

FRIDAY

11.00 Conference opens

Chair: Craig Harrow

Aide: Martin Hayman

Welcome to Conference from Cllr Willie Wilson, Provost Depute,
Perth & Kinross Council

11.20 Policy Motion

Chair: Judy Hayman

Aide: Fraser Grieve

SP1 – Green Energy Commission

Policy Committee

Mover: Liam McArthur MSP

Summator: TBC

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 1. with its contribution to harmful greenhouse gas emissions and its traditional reliance on finite
3 fuel sources, energy is at the forefront of the climate change debate;
- 4 2. the further and significant challenges we face of energy security and soaring fuel costs provide
5 a clear direction towards a future where decentralised, low-carbon sources of energy provide
6 the majority of our energy requirements;
- 7 3. Scotland's excellent natural resources and world leading skills and research capabilities make
8 renewable energy one of the country's most powerful areas of competitive advantage.

9 Conference therefore endorses the report of the Green Energy Commission as a statement of the
10 Party's vision for Scotland's energy future and the key steps needed for Scotland to build a
11 competitive low-carbon economy that will meet our environmental, economic and social objectives.

12 Conference welcomes the report's proposals:

13 (1) to reduce emissions and constrain energy costs for consumers through improved energy
14 efficiency and conservation, including:

- 15 a. creation of a streamlined UK Renewable and Energy Efficiency Delivery Authority to
16 provide the strategic vision for meeting renewable and energy efficiency targets;
- 17 b. introduction of a comprehensive finance scheme to boost take up of energy saving
18 measures, including tax rebates and 'energy mortgages' and VAT reductions;
- 19 c. development of a road map to zero carbon buildings by 2016 through implementing the
20 Sullivan Report recommendations and tough energy performance standards for new and
21 existing buildings.

22 (2) to capture the financial and environmental benefits that will come with spearheading the
23 renewables revolution, including:

- 24 a. provision of dedicated grant support for new technologies and R&D to capitalise on
25 Scotland's competitive advantage in renewables and pave the way for generations of green
26 jobs in the future;
- 27 b. improved efficiency and streamlining of the planning and consenting regime to ensure
28 appropriate siting of renewables with minimal environmental impact; and
- 29 c. increased public engagement in renewable energy generation, including through buy-in
30 opportunities for proposed developments to allow local people and communities to harness
31 fully economic benefits.

32 (3) to reduce the effect of fossil fuels whilst renewables are commercialised through energy
33 storage and carbon capture technologies, including:

- 34 a. introduction of a UK Emissions Performance Standard to require new coal-fired power
35 generation plants to make full use of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology;
36 b. full implementation of the recommended actions to develop hydrogen and fuel cell
37 capabilities from the Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland;
38 c. extension of the Energy Saving Scotland Home Renewables grant scheme to encourage
39 take-up of energy storage technologies in communities and households; and
40 d. incentive schemes at national and EU level to boost the deployment of CCS and develop
41 other cost-effective capture technologies.
- 42 (4) to move away from the traditional model of large-scale, centralised energy generation and
43 distributional networks and begin the transition towards a decentralised energy future,
44 including:
45 a. development of a network of community scale generation plants close to the point of
46 demand, by streamlining planning regulations, providing more effective support schemes
47 and extending the existing UK microgeneration certification scheme;
48 b. introduction of attractive feed-in tariffs, requiring utility companies to pay preferential prices
49 for electricity produced by small-scale generators; and
50 c. development of a dynamic 'smart grid' that can better connect and integrate new, clean and
51 decentralised energy technologies.
- 52 (5) to modernise our energy grid and infrastructure to exploit Scotland's renewable energy
53 potential and meet the needs of communities, including:
54 a. a complete strategic assessment of long-term grid infrastructure, including the replacement,
55 upgrade and potential of new overland, underground and subsea transmission lines, and
56 full engagement of Scottish interests in planning and development of an offshore grid; and
57 b. reform transmission charging regime to improve efficiency and ensure costs doesn't
58 discriminate against long distance supply.
- 59 (6) to realise the potential of a vibrant renewable heat sector in Scotland, including:
60 a. implementation of the Forum for Renewable Energy Development's recommendation for an
61 ambitious target of 20% of heat to come from renewable sources by 2020;
62 b. using planning consents to require new power stations to use their waste heat for localised
63 heat networks; and
64 c. introduction of heat incentives modelled on Renewable Obligation Certificates and financial
65 incentives, including local tax rebates for renewable heat installations.
- 66 (7) to reduce the costs and emissions of Scotland's transport sector, including:
67 a. introduction of financial incentives for research, development and commercialisation of
68 low-carbon transport solutions, utilising engineering, IT, and other relevant skills currently
69 available in Scotland;
70 b. provision of incentives to move freight by the lowest-carbon technologies available,
71 ensuring all freight vehicles are running on electricity, hydrogen or other renewable fuels
72 by 2050; and
73 c. increase in the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), subject to a robust
74 certification scheme for all sources of bioenergy, to require at least 10 per cent of all fuel
75 sold on UK forecourts to come from sustainable renewable sources by 2015.

Note: The full Green Energy Commission report can be read at

Amendments to this motion must be submitted before 12 noon on Wednesday 3rd March 2010.
Email to perth2010@scotlibdems.org.uk; fax to 0131 337 3566; or by post to Conference
Committee, 4 Clifton Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5DR. Amendments must be from either a Local
Party or signed by 5 members of the Party.

Cards:

Move: Liam McArthur MSP, Orkney - called

Ettie Spencer, East Lothian – called
Kevin Lang, Edinburgh North & Leith - called
Graham Reed, Stirling - called
Sheila Thomson, West Aberdeenshire & Kincardine - called
Galen Milne, Banff & Buchan - called
John Sleigh, Aberdeen south - called
John Smiley, Stirling - called
Jacquie Bell, East Lothian - called
Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South - called
Sum Up: Gregan Crawford,

Votes:

Motion – carried nem con

12.00 General Election Manifesto

Chair: Shabnum Mustapha

Aide: Amy Rodger

12.30 Lunch

14.30 (actually 14:00) Policy Motion

Chair:

Aide: Sheila Thomson

SP2 – A new fair society

Policy Committee

Mover: TBC

Summator: TBC

- 1 Conference recognises that:
- 2 a. British society is deeply unequal, with a larger – and widening – gap between rich and poor
- 3 than in almost any other EU state;
- 4 b. levels of inequality disadvantage everyone, rich as well as poor, with unequal societies
- 5 suffering from higher crime rates, worse standards of health and lower levels of trust and
- 6 neighbourliness;
- 7 c. the divide between rich and poor is particularly stark in Scotland, with the poorest 30 per cent
- 8 of people earning just 14 per cent of the total income while the 30 per cent of people with the
- 9 highest incomes receive over half of total income;
- 10 d. the SNP government has failed to tackle the income gap in Scotland, with regressive policies
- 11 that disproportionately benefit the rich and do nothing to help the poorest in society, and has
- 12 broken a manifesto commitment to scrap the unfair council tax;
- 13 e. the Labour government forces millions of people on low incomes to pay hundreds of pounds in
- 14 income tax every year, keeping pensioners on the breadline and meaning that for many people
- 15 in low-paid jobs, work simply doesn't pay;
- 16 f. the current UK tax system does not meet the principles of fairness, simplicity, certainty,
- 17 efficiency, transparency and competitiveness to which all tax policies should conform.
- 18 Conference supports proposals to reduce the income gap, lifting the burden on hard-pressed
- 19 ordinary people and making sure the richest pay their fair share by cutting taxes for people on low
- 20 and middle incomes, closing tax loop-holes used by the wealthiest, cracking down on tax
- 21 avoidance, taxing pollution which harms our environment and asking owners of very high value
- 22 properties to pay a small amount more each year.
- 23 Conference therefore calls for the following measures to rebalance radically the tax system and
- 24 create a fairer and more equal society:

- 25 (i) the personal allowance at which people start paying income tax to be raised from current levels
 26 to £10,000, taking approximately 533,000 people in Scotland out of paying income tax
 27 altogether, reducing the average person's income tax bill by £700 and cutting pensioners'
 28 income tax bills by £100;
- 29 (ii) the creation of a level playing field for all pension savers through restrictions on tax relief on
 30 pension contributions made by all individuals to the basic rate of 20%;
- 31 (iii) an end to one of the biggest loopholes in the tax system through the alignment of Capital Gains
 32 Tax (CGT) rates to income tax rates and a reduction in the annual CGT exemption to £2,000;
- 33 (iv) action to tackle the council tax anomaly which disproportionately benefits the wealthy through
 34 the introduction of a 1% levy on properties worth over £2m [likely to affect fewer than 500
 35 properties in Scotland];
- 36 (v) a new system of green taxation, including the replacement of Air Passenger Duty with an
 37 aviation duty on planes and without penalising lifeline air services, which discourages polluting
 38 behaviour;
- 39 (vi) a crackdown on tax avoidance through a package of anti-avoidance measures on income tax,
 40 CGT, National Insurance Contributions and Stamp Duty, simplifying the tax system and
 41 removing the current distorting elements;
- 42 (vii) the abolition of the unfair council tax and its replacement with a local income tax.

Amendment One

Inverness East

Mover:

- 1 A new g) in first section - "the poorest pay the highest price for credit to pay for essentials
 2 and the richest have access to large sums of capital at low cost which they can use to make
 3 profitable investments".
- 4 Then line 18, insert after "Conference supports proposals to reduce the income...", insert
 5 after this " and wealth" ,before " " lifting.."
- 6 Then a new viii) in last section - " measures to be introduced to reduce the cost of credit for the
 7 poorest, and support the use of credit for productive purposes , such as using credit to pay for
 8 home energy measures which reduce heating bills, paying for education and skills ,buying tools for
 9 work or a season ticket to travel to work (as compared with our present situation where the cost of
 10 credit charged to the poor prevents them from using credit in such productive ways ,since the level
 11 of debt repayments is so high, that there is no way they can use the credit which would result in a
 12 profitable level of return),"

Cards:

Move: Michael Moore MP - called

Move amd: Dr Trevor Escott, IEN&L - called

Kevin McPhillips, West Lothian - called

Jim Hume MSP, South of Scotland - called

Sum Up amd: waived

Sum up motion; Kevin Lang, Edinburgh North & Leith – called

Votes;

Amendment: carried

Motion as amended: carried nem con

14.50 Policy Motion

Chair: Amy Rodgers

Aide: Jenni Stubbs

SP3 – A Fair Start for all our Children

- 1 Conference welcomes the development of the Scottish party's education policy currently being
2 carried out by the Education Working Group of the Policy Committee.
- 3 Conference seeks to deliver the best possible education system in Scotland in which:
4 • pupils are treated as individuals, given the opportunities to choose an education that engages
5 and inspires them and equips them with skills for life and employment;
6 • schools and teachers have greater flexibility and autonomy to deliver the best outcomes for their
7 pupils and their communities; and
8 • parents support their children and their school, acting as partners in the provision of excellent
9 education.
- 10 Conference therefore calls for the Group to develop the following core and integrated themes:
- 11 **the best start in life for every child** through the introduction of a Pupil Premium which provides
12 extra money to Scottish schools according to the number of disadvantaged pupils on their rolls,
13 allowing schools the flexibility to invest in their priorities such as recruiting more teachers, paying
14 for catch-up classes or providing more one-to-one tuition to help pupils who require additional
15 support;
- 16 **determined action to raise overall standards and pupil attainment**, through, among other
17 measures, the restoration of teacher numbers to 53,000 by the end of the next parliamentary
18 session to improve pupil-teacher ratios, reduce burdens on teachers, support discipline, allow
19 meaningful, continuing professional development, improve prospects for newly-qualified teachers
20 and assist the removal of failing teachers from the workforce;
- 21 **effective implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence and new assessment framework**,
22 supported by the necessary funding and resources, to improve pupils' depth of learning and
23 stimulate achievement at every stage, ensuring that the fundamental abilities of reading, writing
24 and counting are in place for every child by the end of primary school;
- 25 **action to enhance the skills, confidence and engagement of parents**, encouraging their direct
26 and meaningful involvement in their children's learning and to ensure the proper delivery of parent
27 duties, obligations and responsibilities;
- 28 **a flexible framework to govern the Scottish schooling model**, re-evaluating the relationship
29 between schools and local and central government to give schools, teachers and parents greater
30 flexibility and autonomy to shape a learning environment suited to the community they serve.

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Committee, 4 Clifton Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5DR. Amendments must be from either a Local
Party or signed by 5 members of the Party.~~ **No amendment tabled.**

Cards:

Mover: Euan Robson, TE&L - called
Sum Up: Margaret Smith MSP - called
David May, Angus - called
Susan Leslie, Kirkcaldy - called
George Lyon MEP, Argyll & Bute - called
Gill Cole-Hamilton, EN&L - called
Willis Pickard, Edinburgh Pentlands - called
Kristian Chapman, LYS - called
Ettie Spencer, East Lothian - called
Ruaraidh Dobson, LYS – called

John Barnett, N E Fife - called
Kevin Lang, Edinburgh N&L - called
Ian Brown, Stirling - called
Graham Reed, Stirling - called
Jacquie Bell, East Lothian

Votes:

Motion - carried

15.45 Speech by Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Chair: Tavish Scott MSP

16.15 Party Business: AGM

Cards:

Gavin Steel, Ross, Skye & Inverness West – called

Accounts adopted

16.35 Party Business: Conference standing orders

Chair: Richard Coxon Aide: Jenni Lang

This session of the agenda is only open to party members and papers will be circulated at the commencement of business.

Cards:

Helen Watt, East Dunbartonshire & Clydebank – call for separate vote on each of A2
(*withdrawn*), A3, C38 and E42b (*withdrawn*) - called
Move: Jenni Lang, Conference committee - called
Sum Up: Shabnam Mustapha, Glasgow South
Gavin Steel, Ross, Skye & Inverness West
Derek Young, Edinburgh North & Leith - called
Trevor Escott, IEN&L - called

Votes:

A3 - retained
Block A – carried
Block B – carried
C38 - retained
Block C – carried
Block D – carried
Block E – carried

17.00 Close of Session

SATURDAY

09.30 Policy Motion

Chair: Shabnum Mustapha

Aide: Richard Coxon

SP4 – Reversing the centralisation of Scotland

Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber

Mover:

Summator:

31 Conference notes:

- 32 1. proposals for a single national policing organisation for Scotland, to be chaired by central
- 33 Government;
- 34 2. the deep cuts and unprecedented Ministerial interference faced by Scottish Enterprise and
- 35 Highlands & Islands Enterprise in the midst of the economic crisis;
- 36 3. the Scottish Government's withdrawal of funding from Regional Transport Partnerships;
- 37 4. the serious lack of openness or consultation in the selection, rejection and abolition of major
- 38 transport projects at ministerial level;
- 39 5. the large cuts in centrally set benchmark funding levels for housing associations trying to build
- 40 new affordable homes;
- 41 6. the increase in ministers' power to intervene in the running of local education services,
- 42 culminating in the former Cabinet Secretary for Education's threat to nationalise Scotland's
- 43 schools;
- 44 7. the effective abolition of the tax varying powers of Scottish councils at a time when severe
- 45 financial pressures are faced by all.

46 Conference believes that:

- 47 (i) Scotland under the minority SNP government has become the most centralised nation in the
- 48 UK, and one of the most centralised in Europe;
- 49 (ii) the Scottish Government's 'one-size-fits-all' approach cannot meet the varying needs of
- 50 Scotland's diverse communities;
- 51 (iii) power should be exercised at the most local level practical, by democratically elected and
- 52 accountable holders of public office;
- 53 (iv) the mechanism by which the Scottish Government has introduced a Council Tax freeze
- 54 amounts to the indefinite centralisation of local government's tax varying powers;
- 55 (v) in the difficult budget situation facing all councils, local voters should have the chance to
- 56 choose between avoidable local service cuts and proportionate tax increases which could
- 57 safeguard services.

58 Conference calls for:

- 59 a) strong opposition by the Scottish Parliamentary Party to the SNP government's unprecedented
- 60 centralisation of power and resources in the hands of cabinet secretaries while blame for
- 61 broken promises is shifted on to councils and unelected agencies;
- 62 b) the immediate restoration of tax varying powers to Scottish councils, without a punitive
- 63 reduction in grant funding to 2007 levels;
- 64 c) the abolition of Council Tax and its replacement with a fairer, locally set alternative;
- 65 d) the principle of subsidiarity to remain a central tenet of Liberal Democrat policy;
- 66 e) proposals to devolve power and resources closer to the people they are intended to serve to be
- 67 integral to every section of the Scottish Liberal Democrat manifesto for 2011.

Cards:

Move: Alan Macrae, Ross, Skye & Lochaber - called

Sum up: Danny Alexander MP, Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey - called

Jim Hume MSP South of Scotland - called

Derek Young, EN&L - called

Peter Barrett, Perth & North Perthshire - called

Alex Cole-Hamilton EN&L - called

George Lyon MEP, Argyll & Bute -called

Phil Wheeler, Edinburgh West – called

Votes:

Motion - carried

10.15 Economy Q&A

With Jeremy Purvis MSP and others

Cards:

Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South - called

John Barnett, N.E. Fife – called (x2 Qs)

Penny Carruthers, Edinburgh South

James Oates, Westminster & Tallinn, Estonia!

George Lyon MEP, Argyll & Bute

?(x2 Qs)

10.50 Policy Motion

Chair: Helen Watt

Aide: Jenny Stubbs

SP5 – Preventing the creation of a lost generation

Glasgow North

Mover: Katy Gordon

Summator: Robert Brown MSP

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 1. recent labour market statistics show that unemployment in Scotland has increased by over
- 3 75,000 in the last year and at a faster rate than the rest of the UK
- 4 2. the level of unemployment amongst young people in the UK has officially never been
- 5 higher, and those with low skills are at a particularly high risk of being unemployed
- 6 3. the number of young people leaving school and college this year is the highest for a
- 7 generation, and a record low proportion of school leavers are going into formal employment
- 8 4. unemployment can have a profound and irreversible effect on a young person's self-
- 9 esteem, their emotional stability and overall wellbeing
- 10 5. Labour's recession risks leaving the poisonous legacy of a lost generation of young people,
- 11 left out of the economy and trapped in long-term unemployment, as happened in the 1980s
- 12 under Margaret Thatcher

13 Conference believes that:

- 14 (i) Scotland cannot afford, as a country or a society, to see a jobless generation lost to the
- 15 economy
- 16 (ii) the best way to support young people is to equip them with the skills and experience necessary
- 17 to help them make the most of the economic recovery when it comes, and re-build their self-
- 18 esteem to ensure that today's unemployed do not become tomorrow's unemployable
- 19 (iii) preventing the creation of a lost generation will stop talent going to waste, help every individual
- 20 achieve their potential and build a sustainable economy and a skilled workforce for the future

21 Conference calls on the UK and Scottish Governments to:

- 22 a. increase significantly the number of college places available across Scotland, boosting skills
- 23 development in sectors of the economy important for the future such as green industries,
- 24 engineering and social care that will provide sustainable growth for years to come;
- 25 b. provide funding for young people to complete three month paid internships or work experience,
- 26 at no cost to employers, enhancing their CV while developing the skills and discipline needed
- 27 for the labour market and helping businesses get the best from talented young people;

- 28 c. introduce a new “90-day promise” to ensure that no one aged under 24 claims Jobseekers
29 Allowance beyond three months, instead of the current ten months, without a right of access to
30 training, apprenticeships, work experience or specialist support;
- 31 d. offer additional funding for third sector organisations which offer practical and financial support
32 programmes for young people who are not in work, education or training, including through
33 intensive training courses, personal development and business skills development, helping
34 young people who need it most to develop key skills, confidence and motivation;
- 35 e. implement a full overhaul of the leadership and operation of the Student Loans Company to
36 ensure that all students receive the loans and grants to which they are entitled promptly when
37 they are required, scrap student tuition fees across the whole UK, bringing the benefits of free
38 tuition – already in place in Scotland – to Scottish students who choose to study in the rest of
39 the UK, and introduce a £7000 minimum income guarantee to alleviate student hardship;
- 40 f. expand Skills for Work and other vocational courses available from age 14, providing more
41 opportunities for young people to acquire critical employability skills and develop self-
42 confidence through a variety of practical experiences which will help them to progress into
43 further qualifications and work’
- 44 g. give more support to partnership working between schools and colleges to provide young
45 people with a wider choice of subjects and access to specialist staff and facilities and introduce
46 them to lifelong learning opportunities beyond the traditional classroom; and
- 47 h. allow extra support for graduates seeking to enter the job market with a three month extension
48 of student status.

Amendment One

East Lothian

Mover: Ettie Spencer

1 Insert new 6

2 for increasing numbers of young people, the misuse of alcohol and the rise in anti-social behaviour,
3 speaks of boredom and leads to populist demonisation of youth.

4 Insert in section (d) after the phrase business skills development in line 33
5 and who support the development of youth culture and youth led activities,

6 Insert new i at end of motion

7 i. launch a high profile media campaign to promote the positive contribution of young people in our
8 society.

Cards;

Mover: Katy Gordon, Glasgow North - called

Sum Up: Robert Brown MSP - called

Move Amd - Ettie Spencer, East Lothian - called

Donald Gorrie, Edinburgh West - called

Alex Cole-Hamilton, EN&L - called

Hugh O'Donnell, Central Scotland - called

Beverley Hope, Edinburgh East - called

James Cleves, WAK - called

Kevin Ward, Glasgow East - not

Sophie Bridger, Glasgow North - not

Teresa Little, Dunfermline - not

Kristian Chapman, LYS - not

Ruaraidh Dobson, Paisley - not

Votes:

Amendment – carried

Motion as amended - carried

11.35 Policy Motion

Chair: Jenni Lang

Aide: Brian Logan

SP6 – Fairer Fares

Gordon

Mover: Alison McInnes MSP

Summator: TBC

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 (i) the current UK rail fares system can be confusing, illogical and unfair, with problems including
3 huge variation in prices for the same journey, inexplicably high fares for flexible tickets, a lack
4 of transparency over cheap ticket availability and different fares policies from different train
5 companies;
- 6 (ii) UK rail fares are expensive in comparison with those elsewhere in Europe and passenger
7 satisfaction with rail travel remains low, particularly in terms of value for money;
- 8 (iii) the flaws in the rail fares system lead passengers to doubt both its fairness to consumers and
9 credibility as a coherent system;
- 10 (iv) limited provision of through-ticketing exacerbates the inconvenience of current public transport
11 options and deters passengers.
- 12 Conference believes that:
- 13 a. rail travel should form part of a fully integrated and coherent public transport system which is
14 attractive and accessible to passengers;
- 15 b. at a time when environmentally friendly modes of travel should be encouraged, the current rail
16 fares structure is acting as a barrier to train travel;
- 17 c. the rail fares system needs to be, and needs to be seen to be, fairer to passengers.
- 18 Conference calls for the UK and Scottish Governments to work with the rail industry to allow:
- 19 1. an immediate review of the way rail fares are calculated, presented and applied to deal with the
20 anomalies and complexities of the system and find ways of making ticketing simpler, prices
21 cheaper and the system more credible;
- 22 2. best prices to be made more apparent to consumers, advertising at purchase point what the
23 cheapest ticket is for a particular journey and which of the options available would be best
24 suited to their needs, including 'through' fares;
- 25 3. greater transparency over the quota of cheap tickets available and the journeys for which
26 cheap tickets can be purchased;
- 27 4. a systemic presumption in favour of general flexibility for train fares, making rail travel more
28 convenient for passengers rather than prohibitively restrictive;
- 29 5. the introduction of a system whereby frequent travellers can earn 'rail miles' that can be
30 redeemed against future purchase of train tickets;
- 31 6. discounted travel for frequent commuters for whom a traditional season ticket is not cost-
32 effective and the facility to spread the cost of an annual season ticket;
- 33 7. greater provision of through-ticketing, valid on different modes of public transport and
34 operators, to ensure that rail is part of a fully-integrated public transport network that allows
35 passengers to plan their journeys and get from A to B more easily.

Cards:

Mover – Alison McInnes MSP - called

Sum Up – Malcolm Bruce MP - called

Charles Kennedy MP, Ross, Skye & Inverness West - called

Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South - called

Kevin Ward, Glasgow East - called

John Barrett MP, Edinburgh West - called

Sue Tritton, Edinburgh South - called

Galen Milne, Banff & Buchan - called
Kristian Chapman, Aberdeen North - not
Richard Coxon, Edinburgh Central – not
Jacquie Bell, East Lothian - not

Votes

Motion – carried nem con

12.05 Lunch

14.45 Financial Appeal

By Ross Finnie MSP

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

Chair: Michael Moore MP

15.30 Cleaning up politics Q&A

Chair: Craig Harrow

With Jo Swinson MP, Jim Wallace, John Thurso MP and Katy Gordon take on questions from the chair and the conference floor.

Questions:

James Oates, Westminster & Tallinn

16.10 EM1 – A Tax on Scottish Tourism

Chair: Fraser Grieve

Aide: Stephen Peters

Conference notes that:

1. Councils are currently preparing to issue non-domestic rates bills to businesses across Scotland;
2. A revaluation of the value of all business properties in England and Scotland for 2010/11 has resulted in a significant increase in some businesses' rates bills from 1 April 2010;
3. The Scottish Government has matched the UK Government's cut in the business rate poundage, but, unlike the previous Scottish Government, has not introduced, nor consulted on, a transition relief scheme for businesses facing higher bills.
4. The problem of big rises in business valuations is particularly acute in the hotel and hospitality sector, for which revaluation is based on turnover in 2008, a peak year for the industry, rather than the notional rental value of the premises.
5. Hotels and the hospitality sector are key drivers of rural and city economies alike.

Conference regrets that:

- i. Many hotels in Scotland have been hit hard by the recession, and will find that their profits are down but their business rates are rocketing;
- ii. Some hotel businesses in Scotland will face increases of as much as 120% in their rates bills from 1 April 2010.

- iii. These hospitality businesses will not enjoy the protection of a transition scheme like that introduced south of the border, and, as a result, a business in Scotland will be paying a higher amount of rates from 1 April than an identical business in England, putting them at a competitive disadvantage.

Conference therefore calls in the Scottish Government to take seriously the concerns of the hotel and hospitality industry and the wider business community and to enter into immediate consultation with the sector to seek to provide support in the light of the rates increases without transitional relief.

Cards:

Move – Jeremy Purvis MSP - called
Jim Tolson MSP, Dunfermline - called
Sanjay Samani, Angus - called
Iain Smith MSP, NE Fife - called

Votes:

Motion - carried

16.40 Countdown to the General Election

Alistair Carmichael, Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland with a panel of prospective parliamentary candidates.

17.30 Close of session

SUNDAY

10.00 Policy Motion

Chair: Jenni Lang Aide: Jacquie Bell

SP7 – Equal marriage in Scotland

Liberal Youth Scotland

Mover: Kieran Leach Summator: Ruairaidh Dobson

- 1 Conference notes that at present no two individuals of the same sex may enter a marriage in
2 Scotland, and that no two individuals of mixed sex may enter a Civil Partnership.
- 3 Conference believes that a relationship between any two individuals, regardless of gender, is as
4 valid and worthy of recognition as any other. Conference further believes that to grant rights to one
5 group of individuals that are denied to others based on sexual orientation and gender is
6 unconscionable.
7 Conference believes that the current arrangements with regards to marriage are discriminatory in
8 nature.
- 9 Conference calls on the Scottish Government to:
- 10 i. Open both Marriage and Civil Partnerships to both same-sex and mixed-sex couples.
- 11 ii. To allow approved religious and humanist celebrants to legally solemnise and celebrate same-
12 sex marriages and civil partnerships where they wish to do so.

Amendment One

West Lothian

Mover:

- 1 (Insert after line 2)

2 Conference further notes that under the terms of the Gender Recognition Act (2004) any individual
3 seeking gender recognition or to change their gender as legally recognised cannot remain in a
4 Marriage or Civil Partnership.

5
6 (At end insert after ii)

7 iii. To allow those individuals who wish to seek gender recognition or change their legally
8 recognised gender to remain in their current Marriage or Civil partnership where both parties wish
9 to do so.

1

Amendment Two

Edinburgh North & Leith

Mover: Derek Young

1 Insert new paragraph (iii):

2 "to establish a simple and straightforward process by which an existing civil partnership may be
3 converted into a marriage, if the partners wish and if all other legal requirements of marriage are
4 satisfied, without the need to dissolve the civil partnership."

Cards:

Move: Kieran Leach, LYS - called

Amd 1: Stephen Glenn, West Lothian - called

Amd 2: Derek Young, Edinburgh N&L - called

Sum Up: Ruairaidh Dobson, LYS

Sheila Thomson, WAK - called

Richard Coxon, Edinburgh Central - called

Cllr Louise Lang, Edinburgh N&L - called

Kate Foggo, Aberdeen Central – called - **CARD DID NOT COME THROUGH ME**

Penny Carruthers, Edinburgh South - called

Margaret Smith MSP - called

Paul Coleshill, Glasgow South - not

John Biggam, Ochil - not

Cllr Eileen McCartin, Paisley - not

Russell Auld, Perth - not

Hugh Waterfield, Glasgow North - not

Callum Leslie, Kirkcaldy - not

James Harrison, ? didn't bother to say - not

Votes:

Amd1 – carried

Amd2 – carried

Motion as amended - carried

10.40 Speech by Baroness Ros Scott, President of the Liberal Democrats

Chair: Michael Moore MP

11.00 EM2 - Emergency Motion

Chair: Kevin Lang

Aide: Helen Watt

11.00: EM2 Closure of the National Offshore Oil and Gas Rock Archive

(Submitted by Edinburgh South, Mover: Fred Mackintosh, Summator: Mike Pringle MSP)

1 Conference notes with concern the decision by the British Geological Survey (BGS) to close the
2 core store at Gilmerton in Edinburgh as part of plans to centralise all geological core storage to
3 Keyworth near Nottingham.

4 Conference notes:

5 a) that in a recent survey 77% of members of the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain
6 (PESGB) believe that the core store should remain at Gilmerton, and

- 7 b) the clear evidence of lack of consultation with geoscientists and academic and oil industry
8 stakeholders before the decision to close the centre was taken.
- 9 Conference believes that if the closure goes ahead, Scotland will lose a world class facility used by
10 hundreds of oil industry experts, academics and students a year and is highly valued by
11 universities, the oil industry and other stakeholders alike. The archive is prized not only for the
12 understanding of complex reservoirs from which oil and gas reserves are produced but significantly
13 will form the all-important basis for evaluating new carbon storage opportunities in the North Sea.
- 14 Conference is concerned that the business case on which the planned move to Keyworth is based:
15 a) fails to properly assess the transport costs required to safely transport the 175,000 fragile
16 hydrocarbon cores from Edinburgh to Keyworth
17 b) overestimates the sale value of the Gilmerton site
18 c) does not properly consider the future annual cost of sending Scottish academics and students
19 to Keyworth to study the hydrocarbon cores
20 d) does not consider the additional cost to the largely Scottish based petroleum exploration
21 industry of a move to Keyworth
22 e) on a flawed assertion that the Edinburgh facility is not fit-for-purpose or lacks spare storage
23 capacity for several decades
- 24 Conference calls on the British Geological Survey and the National Environment Research Council
25 to reverse the decision to close the Gilmerton Core Store and retain and protect the National
26 Offshore Oil and Gas Rock Archive and its 175,000 cores at Gilmerton.

Cards:

Move - Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South – called

Sum Up - Malcolm Bruce MP, Gordon

Kristian Chapman, Aberdeen North - called

Ross Carruthers, Perth - called

Sheila Thomson, WAK – called

Votes:

Motion - carried

11.30 Scotland on Sunday Lecture

In association with Fleishman-Hillard

Guest speaker: Sir Menzies Campbell QC MP

Chair: Colin Donald, Scotland on Sunday

Topic: A commentary on the Chilcott Enquiry

12.10 Party Business: Awards

Chair: Craig Harrow

Aide: Martin Hayman

12.25 Speech by Malcolm Bruce MP, President of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

Chair: Craig Harrow

13.00 Close of conference