

East of England Liberal Democrats
Regional Conference
Saturday 17 October 2015

Churchill College, Cambridge, Storey's Way
Cambridge CB3 0DS



DIRECTIONS TO STOREY'S WAY CB3 0DS

ARRIVING BY TRAIN

Cambridge railway station has a frequent service from London (King's Cross and Liverpool Street), the Midlands and the North and a direct link from Stansted Airport, as well as local services within the region. Cambridge railway station is situated 2 miles from Churchill College. Cambridge is a 50 minute journey from London King's Cross and longer from Liverpool Street.

For further information call the National Rail Enquiry number 03457 484950 or visit the National Rail website.

ARRIVING BY BUS

The Citi 4 and Uni 4 buses stop near to the College on the Madingley Road. From the station get bus Citi 1 or 8 to Victoria Ave (Jesus College) or Green Park & Ride bus to Drummer Street. In either case then change to a Citi 4 from the same stop (Victoria Avenue) or neighbouring stop D3 (Drummer Street). Further information on bus services, including the Park & Ride scheme in Cambridge, can be found on the Cambridgeshire County Council website.

ARRIVING BY CAR

From the M11 (from the south) Exit Junction 13

Please note: There is no exit southbound at Junction 13 on M11. See directions below for A14 (from the north west). At the end of the slip road, turn right onto Madingley Road. Continue towards the City Centre. Pass the Cavendish Laboratory on the right, followed by the College playing fields on the left. Take the next left turning onto Storey's Way. Churchill College is on the left hand corner of the site. Drive past the front of the College. Take the first turning on the left which has a sign 'Churchill Road, Private Road'. Follow the directions below for parking.

From the A428 (from the west)

After the blue pedestrian bridge, exit the A428, crossing the roundabout onto the A1303 signed for Cambridge. Pass the American War Cemetery on your left and continue towards the City Centre, crossing the M11. Pass the Cavendish Laboratory on the right, followed by the College playing fields on the left. Take the next left turning onto Storey's Way. Churchill College is on the left hand corner of the site. Drive past the front of the College. Take the first turning on the left which has a sign 'Churchill Road, Private Road'. Follow the directions below for parking.

From the A14 (from the east; not suitable for vehicles over 6'6")

Take the third exit signposted for Cambridge. At top of the slip road take the first exit signposted

Cambridge (B1049). Follow this road for approximately 2km, reaching the T-junction at the end. Turn right and immediately right again through two sets of traffic lights. You are on the A1307 heading towards Huntingdon. After passing Murray Edwards (off-white) and Fitzwilliam (brown) Colleges and some playing fields on the left, and just before a set of pedestrian traffic lights, turn left into Storey's Way. Pass through the width restriction on the first bend. After the next sharp bend turn right into: 'Churchill Road, Private Road'. Follow the directions below for parking.

From the A14 (from the north west; not suitable for vehicles over 6'6")

Take junction 31 off A14 (just as it meets the M11). Follow signs to Cambridge along A1307, keeping in the right-hand lane. Continue towards Cambridge City Centre, travelling along Huntingdon Road. Pass Girton College and Hotel Felix on your left. After the second set of traffic lights turn right into Storey's Way. Pass through the width restriction on the first bend. After the next sharp bend turn right into 'Churchill Road, Private Road'. Follow the directions below for parking.

From the City Centre (via ring road)

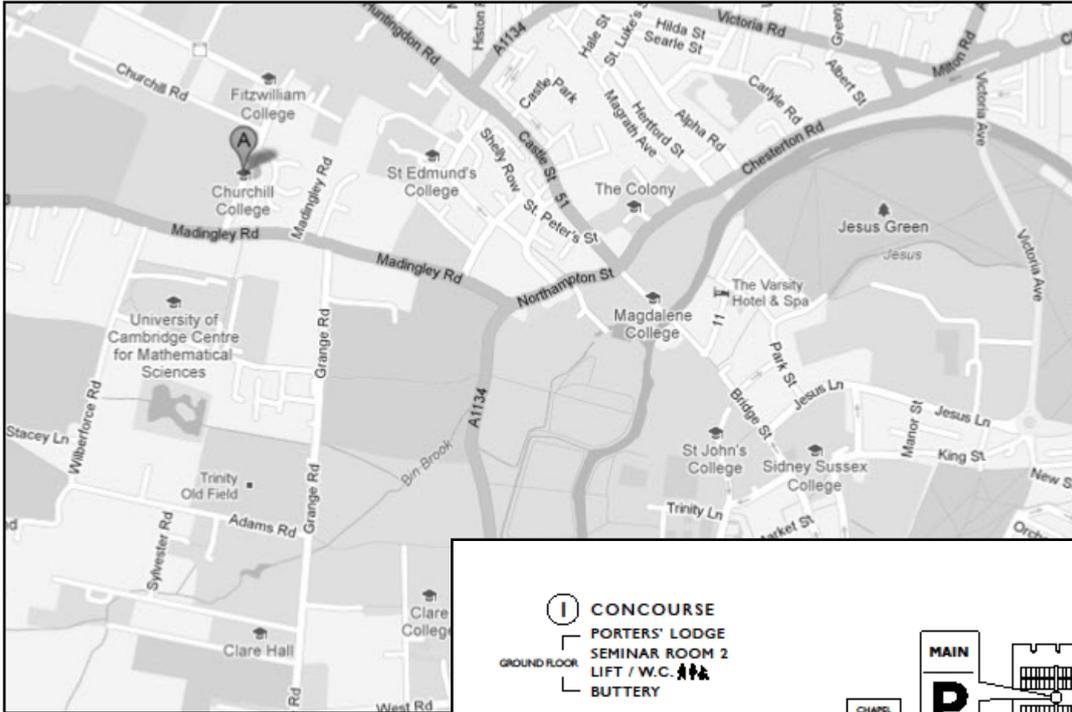
Approach the roundabout with Madingley Road (A1303) from Queen's Road (A1134, clockwise) or Chesterton Road (A1303, anti-clockwise). Turn onto Madingley Road (heading west, towards the M11). After three sets of traffic lights, take the right turn onto Storey's Way. Pass the College on the left and turn left into 'Churchill Road, Private Road'. Follow the directions below for parking.

Directions for wide vehicles (>2m):

Wide vehicles approaching Storey's Way from the Huntingdon Road side will not be able to get through the width restrictions. Continue along Huntingdon Road towards Cambridge. Follow signs turning right at traffic lights for Ring Road. At the next traffic lights turn right onto Madingley Road. After three sets of traffic lights, turn right into Storey's Way. Churchill College is on the left hand corner of the site. Drive past the front of the College. Take the first turning on the left which has a sign 'Churchill Road, Private Road'. Follow the directions below for parking.

PARKING

Visitor parking is available along the right-hand side of Churchill Road, in the car parks immediately to the left on entering Churchill Road (not the Fellows' car park) and in the car park at the top, past the Møller Centre car park.



CONFERENCE VENUE

The main conference hall is the Wolfson Hall, marked 4 on the venue plan (right).

Training and fringe events will take place in

- the Bevin Room and Seminar Room 1, near the Wolfson Hall
- the Tizard Room, on the first floor up the stairs leading from the concourse, marked 1 on the venue plan - there is a lift from the concourse for people with disabilities
- the Cockcroft Room, on the ground floor off the Fellows' Gallery leading from the left hand side of the Buttery, marked 3 on the venue plan.

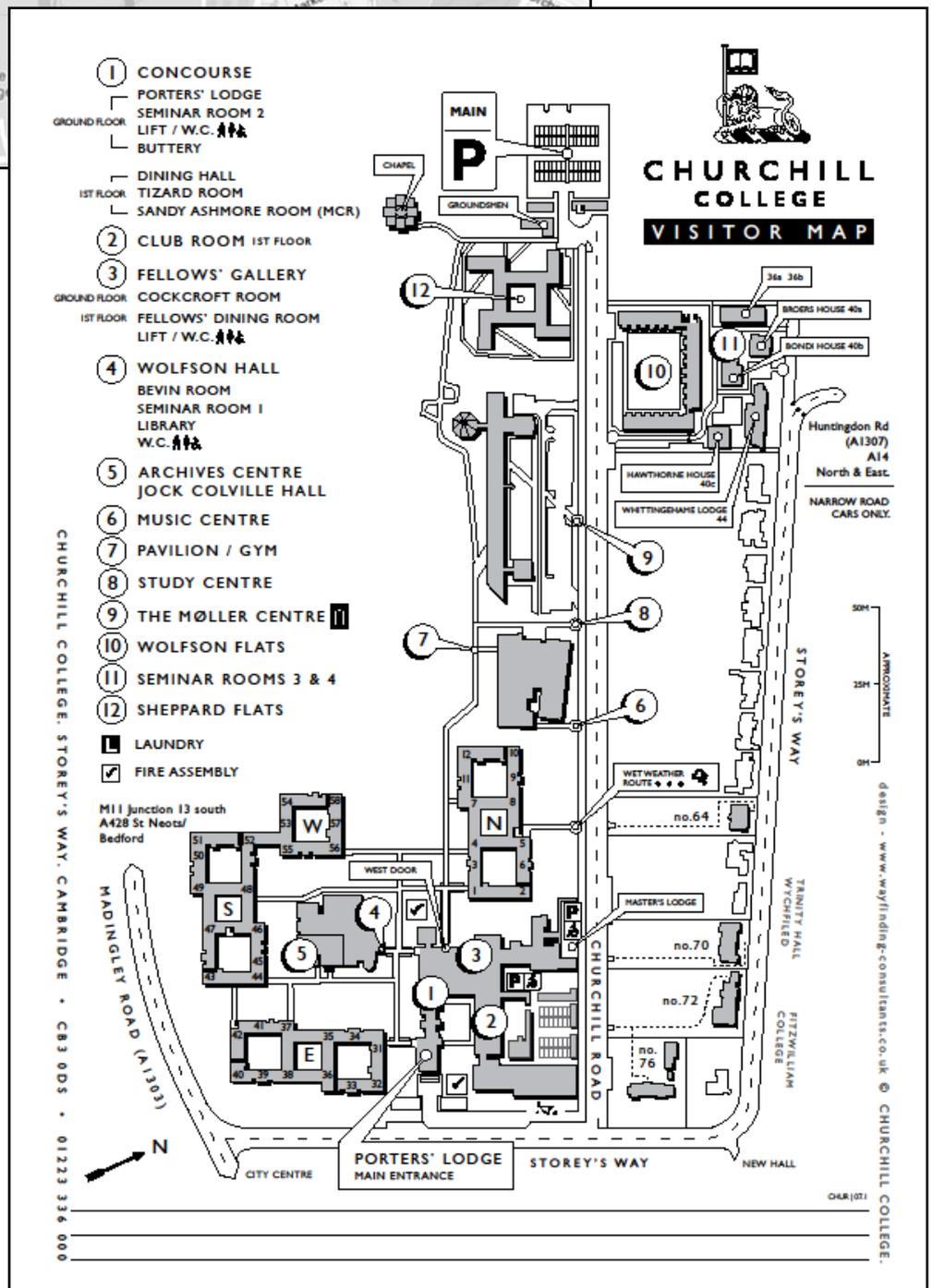
Our Marketplace of party stands including Lib Dem Image is in the concourse.

Lunch (included in your registration fee) will be served in the dining hall on the first floor. Tea and coffee will be available for purchase from the Buttery for the duration of the conference.

PARKING

In addition to the car parking areas described on the previous page, the staff car parks will also be available, on the left just after you turn into Churchill Road.

On arrival please make your way to the Porters' Lodge and along the concourse to the registration desk.



CONFERENCE INFORMATION



WELCOME TO CONFERENCE

We look forward very much to welcoming you to the East of England Regional Conference 2015 at Churchill College Cambridge.

In addition to our usual agenda - policy debates, fringe meetings, training and the opportunity to ask searching questions of our parliamentarians - we are delighted to welcome our new leader, Tim Farron MP. This is the first time the party leader has spoken to the East of England Conference since 2007, so it is a significant occasion for us.

We hope you enjoy the day: please take a moment to read the information below so you don't miss out.

Gill Collings

Regional Conference Chair

DEADLINES

Friday 9 October, 10:00 am is the deadline for

- Emergency motions
- Amendments to motions
- Questions to the regional chair and treasurer
- Amendments to the regional budget

These should be submitted to the Conference Office, Inglefield, 119 High Street, Sutton, Ely CB6 2NW, conference@eastlibdems.org.uk

ACCESS AND FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Please let us know in advance if you require a disabled parking space. The main hall and all fringe and training rooms are accessible by wheelchair, in the case of the Tizard Room via lift from the main concourse. An induction loop is installed in the main hall and is also available in the Bevin and Tizard Rooms.

In the event of any queries on the day, please ask a steward or member of the Conference Committee.

BADGES

Conference packs for pre-registered conference representatives, including your conference badge, will be available to collect in the registration area in the main concourse. Please wear your badge at all times while in the conference centre, and return the plastic holder to the collection box when conference concludes.

ON-THE-DAY REGISTRATION

You can register for conference on the day itself, but this will cost you £32, instead of £26 for registering in advance. There is no reduction on the day for claimants or first time attenders.

COATS

Coats may be left (at your own risk) on the coat racks outside Seminar Room 1 near the Wolfson Hall. Neither the Liberal Democrats nor the College can accept any responsibility for loss or damage.

REFRESHMENTS

For those arriving early, a continental breakfast may be purchased from the Buttery on the ground floor of the College. A buffet lunch is included in your registration, and will be served from 12:30 to 1:20pm in the dining hall on the first floor. Tea and coffee - not included in your registration - may be purchased from the Buttery throughout the day.

FIRST AID

In case of emergency please report to the Porter's Lodge near the main entrance to the College.

WIFI

Free wifi access, up to 1Gb, is available throughout the venue - the network is CHURCHILL COLLEGE and no password is required.

ELECTIONS

Nominations for our region's representatives to English Council, and our member of the ALDE Congress, close at 2:00 pm on the day of the conference. Nomination papers are available to download in advance from the regional web site www.eastlibdems.org.uk; they will also be available on the day at the conference in the exhibition area.

FOCUS EXCHANGE

Do bring along spare copies of your FOCUS newsletters, tabloids, members' newsletters etc for the Exchange table in the exhibition area.

MARKETPLACE

There is a Marketplace of party stands, including Lib Dem Image for all your campaigning merchandise needs, in the main concourse between the Porters' Lodge and the Buttery.

CONFERENCE DIARY

Below is a handy summary of the day which you can use to plan when you need to be in the hall, when you can attend training and which of the fringes you can fit in. Details of all the events are included in the relevant section of the agenda.

WOLFSON HALL

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 10:00 | Welcome to Conference: Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Member of Parliament for North Norfolk |
| 10:10 | POLICY MOTION: Publication of Mortality Statistics - Employment & Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance |
| 10:40 | BUSINESS REPORTS: MP and Peers |
| 10:50 | LEADER'S SPEECH: Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats |
| 12:00 | PLENARY: Prison Reform - with Peter Dawson, Deputy Director, Prison Reform Trust |
| 12:30 | LUNCH |
| 13:20 | POLICY MOTION: East West Rail |
| 13:50 | BUSINESS MOTION: One Member One Vote |
| 14:20 | BUSINESS REPORTS: Regional Chair and Regional Treasurer |
| 14:30 | POLICY MOTION: Youth Services or EMERGENCY MOTION
(see Conference Update sheet on the day for further information) |
| 15:00 | PLENARY: European Referendum campaign - with Steve Jolly, Liberal Democrat HQ |
| 15:30 | PLENARY: Restructuring and Reorganising the Party - with Baroness Brinton, President of the Liberal Democrats |
| 16:00 | Close of conference |

Bevin Room	Tizard Room	Cockcroft Room	Seminar Room 1
<p>10:00-10:50 Agenda 2020: Liberal Democrat values and philosophy <i>Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon, Federal Policy Committee</i></p>	<p>10:00-10:50 Tips and tactics for fast-track fundraising <i>Sue Evans, Fundraising Officer</i></p>		<p>10:00-10:50 Learning from Liberal Democrats in council control <i>Dave Hodgson, Mayor of Bedford</i></p>
<p>13:20-14:20 EU Referendum in the East of England <i>Baroness Ros Scott, Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon, Peter Fane</i></p> <p>16:00-16:30 New member meetup</p>	<p>12:50-13:10 Reception for local party chairs</p> <p>13:20-15:10 DOUBLE SESSION Training for local party officers: Compliance and Salesforce <i>Darren Briddock, Compliance Officer</i></p>	<p>13:20-15:10 DOUBLE SESSION Training for campaigners: Literature masterclass <i>Richard Cole, ALDC</i></p>	<p>13:20-14:10 Training for campaigners: Campaigning from your armchair <i>James Wright, Development Officer</i></p> <p>14:20-15:20 Around the party in 60 minutes: an introduction to the Liberal Democrats <i>Jon Whitehouse, Development Officer</i></p>

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Session Chair: Ros Wright
Session Aide: Lloyd Harris

10:00 Welcome to Conference
The Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP

10:10 MOTION
Publication of mortality statistics: Employment & Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance

Submitted by: Three conference representatives

1 The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has returned to publishing the numbers of
2 benefit claimant deaths. The statistics suggest that a significant number of deaths are
3 directly attributable to benefits being sanctioned. The benefits sanction regime therefore
4 needs complete and urgent reform.

5 Conference notes:

- 6 1. The mortality figures show 50,580 people died between 2012 and 2014 (Dec 2011-Feb
7 2014) within 14 days of their Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) ending, of whom
8 • 2,380 had been told they were fit for work, and
9 • 7,200 had been placed in the work-related activity group for people assessed as
10 unfit for work but potentially able to work in the near future.
- 11 2. 81,140 died claiming Incapacity Benefit, Employment & Support Allowance, or Severe
12 Disablement Allowance (Dec 2011 - Feb 2014). Some had chronic or terminal illness or
13 life-threatening conditions, but there is strong evidence that appeals against sanctions
14 are upheld which is evidence of claimants being wrongly declared fit for work. For
15 example student volunteers at Bristol & Avon Law Centre overturned 95% of DWP
16 decisions on benefit claimants found fit for work.
- 17 3. The mortality rate for those placed in the work-related group Employment & Support
18 Allowance is twice as high as the mortality rate of the general population. The increase
19 in death frequency in the vulnerable group raises questions about how the incapacity
20 benefit system is run, eg the ESA work-related activity group is composed entirely of
21 people who are expected to recover from illness and be well enough to return to work
22 within one year. Barring accidents and unforeseen circumstances, the mortality rate
23 should therefore be nil, yet nearly 10,000 people have lost their lives after being
24 assigned to ESA.
- 25 4. The DWP refuses to count serious mental health conditions in the criteria to protect
26 vulnerable people on benefits.
- 27 5. The DWP has stipulated that only physical disabilities are taken into account when
28 considering whether an individual is 'vulnerable'. Mental illness is not considered at
29 all, despite the current high mortality rate.

30 Conference is concerned that:

- 31 1. The DWP are out of touch and running a target based, punitive, sanctions based
32 regime with no regard to human suffering.
- 33 2. The DWP's definition of vulnerability is designed to reduce the ability of people to
34 claim benefits and thereby reduce the overall cost of benefits, without real regard to
35 the actual vulnerability of a significant section of society.
- 36 3. The fact that mental health is not classed in the 'vulnerable people' criteria means that
37 serious mental illness is being overlooked as a debilitating disability and illness
38 despite evidence to the contrary.

- 39 4. There is a direct correlation between those claimants who have been declared fit to
 40 work and the deaths.
 41 5. The DWP and Iain Duncan Smith are acting against the public and scientific interest in
 42 understanding the adverse effects of mental ill health as a recognised disability.
 43 6. Individuals suffering from serious mental illness are left in a state of high anxiety and
 44 suffering with evidence pointing to suicide as a direct outcome.

45 Conference believes that the DWP target based sanctions strategy is dehumanised, and
 46 deplores the action of the Conservatives in continuing to carve the heart out of the
 47 welfare system.

48 Conference therefore calls on the Liberal Democrats to

- 49 1. Campaign for the debate and review of the current benefits sanctions regime.
 50 2. Recommend the current target based assessment is removed and replaced by a fair
 51 assessment process with the emphasis on skills enhancement to increase opportunity
 52 for work and compassionate support for those who cannot work.
 53 3. Place serious mental illness within the criteria for those claimants classed as
 54 vulnerable people.
 55 4. Provide those claimants who are found fit to work with a suitable support structure to
 56 deal with emotional distress.

Proposer: Chris Davies

Summator: Sandy Walkington

10:40 BUSINESS REPORTS

MP's report

To receive the report of the Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP.

Proposer: Norman Lamb MP

Peers' reports

To receive the reports of the Liberal Democrat Members in the House of Lords.

Proposer: Baroness Scott of Needham Market

Session Chair: Stephen Robinson

Session Aide: Jo Hayes

10:50 LEADER'S SPEECH

Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Session Chair: Belinda Brooks-Gordon

Session Aide: TBA

12:00 PLENARY

Peter Dawson, Deputy Director, Prison Reform Trust

12:30 LUNCH

Session Chair: Mark Valladares

Session Aide: Joye Rosenstiel

13:20 MOTION East West rail

Submitted by: Bedford Borough Council group

- 1 1. The Government has placed uncertainty over the vital East West Rail project following
 - 2 the announcement that vital railway projects are to be 'paused'.
 - 3 2. The projects 'paused' include the electrification of the Midland Mainline north of
 - 4 Bedford, despite residents in villages along the route in north Bedfordshire already
 - 5 having suffered months of noise, roads disputation and more.
 - 6 3. The Government's promise to deliver East West Rail between Oxford and Bedford by
 - 7 2017 has already been broken once and then delayed to 2019.
- 8 Conference believes that any further delays would be bad news for local economies in the
- 9 region and another betrayal for local residents who believed the Government's promises
- 10 on rail investment.
- 11 Conference therefore condemns the Government for the delays and uncertainty.
- 12 Conference calls for the Government to:
- 13 1. Commit to delivering as soon as possible the fully electrified Oxford to Bedford section
 - 14 of the railway without any further delay and
 - 15 2. Offer a firm, funded commitment to deliver the Central section from Bedford to
 - 16 Cambridge and the Eastern Section onwards to East Anglia and the east coast ports.

Proposer: Mayor Dave Hodgson

Summator: Daniel Norton

13:50 BUSINESS MOTION One Member One Vote

Submitted by: Two conference representatives

- 1 Conference recognises that;
- 2 a. There are paid up members of the party who attend Conference but are denied a vote
 - 3 as they haven't been elevated to a conference representative by their Local Party.
 - 4 b. There are Local Parties who are not entitled to send representatives to Conference
 - 5 and their members are therefore disenfranchised.
 - 6 c. New members are particularly disadvantaged - they come to Conference to participate
 - 7 and end up not being able to vote.
- 8 Federal Conference has itself passed a proposal to bring forward 'one member one
- 9 vote'. The final proposals are to be voted on at Autumn Federal Conference this year
- 10 with the intention to make the change in 2016. Conference believes that the East of
- 11 England Region should follow the lead of the Federal party and extend voting rights to all
- 12 members.
- 13 Conference recognises that the constitutional changes will be complex. Conference
- 14 therefore calls on the Regional Management Committee to bring forward an amendment
- 15 to the constitution to allow any member who has joined the party 21 days before the
- 16 date of Conference to vote at Conference in person on all motions debated at
- 17 Conference and to amend Article 2 of the regional constitution accordingly.

18 Conference recognises that currently only regional conference voting representatives are
 19 able to elect regional officers, regional committee members and representatives to the
 20 party's English Council. Conference therefore calls on the Regional Management
 21 Committee to bring forward an amendment to the constitution to:

- 22 • **Option A** - replace the current electorate with all members in the region who are paid
 23 up members 21 days before the date of the AGM (regional conference).
- 24 • **Option B** - replace the current electorate with all members of the region present at the
 25 AGM (regional conference) who are entitled to vote on the day with the ballot
 26 occurring on the date of the AGM.

Proposer: Lloyd Harris
 Summator: TBA

Session Chair: Lucy Nethsingha
 Session Aide: Paul Clark

14:20 BUSINESS REPORTS

Regional Chair's report

To approve the report of the Regional Chair.
 Proposer: Stephen Robinson

Regional Treasurer's report

To approve the report of the Regional Treasurer and the Regional budget.
 Proposer: Lloyd Harris

14:30 MOTION

Youth services

Submitted by: Three conference representatives

- 1 Conference is concerned by the wholesale dismantling of publicly funded youth services
 2 and calls on the national party to develop a policy that will create a statutory
 3 responsibility for ensuring that young people, particularly those at risk of exploitation and
 4 those with mental health issues, have their needs met and are supported by properly
 5 trained and qualified youth workers.

Proposer: Geoffrey Sell
 Summator: Rosalind Wright

OR EMERGENCY MOTION (if submitted and selected)

Session Chair: Jon James
 Session Aide: Gill Collings

15:00 PLENARY: EUROPEAN REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN Steve Jolly, Liberal Democrat HQ

15:30 Q&A: RESTRUCTURING AND REORGANISING THE PARTY
Baroness Brinton, President of the Liberal Democrats

15:50 THANKS AND CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

OUR SPEAKERS

The Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP

The Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP was born in Watford and is the Liberal Democrat MP for North Norfolk.

Norman Lamb is currently Shadow Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Health), an opposition position he has held since July 2015. In the past, Norman Lamb held the position of Minister of State (Department of Health) (2012 to 2015), Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) (Employment relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs) (2012 to 2012), Assistant Whip (HM Treasury) (2010 to 2012) in government.

He was Shadow Secretary of State for Health (2006 to 2010), Shadow Secretary of State (Trade and Industry) (2005 to 2006), Shadow Spokesperson (Treasury) (2002 to 2005), Shadow Spokesperson (International Development) (2001 to 2002) in opposition.

Tim Farron MP

Tim Farron MP was born in Preston and is the Liberal Democrat MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale.

Tim Farron is Leader of the Liberal Democrats, a parliamentary position he has held since July 2015. He was Shadow Secretary of State (Environment) (2008 to 2010), Shadow Minister (Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) (2007 to 2008), Shadow Minister (Home Affairs) (2007 to 2007), Shadow Spokesperson (Children, Schools and Families) (2005 to 2006) in opposition.

Peter Dawson

Peter Dawson is Deputy Director of the Prison Reform Trust. Peter spent the first 15 years of his career working in the Home Office in a variety of policy and managerial roles. This included two spells in the then Prison Department, culminating in a period on the Prisons Board. He left Whitehall in 1999 to pursue a career within the operational arm of the Prison Service, working as a prison officer in HMP Brixton before returning there as Deputy Governor in 2002, and subsequently governing both HMP Downview (then a prison for women) and HMP High Down between 2005 and 2012. While at High Down, he oversaw the opening of the first 'Clink' restaurant, and the prison became a centre for innovation, hosting new projects such as the Restore programme run by The Forgiveness Project.

In 2012, Peter left the public sector to join Sodexo Justice Services, and led the operational design and mobilisation of the company's successful bids to run new community rehabilitation companies in 6 different regions. Peter spent 7 years as a Trustee for the Kenward Trust, a Kent based charity dedicated to the care of people with substance misuse problems, and is Patron of the Michael Varah Memorial Fund, a small grant giving charity. He also acted as an adviser to the Correctional Services of South Africa for a short period in 2003.

Baroness Brinton

Party President Baroness Brinton was born in Paddington and was introduced to the House of Lords in 2011.

In the 1980s, Sal worked as a venture capitalist, investing in high-tech companies, and in the construction industry. She began her career in the mid 70s at the BBC as a floor manager working on programmes such as Doctor Who, Grandstand and Playschool. Sal was Director of the Association on the Universities in the East of England from 2006 to 2011. In 1997 she won the East Anglian entrepreneurial businesswoman of the Year. She was Bursar of Selwyn College Cambridge from 1997 to 2002, and of Lucy Cavendish College from 1992-1997.

Sal was a Cambridgeshire County Councillor from 1993 to 2004, holding the education portfolio from 1993-97, and then leader of the opposition. She was the Liberal Democrat candidate for Watford in 2010 and 2005. Sal is on the Federal Conference Committee and the Federal Policy Committee, is the Chair of the Diversity Engagement Group, and has set up the Leadership Programme, which aims to increase the number of women, BAME, disabled and LGBT MPs.

FRINGE AND TRAINING SUMMARY

FRINGE EVENTS AND TRAINING

10:00-10:50

AGENDA 2020 - Liberal Democrat beliefs and philosophy (BEVIN ROOM)

The Liberal Democrats are running a party-wide consultation to help inform our policy-making over the next five years. This is a chance for us to have an in-depth discussion about our values and philosophy, and about the challenges the UK is likely to face in the next Parliament. We want to include all party members in this debate, new and old, and together we'll frame our Party's approach from 2015 to 2020. With Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon.

TIPS AND TACTICS FOR FAST-TRACK FUNDRAISING (TIZARD ROOM)

How to raise the money your local party needs for campaigns in 2016, 2017 and beyond. With Sue Evans, Fundraising Manager.

LEARNING FROM LIBERAL DEMOCRATS IN COUNCIL CONTROL (SEMINAR ROOM 1)

Good practice and ideas from Liberal Democrats running local authorities in the East of England. With Dave Hodgson, Executive Mayor of Bedford.

13:20-14:10

TRAINING FOR CAMPAIGNERS - CAMPAIGNING FROM YOUR ARMCHAIR (SEMINAR ROOM 1)

A guide to campaigning for the Liberal Democrats without leaving your house. Cllr James Wright will talk you through tools such as Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and other websites that can help with reaching out to voters and spreading the Lib Dem message. With James Wright, Development Officer.

13:20-14:20

THE EU REFERENDUM IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND (BEVIN ROOM)

Join our panel to discuss the forthcoming referendum on our membership of the European Union, and how the Liberal Democrats in our region will campaign in it. With Baroness Ros Scott, Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon, and Peter Fane.

13:20-15:10

TRAINING FOR LOCAL PARTY OFFICERS - COMPLIANCE AND SALESFORCE (TIZARD ROOM)

Get yourself updated on the responsibilities of local party officers for complying with the law on accounting and donations reporting, and the party's Salesforce system for managing membership data and financial returns. With Darren Briddock, Compliance Officer.

TRAINING FOR CAMPAIGNERS - LITERATURE MASTERCLASS (COCKCROFT ROOM)

Learn the tips and techniques for designing and producing your own local leaflets and other campaigning literatures. With Richard Cole, ALDC.

14:20-15:20

AROUND THE PARTY IN SIXTY MINUTES (SEMINAR ROOM 1)

A whirlwind introduction to the Liberal Democrats - the party's structures, systems and organisations, and how they all fit together. Ideal for new members, or for anyone else who would like to learn more about how it works. With Jon Whitehouse, Development Officer.

REPORTS TO CONFERENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Norman Lamb, MP for North Norfolk

The election in May transformed the political landscape.

The new Conservative government did not take long to start dismantling some of the many achievements of the Coalition. One of their earliest decisions was to back-track on a pledge I secured as a Health Minister to transform the way care is paid for. I am in no doubt that the government's decision to defer the reforms will lead to them being dropped completely, leaving many older people and those needing long term care struggling to cope under an unfair system. From the Green Deal to schools policy, the Conservatives have scrapped Lib Dem-led initiatives. I am convinced that we would have seen a more generous and caring response to the refugee crisis, too, if the Liberal Democrats had still been in government.

The Labour Party was plunged into a leadership contest, asking itself some profound questions about what, and who, it is for. And it has come up with completely the wrong answers to those questions. It has sent out a clear signal that it is not interested in tackling the problems of modern Britain in a sensible and pragmatic way. It is more interested in narrow tribalism. My profound hope for the future is that progressive politicians from across the political spectrum can look beyond party interest and come together to challenge Conservative dominance. Time will tell whether moderate figures in the Labour Party are prepared to rise to that challenge.

Of course the election result was devastating for our own party. Following the general election we were faced, straight away, with a leadership election. I'm pleased I decided to stand and I am enormously grateful to all those who voted for me and helped my campaign. I wish Tim all the very best.

I was desperately sad to see so many friends and colleagues lose their seats in May. I was particularly sad to see Simon, Bob and Julian lose out here in the East of England. We have lost many good people from Parliament and from local councils as a result of our decision to put the national interest first and enter government in 2010. But there is a real sense of renewal within the party now. We all have a part to play in ensuring that future historians speak of 2015 as the year that liberals rose to the challenge of speaking up for the values we share.

HOUSE OF LORDS

The party's Liberal Democrat Peers from the East of England are:

- Baroness Sal Brinton
- Lord Qurban Hussain
- Lord Raj Loomba
- Rt Hon Lord McNally
- Baroness Scott of Needham Market
- Baroness Smith of Newnham
- Baroness Williams of Crosby

Lord Phillips of Sudbury has retired from the House, and the party's most recent appointment from this region - Dorothy Thornhill from Watford - has not yet been introduced.

Baroness Scott reports: "The main focus of my work has been chairing the EU Select Committee for Energy and Environment, which also includes climate change, agriculture and fisheries. We carry out routine scrutiny of dozens of legislative and policy proposals as well as carrying out inquiries, the most significant of which was into the marine environment. Recommendations from our report on food waste now form the basis of the first ever 'green card' to which national Parliaments from 17 countries have signed up."

Local party chairs
★
**LUNCHTIME
RECEPTION
& BRIEFING**



A reception for local party chairs will take place in the Tizard Room (on the first floor, near the dining hall) from 12:50 to 13:10



Get an early lunch in the dining hall (from 12:30), then join fellow local party chairs for a special briefing

New to the Lib Dems?

NEW MEMBERS' MEETUP

Join our new members' meetup in the Bevin Room (near the main hall) at 4:00pm after the Conference for a brief get-together and to meet the regional Liberal Democrat team

(USEFUL TRAINING TIP)

Around the Party in 60 Minutes

If you're a new member you may find this session useful today - it's a whistle-stop tour of the party and how it works: 14:20-15:20 in Seminar Room 1 (also near the main hall)

"I want my work to carry on after I have gone"

After providing for family and friends more people are choosing to make a Legacy gift to the Liberal Democrats.

If you believe in Liberal values and you want your work and views to carry on after you have gone, please remember the party in your will.

Working together we can protect the future of the party and Liberal values.

Legacy forms are available from Liz.Pearman@libdems.org.uk or b.brooks-gordon@bbk.ac.uk



Don't forget to buy all your 2016 campaign merchandise from Lib Dem Image!

Visit their stand in the main concourse



REGIONAL CHAIR

Stephen Robinson

The year since our last regional conference has, inevitably, been a 'game of two halves', the first half dominated by preparations for the 7 May elections.

Election preparation

The Region had a key role, to ensure that every one of our 58 constituencies had a Liberal Democrat candidate. So I particularly want to thank Regional Candidates Chair Kate Sayer, her committee members and Returning Officers. They are all volunteers who did a vital job to find people for each seat.

Additionally, we all thank the 58 people who put themselves forwards as candidates. Almost all of them stood knowing that the chances of victory were slim, given the national situation, but they stood up, were counted and ensured that every voter in the Region had the chance to vote Liberal Democrat.

Of course, four entered the race as MPs but only one emerged victorious. Norman Lamb then went straight into another election, for Party Leader. So we congratulate Norman for fighting so well in both contests.

We also thank Sir Bob Russell for his 18 years as MP for Colchester (in total, 45 years of service to the public and the party) and also Simon Wright and Julian Huppert for their five years as MPs, in Norwich South and Cambridge respectively. I know they will continue to help the party.

The 7 May results were generally bad. However, one bright light was the re-election of Dave Hodgson as Executive Mayor of Bedford. Congratulations to Dave plus 97 Lib Dem Councillors, who all did very well to win through in this most difficult of years. Thank you to all 710 who stood as council candidates; you also played a vital role.

Via our two Regional Development Officers, the Region offered support to every local party. In particular, with design and production of over 1.5 million leaflets and e-campaigning. They have also run various training events, before and since the elections.

Building a stronger region

Like the rest of the country, party membership in the East of England has soared by almost 50% since the election. We are contacting those new members and discussing how they can be involved in the party.

Over the coming months, there will be training / briefing events as we prepare for our next election challenges. Everywhere has Police Commissioner Elections in May; some Districts have council elections, and we soon face the most crucial test for a generation: the referendum on EU membership. Unlike Conservatives and Labour, we will be wholly united in saying that it is best for Britain to remain in the EU.

I hope that you have managed to attend at least one of the excellent new member events recently. Many new members attended the excellent conference held in Bournemouth and many are at this regional conference too. We welcome you all - new and longstanding - and I look forward to meeting you.

Stephen Robinson
Regional Chair
chair@eastlibdems.org.uk
www.eastlibdems.org.uk
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REGIONAL TREASURER

Lloyd Harris

2014 accounts

These accounts were mostly about fighting the European elections that were held this year, spending £117,000 on the elections. During 2014 we went through a staffing review which meant we lost Ian Horner. Ian dedicated many years to the role of campaigns officer and agent for the European elections and has now left the employ of the region. My thanks to Ian for his hard work.

We added Jon Whitehouse and James Wright as development officers, who now work alongside Lorna Dupré our administrator and newsletter editor.

These accounts are now available for public inspection on the Electoral Commission website.

2015 figures

This year our main expense was employing staff and running the newsletter service for local parties. Income from the newsletter more or less offsets the cost, and our share of the membership subscriptions covers a large part of the salary bill.

2016 budget

Next year we have at some point the referendum on remaining in the EU. How much we can spend on this depends on how fundraising goes. Other than the referendum there is little change in the activities of the region, and the budget reflects predicted variations in income and expenditure.

Finally

Thank you to the many volunteer treasurers in local parties and branches. Our region is doing very well in keeping up with all the paperwork necessary to comply with the requirements of the law and the Electoral Commission.

Motion to conference

1. Conference approves the treasurer's report and accounts.
2. Conference approves the appointment of an independent examiner.
3. Conference approves the 2016 budget.

Lloyd Harris

Regional Treasurer

treasurer@eastlibdems.org.uk

East of England Region Liberal Democrats Statement of Accounts

Statement date: 31 December 2014

Administrative information

Registered address: 8-10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE

Responsible officers: For the purposes of the Political Parties Elections Referendums Act 2000, the responsible officers are:

Chair: Stephen Robinson

Treasurer: Lloyd Harris

Political activities

Overview of political activities

The main activity in the year was fighting the European elections.

Branches

The region has one branch and all income received and expenditure incurred by the branch has been included in these accounts. In 2013 there were three branches, two of which were merged with other local parties.

Financial activities

Income overview

Income was increased due to donations to the European elections.

Expenditure overview

Expenditure was increased due to donations to the European elections.

Balance sheet overview

Funds were depleted as reserves saved up for the European elections were used up.

Accounting notes

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and guidance issued by the Electoral Commission.

Income and Expenditure Account

	Note	2014 £	2013 £
Income			
Membership	1	23,981.08	23,911.84
Affiliations		-	-
Donations	2	72,606.73	22,247.07
Branch income	3	309.39	394.82
Fundraising income	4	6,718.00	9,146.30
Investment income	5	238.09	146.78
Transfers in		-	-
Property and rental income/office services		-	-
Miscellaneous	7	19,643.00	7,084.76
Total income		123,496.29	62,931.57
Expenditure			
Premises		-	-
Office and administration costs		8,116.45	4,105.10
Branch expenditure	3	213.90	952.50
Staff costs	8	31,832.17	22,244.34
Transfers out	6	5,437.00	1,568.11
Campaigning costs		117,926.90	244.80
Fundraising costs	4	4,815.57	7,113.41
Financing charges and taxation	9	358.96	222.27
Depreciation		-	-
Miscellaneous	7	5,604.80	3,643.06
Profit/loss on disposal of assets		-	-
Total expenditure		174,305.75	40,093.59
Deficit/surplus		-50,809.46	22,837.98

Balance Sheet

	Note	2014 £	2013 £
Fixed assets			
Total fixed assets		-	-
Current assets			
Cash in hand and at bank	5	22,820.73	66,667.44
Stock		-	-
Debtors and prepayments	10	1,319.79	980.25
Total current assets		24,140.52	67,647.69
Liabilities			
Creditors and accruals		14,065.78	4,715.40
Loans outstanding		-	-
Total liabilities		14,065.78	4,715.40
Total net assets (liabilities)		10,074.74	62,932.29
Reserves			
Accumulated fund at start of year		62,932.29	40,094.31
Former branch funds returned		2,048.09	-
Deficit/surplus		50,809.46	22,837.98
Total reserves		10,074.74	62,932.29

Chair Date

Treasurer Date

Notes to the Accounts

	2014	2013
	£	£
1. Membership		
Membership fees received via/paid to the central party	23,981.08	23,911.84
Total	23,981.08	23,911.84

	2014	2013
	£	£
2. Donations		
Cash donations	71,961.73	22,247.07
Notional/Donations in kind	645.00	-
Total	72,606.73	22,247.07

During the year the unit had donations totalling £50,995 that were reportable to the Electoral Commission. The total donation figure above (£72,607) is greater than this because of donations received that were below the PPERA reporting threshold.

	2014		2013	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
	£	£	£	£
3. Branch income and expenditure				
Maldon	na	na	110.69	-
Hertsmere	309.39	213.90	199.49	152.50
West Suffolk	na	na	84.64	800.00
Total	309.39	213.90	394.82	952.50

4. Fundraising income and expenditure

A number of fundraising events were held throughout the year including a regional conference, online auction and a dinner.

	2014		2013	
	Balance at end of year	Interest received in year	Balance at end of year	Interest received in year
	£	£	£	£
5. Investment income				
Bank accounts	22,820.73	238.09	66,667.44	146.78
Total	22,820.73	238.09	66,667.44	146.78

6. Transfers

Transfer from/to	Amount	
	Incoming	Outgoing
	£	£
Cambridge Liberal Democrats	-	1,000
North Norfolk & Great Yarmouth Liberal Democrats	-	1,000
Norwich South Liberal Democrats	-	1,000
St Albans Liberal Democrats	-	1,437
Watford Liberal Democrats	-	1,000
Total	-	5,437.00

7. Miscellaneous income and expenditure

	2014		2013	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
	£	£	£	£
Training	251.00	-	-	-
Training costs	-	133.00	-	846.00
Newsletter scheme	6,498.00	-	4,432.00	-
Newsletter scheme costs	-	5,336.30	-	3,482.06
Inclusion of branch assets	-	-	2,652.76	-
Bad debts	-	135.50	-	-
Levy on local parties	12,894.00	-	-	-
Prior year adjustment	-	-	-	-1,185.00
Total	19,643.00	5,604.80	7,084.76	3,643.06

8. Salary costs

	2014	2013
	£	£
Salary costs	31,832.17	22,244.34
Total	31,832.17	22,244.34
Number of staff	2.5	2
Average cost	12,732.87	11,122.17

9. Financing charges and taxation

	2014	2013
	£	£
Bank charges and interest	356.65	213.77
Taxation	2.31	8.50
Total	358.96	222.27

10. Debtors and pre-payments

	2014	2013
	£	£
Pre-payments	-	-
Debtors	1,319.79	980.25
Total	1,319.79	980.25

Declaration

I confirm that the above Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with guidance issued by the Electoral Commission and is correct to the best of my knowledge.

In addition I confirm that these accounts have been approved by the Executive Committee of the East of England Liberal Democrats.

Signature

Position
Date

Registered Treasurer
31/03/2015

2016 budget

	2016 budget	2015 budget
Income		
Bank interest	30	0
Donations and appeals	25,730	5,500
Fundraising income	3,250	5,500
Membership rebate	26,000	25,500
Newsletter income	9,450	6,700
Other income	5,000	0
Regional conference income	4,200	4,200
Training income	400	100
Total income	74,060	47,500

Expenditure		
Candidates' Committee costs	250	250
Campaigning costs	10,250	250
Charges and taxes	300	200
Fundraising costs	1,069	1,050
Grants to local parties	2,000	1,000
Miscellaneous	100	100
Newsletter costs	7,500	5,850
Office and administration	3,700	6,050
Policy Committee costs	50	100
Regional Conference costs	5,000	4,000
Staff costs	30,600	30,600
Training costs	850	250
Total expenditure	61,660	49,700
Surplus (deficit) for the period	12,400	-2,200

Reserves	Euro	General
Brought forward from 2015	9,300	2,650
Surplus / (deficit)	3,800	8,600
Transfer between reserves	5,000	-5,000
Closing balance	18,100	6,250

CONFERENCE STANDING ORDERS

1. OBJECT

- 1.1** These Standing Orders govern the preparation and conduct of the agenda of the Conferences of the East of England Region.
- 1.2** These Standing Orders endure until amended by a two-thirds majority of representatives voting at a meeting of the Conference, at which the amendment has been notified to the members at least one week in advance of the meeting.

2. REGIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The Regional Conference committee shall, subject to the direction of the Regional Executive to whom it shall report:

- 2.1** Make all necessary arrangements for the Regional Conference, or any special Regional Conference called during its term of office.
- 2.2** Co-opt such other persons as may be necessary to enable it to carry out its duties efficiently.
- 2.3** Prepare all necessary regulations and timetables in respect of motions, elections, arrangements of business, the agenda, the conduct of sessions of the Regional Conference and all matters incidental thereto.
In particular it shall:
- Timetable all constitutional amendments that have been properly submitted.
 - Have available for inspection at Conference, all motions not included, or composited, in the final agenda.

3. RULES OF DEBATE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

- 3.1** No motion or amendment shall be discussed unless it has been proposed and formally seconded.
- 3.2** Representatives shall direct their speeches to the question under discussion or to a point of order or to a personal explanation.
- 3.3** Subject to the right of amendment of the Conference Committee in the case of any specific item of business, the discussion of all motions shall normally comprise:
- Speech of mover of main motion and any alternative under 3.4 below, five minutes at most.
 - Speeches of movers of any amendment: three minutes at most.
 - Speeches from the floor: three minutes at most.
 - Rights of reply as provided by SO5: three minutes at most.
- 3.4** The Conference Committee may:
- Recognise an amendment as an alternative option and allow its proposer the same time as the speech of the proposer of the motion.
 - Take two or more motions covering the same or associated subject matter to be debated simultaneously (along with any

amendments to such motions): such debate shall conclude with a vote on each motion and amendment in turn, or between motions, or amendments or parts of motions or amendments, as appropriate.

- 3.5** **3.5.1** Each motion will be moved and any amendment will then be moved, debated and voted upon in the order in which they affect the wording of the motion, except that the Session Chair may vary the order of debate to improve discussion where the nature or complexity of the motion make this desirable.
- 3.5.2** Subject to SO3.4 above, all amendments shall be decided before substantive debate on any motion.
- 3.6** No member shall speak more than once on any motion or amendment or in any simultaneous debate under SO3.4 above except:
- To exercise any right of reply given by these Standing Orders;
 - By way of explanation;
 - To move any procedural motion;
 - On different aspects of a Report which is discussed in parts;
- 3.7** The Session Chair may, subject to contrary indication by Conference, allow any person who is not a Representative to the Conference to speak in any debate.
- 3.8** Speakers will be selected by the Session Chair from those members who indicate their wish to speak. In choosing speakers, the Session Chair shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between different viewpoints within the conference. The Session Chair shall also have regard, in choosing speakers, to the number of times a particular person has already been called to speak during the meeting of Conference.
- 3.9** A motion or amendment once moved and seconded may only be withdrawn with the consent of Conference, which shall be signified without discussion.
- ## 4. PROCEDURAL POINTS
- 4.1** Subject to SO 7.4, a person may rise to a point of personal explanation, but a personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech by that person at the same meeting which may have been misunderstood. A person so rising shall be entitled to be heard forthwith.
- 4.2** The ruling of the Session Chair on a point of order or the admissibility of a personal explanation shall not be open to discussion and shall only be open to challenge on a two thirds majority of those present and voting.
- 4.3** When a motion is under debate only the following procedural motions shall be allowed:
- That the Session Chair's ruling be set aside;
 - To adjourn the debate in motion;
 - That the question be not put;
 - That the question be now put;

- 4.3.5** That the motion be referred back to the mover.

Any such procedural motion, when moved and formally seconded, shall immediately become the motion under discussion unless deferred under SO4.6. When any such procedural motion is moved and where the Session Chair has not deferred debate under SO 4.6, only a higher procedural motion on the list above may then be moved before such procedural motion is decided.

- 4.4** Procedural motions 4.3.2 to 4.3.4 may only be moved without comment by a representative at the end of another person's speech.
- 4.5** The mover of any procedural motion under SO 4.3.1 or SO 4.3.5 may make a brief speech; the Session Chair in case SO 4.3.1 and the mover of the motion in case SO 4.3.5 shall have a brief right of reply.
- 4.6** Motions SO 4.3.4 and SO 4.3.5 above shall not be accepted unless the Session Chair believes that there has been adequate discussion of the matter under consideration. If a motion in case SO 4.3.4 is carried the movers shall have a right of reply before their motion is voted on.

5. RIGHT OF REPLY

- 5.1** The proposer of a motion shall have a right of reply at the close of the debate upon such motion, immediately before it is put to the vote.
- 5.2** If any amendment is proposed, the proposer of the motion shall be entitled to reply at the end of the debate upon the amendment.
- 5.3** The mover of any amendment shall have the right of reply immediately before the proposer of the substantive motion.
- 5.4** The right of reply may be delegated by the proposer concerned.
- 5.5** A representative exercising a right to reply shall not introduce new matter to the debate.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDMENT

- 6.1** A representative may, with the consent of Conference, signified without discussion, accept a drafting amendment to the motion which has been proposed and may also accept any duly tabled amendment.

7. VOTING

- 7.1** On being appointed each representative shall be issued with a voting card bearing his or her name. Such voting cards shall not be transferable.
- 7.2** Names of substitutes for any representative shall be notified to the Regional Conference Committee. Following valid receipt of such notification, each substitute shall be issued with a voting card bearing his or her name and become a representative for the meeting in question, replacing the representative so substituted.
- 7.3** All votes shall be taken by a show of voting cards. The voting shall be counted by tellers at the request of the

Session Chair, the Conference Committee or 25 members upstanding.

- 7.4** No point of personal explanation may be raised during a vote. Points of order raised during a vote shall only be admissible if they relate to the conduct of the vote.
- 7.5** The Session Chair's decision and announcement of the result shall be final.

8. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

- 8.1** A representative may during any plenary Conference move a motion for the suspension of Standing Orders. The mover of the motion shall submit the motion and a brief written statement of the purpose of the proposed suspension to the Chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The Chair shall then (if the motion is in order) invite the Conference representatives wishing the motion to be considered to stand in their places and show their voting cards. If less than 35 representatives do so the motion shall not proceed.
- 8.2** If the motion proceeds, the mover may speak and a representative of the Conference Committee may reply. The Chair shall have the discretion whether to allow other speakers on the motion.
- 8.3** A motion to suspend Standing Orders shall be carried only if supported by at least two thirds of the Conference representatives voting. If the motion is carried, all Standing Orders shall be deemed to be still in force, except only for the purpose set out in the motion.

9. QUORUM

- 9.1** If there are fewer than 40 representatives present at any time, any one representative may demand, and procure, that discussion of a topic be deferred.

10. NO SMOKING RULE

- 10.1** No person attending the meeting may smoke.



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