

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Contents

FRIDAY 20 APRIL.....	2
10.00 Conference opens	2
Welcome address.....	2
SC1: Cervical Cancer Screening	2
SC2: Police Reform	3
11:00 Speech: Christine Jardine, Member of Parliament for Edinburgh West.....	4
EM1: Emergency Motion – Plastics in our Oceans	4
SC3: Animal Welfare	5
Amendment	6
12.30 - 14.00 LUNCH	6
14:00 SC4: The Benefits of Immigration	6
Amendment	7
14:40 Topical Discussion – Diversity	8
15: 10 Speech: Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats.....	8
15:25 SC5: Establishing Real Freedom of Choice.....	8
16:30 Constitutional Amendment Session	10
Amendment 1: Passing Constitutional Amendments at Conference	10
Amendment 2: Name of Scottish Young Liberals	10
Amendment 3: Scottish Young Liberal Membership of Executive Committee	10
17.00 - 18:00 FRINGE MEETINGS	11
SATURDAY 21 APRIL.....	12
10.00 Party AGM and Business Motions.....	12
10:00 Business Motion 1: Party Internship.....	12
10:50 SC6: Support for Local Economies	13
11:20 SC7: Candidates at 16	14
12:05 EM2/TI1: Emergency Motion or Topical Issue.....	15
12.30 - 15.15 LUNCH	16
15:15 Education Working Group Consultation Session	16
16:25 Speech: Vince Cable MP, Federal Leader of the Liberal Democrats.....	16
16:45 Party Awards.....	16
17.00 Close of Conference	16
Scottish Liberal Democrats - Standing Orders	18

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

FRIDAY 20 APRIL

The morning session runs from 10.10 to 12.30.

10.00 Conference opens

Welcome address

10:10 SC1: Cervical Cancer Screening

Submitted by Policy Committee

Mover: Vita Zaporozcenko Summator: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Conference notes:

1. Cervical screening test is routinely available to every woman from the age of 25.
2. Every woman is invited for a screening every 3-5 years depending on their age.
3. Cervical screening detects changes in the make-up of the cervix before cancer develops, therefore cervical cancer is only one of the few cancers which can be detected and stopped before it begins.
4. If detected early, almost 100% of cervical abnormalities can be treated.
5. An estimated 4,500 lives are saved each year in the UK due to cervical screening.

Conference further notes:

1. The worrying reports that 1 in 4 women overall, rising to an average 1 in 3 aged 25-29 do not take up the offer of cervical testing.
2. In some areas of the UK this rises to 1 in 2.
3. Women reference 'being embarrassed about their bodies' as one of the reason for skipping their screening.

Conference believes:

1. That no one should die from a preventable disease.
2. That no one should be made to feel embarrassed by their bodies.

Conference calls for:

1. NHS Scotland to launch a renewed information campaign about the importance of cervical screening.
2. The Scottish Government to reinvigorate its Detect Cancer Early programme to include new ways to promote the importance of cervical screening and other cancer screening programmes.
3. Educational and youth organisations to encourage young women to discuss any body confidence issues with medical professionals.

Cards:

Move - Vita Zaporozcenko, Edinburgh West - called
Sum Up - Alex ColeHamilton, Edinburgh West - called
Jacquie Bell, North Edinburgh and Leith - called
Emma Walker, Edinburgh West - called
Jess Install, Stirling and Clackmannanshire - called
Trish Robertson, Inverness Nairn Badenoch and Strathspey - called

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Votes:

Motion – carried, unanimously

10:40 SC2: Police Reform

Submitted by Policy Committee

Mover: Liam McArthur MSP Summator: Carole Ford

Conference notes:

1. While the Scottish Liberal Democrats were the only major party to consistently oppose police centralisation, there is growing support for reform of the defective Police and Fire Reform Act (Scotland) 2012.
2. The lack of confidence in the structure of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority to deliver resilient and accountable policing at a strategic level.
3. The “poor governance and poor use of public money” by the Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland identified by auditors.
4. The constructive calls by the Scottish parliamentary party for an independent expert commission to be established to present proposals for change.
5. The finding of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland that there still isn’t “a detailed and authoritative business case” setting out the benefits, drawbacks, risks and costs associated with the transfer of railway policing in Scotland from the British Transport Police (BTP) to Police Scotland, despite SNP ministers already forcing through the legislation to do this.

Conference believes:

1. The structures that govern policing in Scotland are not accountable, transparent, robust or local.
2. The structures are not well equipped to effectively make the best decisions for policing in Scotland and that this will prove detrimental as they deal with issues of strategy, ageing technology, persistent budget deficits and the BTP merger.
3. Problems are hardwired into the structure of Scottish policing and that they will therefore persist irrespective of who is in the leading roles.
4. SNP ministers have presided over this mess and show no evidence of having learned the lessons.
5. Police officers and staff work incredibly hard but that they have been let down by the SNP Government’s botched centralisation which has failed to deliver the benefits promised.
6. The manner in which the Scottish Government is proceeding with its merger of the British Transport Police in Scotland into the national force poses a serious risk to the functions currently carried out by both organisations and shows no evidence of having learned the lessons of the establishment of Police Scotland.

Conference calls for:

1. The Scottish Government to agree to an independent commission, appointed by the Scottish Parliament not ministers, so that the damage done by the 2012 Act can be repaired through new legislation, ensuring power is shared and that effective, democratic governance arrangements exist.
2. The Scottish Liberal Democrats to continue to press for the principles and reforms identified in the motion passed at its Scottish Conference in Autumn 2015 (Putting democracy back into Scottish policing), and to submit these proposals to the independent commission for its consideration.
3. The Scottish Government to halt the absorption of the British Transport Police into Police Scotland.

Cards:

Move – Liam McArthur, Orkney, called

Sum Up – Willie Wilson, Perth & Kinross, called

Wendy Chamberlain, Dunfermline & West Fife, called

Margaret Kennedy, North East Fife, called

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Willie Wilson, Perth & Kinross, called

Votes:

Motion – carried Nem. Con.

11:00 Speech: Christine Jardine, Member of Parliament for Edinburgh West

EM1: Emergency Motion – Plastics in our Oceans

Submitted by Orkney Liberal Democrats and Shetland Liberal Democrats

Conference notes that:

1. The UK Government recently, 15 April 2018, announced that they will work with other commonwealth countries to help fight against plastic pollution, including \$61.4million in funding.
2. The UK Government recently, 29 March 2018, committed to developing a plastic bottle return scheme.
3. In January 2018, the UK Government published ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’, while the EU also published “A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy” which set out plans to ensure all plastic packaging it reuseable or recyclable by 2030.
4. The Scottish Government have recently, 7 February 2018, announced their new Expert panel on single-use plastics.
5. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimates there is more than 8 million tonnes of plastic is estimated to be dumped into the ocean every year and at the current rate the oceans are set to contain more plastics than fish (by weight) by 2050.
6. Plastics in the ocean break up and are mistaken by sea life for food, which can either suffocate or poison precious sea creatures. According to Plymouth University, plastic was found in a third of UK-caught fish, including cod, haddock, mackerel & shellfish.

Conference believes that:

1. Levels of plastics in the world’s oceans are at dangerous and unsustainable levels.
2. That we are trustees of our world and that we have a responsibility to reduce our dependence on single-use plastics before irrevocable damage is done to our natural environment.
3. Businesses have an important role to play in working with stakeholders to reduce the use of plastic packaging.
4. The successful economies of the future will be ‘circular’ – where waste and the use of non-renewable resources are minimised and recovery, reuse and recycling are maximised.
5. The UK Government’s 25-year plan is not ambitious enough to tackle avoidable plastic waste and is absent of concrete proposals on how to remove plastics already in the oceans.

Conference calls for:

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

1. The UK Government to raise its ambition and commit to eradicating unnecessary plastic waste in line with targets set by the EU, and to work with other countries to find global solutions to plastic pollution.
2. The Scottish and UK Governments to tackle throw-away culture by providing incentives for reuse and recycling, including a plastic bottle return scheme and levy on disposable coffee cups.
3. The Scottish & UK Governments to commit to a Plastic-Free Charter to eradicate unnecessary plastic waste from Government Departments and set an example to businesses and consumers.
4. Businesses to reduce plastic wherever they can, and where it is required, to make it as recyclable and reusable as possible.
5. The Scottish and UK Governments to work with businesses to increase investment in research and development into non-plastic alternatives which are cost effective and sustainable in the long term.

Cards:

Move – Alistair Carmichael, Orkney, called
Elizabeth Wilson, East Lothian, called
Callum Paterson, Central, called
Sanne Dykstra-Downie, Edinburgh North and Leith, called
Trish Robertson, Inverness Nairn Badenoch and Strathspey, not called
Margaret Smith, Edinburgh West, called
Cathy McInnes, Argyll & Bute, called
Galen Milne, Stirling & Clackmannanshire, not called
Bruce Lawson, Edinburgh North & Leith, not called

Votes:

Motion – carried unanimously

SC3: Animal Welfare

Submitted by Central Scotland Liberal Democrats

Mover: Yvonne Finlayson Summator: Colin Robb

Conference notes:

1. That the puppy market is extremely profitable, with nearly two million puppies sold each year in the UK in a market worth between £100million and £300million.
2. That demand for puppies means that unlicensed breeders and sellers are able to dominate the market.
3. That the maximum penalty for animal cruelty in Scotland is 12 months in jail.
4. That puppies can be sold at less than 8 weeks old to a licensed pet shop or a licensed Scottish rearing establishment.

Conference believes:

1. That “hobby breeders” breeding two or more litters per year should be licensed, and that dogs should only be available from licensed sellers, regulated breeders or approved rehoming organisations.
2. That raising the maximum jail penalty for animal cruelty would serve as a deterrent.
3. That in order for a dog to achieve the best outcome in life, it should not be separated from its mother at less than 8 weeks.

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

4. That the laws which currently exist fail to provide protection for buyers for the increasing trend of buying dogs online, as dogs bought online cannot be adequately traced back to the breeder, and the buyer has no recourse when the dog proves to be sick.

Conference calls for:

1. The Scottish Government to:
 - a. Introduce a ban on third party sales of dogs.
 - b. Introduce a ban on dogs being sold when they are under 8 weeks old.
 - c. Increase the maximum penalty for animal cruelty from 12 months to five years.
 - d. Introduce a new license covering the sale of pets.
2. The UK Government to:
 - a. Reduce maximum number of litters from “hobby breeders” before a licence is required to 2.
 - b. Ban the online sale of dogs from unlicensed breeders.
 - c. Regulate Internet advertising and social media platforms to require that the breeder’s registration or licence number is always included.

Amendment

Submitted by 5 members

1. In Conference Notes Point 1, replace ‘puppy’ with ‘pet’
2. In Conference Believes Point 3, replace ‘dog’ with ‘cat or dog’
3. In Conference Believes Point 4, replace all instances of ‘dog’ and ‘dogs’ with ‘petp and ‘pets’.
4. In Conference Calls for Point 1b. replace ‘Dogs’ with ‘cats and dogs’
5. Replace Conference Calls for Point 2c with: ‘Introduce regulation on sale of pets online, including ending the unrestricted ability to sell any pet on online platforms and requiring for dogs that the breeder’s registration or licence number is always required’.

Cards:

Move – Yvonne Finlayson, Central, called
Amendment – James Calder, Dunfermline & West Fife, called
Sum Up – Euan MacRobert, Central, called
Mariam Mahmood, North East & Central Fife, called
Callum Paterson, Central, called

Votes:

Amendment – carried
Motion - carried

12.30 - 14.00 LUNCH

12.45 - 13.45 FRINGE MEETINGS

The afternoon session runs from 14.00 to 17.00.

14:00 SC4: The Benefits of Immigration

Submitted by Policy Committee

Mover: Ewan McRobert Summator: Vita Zaporozcenko

Conference notes:

1. The analysis produced by the Scottish Government's chief economist in January 2018 which spelt out the benefits to the Scottish economy of EU migration.

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

2. That each additional EU citizen working in Scotland pays on average £10,400 in taxes and contribute £34,400 to GDP every year.

Conference believes that:

1. Immigration has a positive benefit to communities in the UK.
2. Immigration and freedom of movement within the EU enriches life in our country, beyond any economic benefit.
3. Workers from overseas pay more in tax than they receive in benefits and fill important gaps in the workforce.
4. The ageing population in the UK makes it essential for a fresh welcome to be given to citizens from the rest of the EU, and from outside the EU, to settle here and be part of a positive and long-term future.

Conference calls for:

1. The UK Government to prepare a full and accessible statement on the benefits of workers from overseas in terms of tax revenues, their contribution to economic growth, and the number of highly qualified posts in the NHS and other essential services that they fill.
2. The UK Government to abandon its arbitrary immigration cap, in line with the recommendation of the Home Affairs Committee, given it has undermined confidence in the immigration system, and made it hard for students and skilled workers to come to the UK.
3. The UK Government to change its visa requirements to make it easier for qualified staff from overseas to take up hard-to-fill vacancies in the NHS across the UK, including making sure potential NHS workers are not shut out by excessive minimum salary requirements or additional charges for accessing the NHS.
4. The Scottish Government to continue to give a welcome to overseas workers by continuing to allow EU citizens to vote in elections in Scotland.

Amendment

Submitted by Tweeddale Lauderdale and Midlothian South Liberal Democrats

1. In the 'Conference notes' section, insert new point 3: "Scotland has, three years earlier, met its obligation to accept 2,000 Syrian refugees over five years as part of the UK's Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme."
2. In the 'Conference notes' section, insert new point 4: "The UK government has shamefully halted the 'Dubs Scheme' that was intended to bring around 3,000 child refugees into the country."
3. In the 'Conference believes' section, insert new point 5: 'Having met its target early, Scotland can and should accept more refugees'.
4. In the 'Conference calls for' section, insert new point 5: The Scottish Government to write to the UK government to request that the Dubs amendment be reinstated on the basis that any children brought into the UK following its re-implementation will be the responsibility of Scottish local authorities (retaining the target of 3,000 child refugees to be resettled over five years)."
5. In the 'Conference calls for' section, insert new point 6: "Set a new target for Scotland's participation in the Syrian refugee resettlement programme, over and above the original agreement of 10% over five years, in consultation with local authorities."

Cards:

Move – Ewan McRobert, Central, called

Amendment – John Ferry, Midlothian South, Tweeddale & Lauderdale, called

Sum Up - Vita Zaporozcenko, Edinburgh West, called

Amd Sum Up – Kris Chapman, Borders, called

Jacquie Bell, North Edinburgh and Leith, not called

James Calder, Dunfermline & West Fife, not called

Calum Paterson, Central, called

David Ross Carruthers, Perth & Kinross, called – against lines 30-33 ('Calls for' item 3.)

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Luke Graham, Caithness Sutherland & Easter Ross, called
Robert Leslie, Banff & Buchan Coast, called
Elizabeth Riches, North East Fife, called
William Hogg, Perth & Kinross, called
Christine Jardine, Edinburgh West, called

Votes:

Amendment – carried

Motion as amended – carried

14:40 Topical Discussion – Diversity

Submitted by Central Scotland Liberal Democrats

Conference notes:

1. Following the introduction of All Women Short Lists that 50% of our MPs are now Women.
2. That the party in Scotland is still very under-represented, especially at Parliamentary level, by people who identify as being BaME, disabled, LGBT, women or being from a low socio-economic background.
3. This is reflected in our membership which also comprises low numbers of people who identify as being either BaME, disabled, LGBT women or being from a low socio-economic background.
4. That the eight Westminster constituency seats held by the Scottish Party are amongst Scotland's 10 wealthiest constituencies.
5. The publication and findings of the Alderdice report.

Conference therefore believes:

1. That the promotion of the Party's values would be advantaged by a membership that more closely reflects the diversity of Scotland's population.
2. That the party, in all its bodies must make achieving this a priority, and a core part of our campaign strategy in achieving more elected representatives in Scotland.
3. That the party must change its culture to reflect the findings of the Alderdice report.
4. That the Scottish Party must continue to advance diversity and inclusion in each of gender, disability, LGBT and race.
5. That the Scottish Party should encourage those from low-socio economic backgrounds support their inclusion in the formal underrepresented groups covered in the EHRC Equality Act Guidance to Political Parties.
6. That our party must celebrate difference and individuality and the contribution that each individual can make to Scottish politics.

Cards:

Move – Paul McGarry, Central, called
Callum Leslie, Edinburgh North East and Leith, called
Penny Carruthers, Edinburgh South, called
Rebecca Bell, Edinburgh North & Leith, called
Yvonne Finlayson, Central, called
Katy Gordon, Glasgow, called

15: 10 Speech: Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

15:35 SC5: Establishing Real Freedom of Choice

Submitted by 26 members and Scottish Young Liberals

Mover: TBC Summator: Rebecca Bell

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Conference believes that:

1. Women, trans men and non-binary people have a right to make independent decisions over their reproductive health without interference by the state.
2. Access to reproductive healthcare is a human right.
3. Liberal Democrats champion the freedom, dignity and wellbeing of individuals, acknowledging and respecting their right to freedom of conscience.
4. Our responsibility for justice and liberty cannot be confined by national boundaries.

Conference notes:

1. Abortion law was devolved to the Scottish Parliament by the Scotland Act 2016.
2. Induced abortion is currently a crime throughout the UK, although the Abortion Act 1967 provides exceptions to the crime of administering or procuring an abortion in England, Wales and Scotland, and the common law allows some exceptions in Northern Ireland.
3. In 2017, several professional medical organisations backed calls from the British Pregnancy Advisory Service to remove abortion from criminal law:
 - a. The Royal College of Midwives' position statement on abortion says: "Abortion procedures should be regulated in the same way as all other procedures relating to women's healthcare."
 - b. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists voted in favour of updating their position, saying, "Abortion services should be regulated; however, abortion - for women, doctors and other healthcare professionals - should be treated as a medical, rather than a criminal issue."
 - c. The British Medical Association's annual representative meeting voted that regulation and limits on abortion should be subject to professional and regulatory (rather than criminal) sanctions.
4. The Aston University study "A Hard Enough Decision to Make" identifies the presence of anti-abortion protesters as a cause of stress, distress, anxiety, and intimidation to those providing and seeking reproductive healthcare. Women and clinic staff across the country report being followed, filmed, and harassed when trying to access or provide services. It concludes that limiting the presence of anti-abortion activists outside clinics would uphold the right of healthcare privacy.

Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:

1. Remove all criminal sanctions for receiving an abortion.
2. Remove all criminal sanctions for appropriately registered and regulated medical professionals providing a safe abortion.
3. Provide funding so that users of reproductive healthcare services are provided with enough specialist advice to make fully informed decisions.
4. enforce safe zones around abortion service providers so that those visiting can travel to them free of any harassment or pressure on their decision, and to make intimidation or harassment of abortion service users outside clinics, or on common transport routes to these services, illegal.
5. Provide funding to enable abortion clinics to provide their services free of charge to service users regardless of country of nationality or residency.

Cards:

Move – Jess Insall, Stirling & Clackmannanshire, called

Sum Up - Rebecca Bell, SYLD, called

Katy Gordon, East Dunbartonshire, called

Caroline Macdonald, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called

Andrew Muir, Dumbarton, called

Andrew Nisbet, Dumbarton, called

Richard Coxon, Edinburgh North & Leith, called

David Stephens, Edinburgh North & Leith, called, Sep vote to Delete secs 1,2 & 5 in 'Calls for'

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Votes:

Delete Sections 1 in 'Calls for' – Section is retained

Delete Sections 2 in 'Calls for' – Section is retained

Delete Sections 5 in 'Calls for' – Section is retained

Motion (unamended) – carried clearly

16:30 Constitutional Amendment Session

Copies of the Constitutional Amendments will be available at Conference, or can be made available to members on request by contacting the Chair of your Local Party.

Amendment 1: Passing Constitutional Amendments at Conference

Submitted by Executive Committee

Mover: Sheila Ritchie Summator: Sheila Ritchie

In Clause L1, delete:

“This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the Annual General Meeting of the Party or at a special Conference called for the purpose.”

and replace with

“This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the Conference”.

Consequential Amendment to Amendment 1

Delete “This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the Conference”.

And replace with ‘This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the Annual General Meeting of the Party or, if proposed by the Executive, at any other Conference’

Amendment 2: Name of Scottish Young Liberals

Submitted by Scottish Young Liberals

Mover: Christopher Wilson Summator: Christopher Wilson

In Clause E10, replace “Liberal Youth Scotland” with “Scottish Young Liberals”.

In Clause F37, replace “Liberal Youth Scotland” with “Scottish Young Liberals”.

In Clause G2, “Liberal Youth Scotland” with “Scottish Young Liberals”.

Amendment 3: Scottish Young Liberal Membership of Executive Committee

Submitted by Scottish Young Liberals

Mover: Christopher Wilson Summator: Christopher Wilson

In Clause F23, insert new Paragraph c: “one member appointed by Scottish Young Liberals;” and renumber subsequent Paragraphs accordingly.

Cards:

Move Amd 1 – Sheila Ritchie, Convenor, called

Move Amds 2 & 3 – Callum Paterson, Central

Richard Coxon, Edinburgh North and Leith, called

Callum Leslie, Edinburgh North & Leith, called

Kevin Lang, Edinburgh West, called

Votes:

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Consequential Amd to Amd 1 - defeated

Amendment 1 (Where Present) – Count – For 29 Against 19 – not 2/3 majority so amendment falls

Amendment 2 (SYL Name) – carried

Amendment 3 (SYL on Exec) – carried

17.00 - 18:00 FRINGE MEETINGS

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

SATURDAY 21 APRIL

The morning session runs from 10.00 to 12.30.

10.00 Party AGM and Business Motions

Accounts - approved

10:00 Business Motion 1: Party Internship

Submitted by North Edinburgh and Leith Liberal Democrats

Mover: Rebecca Bell Summator: Rebecca Bell

Conference believes that the party needs to continue expanding its membership and widening access to different groups in society, in particular BAME.

Conference recognises that the industry of politics is more accessible to those who have been through Higher Education, or who have external means that can fund them through unpaid internships or work experience, resulting in an increase in the chance of full time employment in their chosen field.

Conference denounces that the consequence of this means that recruitment by political parties is unfairly weighted towards those from a privileged backgrounds.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to diversity in the workforce, widening access to politics, attracting members from a variety of backgrounds and promoting our agenda of equality and opportunity.

Conference calls on the leadership to:

1. Set up a fund for a new role of an intern, who will work for the party for a year of employment. To encourage donation, the party will make clear when fundraising that donations will be ring-fenced for this role, with the aim of securing the funds and recruiting the intern by Autumn Conference 2020.
 - a. During the year of employment, the intern/s will spend time working at Clifton Terrace and in at least one Constituency office. The split of this contract will be depend on the skill-set of the application and be agreed between the employee and the officer bearers.
 - b. The party manager will be the line manager, who together with the office bearers will write the job description and advertise the role for a minimum of 1 month.
 - c. The precise details of the role will depend on the candidate's skill-set and background and the location of employment will be agreed when the position is offered to a candidate.
 - d. The aim of the internship is to increase access to politics. The position will be open to all applicants but when two candidates are being considered with equal merit, protected characteristics as described in the Equalities Act will be taken into consideration.
 - e. The internship will be open to all adults, 16 and above, and the wage will be at least the living wage, but dependent upon experience and the amount raised for the fund.

Cards:

Move – Rebecca Bell, Edinburgh North & Leith, called

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Jess Insall, Stirling & Clackmannanshire, not called
Katy Gordon, East Dunbartonshire, not called
Jennifer Lang, Edinburgh North & Leith, called
Isobel Davidson, Aberdeen West, called, Reference Back requested

Votes:

Hear the reference back – carried, so will be heard
Reference Back - defeated
Motion - carried

10:50 SC6: Support for Local Economies

Submitted by Policy Committee

Mover: Isobel Davidson Summator: Isobel Davidson

Conference notes:

1. The proposals to close 52 branches of the Royal Bank of Scotland and to consider closure of a further 10 in December 2018.
2. The closure of 6,000 UK post offices under the Conservatives in the 1990s and the plans for 2,500 closures under the 1997 Labour Government until the Coalition halted the closure plan.
3. The closure of public counters in police stations and local courts in towns across Scotland despite the Scottish Government's avowed "High Street first" policy.
4. The recommendations of the party's Campbell Commission on local power which recommended giving a duty on national and local public authorities to respond to requests from communities.

Conference believes that:

1. Closures of community facilities by private companies and state agencies has harmed local economies.
2. Communities should be empowered to lead the retention and revival of community facilities, especially when the last facility in an area is earmarked for closure.
3. The closure of community assets should be treated with the same seriousness and rapid action as currently occurs when major employers close.

Conference calls for:

1. The UK Government to agree to use its major shareholding in Royal Bank of Scotland to halt closures and bring a more community-oriented approach to the bank's work.
2. The UK Government to explore with all banks how they can co-operate in shared banking hubs in smaller communities, to preserve face-to-face business and community access to financial services.
3. The Scottish Government to establish a rapid-reaction service, similar to the Partnership for Continuing Employment initiative that works when a large employer closes, to bring together all public agencies to explore how community assets, such as bank branches, post offices, police counters or pubs, can be maintained.
4. The Scottish Government to give a right for communities, through their local authority, to trigger the government rapid reaction service, to explore how threatened community facilities can be kept open, through different ownership, the use of shared premises as hubs or support from enterprise agencies.
5. Community groups and organisations to register their interest in assets of community value, which may currently be in the private sector, and for them to be given a fair chance to complete the eventual purchase or transfer of these assets.

Cards:

Move – Jamie Stone, Caithness & Sutherland & Easter Ross, called
Sum Up – Christine Jardine, Edinburgh West, called
Jacquie Bell, North Edinburgh & Leith, not called
Katy Gordon, East Dunbartonshire, called

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South, called
Bill Porteous, North East Fife, not called
Wendy Chamberlain, Dunfermline & West Fife, called
Caroline Macdonald, Edinburgh North & Leith, called
Michael Walker, West Edinburgh, called, Rqst sep vote on 'Calls for' item 1.
Margaret Kennedy, North East Fife, called
Christopher Wilson, Central, not called
Richard Coxon, Edinburgh North & Leith, called
Tom Inglis, Edinburgh South, called
Thomas Prag, Inverness Nairn Badenoch & Strathspey, called
Kenneth Macleod, Inverness Nairn Badenoch & Strathspey, not called

Votes:

Sep vote on 'Calls for' item 1 – item is retained
Motion – carried very clearly

11:20 SC7: Candidates at 16

Submitted by Scottish Young Liberals

Mover: Christopher Wilson Summator: Mariam Mahmood

Conference notes:

1. A quarter of 16-17 year olds joined political parties in the year following the 2014 Scottish independence referendum.
2. In 2015 the Scottish Parliament lowered the voting age for Scottish Parliament and Scottish local elections to 16.
3. The Electoral Reform Society notes that where they are given the opportunity to vote, 16-18 year olds have higher turnout than the 18-25 demographic.
4. The minimum age for someone to be eligible to stand as a candidate in Scottish elections is 18.

Conference welcomes the work of the Scottish Youth Parliament in encouraging democratic engagement amongst young people, and preparing young people to join campaigns and stand for election.

Conference believes that:

1. The arguments that have been successfully used to lower the voting age in Scottish elections can equally be applied to lowering the candidacy age.
2. The inconsistency between the candidacy and voting age is therefore unnecessary and needlessly confusing.
3. The expertise and experiences of young people in education could be critical in reversing a decade of decline under the SNP.

Conference calls on:

1. The UK government to pass a Section 30 order allowing the Scottish Parliament to lower the minimum age for candidacy in Scottish elections in line with the voting age.
2. The Scottish Parliament to lower the minimum age of candidacy in line with the voting age once it has the power to do so.
3. Scottish political parties to create a cross-party campaign for lowering the minimum age of candidacy in line with the voting age.
4. Scottish political parties to ensure that their internal candidate training programmes are open and fully accessible to 16 and 17 year olds. This should include a year's shadowing of a parliamentarian and/or experience of an election campaign assisting a candidate.

Amendment to SC7: Candidates at 16

Submitted by Conference Committee

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Mover: Isobel Davidson

Replace 'Conference calls on' Points 1 and 2 (lines 25 – 30) with new Point 1: "The Scottish Parliament to lower the minimum age of candidacy in line with the voting age for elections to Scottish local authorities and the Scottish Parliament."

Cards:

Move – Christopher Wilson, called

Amendment – Isobel Davidson, Aberdeen West

Sum Up - Mariam Mahmood, North East & Central Fife, called

Alex ColeHamilton, Edinburgh West, called

Rod Ackland, East Dunbartonshire, called, rqst for Sep vote on final sentence

James Calder, Dunfermline & West Fife, not called

Lorna Cammock, South Lanarkshire, called

Malcolm Wood, Edinburgh West, called

Mhari Macdonald, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called

Kris Chapman, Borders, called

Jack Caldwell, Edinburgh North & Leith, not called

Votes:

Sep Vote on final sentence – not taken

Amendment – carried

Motion as amendment - carried

12:05 EM2: Escalation of conflict in Syria

Submitted by 5 members

Mover: Jo Swinson Summator: Christine Jardine

Conference deeply regrets:

1. The chemical weapons attack on Douma on 7 April which killed more than 40 people
2. the on-going civil war in Syria, in which around half a million people have been killed over the last seven years, and more than half the population internally or internationally displaced
3. The UK Government's commitment to take just 20,000 refugees from Syria by 2020
4. The UK Government decision to reduce its commitment under the Dubs Amendment to the 2016 Immigration Act from taking 3,000 unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to taking just 480.
5. The slow rate at which the UK Government is filling the 480 spaces for unaccompanied refugee children from Europe as to date just over 220 of these spaces have been filled
6. The failure of the international community to prevent an escalation of the conflict in Syria over the last seven years.

Conference notes the potential for humanitarian disaster in the rebel-held city of Idlib.

Conference condemns:

1. The indiscriminate attacks by the Syrian government on its own civilian citizens in Eastern Ghouta, with reports of more than 1,400 deaths over the last month
2. The Syrian Government's, and their Russian allies', refusal to adhere to a UN mandated ceasefire, and their continued violation of international humanitarian law
3. The UK Government decision not to recall Members of Parliament to debate and vote on UK military action in Syria

Conference calls on the UK government to:

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

1. Uphold the convention that Members of Parliament debate and vote on military action, except in the event of an emergency, when a debate and vote should immediately follow
2. Work with partners in Europe and the rest of the world to achieve a fresh, internationally-backed peace process in an effort to bring to an end the conflict in Syria and the suffering which it causes
3. Provide urgent asylum in the UK to the most critically wounded civilians in need of evacuation from Douma and the rest of the Eastern Ghouta region
4. Reopen the Dubs scheme to take 3,000 unaccompanied refugee children from Europe and act quickly and safely in bringing them over to the UK
5. Continue to provide financial and technical support to countries in the region directly and via the European Union, in particular Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, who are hosting the vast majority of Syrian refugees
6. Increase the overall number of refugees which Britain will take by 2020 to 50,000.

Cards:

Move – Jo Swinson, East Dunbartonshire
Christine Jardine, Edinburgh West, called
Gordon Adam, Ross Skye & Lochaber, called, request for sep vote on 'Conference calls on' Item 1
Jacqui Bell, Edinburgh North and Leith, called

Votes:

Sep Vote on 'Calls for' Item 1 – lines are retained
Motion – carried clearly

12.30 - 15.15 LUNCH

12.45 - 13.45 FRINGE MEETINGS
14.00 - 15.00 FRINGE MEETINGS

The afternoon session runs from 15.15 to 17.00.

15:15 Education Working Group Consultation Session

A chance for members to feed in to the Policy Committee's Education Working Group.

16:25 Speech: Vince Cable MP, Federal Leader of the Liberal Democrats

16:45 Party Awards

Award	For	Recipient
The Ray Michie Quaich	Membership	Flora Sharp, Edinburgh West
The SLDW Quaich	Diversity	Edinburgh West
The Robin McSkimming Award		Not awarded
The Russell Johnston Trophy	Speech to Conference	Katy Gordon
The John Morrison award	Local Govt	Derek Barrie
The Sheila Tennant award	LYS member	Jess Insall

17.00 Close of Conference

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

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:

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

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.

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

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.

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

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.

Spring Conference 20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

- 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.