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### The morning session runs from 10.00 to 12.30

Welcome to Conference

SC1: Fracking

Submitted by Policy Committee

Mover: Willie Rennie MSP Summator: Cllr Isobel Davidson

Conference reaffirms its belief that climate change represents one of the biggest threats to our way of life of earth.

Conference notes:

1. Motions at previous conferences on climate change and fracking;
2. The May 2016 Scottish Parliament manifesto which put the priority on tackling climate change;
3. That the manifesto opposed fracking in order to achieve overall consistency with the policy on climate change.

Conference calls on the Scottish Parliament to:

1. Oppose fracking onshore in Scotland, using the newly devolved powers over licensing and planning, to stop a new frontier being opened up for fossil fuels;
2. Support the development of renewable heat and a diverse range of other renewable energy technologies to achieve a future beyond fossil fuels.

### *Amendment*

Submitted by Graeme Cowie and 4 members

Mover: Graham Cowie

Add at line five (the end of point 1 of Conference Notes) after “fracking”:

“and in particular the decision of Sprint Conference 2016 in motion SC2: “Tackling climate change and protecting nature”, in which the membership decisively supported the lifting of the moratorium on fracking and declined to impose a blanket ban.”

Delete lines 8 and 9 (point 3 of Conference Notes) and replace with:

“That the Scottish Government’s independent Expert Scientific Panel – Report on Unconventional Oil And Gas of 2014 maintained (per page 45-46) that it was not possible to conclude whether permitting fracking in Scotland would give rise to a net increase or decrease in global greenhouse gas emissions. In particular it concluded that its impact would be determined in significant part by both the use of the extracted resource and its impact on the wider energy and petrochemical industries in Scotland.

Delete the lines 11-13 (point 1 of Conference calls on the Scottish Parliament) and replace with:

“1. Ensure comprehensive regulations of fracking in Scotland (using the new powers over licensing and planning being devolved to the Scottish Parliament) to guarantee that local authorities and communities have a democratic say on specific proposals to extract unconventional oil and gas in their areas.

2. Continuously model and monitor the impact of fracking operations in Scotland on net global emissions of greenhouse gases and impose a moratorium on further fracking if it emerges, having regard to Scotland’s statutory emissions targets in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, that fracking prevents those targets from being met.”

Renumber calls-on section.

### *Cards:*

Move & Sum Up – Willie Rennie MSP, Dunfermline & West Fife - called

Move Amd – Ewan Hoyle, Glasgow South - called

Amd Sum Up – Graham Cowie – called – NO CARD

Andrew Hassan, Abd West

Charlie Scott, Edinburgh South - called

Peter Barrett, P&K - called

Judy Hayman, East Lothian - called

Martin Veart, Edin NE&L - called

Robert Smith, Aberdeenshire West

Katy Gordon, Glasgow South - called

Charles J L Pfeil, Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath - called

Tom Leatherland, Dunfermline - called

Liam McArthur MSP, Orkney - called

James Dickinson, Angus & Mearns - called

Charles Dundas ENE&L - called

Denis Mollison, East Lothian

Paul McGarry, Central Scotland

Willie Robertson, P&K  
Trevor Nicholson, Edinburgh West

*Votes:*

Amendment - defeated

Motion – carried

### SC2: Subscriptions for 2017

Submitted by Finance and Membership Committee

Mover: Caron Lindsay Summator: Caron Lindsay

Conference notes that:

1. The subscription rates for 2016 are

• Minimum - £12

• Concession - £6

• Recommended - £70

• Special Fresher's Fair rate - £1

2. The Finance and Membership Committee is proposing that there be no increase in the recommended rate or the Minimum, Concessionary, Youth and Student or Freshers' Fair subscription rates for 2017.

Conference therefore resolves that all subscription rates remain unchanged for 2017.

*Cards:*

Move – Sheila Thomson

*Votes:*

Motion - carried

### SC3: Gender pay gap

Submitted by Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Liberal Democrats

Mover: Cllr Carolyn Caddick Summator: Cllr Jean Davies

Conference notes:

1. That in 2016, despite the Equal Pay Act of 1970 and the Equality Act of 2010, there is still a significant gender pay gap in Scotland.

2. New research by the Chartered Management Institute finds that men in Scotland are paid nearly £11,000 a year more than women, and that, in the past year in Scotland, the gender pay gap was 29.2% - the worst regional gap in the United Kingdom.

Conference also notes:

A. Estimates that, at the current rate of progress, it will take over 50 years to close the gap for full time workers.

B. Women working in Scotland are more likely to be concentrated in certain industries, and roles predominantly done by women are undervalued and underpaid.

C. The gap is wider for older women, BME women, women in certain occupational sectors, such as skilled trades and women on higher earnings.

D. A report by the Institute of Fiscal Studies on 23.8.16 stated that women in the UK returning to work after having a baby, fall even further behind men in earning power.

E. Important factors in the gap include discrimination, undervaluing of roles predominantly done by women, dominance of men in best paid positions and unequal caring responsibilities.

F. Apprenticeships are publicly funded but, currently, the ones in the highest paid sectors are dominated by men - 94% of UK engineering apprentices are men, and 95% of health and social care apprentices are women. There is a £2000 gender pay gap at apprenticeship level.

G. Over 60% of those earning less than the Living Wage are women.

H. The introduction of employment tribunal fees has resulted in an 80% drop in women bringing discrimination claims.

I. While in government, the Liberal Democrats pushed for legislation that requires private and third sector organisations with 250 or more employees to publish their gender pay gap and gender differences in bonus payments and this will be introduced from 1st October 2016.

Conference believes that a gender pay gap is totally against the principles of the Party which rejects all discrimination based on colour, race, religion, age, disability, sex or sexual orientation and is determined to fight to consign the gender pay gap to history.

Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:

1. Encourage employers to advertise jobs at all levels in their organisation as flexible, part-time or a job share unless there is a strong business case not to.

2. Encourage all employers to become living wage employers since over 60% of those earning less than the living wage are women.

Conference further calls for:

1. The Scottish Government to set a target for a 50:50 split of all apprenticeships between men and women particularly in the highest paid sectors such as engineering.

2. The Scottish Government to build on the extension of free childcare by investing in our childcare infrastructure so we have affordable, flexible and high quality care for children to help more families balance work and care.

3. The UK Government to launch a commission to examine public policy initiatives that increase gender balance in the boardroom in other EU countries and how such policies could be introduced into British business.

#### *Amendment*

Submitted by Paisley & Renfrewshire Lib Dems

Delete Lines 53-54 (Further Calls item 1) and replace with:

1. The Scottish Government to set a target of a 50:50 male female gender split of the total of all publically funded apprenticeships, and agree appropriate targets and action plans for each sector with industry to achieve significant steps towards gender balance year on year, particularly in the highest paid sectors such as engineering.

*Cards:*

Move – Cllr Carolyn Caddick, INB&S – called – NO CARD

Sum Up – Cllr Jean Davis, INB&S - called

Move Amd – Katy Gordon, Paisley & Renfrew - called

Amd Sum Up – Eileen McCartin, Renfrewshire - called

Trish Robertson, INB&S - called

Sheila Thomson, ASN&K - called

Alisdair Gilbert, NE&C Fife

Christine Jardine, Abd East

Yvonne Finlayson, Central Scotland

*Votes:*

Amendment - carried

Motion as amended - carried

SC4: Restoring local democracy to the Scottish planning system

Submitted by Aberdeenshire West Liberal Democrats

Mover: Cllr Peter Argyle Summator: Cllr Karen Clark

Conference notes the Scottish Government's response to the independent panel review of the Scottish Planning System has ruled out any introduction of a third party or equal right of appeal despite the review stating it wished to improve the system whilst involving local communities in decision making.

Conference observes that many Scottish communities feel disenfranchised by the current system of Planning Appeals. Final decisions are taken remotely by Scottish Government officials without any local democratic involvement. Members of the community who have been fully engaged during the early stages of the planning process feel excluded from Appeals to the Reporter and Ministers.

Conference believes action is required to acknowledge and to address this "democratic deficit" as there is growing discontent across our communities with the planning system, the Scottish Government's interventions in it and the extent to which power is being centralised in the planning process.

Conference further believes that a radical approach fundamentally to rebalance power in favour of local decision-making is needed to speed up the process of determination. An end must be brought to the present "lottery" whereby a single Reporter can reach a completely different decision from that reached by elected councillors on a planning committee, based on exactly the same policies, material considerations and background information.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

- i) Restore power to the hands of local communities, elected members, councils and planning authorities; and

ii) Press the Scottish Government to ensure communities have genuine voice in the planning appeals system.

Conference therefore calls on Liberal Democrat parliamentarians to promote and support proposals for a radical change to the process of Planning Appeals, such that the Reporters could only assess whether the determination by a Planning Committee was “reasonable”. This assessment would use the same tests that are presently used for determining whether costs should be awarded against a council to the appellant. This significant change would mean Reporters would no longer be able to change or reverse a decision that was “reasonable”.

*Cards:*

Move – Cllr Peter Argyle, Aberdeenshire West - called

Sum Up – Cllr Karen Clark - called

Jacquie Bell, East Lothian - called

Paul Melling, ACS&NK - called

Beryl Leatherland, Dunf & W Fife - called

Matthew Hall, Dunfermline - called

Richard Moore, Angus & Mearns – called

Neil Ross, Edinburgh South – called

Willie Wilson, P&K - called

*Votes:*

Motion - carried

Report back on diversity by Willie Rennie MSP

Questions

12.30-14.00 Lunch

12.45-13.45 Fringe meetings

The afternoon session runs from 14.00 to 17.00.

EM1: Emergency Motion – Rail as an alternative to Heathrow airport expansion

Submitted by Martin Bowie & 4 reps

Conference reaffirms its belief that climate change and the resulting environmental destruction represents one of the biggest threats to our way of life.

Conference Notes:-

1. That the proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Heathrow would contribute to both of the above.
2. That climate change is a global phenomenon, and therefore will affect Scotland.
3. That railways are more environmentally benign than air travel.
4. That little or no progress has been made on bringing the vision for a Trans-European Rail Network to Great Britain and to Scotland.

Conference believes:

1. We have a responsibility to invest in low carbon public transport.
2. The UK and Scottish Government’s support for the expansion of Heathrow flies in the face of their climate and environmental commitments.
3. There is significant scope to build on the domestic growth in rail travel.

4. That modal transfer to railways for travel internal to Europe would help to obviate the demand for greater airport capacity.

Conference calls for Liberal Democrat parliamentarians:

1. To continue to oppose Heathrow expansion and the unlimited growth of aviation
2. The UK & Scottish Governments to prioritise investment in the domestic rail network and travel, reducing the need for more damaging short-haul flights.
3. The UK and Scottish Governments to intensify work towards delivering a High Speed Rail network that covers the whole of the UK, with a route through to Scotland from London providing the benefits of an onward high speed connection to Europe.
4. The UK and Scottish Governments to seek to develop deeper links with the Trans European Rail network.

*Cards:*

Move - Martin Bowie, Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath - called  
David Carruthers, Perth - called  
Peter Argyle, Aberdeenshire West - called  
Dr Peter Brett, Edinburgh South - called  
James Calder, Dunfermline - called  
Alison Barrett, Galloway - called

*Votes:*

Separate vote lines 20-23 – lines are removed

Motion as amended – carried

Speech by Willie Rennie MSP

Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

SC5: Make Councils work for you

Submitted by Association of Scottish Liberal Democrat Councillors

Mover: Cllr Robert Brown Summator: Cllr Isobel Davidson

Conference believes that Liberal Democrat local government should work for local people, be passionate about the common good and should remove barriers to allow communities to take decisions that are best for their areas.

Conference calls for Liberal Democrat candidates in 2017 to campaign in every part of Scotland as local champions committed to meet the needs of their area, based on the Liberal Democrat priorities contained in Make Councils Work For You – Scottish Liberal Democrat Priorities for Local Government as part of an attitude of “can do, will do” that will build the conditions for liberty and social justice, fight poverty and create opportunity:

*A. Council powerhouses for the community:*

1. Remove the barriers to people participating in their community and in local democracy by making sure councils use plain English to explain their plans, and that local people have more chance to be involved at an early stage in decisions that affect them or their neighbourhood;

2. Build the capacity of local community and voluntary organisations so they can do more in their areas, including running local services such as community halls, libraries, advice centres, post offices or café facilities as appropriate;
3. Use the power of councils to bring different services and agencies together to serve local areas better, for example by shared service hubs;
4. Help communities influence the local priorities of Police Scotland.

*B. Scottish education the best in the world for every young person:*

5. Make sure extra money reaches schools to increase attainment for all pupils and to close the gap that exists between children from poorer backgrounds and their classmates;
6. Give powers to headteachers, working with parents, to take decisions on the budget, staffing and ethos of their school;
7. Help looked-after children get the best out of education, by developing best practice as the corporate parent;
8. Use informal education, through youth work and clubs, to raise attainment, especially for those young people from disadvantaged backgrounds;
9. Make sure councils deliver access to flexible full-time childcare and early years' education that meets the needs of parents and children.

*C. Campaigning for mental health and well-being:*

10. Make sure local authorities are mental health champions, promoting good health and helping people back into employment when necessary;
11. Make sure local education services identify young people with mental health problems and help them get early support, and continue to help them as they transfer to adult services;
12. Take seriously the health and well-being of carers, providing support and respite.

*D. Homes for all, tackling poverty and building opportunity*

13. Build more homes for social rent, using the resources of pension funds or developer contributions whenever possible to increase numbers;
14. Use councils' negotiating and initiating clout to secure lower priced energy for local people, as part of a drive to end the poverty premium which increases living costs for people on low incomes;
15. Support the provision of fair and affordable banking, insurance and financial services, and the expansion of credit unions and advice services.

*E. Greener and cleaner communities:*

16. Make transport safer by providing new money to tackle the chronically poor condition of local roads and pavements using the principle of right-first-time to improve the quality of repairs;
17. Use the powers and influence of local authorities to support transport integration and smart ticketing across Scotland, especially helping young people travel to college or work;
18. Support the switch to electric and dual-fuel for public and private vehicles, with charging points and priority measures as part of councils' exemplary green transport plans.



*F. Supporting local jobs, town centres and the local economy:*

19. Champion local economic development, with better partnership with local business over decisions, including business rates;
20. Support regeneration of local town centres by using unused shops for employment training, cultural showcases or residential use;
21. Support good employment practice within councils and through contracts to support fair pay, equal pay, youth employment and local suppliers.

Conference further believes that strong Liberal Democrat voices in local government in Scotland, championing community politics and local decision-making will challenge the centralisation of services by national government.

*Cards:*

Move – Robert Brown, Rutherglen - called  
Sum Up – Jean Davis, Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross  
Jacquie Bell, East Lothian  
Dawud Islam, Dunfermline - called  
Nathan Goode, ENEL - called  
Peter Barrett, P&K - called  
Kris Chapman, Borders - called  
Sonia Daniels, NE&C Fife - called  
Willie Wilson, P&K - called  
Tim Brett, N E Fife – called  
Andrew Nisbet, Dumbarton

*Votes:*

Motion – carried

2017 Council Elections: the fightback continues

SC6: A liberal Scotland in Europe

Submitted by Kieran Leach and 24 members

Mover: Elspeth Attwooll Summator: Christine Jardine

Conference notes:

1. The result of the referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union of 23rd June 2016, in which 62% (of Scotland's electorate of those who voted in Scotland) expressed their will to remain within the European Union, on a 67.2% turnout with all council areas voting to remain.
2. That the Scottish Liberal Democrats initially entered into cross party support for the First Minister's negotiations intended to explore options for preserving Scotland's relationship with the EU, but have subsequently withdrawn that support.

Conference condemns:

1. The constitutional recklessness of the UK Government in holding a referendum without any concept of what the result would mean and the failure of said Government to make a clear plan for Brexit in the months since.

Conference recognises:

1. The commitment made by the First Minister to explore all possible options to preserve the benefits Scotland presently enjoys as part of the UK's EU membership.
2. The importance of good faith cooperation on the part of all parties, and the need to set aside, wherever possible, ideological differences concerning Scotland's place in the United Kingdom.
3. The statements made by the Prime Minister that Scotland's unique position and requirements, along with those of Northern Ireland and Gibraltar, will be considered in Brexit negotiations but notes concern at the lack of direction, leadership or clarity.
4. That the lack of constitutional clarity since the referendum of 23<sup>rd</sup> June, including Scotland's relationship with the EU and the UK, breeds unwelcome uncertainty.

Conference believes:

1. That Scotland's future would be best served as part of a federal United Kingdom that remains in the European Union.
2. There is a risk that significant elements of Scotland's continuing participation in the European community may no longer be possible for as long as it remains in the United Kingdom, and regretfully recognises that Scotland may eventually be forced to prioritise integration with one of these Unions at the expense of integration with the other.
3. That a second independence referendum held before the fundamental terms of the UK's Brexit deal are known would be irresponsible, depriving the Scottish people of the necessary factual background against which to make an informed decision about their constitutional future.
4. That the Scottish Liberal Democrats must pursue a future for Scotland which retains the advantages of the European Union without the limitations of the unthinking Unionism of the Conservatives or the ideological drive towards independence of the SNP.

Conference calls for:

1. The Scottish Parliamentary party to:
  - a. Restore support for negotiations, by the Muscatelli group, and commit to exploring all options that may allow Scotland to retain the benefits of EU membership.
  - b. Develop a comprehensive message and communications plan to present to the Scottish Party Executive, that articulates a positive, integrationist support for Scotland remaining within both the United Kingdom and the European Union. That message should not rule out any options at this stage, as our response to developments in the strategies of the UK and Scottish Governments should ultimately be a decision for our members.
2. The Scottish and UK Governments to operate in a spirit of transparency regarding negotiations over withdrawal from the European Union.
3. Scottish Liberal Democrats to continue to fully support the initiative of the UK Liberal Democrats to retain EU membership for the UK, and a referendum on any Brexit deal secured by the UK Government.

4. Policy Committee to bring a motion to Conference, at a time when the terms for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union have become clear, that enables a full and frank debate on the best future for Scotland.

*Agreed Drafting Change*

Conference notes 1: Delete "of Scotland's electorate" and replace with "of those who voted in Scotland"

*Amendment:*

Submitted by Dumbarton Lib Dems

Line 35: Delete "for as long as it remains in the United Kingdom, and regretfully recognises that Scotland may eventually be forced to prioritise integration with one of these Unions at the expense of integration with the other"

Line 39: Insert after "3. That" the words "the constant threat of"

Line 39: Delete "held before the fundamental terms of the UK's Brexit deal are known"

Line 41: Delete "depriving the Scottish people of the necessary factual background against which to make an informed decision about their constitutional future,"

Line 51: Delete "a. Restore support for negotiations, by the Muscatelli group, and commit to exploring all option that may allow Scotland to retain the benefits of EU membership." Replace with "a. Explore all options, except independence, that may allow Scotland to retain the benefits if EU membership."

Line 58: Delete "That message should not rule out any options at this stage, as our response to developments in the strategies of the UK and Scottish Governments should ultimately be a decision for our members."

Lines 69 to 72: Delete "4. Policy Committee to bring a motion to Conference, at a time when the terms for the UK;s withdrawal from the European Union have become clear, that enables a full and frank debate on the best future for Scotland.

*Cards:*

Move – Elspeth Attwooll, Glasgow - called  
Amd – Alan Reid, Argyll & Bute - called  
Sum Up – Christine Jardine, Aberdeen East - called  
Amd Sum Up – Andrew Nisbet, Dumbarton - called  
Andrew Hassan, Abd West  
Callum Leslie, ENEL - called  
Graeme Cowie, Glasgow North  
Jamie Purcell, Glasgow North  
Katy Gordon, Glasgow South - called  
John Waddell, Abd CS&NK - called  
Robert Brown, Rutherglen  
Norman Rae, Rutherglen & Hamilton West  
Paul Melling, ACS&NK  
Dawud Islam, Dunfermline  
John Ferry, Midlothian South, Tweeddale & Lauderdale

Bill Porteous, North East & Central Fife - called  
Tavish Scott, Shetland - called  
Robbie Simpson, Glasgow North  
Kieran Leach, Edinburgh South - called  
Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Edinburgh West – called – reqst sep vote on 46-48 (accepted by amendment movers)  
Alastair Carmichael MP, Orkney & Shetland - called  
James Calder, Dunfermline & West Fife  
Martin Bowie, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath  
Aude Boubaker-Calder, Dunfermline & West Fife - called  
Kevin Lewsey, Glasgow South - called  
Paul McGarry, Central Scotland - called  
Denis Mollison, East Lothian - called  
Joan Mitchell, Galloway - called  
Dan Farthing, Edinburgh South - called  
Daniel Coleman, Dundee - called  
Julie Niven, Central Scotland  
Audrey Findlay, Aberdeenshire West  
James Harrison, Glasgow North  
Ross Stalker, Paisley & Renfrewshire - - request for separate vote  
Tom Leatherland, Dunfermline

#### *Votes:*

Drafting Change accepted

Sep vote on Amendment to Line 51 – delete “That may allow Scotland to retain the benefits of EU membership” and add the amendment bit from “except independence” – remains as in Bulletin

Sep votes ll 46-48 i.e. delete the words “without the limitations of the unthinking Unionism of the Conservatives or the ideological drive towards independence of the SNP.” – line is deleted

Amendment – carried

Motion as amended – carried

## Motion now reads...

#### Conference notes:

1. The result of the referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union of 23rd June 2016, in which 62% of those who voted in Scotland expressed their will to remain within the European Union, on a 67.2% turnout with all council areas voting to remain.
2. That the Scottish Liberal Democrats initially entered into cross party support for the First Minister's negotiations intended to explore options for preserving Scotland's relationship with the EU, but have subsequently withdrawn that support.

Conference condemns:

1. The constitutional recklessness of the UK Government in holding a referendum without any concept of what the result would mean and the failure of said Government to make a clear plan for Brexit in the months since.

Conference recognises:

1. The commitment made by the First Minister to explore all possible options to preserve the benefits Scotland presently enjoys as part of the UK's EU membership.
2. The importance of good faith cooperation on the part of all parties, and the need to set aside, wherever possible, ideological differences concerning Scotland's place in the United Kingdom.
3. The statements made by the Prime Minister that Scotland's unique position and requirements, along with those of Northern Ireland and Gibraltar, will be considered in Brexit negotiations but notes concern at the lack of direction, leadership or clarity.
4. That the lack of constitutional clarity since the referendum of 23<sup>rd</sup> June, including Scotland's relationship with the EU and the UK, breeds unwelcome uncertainty.

Conference believes:

1. That Scotland's future would be best served as part of a federal United Kingdom that remains in the European Union.
2. There is a risk that significant elements of Scotland's continuing participation in the European community may no longer be possible.
3. That the constant threat of a second independence referendum held before the fundamental terms of the UK's Brexit deal are known would be irresponsible.
4. That the Scottish Liberal Democrats must pursue a future for Scotland which retains the advantages of the European Union without the limitations of the unthinking Unionism of the Conservatives or the ideological drive towards independence of the SNP.

Conference calls for:

1. The Scottish Parliamentary party to:
  - a. Explore all options, except independence, that may allow Scotland to retain the benefits if EU membership.
  - b. Develop a comprehensive message and communications plan to present to the Scottish Party Executive, that articulates a positive, integrationist support for Scotland remaining within both the United Kingdom and the European Union.
2. The Scottish and UK Governments to operate in a spirit of transparency regarding negotiations over withdrawal from the European Union.
3. Scottish Liberal Democrats to continue to fully support the initiative of the UK Liberal Democrats to retain EU membership for the UK, and a referendum on any Brexit deal secured by the UK Government.