

Motions Spring 2011

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Friday 4th March

12 SC1: Scottish Parliament 2011 Election

Policy committee

Chair: Shabnum Mustapha Aide: Helen Watt
Mover: Alex Cole-Hamilton Summator: TBC

13 SC1: Scottish Parliament 2011 Election

14 Conference believes:

- 15 • That Scotland has benefited from a powerful Liberal Democrat team in the
- 16 Scottish Parliament standing up for liberal and democratic values.
- 17 • That the Liberal Democrats in government in Scotland helped to bring
- 18 about the radical changes that remain the most memorable and
- 19 substantial fruits of devolution, and have been a constructive opposition
- 20 for four years securing improvements for Scotland.
- 21 • That the SNP have frittered away the opportunities of the last four years
- 22 and have instead been distracted by their obsession with independence.

23 Conference believes that the Scottish Liberal Democrats' approach that trusts
24 local people to make good decisions, supports solutions that last and gives
25 everyone a fair opportunity, no matter their background, is a powerful platform on
26 which to contest the Scottish Parliamentary Elections.

27 Conference further believes that, even against a backdrop where we know we
28 have to live within our means, we still have the opportunity to campaign for a
29 better Scotland, a fairer and more prosperous Scotland.

30 Conference resolves that our campaign should be shaped by these values and
31 that the new Scottish Government from May should:

- 32 Seek **solutions for the long term**, with sustainable growth and
- 33 jobs that last, creating opportunity and innovation and tackling
- 34 climate change;

35 Accept that **local people know best**, with strengthened local
36 accountability and control of the police and fire services, more
37 powers to head teachers in schools, stronger rights for individuals
38 to control their care services and local solutions to bring people out
39 of hospital to receive better care in their community;
40 Give **opportunities for everyone**, with a fair start for all children
41 through early intervention and extra support when they are very
42 young, support for better parenting skills, interventions to help
43 young people lead fulfilling and productive lives and measures to
44 help offenders to step away from a life of crime.
45 Conference asserts that these values and priorities will only come from Liberal
46 Democrat votes electing Liberal Democrat MSPs.

Cards

Mover: Alex Cole-Hamilton - called
Sum Up: Jim Hume MSP, South Scotland - called
Jacquie Bell, East Lothian - called
Callum Leslie, Mid Fife and Glenrothes - called
Ettie Spencer, East Lothian - called
Sheila Thomson, Aberdeen Central – called
Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South - called

Votes:

Motion: Carried

10.50 – Danny Alexander Q&A

Cards

Peter Hayman, East Lothian
Nigel Lindsay, East Lothian
John Barnett, NE & C Fife
Paul Edie, Edinburgh West
Jennifer Boag, Inverclyde
Cllr Mike Sullivan, Angus & Mearns
Christian Sullivan, Angus & Mearns
Graham Reed, Sterling
Sue Tritton, Edinburgh South
Phil Wheeler, Edinburgh West

2 **SC2: Jobs and Economic Development**

Policy Committee

Chair: Sheila Thomson Aide: Jenni Lang
Mover: Jeremy Purvis MSP Summator: TBC

3 SC2: Jobs and economic development: A Growth Plan for Scotland

4 Conference believes that the priority of the next Scottish Government must be to
5 support the creation of new businesses and jobs, and equip every person with
6 the skills and ambition to reach their potential.

7 Conference notes evidence from CBI Scotland, the Federation of Small
8 Businesses Scotland, Scottish Renewables and environmental organisations
9 which shows that the right action taken now could create over 100,000 new
10 private sector jobs for Scotland.

11 Conference endorses an ambitious Scottish Liberal Democrat plan to bring new
12 jobs and a new prosperity to Scotland, focusing every strand of government on
13 boosting economic growth.

14 Conference calls for the new Scottish Government elected in May, within the first
15 30 days, to take forward a Growth Plan at ministerial level including:

- 16 • A White Paper to set out a radical reform of the enterprise network,
17 establishing Regional Development Banks to provide more accessible and
18 personalised support for 1000 additional businesses, working with local
19 authorities, colleges and universities to deliver business lending, skills and
20 training and tourism functions shaped around the needs of the area.
- 21 • Consultation on a Reform Bill, including measures to help more Scottish
22 businesses and organisations access public sector contracts, supporting
23 small businesses, growing the local economy and allowing Scottish public
24 services to benefit from new ways of doing things.
- 25 • The appointment of a new Minister for Science, Innovation and the Digital
26 Economy responsible for driving an ambitious jobs and wealth agenda
27 through science, engineering and restoring Scotland's ability to invent and
28 innovate, including an annual Scottish Enlightenment Prize for a world leading
29 example of science research or industrial development taking place in
30 Scotland.
- 31 • A Digital Economy Task Force, bringing together government ministers,
32 service providers, local agencies and business organisations to take forward
33 plans that make Scotland the most digitally connected region in Europe,
34 ensuring every part of Scotland has the opportunity to contribute to the
35 growing economy and to maximise the benefits from 21st century technology.
- 36 • Convening a group of the 20 leading employers in Scotland to seek their
37 support for an ambitious Scottish work programme, offering work experience,
38 internships, apprenticeships or substantial volunteering opportunities for
39 people struggling to break into the jobs market.

- 40 • The reform of business regulation, freeing businesses to grow and create jobs
41 by bringing together the business community and government to develop the
42 most appropriate balance between protection of the public, employees and
43 the environment with sustainable economic growth.
- 44 • An ambitious Exports Action Plan to create the conditions to help grow
45 Scotland's exports by 50 per cent and double the number of Scottish
46 companies who trade overseas, including mentoring support for businesses
47 who want to innovate and break into new markets and exploring with the UK
48 Government the benefits of establishing a Scottish export credit scheme.
- 49 • A new action plan to drive forward Scotland as a world leader in the
50 renewable energy sector, maximising the benefits of Scotland's natural assets
51 and skilled workforce to create thousands of new green jobs, cut emissions
52 and put us on course towards our goal of a zero-carbon Scotland, and
53 establish Aberdeen as a global energy hub.

Cards

Mover: Jeremy Purvis MSP - called

Sum Up: Euan Robson

Galen Milne, Banffshire & Buchan Coast

Katy Gordon, Glasgow

Tom Leatherland, Dunfermline & West Fife

John Sleight, Aberdeen South and North Kincardine

Votes:

Motion: Carried

2 **Emergency/Topical Motion 1 – Against a centralized police force**

Chair: Kevin Lang

Aide: Judy Hayman

Conference condemns moves by the SNP Government and the Labour Party to create a single centralized police force in Scotland.

Conference further regrets the current SNP Government's declared intention to create a single Fire and Rescue service for Scotland.

Conference believes:

These changes will deprive communities all over Scotland of locally run and meaningfully accountable emergency services.

The important contribution made by retained fire-fighters and special constables, especially in Scotland's rural communities, could be marginalized within centralized services.

A single centralized police force would be vulnerable to inappropriate political interference by Scottish Ministers.

Conference therefore calls on the SNP Government to abandon their plans for the creation of single police and fire services; and to press for the establishment of a pilot project in the Highlands and Islands for a single 'blue light' service retaining full decision-making power at local level.

Cards

Mover: Christine Jardine, INB&S - called

Sum Up: John Sleigh, INB&S

Paul Edie, Edinburgh West - called

Robert Brown, MSP- called

Sheila Thomson, Aberdeen Central - called

Harry Wills, North-East & Central Fife

Votes:

Motion: carried

3 **SC3: Land Value Tax in place of business rates**

North East and Central Fife Local Party

Chair: Derek Young
Mover: Tim Brett

Aide: Jenny Stubbs
Summator: TBC

4 Conference recognises the severe hardship imposed upon many Scottish
5 businesses due to the lack of transitional relief for the increase in business rates
6 following the 2010 revaluation, which, being based upon rateable value in 2008,
7 takes no account of the severe losses incurred due to the subsequent drastic
8 financial downturn.

9 Conference further recognises that Land Value Tax has had a significant level of
10 support by Liberal Democrats over the years, most recently at Federal Party
11 conference in 2008.

12 Conference therefore calls on the Scottish Liberal Democrat Party to establish a
13 special commission to consider the replacement of business rates by LVT, with a
14 view to reporting back within twelve months on the feasibility and desirability or
15 otherwise of such a scheme.

Cards

Mover: Tim Brett, NE Fife – called

Sum Up: Alan Macrae, Skye, Lochaber & Badenoch

Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South - called

Donald Gorrie, Edinburgh West - Called

Cllr Graham Reed, Stirling – not called

Votes:

carried

1 **Policy Pitch**

Cards

2. Derek Young, Edinburgh N&L - called

1. Cllr Alison Hay, Argyll & Bute - called

3. Katy Gordon, Glasgow South - called

Hugh Waterfield, Glasgow North

Cllr Graham Reed, Stirling

Stephen Peters, Dunfermline

4. Callum Leslie, LYS - called

Ross Carruthers, P&K

Jack Daniels, NE Fife

2 **Party Business and AGM**

Chair: Craig Harrow

Aide: Martin Hayman

Accounts adopted

Business Motion

Mover: Robbie Simpson

Summator: Sophie Bridger

3 Selection for the 21st Century

4 Conference notes that:

- 5 a) the current regulations for parliamentary selection contests significantly
- 6 restrict online campaigning, including a ban on the use of social media and
- 7 'first-contact' emailing by candidates;
- 8 b) the costs of running an effective selection campaign are significant, including
- 9 printing, travelling and telephone costs;
- 10 c) many party members use the internet as the primary means of
- 11 communicating with the party, and some exclusively;
- 12 d) email is already used for campaigning in some party elections, including the
- 13 elections for party leader and President;

14 Conference believes that:

- 15 i) no potential candidate should be dissuaded from participation by financial cost;
- 16 ii) the introduction of online campaigning will allow greater member participation
- 17 in the selection process and improve communication between candidates and
- 18 party members;
- 19 iii) online campaigning during selection would provide candidates with valuable
- 20 experience for the election;

21 Conference calls upon the Executive to introduce new regulations for the

22 selection of Scottish, Westminster and European Parliamentary candidates that

23 allow online campaigning within the existing selection process.

Cards

Mover: Robbie Simpson

Sum Up: Sophie Bridger

Callum Leslie, Mid Fife & Glenrothes

Kevin Lang, Edinburgh North & Leith

Votes:

Motion: carried

Constitutional amendments

1 1. Eligibility to vote in candidate selections

Mover: TBC

Summator: TBC

2 Conference notes that:

3 Clause H7 of the Scottish Liberal Democrats constitution states that:

4 *“Candidates for election at any level shall be selected by the single transferable*
5 *vote in a secret postal ballot of eligible members. Eligibility shall be determined in*
6 *terms of Clauses H11, H12, H21, H24 and H26. No member may vote who*
7 *became a member of the Party after a specified date not later than the closing*
8 *date for applications.”*

9 Conference resolves to delete the second and third sentences of Clause H7 and
10 substitute:

11 *“Members shall not be eligible to vote until the expiry of the period to which their*
12 *first annual subscription relates and their renewal subscription has been paid.*
13 *Former members rejoining shall be treated as if they were new members.*
14 *Members whose subscriptions are no more than three months overdue shall only*
15 *be eligible to vote on receipt of their overdue subscription. All members shall*
16 *otherwise be eligible members in terms of Clauses H11, H12, H20, H23 and*
17 *H26.”*

18 Conference approves the following consequential amendments:

- 19 • In Section H Clause 11, substitute: *“twenty eligible members”* for *“twenty*
20 *members”*.
- 21 • In Section H Clause 12, substitute: *“twenty eligible members”* for *“twenty*
22 *members”*.
- 23 • In Section H Clause 20, substitute: *“all eligible members”* for *“all members”*.
- 24 • In Section H Clause 23, substitute: *“all the eligible members”* for *“the whole*
25 *membership”*.
- 26 • In Section H Clause 26, substitute: *“a ballot of eligible members, and that all*
27 *eligible members”* for
28 *“a ballot of members, and that all members”*

Cards

Mover: Derek Barrie - called

Sum Up: Judy Hayman

John Sleight, Aberdeen South & North Kincardine

John Lawrie, Edinburgh South

Kevin Lang, Edinburgh North & Leith

Helen Watt, E Dunbartonshire (sep vote 117-13, 14-21 - withdrawn)

Callum Leslie, Liberal Youth Scotland

Ian Yuill, AS&NK

Votes:

Motion: defeated (4 abstentions)

1 2. Including an MEP on Executive

Mover: TBC

Summator: TBC

2 Conference resolves to amend Clause F23 by:

- 3 • Inserting new Clause F23c – *“a Scottish Liberal Democrat Member of the*
4 *European Parliament”*
5 • Renumbering the existing Clause F23c as F23d

Cards

Mover: Galen Milne

Sum Up: Sheila Thomson

John Lawrie, Edinburgh South

Votes:

Motion: carried

Saturday 5th March

1 10.00 SC4: Sentencing for drug possession

Liberal Youth Scotland

Chair: Fraser Grieve
Mover: Callum Leslie

Aide: Sheila Thomson
Summator: Kristian Chapman

2 Conference notes that in 2008-09, across Scotland, 2296 people received a fine
3 for possession of drugs, compared to 78 who received a Community Service
4 Order (CSO) and 62 who received a Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO).

5 Conference also notes that the Central, Fife, Northern and Grampian police force
6 areas only handed down one DTTO each in this year for drug possession.

7 Conference believes that CSOs and DTTOs are far more effective in dealing with
8 the root causes of drug offences.

9 Conference also believes that fines carry a significant risk that the offender may
10 turn to further crime in order to pay the fine.

11 Conference therefore calls on the Scottish Government to ask the new Scottish
12 Sentencing Council to review sentencing in drug possession cases, with a view
13 to ensuring the maximum effective use of DTTOs and CSOs.

14 Conference also calls on any such review to take account of the risk of further
15 crime from handing out fines for drug possession.

16
17

18 Amendment – Glasgow South Local Party

19
20

21 After line 5, insert:

22 Conference notes the success of the Persistent Offenders Project in Glasgow
23 which save £14 for every £1 spent by employing intensive treatment interventions
24 for the most problematic drug users.

25 Conference also notes the greater success of heroin maintenance provision over
26 methadone maintenance for select groups of the most problematic heroin users
27 in those countries where the practice has been adopted or trialed.

28

29 After line 9, insert new:

30 Conference believes that there are huge cost savings to be made and great
31 benefits to be gained for communities through intervening in the lives of the most
32 problematic drug users using the best evidence-based methods and treatment
33 options.

34 After line 14, insert:

35 Conference further calls for increased investment in schemes like the Persistent
36 Offenders Project and for specialized diamorphine maintenance clinics to be
37 made available as an extra option facilitating intervention in the lives of the most
38 vulnerable and most disruptive heroin users.
39 Conditional on acceptance of the amendments, the title will be amended to add:
40 And cost-effective drug treatment.

Cards

Mover: Callum Leslie - called
Sum Up: Kristian Chapman
Move Amd: Ewan Hoyle, Glasgow South – called
Paul Coleshill, Glasgow South - called
Katy Gordon, Glasgow South - called
David Hannay, Galloway - called
Alexandra White, Galloway
Alex Cole-Hamilton, Edinburgh Central - called
Ruairaidh Dobson, Glasgow North

Votes:

Amendment: accepted by movers; no vote taken
Motion as amended – carried

1 Q&A Jeremy Purvis

Cllr Tim Brett
Galen Milne
Andrew Nisbett
Cllr Graham Reed
Jenny Dawe
David Hannay

2 SC5: Public Sector Innovation

Policy committee

Chair: Judy Hayman	Aide: Derek Young
Mover: Willie Rennie	Summator: TBC

3 SC5: Public sector innovation – more effective investment

4 Conference notes that the current tight financial climate, changing social
5 challenges and rising demand are putting increasing pressure on public services.

6 Conference recognises that, in order to meet our ambitions for a fairer and more
7 prosperous Scotland and to create opportunities in tough times, there is a need
8 for a new approach in the organisation and delivery of public services.

9 Conference believes that services are delivered most efficiently and effectively
10 when they are responsive to local needs and circumstances, are able to stand
11 the test of time and create opportunities for local people to live better lives.
12 Conference therefore opposes the SNP and the Labour Party plans to grab
13 control of police, fire and care services from local areas and run them from
14 Holyrood, believing these to be costly and bureaucratic plans which could be
15 damaging to safety, security and care provision in communities across Scotland.

16 Conference believes that locally-led change and improvement – developing new
17 approaches to preventing and solving problems – is a better approach to reform.

18 Conference therefore welcomes Liberal Democrats proposals for smarter
19 investment and innovation in public services, including:

- 20 • Strategic investment in proven spend-to-save initiatives, such as early
21 intervention to give every child a fair start in life, effective action to cut
22 reoffending, and measures to shift the balance of care from acute, hospital-
23 based services to care delivered in the community.
- 24 • Support for a high-quality, preventative approach to the challenges faced by
25 our public services through early action to tackle the ticking time-bomb of
26 obesity, a parenting strategy to give people the skills and help they need to
27 support their children, drug and alcohol abuse interventions, and measures
28 proven to steer people away from a life of crime.
- 29 • Proposals to bring the organisation and delivery of public services closer to
30 the people who use them by giving more power to head teachers and making
31 them more accountable to parents and the community for the results they
32 achieve, putting GPs back at the heart of 'out of hours' care, and giving local
33 communities the right to influence the policing of their areas.
- 34 • Removing the barriers faced by the voluntary sector and social enterprises in
35 the design and delivery of public services, reforming procurement and
36 introducing payment-by-results funding to shift the focus from inputs and
37 supplies to outcomes and success for the long term.
- 38 • Action to help people engage with the local decisions and services that affect
39 them, such as giving local communities influence over the budgets of the
40 public agencies operating in their area, increasing community ownership and
41 management of assets or services and publishing more detailed expenditure
42 accounts of local authorities, health boards and other public sector bodies so
43 people can see how their money is being spent.
- 44 • Proposals to cut the pay bill of the highest earners in the public sector and set
45 their bonuses to zero, as part of a series of measures to strip out waste and
46 inefficiency in the public sector.
- 47 • A power of general competence for local government to give councils the
48 power and flexibility to deliver innovative solutions that last for the people they
49 serve; allowing local authorities to share fairly in the growth and success of
50 their areas by a fairer funding formula for local government and the retention

51 of business rates and tax receipts arising from additional economic growth
52 and development in their areas.

Cards

Mover: Willie Rennie - called
Sum Up: Ross Finnie - called
Paul Edie, Edinburgh West - called
Joan Mitchell, Galloway - called
Phil Wheeler, Edinburgh West - called
Graham Garvie, TE&L - called
Peter Bellarby, Angus & Mearns - called

Votes:

Motion: carried

1 **14.30 Emergency/Topical Motion 2 – Scotland’s RAF Bases**

Chair: Audrey Findlay

Aide: Jenny Stubbs

Conference notes the Strategic Defence Review which has significant implications for the location of military bases in Scotland, including the closure of RAF Kinloss, the future of RAF Leuchars and RAF Lossiemouth and the likely relocation of UK Army bases from Germany to the United Kingdom.

Conference recognizes the key strategic importance of RAF Leuchars and its Quick Reaction Alert to the air defence of northern Britain, and the proximity of RAF Lossiemouth to key training grounds and ranges for its Tornado GR4 bombers.

Conference notes the contribution that all armed forces bases make to the economic and social fabric of the communities in which they are located; and is concerned that the loss of a military base will have a significant impact on its surrounding communities.

Conference recognizes that RAF Leuchars and RAF Lossiemouth perform separate but equally important defence functions and it is detrimental to the defence of the United Kingdom to close either.

Cards

Mover: Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell MP, NE Fife - called

Sum Up: Iain Smith MSP, NE Fife - called

Cllr Tim Brett, NE Fife - called

Cllr Mike Sullivan, Angus & Mearns - called

Cllr George Grubb, Edinburgh West - called

Robbie Simpson, Glasgow North - called

Christine Jardine, Inverness & Nairn - called

Votes:

Motion: Carried

Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Local Party

Chair: Jenni Lang

Aide: Jacquie Bell

Mover: Christine Jardine

Summator: Trevor Escott

2 Conference recognises that:

- 3 1. A person's socio-economic background is still a key factor in determining
4 their life chances, and that inequalities of income and wealth have a
5 corrosive effect on all sections of society.
6 2. Britain is among the most unequal societies in the developed world, with
7 the highest rate of poverty in western Europe, and the gap between rich
8 and poor continues to widen.

9 Conference notes that:

- 10 a) The Equality Act 2010 included a socio-economic duty on public bodies to
11 have due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome that
12 result from socio-economic disadvantage.
13 b) The Scottish Government had indicated that once this duty in the Equality
14 Act was commenced, it would be established in Scotland.

15 Conference regrets the decision taken by the Home Secretary Teresa May in
16 November 2010 to scrap the socio-economic duty and to look into repealing the
17 law that allowed for its creation.

18 Conference further regrets that:

- 19 I. The Scottish Government has not met the recommendation of the Local
20 Government and Communities Committee that government policies should
21 be 'poverty proofed' through poverty impact assessments, in the same
22 way that policies are currently assessed for their impact on equalities.
23 II. The Scottish Government's Single Outcome Agreements have not been
24 sufficiently effective in identifying how local spending decisions impact on
25 levels of poverty and inequality.

26 Conference therefore calls on the Scottish Government to introduce a robust
27 socio-economic duty to ensure that local and central government spending
28 decisions contribute to efforts to reduce socio-economic inequalities in Scotland.

Cards

Mover: Christine Jardine, INB&S - called

Sum Up: Trevor Escott, INB&S - called

Ruaraidh Dobson, Glasgow North - called

Robbie Rowantree, Caithness, Sutherland and Ross - called

Sheila Thomson, Aberdeen Central - called

Callum Leslie, Mid Fife & Glenrothes - called

Cllr Graham Reed, Stirling - called

Derek Young, Edinburgh NE&L - called

Cllr Eileen McCartin, Paisley & Renfrewshire - called

Votes:

Motion: carried