst Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland (HEEPS) assisted 15,500 households in 2017/2018 the most recent Scottish House Condition Survey (published 4 December 2018) indicates that around 613,000 households (24.9%) were in fuel poverty in Scotland in 2017.

viii. That an average new-build property constructed to current building standards for thermal efficiency will generally achieve an EPC rating of B or above.”

Insert after line 16

“D. It will be necessary for all existing homes to meet EPC D energy efficiency standard, but meeting that standard will be particularly difficult for owner occupier on low incomes and that the delayed Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (Scotland) Regulations 2019 will be needed to force landlords to meet that standard within five years.

E. That existing Scottish Government funded HEEPS scheme is not helping sufficient households insulate their homes each year to abolish fuel poverty and meet Scotland’s climate change targets.

F. Creating new-build homes to a higher standard of thermal efficiency will future-proof our new housing stock.”

~~Add at the end of line 20:~~

~~“offering simple, easy and effective solutions directly to householders funded by a government backed loan scheme secured on each property with zero % interest available for owner occupiers and social landlords.”~~

To line 22 add:

“with the aim of all new social housing, including affordable homes built as part of wider developments, to be built to passivhaus standards by 2025;

After line 26 insert:

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"5. Increase relevant building standards for thermal efficiency to require all new-build residential properties to meet EPC A ratings by 2025, and passivhaus standards by 2030.

Cards:

Mover: Molly Nolan, Highland, called reqst for sep vote (at end of line 20 etc)

Summator: Jamie Stone, Highlands, called

Move Amd: Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South, called

Sum Amd: Fraser Graham, Edinburgh South, called

Alan Beal, Edinburgh South, called

Thomas Prag, Highland, not called

Katy Gordon, East Dunbartonshire, called

Caron Lindsay, West Lothian, not called

David McKenzie, Derby City, not called

Votes:

Sep vote lines 20-23 (add at end of line 20 etc): Lines are removed :For 76% Against 24%

Amendment as amended: Carried: For 99% Against 1%

Motion: Carried nem con: For 100% Against 0%

12:35 Lunch

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14:00 SC8: A “Housing First” Model to End Homelessness in Scotland

Submitted by Glasgow Liberal Democrats

Mover: Carole Ford

Summator: Kevin Lewsey

Conference notes that:

1. during the Covid-19 lockdown the Scottish Government managed to immediately find shelter for every homeless person in Scotland, despite previous protestations that it was not possible.
2. according to the Scottish Government’s latest figures which cover the years 2018/19:
 - a. 29,894 Scottish households were assessed as homeless or threatened with becoming homeless; this equates to one household in Scotland becoming homeless every 18 minutes.
 - b. 14,043 children are assessed as being homeless.
 - c. despite the common perception that homelessness is primarily an issue which affects single men, 55% of homeless households are single women, families with a single parent, or couples, both with and without children.
 - d. there were 3,535 incidents in which homeless people were denied temporary accommodation.
3. the Scottish Government has failed to meet the 2012 target, as outlined in the Homelessness (Scotland) Act of 2003, for ensuring that everyone assessed as being unintentionally homeless will be entitled to permanent accommodation.
4. according to the National Records of Scotland, Scotland had the highest rate of homeless deaths of all GB countries in 2018, with a rate of 35.9 per million population compared to 16.8 in England and 14.5 in Wales.
5. in October 2019 housing charity Shelter took the unprecedented step of taking legal action against Glasgow City Council for what it claimed was the council’s “unlawful practice of denying homeless people temporary accommodation”. This action was dropped only after the Scottish Housing Regulator agreed to hold an inquiry.
6. Finland and Norway have shown success in all but eradicating homelessness through a “Housing First” approach rather than the “Staircase” system found in most countries. Instead of accommodation provided in a series of stages which must be earned, in the “Housing First” model, homeless people are automatically provided with permanent accommodation first, and then their social and health problems are addressed.

Conference believes that:

1. everyone in Scotland has the right to have a roof over their head.
2. the current way that we are tackling homelessness in Scotland is not working and needs to radically change.
3. it is unfair that the financial burden for homelessness accommodation falls on local government, as the issue very disproportionately affects some areas more than others.

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4. solutions to social and health problems should not be a pre-condition for organising permanent accommodation; the “Housing First” model would be a fairer and more effective way to tackle Scotland’s homelessness problem.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to build a minimum of 100,000 homes for social rent within the United Kingdom each year and to ensure that total housebuilding increases to 300,000 each year.

Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:

1. declare rough sleeping a national emergency and commit to ending it immediately.
2. implement a Housing First system, working towards the end of homelessness in Scotland within the next 10 years.
3. remove the financial burden of emergency homeless accommodation from local authorities by delivering this Housing First system via a new Scottish Government agency.
4. dedicate 15% of new social housing towards this new Housing First system.
5. undertake an urgent review of vacant properties to bring more of them into use with the specific aim of reducing overall homelessness.

Cards:

Mover: Carole Ford, Glasgow City, called

Summator: Kevin Lewsey, Glasgow City

Peter Barrett, Perth and Kinross, called

Jacci Stoye, Inverclyde, called

Kevin Lewsey, Glasgow City, called – reply to Reference Back

Jill Reilly, Edinburgh North & Leith, not called

Jack Caldwell, Edinburgh North & Leith, called

Caron Lindsay, West Lothian, called

James Burgon, Glasgow, called

Paul McGarry, Rqst for Ref Back, called despite not putting in a card

Votes:

Request for Reference Back:

Hear the Ref Back debate: To be heard : For 86% Against 14%

Refer the motion back:Carried : For 70% : Against 30%

Rqst for Sep Vote lines 45-46 (item 3 in “calls for”) – not required as motion referred back

Motion: Referred back to Policy committee

14:50 Break

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14:55 Emergency Motion 2 – Miscarriage and Stillbirth in Scotland

Submitted by Central Scotland Liberal Democrats

Proposer: Fiona Dryburgh

Summator: Dawn Allen

Conference notes that:

1. 1 in 4 pregnancies end in loss during pregnancy or birth.
2. 1 in every 238 pregnancies ends in stillbirth in Scotland.
3. Currently, hospital care associated with perinatal loss is delivered on labour wards.
4. Aarhus University Hospital in Denmark has a unit dedicated to perinatal loss.

Conference further notes that:

1. On 8th October, the Scottish Parliament's Public Petition Committee considered a petition calling for maternity departments to have dedicated facilities for unexpected pregnancy complications.
2. The Scottish Government's response, whilst comprehensively laying out the current position on the care of those experiencing pregnancy loss in Scotland, did not directly address the proposal advocated by the petition.

Conference believes that:

1. For those who experience perinatal loss, residence in a labour ward can contribute to the devastating effect on their mental health.
2. The Aarhus University Hospital model of supporting families through perinatal loss could be one to learn from.

Conference reaffirms the Scottish Liberal Democrats' commitment to:

1. Increased investment in NHS staff and services.
2. Prioritising mental health protection wherever possible in public policy.

Conference calls on the Liberal Democrats in the Scottish Parliament to work for:

1. Dedicated facilities for perinatal loss, with a standard of care equivalent to that provided to patients undergoing labour and delivery.
2. Comprehensive mental health support for families affected by perinatal loss.
3. A public health campaign to break down the stigma around perinatal loss and open up conversation.

Cards:

Mover: Fiona Dryburgh, Central Scotland, called

Summator: Dawn Allen, Central Scotland, called

Wendy Chamberlain, North East and Central Fife

Jacquie Bell, Edinburgh North & Leith, called

Beatrice Wishart, Shetland, called

Aude Boubaker-Calder, Dunfermline & West Fife, called

Votes:

Motion: carried new con: For 100% Against 0%

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15:25 Financial Appeal

15:30 Speech by Willie Rennie

15:50 SC9: Integrated Transport

Submitted by Scottish Policy Committee

Mover: Andrew Nisbet

Summator: Jane Pickard

Conference notes and agrees to the policy proposals contained in Integrated Transport Policy Paper 2020 for radical change to bus services and public transport in Scotland by enhancing the powers of the regional transport partnerships ~~and~~

“Conference believes that the utility and viability of demand-responsive transport services is being transformed by advances in technology and software, that more powerful regional transport partnerships would be well placed to utilise.

Conference” calls on the Scottish Government to:

1. Establish a system of regionally controlled bus route franchising following the Transport for London model with the power to:
 - a. Set routes, service frequency and bus quality standards and receive all fare income;
 - b. Ask bus companies to compete for the right to run, and be paid for, each route franchise;
2. Develop, in conjunction with local councils, integrated transport plans for their areas;
3. Develop and promote transport infrastructure schemes within their area;
4. Borrow money to fund development schemes;
5. Establish and operate integrated ticketing for all local public transport services within their areas (local bus, local rail and local ferry);
6. Provide and maintain information services to allow passengers to plan and track their journeys;
7. Ensure, through input to the ScotRail franchise, that local rail services and integrated ticketing system for their areas are developed and implemented in conjunction with the franchise operator.

“Conference further calls on the Scottish Government, regional transport partnerships, and local councils to seriously investigate the potential for modern demand-responsive transport solutions to improve public transport provision in both rural and urban settings.”

Amendments:

Submitted and moved by Ewan Hoyle

Summated by TBA

Supported by 5 Members

In ‘Conference notes’, line 3, replace:

the word ‘and’ with:

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a section break followed by the word 'Conference'

thus producing separate 'Conference notes' and 'Conference calls on' sections.

Between the 'Conference notes' and 'Conference calls on' sections, add:

Conference believes that the utility and viability of demand-responsive transport services is being transformed by advances in technology and software, that more powerful regional transport partnerships would be well placed to utilise.

After the 'Conference calls on' section, add:

Conference further calls on the Scottish Government, regional transport partnerships, and local councils to seriously investigate the potential for modern demand-responsive transport solutions to improve public transport provision in both rural and urban settings.

Cards:

Mover: Andrew Nisbet, Dumbarton, called

Summator: Jane Pickard, West Edinburgh, called

Move Amd: Ewan Hoyle, Glasgow City, called

Sum Amd: Fraser Graham, South Edinburgh, called

Chris Buck, Glasgow, called

James DUNCAN, Dumbarton, called

Jacquie Bell, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called

Elaine Ford, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called

David McKenzie, Derby City, not called

Votes:

Amendment: Carried: For 62% Against 38%

Motion as amended: Carried nem con: For 100% Against 0%

16:30 Thanks

17:00 Close of Play