

# Scottish Liberal Democrat Autumn Conference – Dunfermline – October 2015

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10.00 Conference opens

Welcome address

### **SC1: A penny for health**

*Submitted by Paisley & Renfrewshire Liberal Democrats*

Mover: Allan Heron Summator: Cllr Eileen McCartin

1 Conference notes:

2 I. The Scottish Parliament has significant tax raising powers, which are being  
3 expanded by the Scotland Bill 2015, and;

4 II. Thanks to the major recent increases in personal tax allowances delivered by the  
5 Liberal Democrats, increases in income tax have less impact on the lower paid.

6 Conference believes:

7 A. Pressures on waiting times in A&E, restrictions on availability of life saving drugs  
8 and a growing GP crisis are a result of NHS Scotland being consistently  
9 underfunded over and above any other operational or structural issues.

10 B. Pressures on NHS services can be lessened through wise investment in  
11 programs and facilities that help promote good mental and physical health, and  
12 so reduce the need for NHS treatment.

13 Conference calls for:

14 1. The Scottish Government to **exercise** its tax raising powers and raise the rate of  
15 income tax, across all tax bands, by 1% to increase funding to NHS Scotland and  
16 other funding promoting good mental and physical health.

17 2. The Scottish Liberal Democrat Policy Committee to give this policy a prominent  
18 place in our manifesto for the May 2016 Scottish Parliament election.

### **Amendment 1 to SC1: A penny for the NHS**

Submitted by Alex Cole-Hamilton and 8 others

Mover: Alex Cole-Hamilton

In line 11:

Delete "exercise" and insert "resolve the current funding crisis in our health sector and deliver additional resources either through a fair reallocation of current or spending or exercising..."

### **Amendment 2 to SC1: A penny for the NHS – *Accepted by movers***

Submitted by: Ewan Hoyle and 4 others

Mover: Ewan Hoyle

In the title delete "the NHS" and replace with "health"

After line 9 add:

"B. Pressures on NHS services can be lessened through wise investment in programs and facilities that help promote good mental and physical health, and so reduce the need for NHS treatment."

In line 14 after "NHS Scotland" add:

"and other funding promoting good mental and physical health."

Cards:

Move – Allan Heron, Paisley & Renfrewshire - called  
Move Amd1 – Alex Cole-Hamilton - called  
Sum Up –Eileen McCartin, Paisley & Renfrewshire  
Sum Up Amd 1 – Christine Jardine - called  
Katy Gordon, Glasgow South - called  
George Bain, East Lothian  
Dawud Islam, Edinburgh NE&L - called  
Ewan Hoyle, Glasgow South - called  
John Barrett, Edinburgh West - called  
Peter Barrett, P&K  
Alan Reid, Argyll & Bute  
Jaquie Bell, Edinburgh NE&L  
Graham Cowie, Glasgow North  
Jonathan Waddell, Abd C,S & NK - called  
Paul McGarry, Central Scotland  
Shonti Bird, Angus & Mearns  
Neil Ross, Edinburgh South - called  
Derek Young, Edinburgh West  
Harry Chalkin, Abd Uni - called

	Entered	Called	% called
Cards	19	11	58%
Men	15	8	53%
Women	4	3	75%

Votes:

Amendment 1 - carried  
Amendment 2 – accepted by movers  
Motion as amendment - carried

## **SC2: Evidence-based policy on genetically modified crops**

*Submitted by Ross Stalker and 31 members*

Mover: Ross Stalker Summator: Chris Young

### Conference notes:

1. The Scottish Government intends to use the member state opt-out on European Union approval of genetically modified crops to introduce a blanket ban on GM crop cultivation in Scotland.
2. This decision has been characterised by several research universities and scientific groups – including Robert Gordon University, Edinburgh University, Dundee University, Academia Europaea, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the Science Council – as political and not based on any informed scientific risk.
3. The National Farmers' Union has expressed concern that the rejection of biotechnology will make the Scottish agricultural industry less competitive and less sustainable.

### Conference believes:

1. The European Union has the most stringent regulation on GM crops anywhere in the world. All approvals are awarded on a case-by-case basis and only after an extensive risk assessment covering health and environmental hazards. In addition to the robust approval process, compulsory post-market monitoring provides further assurance of environmental protection.
2. The SNP have justified the ban as maintaining Scotland's "clean and green brand". It is fundamentally illiberal to ban something on the basis of perception rather than evidence.
3. As pointed out by Professor Anne Glover, former chief scientific advisor to the Scottish Government, and former Greenpeace UK director Stephen Tindale, responsible use of genetic engineering will have environmental benefits, including a reduction in the use of fungicides, herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers (all of which are used even in organic farming), and more efficient land use.
4. A blanket ban on open cultivation of GM crops not only affects food production, but limits future innovations in healthcare and the production of third generation biofuels, an emerging technology with the potential to significantly reduce carbon emissions.

### Conference calls for:

1. The Scottish Government to support a regulatory framework that, at all levels, assesses the risks and benefits of innovative crop varieties on a case-by-case basis, evaluating evidence on the effects of the organism in question on health and the environment, rather than by reference solely to the methods used in that organism's creation.
2. The Scottish Government to immediately reverse its decision to impose a blanket ban on the cultivation of EU approved GM crops.
3. The Scottish Liberal Democrat Policy Committee to ensure that a commitment to evidence-based policy on genetic engineering is included in our 2016 manifesto for the Scottish Parliament.

### Cards:

Move – Ross Stalker, Paisley & Renfrewshire

Sum Up – Chris Young, Glasgow South - called

Jonathan Waddell, Aberdeen Central, South & North Kincardine - called

Andrew Arbuckle, NE Fife & Central - called

Beryl Leatherland, Dunfermline – called  
James Calder, Dunfermline – called  
Galen Milne, Clacks - Request for Reference Back – debate not to be taken

Votes:

Motion - carried

### **SC3: VAT on feminine hygiene products**

*Submitted by Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Liberal Democrats*

Mover: Cllr Kate Stephen Summator: Cllr Carolyn Caddick

Feminine hygiene products are currently taxed at 5% because they are classified as non-essential, luxury goods.

Conference believes that this classification is incorrect.

Conference believes sanitary towels and tampons should be classified as essential goods and should be exempted from VAT.

Conference asks the Scottish Government and the UK Government to seek agreement from all European Union member states to stop taxing periods.

#### **Cards:**

Move – Kate Stephen, INBS - called

Sum Up - Carolyn Caddick, INBS - called

Susan Leslie, Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath – called

Sophie Bridger, Glasgow North - called

Liz Barret, P&K

Jenny Wilson, Abd E

Daniel Coleman, Dundee – called

Tom Hunter, O&S - called

#### **Votes:**

Motion – carried nem con

## **SC4: Creating opportunities for the young homeless**

*Submitted by Central Scotland Liberal Democrats*

Mover: Paul McGarry Summator: Cllr Susan Leslie

Conference notes that:

- A. It is important that every young person irrespective of background and circumstance has the same opportunities. This includes access to training, education and employment. Those who are homeless, living independently and care leavers can be unfairly dispossessed of these same opportunities.
- B. Access to stable mid-term accommodation is important to a young adult's development and their ability to access training, education and employment.
- C. The most common cause for homelessness is a break down in family relationships and this can have a long term effect on future relationships.
- D. Whilst the number of people reporting as homeless has decreased over the last 10 years, the proportion of those applications made by young people has increased.
- E. Homeless Action Scotland reported that move-on options for young people are limited, with few social lettings agencies and few shared accommodation options for young people across Scotland.

Conference notes with concern:

- a) Statistics for 2013/14 show that 28,509 people in Scotland reported as homeless. Of those 8,321 (29%) are aged between 16 and 24.
- b) Statistics for those aged 16-24 show that 54% of applicants are Female. For ages 24 or over 57% of applicants are male. Conference notes that this change reflects that mothers with children receive priority accommodation.
- c) Shelter Scotland have warned that changes to housing benefit for those aged 18-21 will have a negative effect on young homeless and introduce more hurdles for vulnerable young people accessing this vital support.

Conference believes:

- I. Access to training and education can play a significant factor in providing opportunities to lead a fulfilled life.
- II. Instability in housing and home life has a negative effect on a person's ability to access training, education and employment opportunities.
- III. Providing stable housing opportunities can provide a platform to move on and lead a fulfilled life and could require less support from the state in later life.
- IV. Welfare reform such as restrictions on housing benefit and a lower minimum wage for young people provides a particular disadvantage for those who are living independently.

Conference calls on the next Scottish Government:

1. Create a "Fair Start Fund" providing funding to projects that support young homeless into education, training or employment opportunities.
2. Establish 11 centres in Scotland providing 400 places, enabling provision for 1/5 of young people who report as homeless. These centres would offer accommodation for up to two years for those undergoing training, further education or apprenticeships and have been homeless or are care leavers.
3. Full implementation of Care Leavers' Protocols within local authorities to ensure care-leavers' housing pathways never include being made to present as homeless, together with consistent reporting on this.
4. Extend the Unsuitable Accommodation Order to include young people, in order to



- end the use of B&Bs.
5. Ensure all local authorities report and evaluate outcomes for young people who report as homeless.
  6. Ensure young people's specific housing needs are explicitly included within local housing and/or allocations policies.
  7. Conduct a full review of the help single people get under homelessness legislation to ensure a focus on ensuring long term solutions.
  8. To introduce a help-to-rent loan scheme in order to support young people obtain an initial deposit.

Conference calls on the UK Government:

- i. Ensure that the same National Minimum Wage applies to everyone irrespective of age.
- ii. Reverse the decision to restrict housing benefit for those under 21.
- iii. Require impact assessments be conducted for welfare changes and how these would affect young people who are living independently, homeless or care leavers.

**Amendment to SC4: Creating opportunities for the young homeless – *Accepted by movers***

Submitted by: Liberal Youth Scotland

Mover: Euan Davidson

Insert new paragraph after 7.

"8. To introduce a help-to-rent loan scheme in order to support young people obtain an initial deposit."

**Cards:**

Move - Paul McGarry, Central Scotland - called  
 Sum Up – Susan Leslie, Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath - called  
 Jim Hume MSP, Scotland South - called  
 Hannah Bettsworth, Edinburgh South - called  
 Calum Paterson, Central Scotland - called  
 Kris Chapman, Midlothian S, T&L - called  
 Joanne Ferguson, Central Scotland - called  
 Keith Redwood, CSER - called  
 Hamish Mackenzie, Abd S,  
 Gary McLelland, N Glasgow

**Votes:**

Motion – carried *nem. con.*

Speech by **Willie Rennie MSP**, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

12.30-14.00	Lunch
12.45-13.45	Fringe meetings

The afternoon session runs from 14.00 to 17.00.

## **EM1: Responding to the global refugee crisis**

Alex Cole-Hamilton and 6 others

Mover: Alex Cole-Hamilton

Conference notes:

- New figures from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) which estimate that more than 575,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe by sea between January 2015 and October 2015;
- That the UK has a proud record of sheltering those who are fleeing persecution, oppression and terror;

Conference welcomes:

- That the United Kingdom is the second largest bilateral donor of aid to the Syrian conflict;
- That the Scottish Government has established a taskforce to coordinate Scotland's response and providing £1 million of funding.
- The generosity of people across Scotland who have contributed gifts and aid, offered to open up their homes, and declared that they welcome refugees.

Conference calls on:

- On the UK Government to:
  - a) increase the number of refugee resettlement places and recognise that accepting 20,000 over five years is a pitiful response which neither reflects the scale nor the urgency of the crisis;
  - b) work closely with our European partners and participate in a coordinated, international response rather than react to the biggest humanitarian crisis in a generation through piecemeal, unilateral action;
- On the Scottish Government to:
  - a) assess the capacity of each local authority area and consider whether Scotland could take more than 2,000 refugees or more than its fair-share, if it enables a corresponding increase in the total number of refugees the UK Government accepts.
  - b) ensure that local authorities, health boards and other public authorities are fully prepared to respond to refugees' significant and varied needs, including housing, education, guardians, translators, and physical and mental healthcare;
  - c) ensure that those public authorities which have limited experience of providing services for refugees have access to the expertise, experience and resources they need to be able to participate in resettlement efforts.

**Cards:**

Move – Alex Cole-Hamilton - called

Sum Up – Alan Reid, Argyll & Bute

Jacqui Bell, Edinburgh NE&L - called

Hannah Bettsworth, Edinburgh South

Jeremy Purvis, Tweeddale, Lauderdale & Midlothian South - called

Lin Macmillan, East Lothain - called

Elizabeth Wilson, East Lothian - called

Finn Darby, Edinburgh South - called

Emma Farthing-Sykes, Edinburgh South - called

Jack Daniels, NE&C Fife – called

Jonathan Waddell, Abd C,S & NK

Ken Mookford, Inverness

Votes:

Motion - carried

## **SC5: Towards a new Federal United Kingdom and a new Treaty of Union**

*Submitted by Glasgow Rutherglen Liberal Democrats*

Mover: Cllr Robert Brown Summator: Jeremy Purvis

This Conference:

- confirms its longstanding commitment to Home Rule for Scotland within a reformed and federal United Kingdom, as developed in the Steel and Campbell Commission Reports for the Scottish Liberal Democrats
- welcomes the recognition in both the Scottish referendum decision of September 2014 and the Smith Commission report of the need for a durable constitutional settlement which maintains Scotland's place in the United Kingdom and which does not cause detriment to the UK as a whole nor to any of its constituent parts.
- recognises the twin threats to the future of the United Kingdom from the separatist aspirations of the SNP on the one hand and the constitutional illiteracy of the Conservative Government on the other
- believes that devolution by itself is an inadequate response to the current constitutional challenge
- regards the creation of a coherent federal constitutional structure for Britain as an urgent necessity for Scotland and the United Kingdom

Conference therefore commits the Scottish Liberal Democrats to a twin track approach to the campaign for a federal United Kingdom, based on:

- a. the continued support of Liberal Democrats across the United Kingdom for constitutional reform on a federal basis, as approved at repeated Federal conferences
- b. the Scottish Liberal Democrats seeking a mandate at the 2016 Scottish Parliament elections for the Scottish Parliament and Government to negotiate a new federal Treaty of Union with Westminster and the other nations and regions of the United Kingdom.

Conference calls for:

1. the establishment of a UK Constitutional Convention charged with developing a scheme for a federal United Kingdom together with a written constitution
2. the Convention to include representatives of the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish governments, of regional or city interests in England and of civic society, and of the Westminster government
3. Scottish Liberal Democrats to seek a mandate for federalism in the 2016 Scottish Parliament elections, and thereafter to use our influence in the Scottish Parliament and Government to seek negotiations with Westminster for a new federal Treaty of Union
4. Any future changes in the respective powers of the Scottish and United Kingdom Parliaments to be considered in the context of the move towards a properly federal United Kingdom
5. the Scottish Leader and Party Executive to initiate discussions with the Welsh Liberal Democrats and the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland to develop the campaign for a federal UK.

Conference urges the other political parties in Scotland and their members to recognise that the referendum represented the democratic decision of the people of Scotland to remain part of the United Kingdom. Conference further issues a warm invitation to them to join with the Scottish Liberal Democrats in the campaign for a federal United Kingdom

within the EU

### **Amendment 1 to SC5: Towards a new Federal United Kingdom and a new Treaty of Union**

Submitted by: John Biggam and 4 others

Mover: John Biggam

Delete lines 48 to 53 and replace with:

“Conference urges the other political parties in Scotland and their members to recognise that the referendum represented the democratic decision of the people of Scotland to remain part of the United Kingdom. Conference further issues a warm invitation to them to join with the Scottish Liberal Democrats in the campaign for a federal United Kingdom within the EU”.

#### **Cards:**

Move – Robert Brown, Rutherglen - called

Sum Up – Jeremy Purvis, Tweeddale, Lauderdale & Midlothian South

Move Amd 1 – John Biggam, Stirling & Clacks - called

Sum Up Amd 1 – George Hayton, P&K – waived this

Alistair Carmichael, O&S - called

Joel Whitney, Abd Uni

Fraser Maddox, Abd Uni

Jamie Purcell, Glasgow North - called

Matthew Hall, Dunfermline & West Fife - called

Graham Cowie, Glasgow North, rqst for Ref Back – not to be heard

Graham Cowie, Glasgow North, if Ref Back not heard – called

Scott Stables, Edinburgh NE&L - called

Christine Jardine, Aberdeen East - called

Denis Mollison, East Lothian

Derek Young, Edinburgh West

Siobhan Mathers, Edinburgh N&L - called

Robin Bennett, NE Fife

Ross Moreland, Argyll & Bute - called

Matthew Cockburn, Central Scotland

Daniel Coleman, Dundee

Jonathan Waddell, ACSNK

#### **Votes:**

Amendment 1 - carried

Motion as amended - carried

### **SC6: Putting democracy back into Scottish policing**

*Submitted by Policy Committee*

Mover: Jamie Stone Summator: Dan Farthing-Sykes

#### **Conference notes**

- a) The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 voted through at Holyrood by SNP and Labour MSPs has centralised control of police in Scotland and has failed;
- b) The powers of the police impact on individual liberties in a unique way, so that it is important that effective, democratic governance arrangements exist;

- c) The creation of a single Scottish police force has ended the separation of powers that was an established part of the previous tri-partite structure of Scottish policing, whereby central government, local government and the chief constable had separate roles in the governance of policing.
- d) The centralisation has caused problems across Scotland, from armed police on routine patrols, licensing enforcement in Edinburgh, a target culture for stop and search and the loss of skilled staff in local control rooms.

Conference calls for fresh police reform legislation to restore democracy into the oversight of Scotland's police. Such legislation will give the opportunity to cherish the ability of communities to decide different policing styles and priorities in different parts of Scotland to meet local needs and will require:

1. A comprehensive policing Plan for each local authority area in Scotland;
2. Each Plan, developed in collaboration with communities and locally elected councillors, to be the responsibility of the senior police officer in that area;
3. The Plan to be adequately resourced by Police Scotland under the supervision of the Scottish Police Authority.
4. Each Plan to receive the endorsement of the relevant local authority, giving for the first time democratic credence to local policing;
5. The Plan to go further than existing ward level plans to include an explanation of how national priorities will be tackled in the area, a statement of the style of policing in the area (for example the policy on the arming of local police and the deployment of equipment such as tasers) and resource allocation;
6. The senior officer for the area to be available on a reasonable basis to discuss the preparation of the Plan with the local authority and to account for delivery of the Plan throughout the year;
7. The membership of the Scottish Police Authority to become Scottish Parliament appointments, on a vote of at least a two-thirds majority, in a similar way to other commissioners, to ensure a balanced and representative Authority and to remove the role of the Justice Secretary in making appointments.
8. Provision for local authorities to have matters included on the Scottish Police Authority agenda, and give them a right of attendance at meetings of the Authority and to receive reasonable responses to questions and issues they raise to make sure that major decisions, such as control room closures, have the involvement of local authorities beforehand;
9. The powers of the Chief Constable to be defined in statute to reflect that the historic tri-partite structure has been changed and that there is a need for new democratic checks and balances to be created.

Conference believes that this package of reform will bring democracy back into policing in Scotland, and allow local areas and their chief officers to tailor policing to meeting local needs, while retaining the ability to support national initiatives.

### **Amendment 1 to SC6: Putting democracy back into Scottish policing**

Submitted by: John Biggam and 4 others

Mover: John Biggam

~~Delete lines 22-23. Replace with:~~

~~"A comprehensive policing plan for each former police authority area in Scotland".~~

### **Cards:**

Mover – Jamie Stone, CSR - called  
Move Amd 1 - John Biggam, Stirling & Clacks - called  
Sum Up – Dan Farthing-Sykes - called  
Sum up Am1  
Jack McConnel, Dunfries & Galloway, LYS  
Jacqui Bell, Edinburgh NE&L  
Elizabeth Wilson, East Lothian – **called but not present**  
Gary McLelland, N Glasgow  
Mike Rumbles, Aberdeen West  
Ian Turnbull, Ettrick, Roxburgh & Berwickshire - called  
Jack McConnel, Dumfriesshire - called  
Wendy Chamberlain, Dunfermline & West Fife - called  
Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South  
George Boyd, East Lothian  
James Harrison, Glasgow North - called  
George Grubb, Edinburgh West  
Matthew Cockburn, Central  
Ross Stalker, Paisley

Votes:

Amendment 1 - defeated  
Motion – carried nem.con

**Speech by Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats**

**Towards the Manifesto:**

a report back from Policy Committee on the manifesto roadshows held in the summer and a Q&A on the values that will underpin the manifesto for 2016.

**Cards:**

Robbie Simpson, Glasgow North - called

Alan Reid, Argyll & Bute - called

Euan Davidson, Abd Central - withdrawn

Hannah Bettsworth, Edinburgh South – called

Jack McConnel, D&G - called

Jack Daniels, NE&C Fife – called

**Tribute to Charles Kennedy**

17.00-18.00 Drinks reception – all welcome

Join us for a complimentary drink with our new leader, Tim Farron.



## **Scottish Liberal Democrats - 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:

**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:

**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**

**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.

**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**

**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 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.