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09.15 Introduction to Conference

For first time attendees (invitation only)

10.00 Conference opens

Welcome to conference from
 Cllr Elizabeth Riches,
 Deputy Leader, Fife Council

Chair: Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP Aide: Craig Harrow

10.05 SC1 Pre-manifesto: Towards a fair and prosperous Scotland

Policy committee

Chair: Shabnum Mustapha Aide: Helen Watt

Mover: Jeremy Purvis MSP Summator: Amy Rodger

Conference welcomes and endorses *Towards a fair and prosperous Scotland*, the pre-manifesto of the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

Conference supports the three clear themes identified: to create jobs and tackle unemployment, to put local communities in control by reforming public services and to restore Scotland's reputation for excellence in education.

Conference welcomes the proposals to support new private sector growth and jobs through a new culture of enterprise, new Regional Development Banks, reformed public sector procurement, environmental industries and the creative industries.

Conference endorses the reform of public services to put local communities in control, including community budgeting, greater opportunities for innovation and engagement by the voluntary sector and service reform driven by users and staff. Conference approves plans to tackle high pay and bonuses at the very top of the public sector.

Conference supports plans to give every child a fair start in life with early intervention pre-school, a pupil premium to help children who need it most and a commitment that the brightest children, from whatever background, will have a fair opportunity to access higher education.

Conference calls for the proposals in the pre-manifesto to form the basis of a full Scottish Liberal Democrat manifesto for the 2011 Scottish Parliament elections. Conference affirms its desire to see a new, reforming, radical and responsive government for all of Scotland.

Time 40 mins. Admin 4 mins, Move/Sum12 mins, Amd 8 mins,
No amendment leaves 24 mins so 8 speakers max

Cards:

Move: Jeremy Purvis MSP - called

Sum Up: Amy Rodger - called

~~John Barnett, NE&C Fife - WITHDRAWN~~

Katy Gordon, Glasgow South - called

Alex Cole-Hamilton, Edinburgh Central - called

Susan Kramer, Twickenham & Richmond - called

Willie Rennie, Dunfermline - called

Alan MacRae, Ross Skye & Lochaber

Jacqui Bell, East Lothian

Tim Brett, Mid Scotland & Fife - called

Galen Milne, Stirling - called

Eileen McCartin, Paisley

Alex Stobart, Edinburgh South - called

George Grubb, Edinburgh West

Alexandra White, Galloway & Upper Nithsdale - called

Votes:

Motion carried

10.45 Speech by Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP,

Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Chair: Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP

11.00 SC2 Fair Deal for Rural Drivers

George Lyon MEP and 25 members

Chair: Sheila Thomson Aide: Derek Young

Mover: George Lyon MEP Summator: Alison Hay

~~Conference recognises that:~~

- ~~1. people and businesses in remote and rural areas of Scotland can pay as much as 15p more per litre for petrol than the national average~~
- ~~2. that 10% of people in Scotland live in remote rural communities~~
- ~~3. that household incomes are often lower than average in rural and remote areas~~
- ~~4. that high fuel prices impact on the cost and supply of all goods and services provided to rural and remote communities~~
- ~~5. whilst we support the promotion of the use of public transport, in rural areas the public transport alternatives often do not exist and a car is therefore a necessity not a luxury~~
- ~~6. in other European countries, such as France, Portugal and Greece their Governments have worked with the EU to find a way to allow a rural fuel derogation~~
- ~~7. the former Labour Government opposed the consistent calls by Liberal Democrat MPs and MSPs for a fuel derogation scheme~~
- ~~8. that past UK Labour Government and current SNP Holyrood Government have failed to take action to reduce the costs of fuel in rural and remote areas by any mechanism~~

~~Conference welcomes the commitment by the new UK coalition Government to look at ways to reduce the cost of fuel in rural and remote areas~~

~~Conference therefore calls for the following measures to give a fair deal for rural drivers~~

- ~~1. The UK coalition Government to continue its urgent work to find a sustainable way to reduce the fuel price differential between remote rural and island communities and urban areas of the UK~~
- ~~2. Scotland, which has some of the most remote communities in the UK, to benefit from the planned fuel duty derogation pilot schemes at the earliest opportunity~~

Debate cancelled due to announcement from Danny Alexander in previous speech.

~~Time 30 mins. Admin 2 mins, Move/Sum 12 mins, Amd 8 mins,~~

~~No amendment leaves 16 mins so 4 speakers max~~

~~One Amendment leaves 8 mins so 2 speakers max.~~

Cards:

Move: George Lyon MEP - called

Sum Up: Alison Hay - called

Joyce Yendole, Glasgow North

Ettie Spencer, East Lothian

Rebekah Gronowski, East Lothian

Votes:

11.30 SC3 Pay Ratios

Inverness East Local Party

Chair: Jenni Lang Aide: Sandy Leslie

Mover: Trevor Escott Summator: Karen Fraser

Conference notes how inequality has continued to grow over recent decades and the growing awareness of unequal societies being more unhealthy and less happy societies.

Conference further notes the Prime Minister's support for a pay multiple so that no public sector worker can earn over 20 times more than the lowest paid person in the organisation and that the Greater London Authority is working towards a 1:10 ratio.

Conference therefore calls on elected representatives of the Liberal Democrats to:

- Build on our reputation as the party of fairness to campaign for progressive pay ratios;
- Press all public sector institutions to work towards a ratio of the highest paid employee earning no more than 10 times the wage of the lowest paid employee;
- Work to introduce a Companies Remuneration Reports Bill that would require all medium and large companies to publish at the front of their annual report the ratio of the highest and lowest paid employee;
- Encourage private sector companies to work towards reducing their pay ratios.

Amendment to SC3 – Pay ratios

Submitted by East Lothian local party

Mover: Nigel Lindsay, 07853 904 710

Delete lines 12-19 and replace with:

Work towards introduction of a Remuneration Reports Bill that would require all medium and large companies, and all public bodies, to publish prominently the ratio of total payments (including bonuses, share options and pension payments) made to their highest-paid and lowest-paid employees;

Press employers in all sectors to work towards a ratio of their highest-paid employee receiving total remuneration no more than 20 times that of their lowest-paid employee;

Work towards implementation of this principle in the public sector by making it a condition of government financial support for public bodies (including state-owned banks);

Work towards implementation of this principle in the private sector by encouraging institutional and other shareholders to appoint Directors who agree to implement this principle, and identifying all legitimate ways in which government influence can be used to speed its implementation.

Time 30 mins. Admin 2 mins, Move/Sum12 mins, Amd 8 mins,
One Amendment leaves 8 mins so 2 speakers max.

Cards:

Move: Trevor Escott, Inverness East, Nairn & Lochaber - called

Sum Up: John Melling, Inverness E Nairn & Lochaber

Amd Move: Nigel Lindsay, East Lothian - called

Teresa Little, Dunfermline - called

James Taylor, Perth - called

Derek Young, Edinburgh North & Leith – not called

Votes:

Amendment: carried nem con

Motion as amended: carried nem con

12.00 Financial Appeal

12.10 Speech by Tavish Scott MSP

Leader of the Scottish
Liberal Democrats

Chair: Craig Harrow

12.40 - 13.40 Lunchtime Fringes

14.00 Q&A with Rt Hon Michael Moore MP

Secretary of State for Scotland

Chair: Craig Harrow

14.25 SC4 Education Working Group

Policy committee

Chair: Kevin Lang Aide: Jacquie Bell

Mover: Euan Robson Summator: Margaret Smith MSP

Conference welcomes the publication of Policy Committee's Education Working Group's report as an ambitious and comprehensive vision for the restoration of excellence in Scottish education.

Conference believes that the report builds on the Scottish Liberal Democrats' longstanding commitment to education and offers positive solutions to the issues facing the sector today, putting education at the heart of the Party's vision for fairness.

Conference endorses the report's vision of a system where pupils are treated as individuals, given the opportunities to choose an education that engages and inspires them and equips them with skills for life and employment.

Conference welcomes in particular the report's focus on:

- early intervention and a fair start for every child through a pupil premium;
- improved parental skills and involvement;
- a new relationship between central and local government and schools and greater autonomy for head teachers;
- quality in curriculum and teaching; and
- a rebalancing of support for further and higher education to make sure the Scottish economy gets the skills it needs.

Conference calls for the recommendations of the Education Working Group to form the basis of the Party's education policy in the forthcoming election.

Amendment to SC4 - Education Working Group

Submitted by Ruairaidh Dobson & 25 members

Mover: Ruairaidh Dobson, 07867 977 573

After line 18 insert:

Conference is however concerned that the report's commitment to undergraduate tuition without any form of graduate contribution is unsustainable in the current financial climate. Conference rejects the unfair, regressive and illiberal idea of tuition or top-up fees, but accepts that a level of graduate contribution towards education is fair, so long as students are not disadvantaged while studying.

Delete lines 19 & 20 and insert:

Conference calls for the recommendations of the Education Working Group to form the basis of the Party's education policy in the forthcoming election, excepting recommendations on maintaining universal free undergraduate tuition.

After line 20 insert:

Conference calls for a fair method of graduate contribution, which ensures that neither students in Higher Education nor low-paid graduates are disadvantaged, to form the basis of the Party's Higher Education policy in the forthcoming election.

Time 45 mins. Admin 1 min, Move/Sum12 mins, Amd 8 mins,
One Amendment leaves 24 mins so 8 speakers max.

Cards:

Move: Euan Robson - called

Sum Up: Margaret Smith MSP - called

Amd 1: Sophie Pritchard, Liberal Youth Scotland - called

Amd 1 Sum: Ruairaidh Dobson, Liberal Youth - called

Alex Paul, Edinburgh South - intervention

John Barnett, NE&C Fife - intervention

Katy Gordon, Glasgow South - intervention

Alex Cole-Hamilton, Edinburgh Central - called

Rebekah Gronowski, East Lothian - intervention
Willis Pickard, Edinburgh Pentlands
Robbie Simpson, North Glasgow
Tim Farrow MP, Westmorland & Lonsdale - called
Andrew Chamberlain, Ayreshire & Arran
Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South
John Melling, Inverness East, Nairn & Lochaber
Callum Leslie, Kirkcaldy - called
David May, Angus
Mary Paris, Glasgow North
Gordon Anderson, Inverclyde
George Hayton, Ochil - intervention
Sarah Harding, Liberal Youth
Sanne Dykstra-Downie, Edinburgh N&L - called
Kate Foggo, Edinburgh East
Douglas McLennan, TE&L
John Sleight, Aberdeen South
Alistair Carmichael MP, O&S
Christine Jardine, East Dunbartonshire - called
Jenny Dawe, Edinburgh West
Simon Clark, Edinburgh Pentlands
Richard Staley, Glasgow North

Votes:

Amendment :defeated

Motion : carried

15.00 EM1 Emergency Motion - Defence

Chair: Helen Watt Aide: Mike Falchikov

Dunfermline local party

Willie Rennie

Conference notes the significant scale of the structural deficit left by the previous Labour Government and notes the cost of procurement overruns at the Ministry of Defence is estimated at £35 billion.

Conference notes the meeting between the Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, the First Minister and the two other opposition party leaders in Scotland and the Secretary of State for Defence Liam Fox on Friday 1 October 2010 as part of the cross-party campaign to protect defence jobs and skills in Scotland.

Conference is concerned that contracts to build two new Queen Elizabeth Class (QEC) aircraft carriers at Rosyth and the Clyde are under consideration as part of the UK Government's Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Conference believes that the abandonment or reduction of these contracts would present a huge challenge to the sustainability of the Scottish and UK shipbuilding industry, would have a damaging impact on the Scottish economy and could cost thousands of jobs in Fife and on the west coast.

Conference believes that a versatile, flexible sea-based force - of which the two new aircraft carriers would be a key component, providing flexibility across the spectrum of operations as well as providing an air base when none are available ashore - could deliver significant value for money in terms of supporting policy, especially in preventing rather than fighting wars.

Conference welcomes the constructive engagement of the Secretary of State for Scotland and other Liberal Democrat ministers in arguing the strongest possible case for the social and economic importance of defence jobs across Scotland.

Conference calls on the Scottish Government and the UK Government, within their respective powers, to do what they can to maintain the Scotland's shipbuilding industry and engineering workforce and protect the QEC aircraft carriers contracts.

Time 35 mins. Admin 3 mins, Emergency Move/Sum 5 mins
No amendment leaves 20 mins so 5 speakers max

Cards:

Move: Willie Rennie, Dunfermline - called

Sum Up: waived

George Boyd, Midlothian - called

Cllr Gerry McMullan, Dunfermline & West Fife - called

Keith Legg, Dunfermline - called

Cllr George Grubb, West Edinburgh - called

Katy Gordon, Glasgow North

Paul McGarry, Glasgow North - called

Votes:

Motion carried

15.20 SC5 Intercity Express Programme

Gordon Local Party

Chair: Derek Young Aide: Jenni Lang

Mover: Alison McInnes MSP Summator: Sheila Thomson

Conference notes that that the UK Government is due to take a decision on whether to proceed with the Intercity Express Programme, intended to provide 882 new carriages for a series of intercity routes, following the completion of the comprehensive spending review in October 2010.

Conference welcomes the environmental, social and economic benefits of an efficient and accessible public transport service, and supports the long-term electrification of the railways as part of a modern rail network.

Conference recognises the importance of cross-border transport links between England and Scotland and that direct rail services connecting London to the north and the north east of Scotland bring direct economic benefit to these regions.

Conference is therefore concerned at the report of the Review of the Intercity Express Programme by Sir Andrew Foster which suggests that long distance routes to Inverness and Aberdeen could be served by connecting trains rather than through-services.

Conference believes that the loss of the through-service from London to Aberdeen and Inverness would be a significant deterrent to train travel for these regions and would represent a serious reduction in the quality of cross-border services, with a resultant negative impact on Scottish business competitiveness and Highland tourism.

Conference therefore calls on the Secretary of State for Transport to protect the economic value of the north and north east regions of Scotland by maintaining direct rail services between London and Aberdeen and Inverness and to reject any other diminution of cross-border public transport services between England and Scotland.

Time 30 mins. Admin 2 mins, Move/Sum12 mins, Amd 8 mins,
No amendment leaves 16 mins so 4 speakers max

Cards:

Move: Alison McInnes MSP - called
Sum Up: Sheila Thomson WA&K - called
Dan Farthing, Edinburgh N&L - called
Rebekah Gronowski, East Lothian - called
Stephen Glenn, West Lothian – called
Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South – called
John Melling , IEN&L - called

Votes:

Motion: carried

15.50 SC6 Procurement and the Scottish Economy

Edinburgh South Local Party

Chair: Shabnum Mustapha Aide: Sheila Thomson

Mover: Hugh Andrew Summator: Fred Mackintosh

Conference notes the potential risks to the Scottish economy from expenditure cuts and calls on Scottish Liberal Democrats to ensure that the maximum possible level of Scottish government spend concomitant with EU regulations takes place within the Scottish economy.

Conference deplores the destructive effect of Scotland Excel Procurement in removing spend from local economies and centralising it in the main outside Scotland. Therefore, in line with Liberal Democrat principles of devolution and empowerment, conference calls for the abolition of Scotland Excel and the return of decision-making on spending to local councils and other bodies according to clear guidelines on choice and access.

Conference further notes that, despite SNP promises, current tendering for contracts remains extremely complex, condemns the SNP's agenda of centralising and control and calls for the abolition of current tendering procedures and their replacement by a simple kitemarking procedure agreed with the private sector.

Amendment 1 to SC6 – Procurement and the Scottish Economy

Submitted by Stirling local party

Mover: Galen Milne, 07970 258 975

Summator: Willie Rennie, Dunfermline

Delete “ Scotland Excel Procurement in” from Line 5

And delete “abolition of Scotland Excel and the” in Line 8

Insert the following after line 13 -

Conference therefore proposes the following measures to help revive the Scottish economy and in doing so deliver best value for money for the public purse in its entirety –

The Scottish Government urgently engages in full and formal talks with the leaders of the Scottish SME business community to address the wider economic impact of the Scottish Procurement Directorate's current public procurement strategies on our indigenous SME's; and

The various procurement quango agencies (e.g. such as APUC and Excel) set up under the auspices of the Scottish Procurement Directorate should be merged into a single Scottish public procurement body. This streamlined body will be set up following proper consultation with the Scottish SME business community by liaising with each industry sector and their representative bodies e.g. the FSB and the local Chambers of Commerce, with the key aims to include :-

Decentralising and unbundling procurement contracts to local areas that restore local decision making;
Ensuring a formal and binding consultation with the relevant industry sector(s) is undertaken before any tender document is produced;

Working with centralised public sector bodies (where they exist) to localise rather than centralise their procurement spend;

Creating a clear and mutually agreed 'code of conduct' for interaction between the Scottish public and private sectors with independent arbitration where issues are not resolved;

Simplifying the procurement system criteria and related contracts by replacing them with a 'kite marking' system for Scottish SME's reflecting customer experience;

Developing procurement policies to aid economic sustainability within the Scottish economy for the longer-term benefit for all who live and work in Scotland;

Encouraging and enabling investment and innovation within the Scottish economy.

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Amendment 3 to SC6 - Procurement and the Scottish Economy

Submitted by Scottish Green Liberal Democrats

Mover: Denis Mollison, 0131 665 2055

Summator: Siobhan Mathers, 07919 377 755

Add to end of motion (i.e. following line 13):

Conference also recognises the environmental benefits that positive procurement policies can bring, recognises successful examples such as North Ayrshire school meals programme, and calls for tendering procedures to take account of environmental and sustainability considerations wherever possible.

Time 30 mins. Admin 2 mins, Move/Sum12 mins, Amd 8 mins,
Two Amendments leaves 0 mins so 0 speakers max

Cards:

Move: Hugh Andrew - called

Sum Up: Fred Mackintosh

Amd 3 Move: Galen Milne, Stirling - called

Amd 3 Sum: Willie Rennie, Dunfermline

Amd 4 Move: Denis Mollinson - called

Amd 4 Sum: Siobhan Mathers

Cllr Eileen McCartin, Paisley – request for Reference Back.

George Hamilton, Ochil

Alex Stobart, Edinburgh South

Neil Fletcher, Aberdeen Central - called

Phil Wheeler, Edinburgh West

Votes:

Do we wish to debate Reference Back: 68 for, 73 against. RB not to be heard.

Amendment 4: carried

Amendment 3: carried

Motion as amended: carried

16.20 Road to the Scottish Parliament Elections

with George Lyon MEP

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16.30 Party Business

Chair: Craig Harrow Aide: Martin Hayman

This session is for party members only. The full text of the motion will appear in the Business Bulletin available from registration.

Conference notes that:

1. The subscription rates for 2010 are
 - a. Minimum - £12
 - b. Concession - £6
 - c. Recommended - £52
 - d. Special Fresher's Fair rate - £1

Get a bulletin – raise recommended to £60

Cards:

Move: Gregan Crawford - called

Sum Up:

Votes:

Motion: carried

17.10 - 18.10 Evening Fringes

18.10 - 19.00 Drinks Reception

In association with the Yes Campaign

Standing Orders

1. The Conference Committee
 - 1.1. The Conference Committee shall be constituted as specified in Section E10 of the Constitution. The annual election of members by the conference shall be by Single Transferable Vote in a ballot of all members of the Party registered to attend Conference ('Conference Representatives').
 - 1.2. The Conference Convener shall be the Chair of the Conference Committee. At its first meeting after a new election under Section E10 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 each ordinary meeting of Conference shall include time for:
 - 2.1.1. Motions;
 - 2.1.2. Emergency motions;
 - 2.1.3. Topical motions;
 - 2.1.4. A business session or sessions; and
 - 2.1.5. 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 Committee shall, before each meeting of the Conference, prepare a timetable which includes:

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- 2.2.1. The closing date for the receipt of motions (other than Emergency or Topical motions), which shall not normally be less than eight weeks before the start of the meeting;
- 2.2.2. The due date for the publication of the Agenda, which shall not normally be less than six weeks before the start of the meeting;
- 2.2.3. The closing date for the receipt of Topical Motions, which shall not normally be less than two weeks before the start of the meeting; and
- 2.2.4. The closing date for receipt of amendments which shall not normally be less than two working days before the start of the meeting.
- 2.2.5. 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 and the name of the mover and summator of the motion or amendment, should it be selected for debate at Conference.
- 2.4. The Conference Committee shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included within the Agenda. The proposers of the motions selected for debate shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision. The 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 so that amendments can be tabled to these motions by such bodies. Copies of motions not selected for inclusion in the Agenda shall be available for inspection.
- 2.5. The Conference Committee shall meet the day after the deadline for submission of amendments to motions on the Agenda and shall decide which amendments should be accepted and those rejected. The proposers of the amendments selected for debate shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision.
- 2.6. The Conference Committee shall also meet as soon as practicable after the closing date for the receipt of topical motions and shall decide which of the topical motions duly submitted shall be debated, and the proposers of topical motions selected shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision. The text of any topical motions selected for debate shall be circulated to Conference Representatives, Local Parties and bodies authorised to submit motions.
- 2.7. The Conference Committee shall also prepare an agenda for the business session of each meeting of Conference. The Committee shall circulate this, with the text of proposed amendments to the Constitution in accordance with Section L of the Constitution, amendments to Standing Orders, and other party business motions, with the Agenda as per Section 2.4
- 2.8. The Party's Principal Committees may submit holding motions, which shall identify the issues to be dealt with within the motion but which may be amended and expanded upon later. Standing Orders 2 and 3 shall apply to holding motions as they would apply to ordinary motions, except that:

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- 2.8.1. the final version of the motion shall be submitted not less than two weeks before the start of the meeting of Conference;
 - 2.8.2. The text of the final version shall be circulated to Conference Representatives, Local Parties and other bodies authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E19 of the Constitution, who may submit amendments no later than two working days before the start of the meeting of Conference; and
 - 2.8.3. The Committee shall make available to Conference Representatives the text of the final version and any amendments chosen for debate, either by their publication in the Conference Daily Bulletin or by any other means the Committee considers most appropriate
 - 2.9. The Conference Committee may, if the circumstances require, propose to Conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the Agenda. Such variation shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.
3. Submission of Motions and Amendments
 - 3.1. The Conference 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 meeting of Conference. All other motions in these categories shall be circulated with the 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 that 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.
 - 3.5. No Topical Motion may be selected for debate at Conference unless the Conference Committee is satisfied that the content of the motion is such that it could not have been submitted in time for the deadline as set out in Section 2.2 for ordinary motions. No Topical Motion can be a holding motion from a Party Committee.
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 an Agenda and circulate in line with Section 2.4. If the Committee deems it necessary the Agenda can be circulated with 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

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- 5.1. An emergency motion or amendment must relate to significant developments which have occurred since the relevant closing date or so shortly before that date as to make it impracticable to submit a motion, Topical Motion or amendment in due time. It must be brief and specific.
 - 5.2. An emergency motion or amendment may be submitted by five Conference Representatives or by any persons or bodies authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E9 of the Constitution.
 - 5.3. The Conference Committee may, for each day of the meeting of Conference, set aside time convenient for the debate of Emergency Motions. In such an event, proposed Emergency Motions must be submitted to the Conference Committee, duly signed, by 5pm the day before they are to be debated. Emergency Amendments to motions already on the Agenda for that meeting of Conference must be submitted by 5pm the day before the motion is to be debated.
 - 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 at the relevant meeting of 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 either by publication in the Conference Daily Bulletin or any other means the Committee finds most appropriate.
 - 5.6. Amendments shall not normally be taken to the text of an Emergency Motion. However Conference Committee may consider amendments duly signed by 5 Conference Representatives or by any body authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E9 of the Constitution. These amendments must be brief, suitable for debate and of a similar emergency nature. The deadline for submitting amendments to an Emergency Motion will be listed in the Conference Daily Bulletin alongside the text of the Emergency Motion. The movers of the Emergency Motion must be given the opportunity to agree that the text of the amendment be accepted without debate or vote, and the text must be circulated to voting representatives before the start of the debate.
6. Conduct of Debate
 - 6.1. Length of Speeches
 - 6.1.1. 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.
 - 6.1.2. 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 and topical 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.

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- 6.1.3. 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. Order of Debate
 - 6.2.1. 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.
 - 6.2.2. 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 topical motion, 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. All members wishing to speak in any debate, including the movers and summators of motions and amendments, must submit a speaker's card and indicate whether they wish to speak in favour 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

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- 7.1. Voting cards shall be issued to all Conference Representatives and shall be shown in respect of all votes taken. A count of voting cards will be taken when either:
 - 7.1.1. This is felt necessary by the Chair of the session to resolve uncertainty as to the outcome, or
 - 7.1.2. A request for a count has been made by 12 Conference Representatives 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
 - 8.2.1. 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.
 - 8.2.2. 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.
 - 8.2.3. 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.
 - 8.2.4. 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
 - 8.3.1. 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

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exceeding 100 words, to the Chair who shall read them to the Conference.

8.3.2. No motion to suspend Standing Orders may suspend any requirement of the Constitution, not Standing Orders 2 and 3.

8.3.3. 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.

8.3.4. 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.

8.3.5. 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

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

8.4.2. At the direction of the Conference Committee; or

8.4.3. 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 Conference Representatives 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.