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The morning session runs from 10.00 to 12.30

10.00 Conference opens

10:00 Welcome address

10:10 Report back on diversity by Willie Rennie MSP

10:15 SC1: Increasing involvement of young people in public service

Submitted by Policy Committee

Mover: Christopher Wilson Summator: Jenny Marr

Conference notes:

A. The establishment of the Scottish Youth Parliament in 1999 with the values of democracy, rights, inclusion and political impartiality;

B. That 2018 has been designated the Year of Young People.

Conference believes:

A. The involvement of young people in public life can be increased by giving more powers and responsibility to the democratically elected Scottish Youth Parliament.

Conference calls for:

1. The Scottish Youth Parliament to be given a greater role in shaping and reviewing public services used by young people;
2. The Scottish Youth Parliament to be given responsibility for initiating, scoping, and supervising the review of school counselling services, overdue for action under the current Scottish Government;
3. A right for the Scottish Youth Parliament to nominate a representative to serve on the boards of public bodies, starting with Education Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, the Scottish Funding Council and NHS Health Scotland;
4. The Scottish Government to work with the Scottish Youth Parliament to develop a range of services for young people that could be operated by the Scottish Youth Parliament.

Amendment

Submitted by East Dunbartonshire Lib Dems

Replace “Controlling” in 1. With “Reviewing”

Cards:

Move – Christopher Wilson, SYLD, called, M

Amendment – Katy Gordon, East Dunbartonshire, called, F

Sum Up – Jenny Marr, called, F

Kris Chapman, Borders, called, M

Ben Lawrie, Angus & Mearns, called, M

CLlr Tim Brett, NE Fife, called, M

Jeremy Purvis, Tweeddale Lauderdale & Midlothian, called, M

Christine Jardine, Edinburgh West, called, F

Dave Gorman, Central, not called, M

Votes:

Amendment – carried

Motion as amended – carried

10:45 SC2: Housing Standards

Submitted by the Policy Committee

Mover: Kris Chapman Summator: Isobel Davidson

Conference believes:

1. There is a housing crisis in Scotland;
2. Every person has the right to a safe, secure, sustainable and warm home;
3. Improving the quality of new and existing housing stock is critical to achieving wider aims such as tackling climate change, creating green jobs, eliminating fuel poverty and improving public health;
4. A house building and regeneration programme would stimulate the economy;

5. The Grenfell Tower tragedy compels the Scottish and UK Governments and relevant public agencies to ensure housing safety standards and their implementation are fit for purpose.

Conference notes:

- a. Heat accounts for over half of Scotland's energy use;
- b. 750,000 households across Scotland are in fuel poverty, with the rate as high as 65% in Orkney;
- c. The Scottish Government has published a Draft Climate Change Action Plan and will also introduce a Warm Homes Bill in 2018;
- d. Responsibility for maintenance works and upgrades to common property in shared residential buildings, such as tenements, is commonly shared equally between owners, but work is too often ad hoc and significant work can unreasonably be prevented from occurring by a single owner;
- e. Under the Tenement Management Scheme, decisions on maintenance (including repairs and replacement, cleaning and day-to-day running) can be taken by a simple majority of owners but decisions about improvements must be unanimous;
- f. Dissatisfaction with property factors remains high, despite industry registration and a code of conduct;
- g. The threat Brexit and the current UK Government's policies pose to the ability of businesses associated with the construction industry and consumers to find the skills they need, jeopardising house building and regeneration.
- h. The ongoing Scottish ministerial review of building and fire safety regulatory frameworks and standards.

Conference calls for:

- A. The Scottish Government to build 50,000 affordable homes within this Parliament, 40,000 of which would be for social rent, to the highest possible safety and green standards, including the mandatory incorporation of renewable energy systems;
- B. A robust presumption that all new homes are built with a source of low-carbon heat;
- C. The Scottish Parliament to set new statutory targets to eradicate fuel poverty and for the Scottish Government to back these with sufficient resources, establish a clear delivery programme and report back to MSPs regularly on progress;
- D. The Warm Homes Bill to include provisions to enable those living in shared residential buildings to agree and secure upgrades, with consideration given to improvements only requiring majority support;
- E. Regulations to encourage responsible, transparent and fair factoring, recognising the important role they play in maintaining and enhancing the fabric of the housing stock;
- F. Factors to be given a greater obligation to ensure that housing is fit for purpose, including a responsibility to inform residents of the opportunities, and benefits of, making green upgrades.
- G. Immigration policies that fully recognise the important contribution of migrant labour to house building and regeneration.

H. The Scottish ministerial review to ensure that safety standards and practices minimise completely the risk of a tragedy akin to the Grenfell Tower disaster.

I. The ministerial review to include clear recommendations for:

i. A thorough assessment by all responsible parties to ensure compliance with the latest British Standards of fire doors, dry risers, fire stops, fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, fire notices including those relating to evacuation procedures, in relevant domestic and commercial premises, and of the fitting of fire suppression systems therein;

ii. A mandatory requirement for all fire risk assessors to be qualified;

iii. The proper resourcing of the Fire and Rescue Service to guarantee its role in preventing and tackling fires.

Cards:

Move – Kris Chapman, Borders, called, M

Sum Up – Isobel Davidson,, called, F

Austin Reid, Central, called, M, rqst for separate vote on D on the words “easily” and “green”

Rebecca Bell, Edinburgh North & Leith, called, F

Elizabeth Wilson, East Lothian, not called, F

Hamish Mackenzie, Exec, called, M

Jeremy Mansfield, Glasgow North, called, M

Lin Macmillan, East Lothian, not called, F

Chris Buck, Glasgow, called, M

Hugh Waterfield, North Glasgow, not called, M

Votes:

Separate vote on Easily and Green – words are deleted

Motion as amended– carried

11:15 [Speech by Jo Swinson MP](#)

11:30 [SC3: Integration of ‘civil education’ into the high school curriculum](#)

Submitted by Scottish Young Liberals

Mover: Calum Paterson Summator: Christopher Wilson

Conference notes a systematic lack of knowledge of the workings of adult civilian life after school in high school students, including the payment of various forms of tax, contributing to the democratic system, seeking jobs, writing CVs and basic legal literacy.

Conference would also note:

A) That in England and Wales between 2002 and 2011, citizenship classes were compulsory for all 11-16 year olds, and were received well by parents, teachers and students alike.

Conference recognises:

a) The large amount of political apathy in the 16-18 voting demographic in Scotland; Conference would argue that should compulsory education on the democratic process be introduced to the

curriculum, more young people in this cohort will be inspired to vote at the time of an election and reduce the amount of spoiled ballots.

b) That although parents may also choose to educate their children in many of the areas highlighted in the preamble, Conference understands that some parents are unable to provide this for a plethora of reasons and that schools ultimately should carry this responsibility.

c) That although classes do exist, and are compulsory in the high school curriculum, Conference believes that the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Education Scotland has not done enough to ensure that these classes give adequate knowledge to high school students to be prepared for the realities of contributing adequately to society in the ways described in the preamble.

d) The lack of understanding of applying for jobs, paying tax and using bank accounts and loans can hinder opportunity and freedom for our young people to achieve their maximum potential.

Conference therefore calls upon the leadership and/or education spokesperson of the Scottish Liberal Democrats to:

1. Attempt to table a debate in Holyrood to integrate civil and citizenship education into the current curriculum, as a compulsory aspect of the CfE for all high school students. This education should cover tax payment, voting, opening bank accounts and their purpose, job seeking, budgeting for everyday expenses and education on the purpose and uses of mortgages and loans.

2. Conduct an internal review of the current curriculum and create a white paper advocating the inclusion of said civil education which can be publicised.

3. Continue to hold the Cabinet Secretary for Education to account over the lack of citizenship and civil education taught in schools.

4. Include a proposal for civil education to be integrated into the secondary school curriculum in the 2021 Holyrood manifesto.

Cards:

Move – Calum Paterson, Central Scotland, called, M

Sum Up – Christopher Wilson, Central Scotland, called, M

Austin Reid, Central, called, M

Carole Ford, Glasgow South, called, F

Jack Caldwell, Edinburgh North & Leith, called, M

Cllr Kris Chapman, Borders, called, M, request for separate vote to remove the word PHSE throughout

Christopher Park, East Renfrewshire, called, M

Votes:

Separate vote on PHSE – word is removed throughout

Motion as amended – carried

12:00 SC4: Tackling pension inequality faced by women born in the 1950s

Submitted by West Edinburgh Liberal Democrats

Mover: Christine Jardine MP Summator: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Conference notes:

1. The pensionable age changes of 1995 and 2011 for women born in the 1950s was implemented in such a way that many of those affected were unaware of the implications until shortly before they retired.
2. This late awareness made it impossible for many of those women to plan adequately for their retirement causing hardship and, in many cases, poverty.
3. A widespread campaign has now emerged calling for compensation for those affected by the way in which the changes of 1995 and 2011 were implemented.
4. A Bill, sponsored by members of the All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pensions Inequality for Women Born in the 1950s, was placed before the House of Commons on September 7, 2017 and is scheduled for its second reading in April 2018.

Conference believes:

1. That changes to pensionable age were poorly communicated to those women affected by them.
2. The unfairness faced by those women born in the 1950s and adversely affected by the implementation of these changes should be addressed.
3. That the Scottish Liberal Democrats should support the women in calling for a review of the way they were treated and for an investigation into an appropriate level of compensation.

Conference Calls for:

1. The Scottish Liberal Democrats to support the Bill in Westminster, and encourage other parties' MPs to do so as well, and similarly back the nationwide campaign to achieve justice and equality in pensions for women born in the 1950s.
2. To support the call for a review of the implementation of the system and an investigation of the potential costs of a compensatory scheme.
3. To also press the Scottish Government to take steps to alleviate the situation for women in Scotland affected by this injustice.

Cards:

Move – Christine Jardine MP, called, F
Sum Up – Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, called, M
Jacquie Bell, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called, F
Jennifer Boag, Inverclyde, called, F
Flora Sharp, Edinburgh West, called, F
Lin Macmillan, East Lothian, called, F
Malcolm Wood, Edinburgh West, called, M
Lorna Cammock, Lanarkshire, called, F

Votes:

Motion – carried

12.30-14.00 Lunch

The afternoon session runs from 14.00 to 17.00

14:00 EM1: Emergency Motion – Paradise Papers

Submitted by Orkney Lib Dems

Conference believes that the use of complex corporate structures to maintain secrecy and avoid taxation impoverishes both our economy and our democracy, and that furthermore such structures can both impede accountability for criminal acts and terrorism,

Conference recognises the public service performed by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists in revealing, through the Paradise Papers, how powerful companies and wealthy individuals are able to avoid tax by using artificial offshore vehicles and arrangements.

Conference notes that:

- i. The UK last year launched a public register of beneficial owners – conceived by the Coalition Government – and plans to introduce a register of persons with significant control for companies engaging in public contracts in England or purchasing land or property in the UK; British Overseas Territories, however, have been reluctant to implement transparency measures.
- ii. The European Union has been a key institution in defining standards and strategies for combatting offshore tax avoidance and money laundering; Britain's vote to leave the EU casts doubt on our future commitments and ability to tackle these issues.

Conference believes that:

- a. The global proliferation of tax havens and offshore wealth deprives governments of essential tax revenues and facilitates the financing of corruption, organised crime and terrorism,
- b. The UK should use its privileged position in relation to its overseas territories – many of which are tax havens – to crack down on offshore tax avoidance and evasion.
- c. Regardless of Brexit, we should continue to support and push for common standards with the European Union to support transparency in company ownership and combat economic crime.

Conference calls for:

1. British Overseas Territories to be given a fixed deadline to implement public registers of beneficial company ownership.
2. IF the Overseas Territories miss the deadline, the UK government to introduce legislation forcing them to create public registers and addressing any obvious formal avoidance mechanisms.
3. The Government to consider blacklisting tax havens – including its own Overseas Territories – that refuse to improve transparency, banning entities registered in them from bidding for public contracts or doing business in the UK.
4. Any renegotiation of our relationship with the EU to include supporting the EU's work in tackling tax evasion and money laundering.

Cards:

Move – Alastair Carmichael, Orkney & Shetland, called, M
Robert Brown, Rutherglen, called, M
Galen Milne, Stirling & Clackmannanshire, called, M
Yvonne Finlayson, Central Scotland, called, F
Malcolm Bruce, Aberdeenshire West, called, M
Neil Ross, Edinburgh South, called, M
Chris Buck, Glasgow, called, M

Votes:

Motion – Carried

14:40 Speech by Willie Rennie MSP

15:00 Discussion/Q&A: 'Exit from Brexit?'

Your opportunity to share your views on the Scottish Liberal Democrat position on Brexit and ask questions of an expert panel.

15:40 SC5: Gender neutral school uniform

Submitted by Jess Insall and 26 Members

Mover: Jess Insall Summator: Alison Monk

Conference notes:

- i) Many schools in Scotland follow discriminatory school uniform policies, where pupils are required to change their appearance based on their gender and girls are often forced to wear restrictive and objectifying uniforms.
- ii) The negative gender stereotypes that discriminatory school uniforms encourage are detrimental for all genders.
- iii) Uniform policies that only accommodate binary genders are severely detrimental and exclusionary for non-binary and transgender pupils. According to statistics from Stonewall, 64% of transgender pupils experience bullying at school (2017). Binary uniform policies encourage exclusion and may contribute to this bullying.

Conference believes that:

- A) Non prescriptive gender neutral uniform policies are more inclusive to all genders.
- B) Requiring schools to provide inclusive uniform policies decreases gender stereotyping and encourages pupils to challenge negative gender roles.
- C) Non-binary students deserve equality, and this cannot be achieved without providing suitable school uniform policy.
- D) Teaching children that their gender should not define their choices is an important step towards gender equality.

E) Giving girls the more practical option of trousers will encourage participation in physical activities and decrease the harmful focus on "ideal" feminine body image.

Conference calls for:

1. The Scottish Government to require that schools provide inclusive, nonprescriptive, gender neutral school uniform policies.
2. The government to provide support and advice to schools adapting or changing their policies to make them more inclusive.
3. Awareness of the detrimental effect that discriminatory school uniforms have on girls, and to a heightened extent, on transgender and non-binary pupils.
4. Adequate training for school staff on how to review and improve their school uniform policies.

Amendment

Submitted by Ross Stalker and members

Delete "The requirement that schools provide" from 1. And replace with either

Option A: The Scottish Government to require that schools provide

Of

Option B: "Schools to provide"

Cards:

Move – Jess Insall, Stirling & Clackmannanshire, called, F

Amd – Ross Stalker,, called, M

Sum Up – Alison Monk, Edinburgh West, called, F

James Green, North East Fife, called, M

Robert Skilleter, Stirling & Clackmannanshire, called, M

Callum Paterson, Central Scotland, called, M

Sanne Dykstra-Downie, Edinburgh North & Leith, called, F

Jo Swinson, East Dunbartonshire, called, F

Votes:

Amendment Option A or B – Option A selected

Amendment (Option A) – carried

Motion as amended – carried

16:20 SC6: New model of health provision fit for remote and rural areas

Submitted by Policy Committee

Mover: Dr Jean Davis Summator: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

A new model of health provision fit for remote and rural areas

Conference notes:

1. Growing concern about the centralisation of health services, for example maternity services, but also extending to other clinical specialisms.
2. 20 per cent of the population live in rural Scotland and that the Scottish Government's National Clinical Strategy has accepted that there is a problem in providing health services to those areas.
3. Comments in the NHS Education for Scotland report of 2013 that the Scottish Government's 20:20 vision for health is "light on any focus on rurality";
4. Concern exposed in the 2016 work between the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the Nuffield Trust that the NHS undervalues the strength of leadership skills and autonomous practice developed by its remote and rural workforce;
5. Frustration expressed in the British Medical Journal that strong Rural Generalist schemes developing in Australia and Canada are not being replicated in the UK;
6. Wide acknowledgment that NHS training takes place in large urban centres and this makes subsequent careers in rural areas less attractive;
7. Criticism in the Audit Scotland report of July 2017 that the Scottish Government has not looked properly at future healthcare demands when developing its workforce plan;
8. That the health boards with the highest numbers of older consultants and fewer trainees are the three islands health boards.
9. The admission in its workforce plan that the Scottish Government does not fully take into account local demographics when estimating the number of clinicians due to retire.

Conference believes that:

- a. Growing centralisation of specialist health services into only one or two centres of excellence, puts at risk equitable access for the large section of the population who live in remote and rural areas;
- b. NHS staff, particularly in remote and rural areas, should be entitled to satisfying and well-supported careers and, despite repeated governmental reports, the best practice from the UK, Australia and Canada is still not being adopted enough in Scotland;
- c. Brexit puts at risk the ability of the Scottish NHS to recruit and retain skilled staff from the European Union. Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:
 - A. Construct a better model of healthcare provision in remote and rural areas that: allows people who live there to have excellent services without excessive centralisation; supports clinicians delivering general services; and provides well-supported and rewarding careers for new practitioners.
 - B. Accept that a new model will need changes in professional education to develop generic skills, changes to job design to help create clinical networks, and in payment and resource allocation, and will need new work with the royal colleges to reform the regulatory regime to allow new service and staffing models alongside more diverse ways of assessing quality;
 - C. Address the past failings of workforce planning by presenting an annual workforce report for debate in the Scottish Parliament, allowing MSPs from all parts of Scotland to highlight both weaknesses and good-practice.
 - D. Accept that Brexit poses a real threat to the recruitment and retention of NHS staff in Scotland.

Cards:

Move – Dr Jean Davis, Highlands, called, F
Sum Up – Alex Cole-Hamilton, Edinburgh West, called, M
Jacquie Bell, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called, F
Luke Graham, Caithness Sutherland & Easter Ross, called, M
Charlotte Hoagland, Caithness Sutherland & Easter Ross, called, F
Ross Carruthers, Perth & Kinross, called, M
Alan Reid, Argyll & Bute, called, M
John Grafton, Inverness, called, M
Euan McRobert, Central Scotland, called, M

Votes:

Motion – carried nem con

16:50 SC7: Subscriptions for 2018

Submitted by Finance and Membership Committee

Mover: Caron Lindsay Summator: Caron Lindsay

Conference notes that:

1. The subscription rates for 2017 are
 - Minimum - £12
 - Concession - £6
 - Recommended - £70
 - Special Fresher's Fair rate - £1
2. The inflation rate which in June 2017 was 2.9% and the impact that has on the party's costs.
3. That the Scottish Party has fought four national elections since the last time the recommended subscription was raised and has provided local parties with a deposit guarantee scheme in the three parliamentary elections.
4. The Finance and Membership Committee is proposing that the recommended rate should rise from £70 to £72. This is in line with proposed changes to the English subscription level.
5. The Finance and Membership Committee is proposing that there be no change in the Minimum, Concessionary, Youth and Student or Freshers' Fair subscription rates.

Conference therefore resolves that:

The recommended subscription rate for 2018 is increased to £72 and that the remaining subscription rates remain unchanged.

Cards:

Move/Sum Up – Caron Lindsay

Votes:

Motion – carried