



East of England Liberal Democrats

# Annual Conference

Saturday 14 October 2017

Red Lodge Millennium Centre

## Preliminary Agenda

This is the preliminary agenda containing the timetable, venue information and motions to be debated. The deadline for submitting amendments to motions, emergency motions and questions to the Brexit Panel is:

**10am, Friday 6 October to [conference@eastlibdems.org.uk](mailto:conference@eastlibdems.org.uk)**

The chair may take additional questions from the floor on the day.

The final agenda – including reports and accounts – will be published following the deadline for amendments. A link will be sent to all members registered for conference. Paper copies will be available to collect at the registration desk.

## CONFERENCE INFORMATION

### Welcome to our Regional Conference.

We are delighted to have a wide range of speakers and contributors including Baroness (Sarah) Ludford, the party's Brexit spokesperson in the House of Lords.

The day also includes policy debates, training, and reports from parliamentarians and party officers.

This agenda contains all the information you need to get the most out of the day. Please read carefully and get in touch if you have any queries.

We hope you enjoy the day.

#### Gill Collings

Chair, Conference Committee  
conference@libdems.org.uk  
01206 524351

## DEADLINES

Friday 6 October, 10am is the deadline for

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

These should be submitted by email to [conference@eastlibdems.org.uk](mailto:conference@eastlibdems.org.uk) or by post to the Conference Office, 54 Grymes Dyke Way, Stanway, Colchester CO3 0QT

## REGISTRATION

You can register for conference on the day. This will cost £38 instead of £32 for advance booking.

Your conference badge and agenda will be available to collect at the registration desk.

Please wear your badge at all times while in the conference centre, and return the plastic holder to the collection box when conference concludes.

## DISABILITY ACCESS

The centre has disabled access including disabled parking and a stair-lift to the first floor break-out room. The main conference rooms and lunch are on the ground floor

The main hall is fitted with an induction loop.

## ACCOMMODATION / FRIDAY MEAL

Some members are staying near the venue on the Friday night at the Bell Inn, Mildenhall (01638 583511 [www.the-bell-hotel.co.uk](http://www.the-bell-hotel.co.uk)).

They will be going out for a meal at 7pm. If you wish to join them please let Gill Collings know at [conference@eastlibdems.org.uk](mailto:conference@eastlibdems.org.uk).

## ELECTIONS

Nominations will open soon for English Council representatives and councillor reps on regional committees. Nomination papers will be available at [www.eastlibdems.org.uk/elections17](http://www.eastlibdems.org.uk/elections17) and will also be available at conference.

## EMERGENCIES AND FIRST AID

In case of emergency please report to the registration desk or contact a steward.

## FOCUS EXCHANGE

Bring along spare copies of your campaign literature and get inspiration from other people's work at the Focus Exchange table towards the back of the main hall.

## REFRESHMENTS

Tea and coffee is available throughout the day in the kitchen. Lunch will be served from 12.30pm in the conservatory. Feel free to collect your lunch and take it into one of the lunchtime training sessions. Refreshments are included in the cost of your registration.

## STANDING ORDERS

The conference standing orders are the rules which govern the conduct of regional conferences. You can download a copy of the standing orders at [www.eastlibdems.org.uk/standing-orders](http://www.eastlibdems.org.uk/standing-orders). Copies will also be available at the registration desk.

## STANDS

Please visit the stands in the small hall.

## WIFI

Free wifi access is available.



Session Chair:

Session Aide:

# 1000 Welcome to Conference House of Commons report

**Rt Hon Norman Lamb (MP for North Norfolk)**

Norman will report back to members about the work of Liberal Democrat MPs in the House of Commons and take questions.

Norman Lamb first stood for Parliament in North Norfolk in 1992. He was elected in 2001 and has subsequently been re-elected four times. Norman is a former Health Minister and has built a reputation as a champion on mental health issues. He was recently became chair of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee.

At the end of the session members will be asked to vote on whether they wish to receive the report.

# 1020 Regional Officers' reports

**Jo Hayes (Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats)**

**Tony Mason (Treasurer, East of England Liberal Democrats)**

Every two years members elect regional officers and executive committee members to oversee and carry out the functions of the regional party. Jo Hayes will report to members on the activities of the regional party, the regional executive and representatives elected by Conference to other bodies.

Tony Mason will report on the financial affairs of the regional party for the year to date and present an outline budget for 2018.

Members will be asked to vote to receive these reports, approve the accounts and appoint auditors to produce an independent report on the accounts for the next Annual General Meeting.

# 1045 Motion: Campaigning in University Towns

**Mover: Steve Bolter**

East of England conference notes:

1. At the 2015 General Election, this region lost all three of its university town seats, but retained its rural seat, which had had a sizable Leave vote in the referendum;
2. Despite concentrated campaigning, we failed to come close to getting any of them back at the 2017 snap General Election.
3. From December 2015 to date, Labour and its sympathisers have been running a continuous social media assault on the Lib Dems, using the 27 Lib Dem votes for fee capping and an improved student loan system to falsely portray us as unprincipled, putting power grabbing before the needs of students.
4. Instead of explaining how we saved students from a free market of unlimited fees and a totally inadequate Student Loan system – which the Tories wanted – or a catastrophic drop in university funding – which Labour were prepared to allow to avoid co-operating with the Lib Dems – Nick Clegg apologised.
5. Our campaigning was mainly a call for a referendum once a deal had been completed. There was little about our long term commitment to the EU or why we believe the UK should remain in a member, or what would happen if the quest for a deal was abandoned.
6. Just before the 2017 General Election Labour promised it would abolish student fees immediately if elected, safe in the knowledge that it would not have to keep its promise.

Conference calls for the next parliamentary elections in university towns to be served by bold and positive campaigns, with:

1. An upbeat statement on previous student fees policies and actions, with commitment to use what power we may gain, to work for reductions in the student fees burden.
2. Criticism of Labour's campaign of misinformation on Lib Dem actions and its own empty promises on student fees.
3. A statement of our continued commitment to EU membership.
4. A statement of reasons of principle as well as expediency for staying in the EU.



5. Absence of the claim that a recommendation by 37% of the electorate that we leave the EU is an expression of the will of the majority of the population to leave, then or now.
6. The holding of referendum on the Brexit deal negotiated (if any) and campaigning for remaining in the EU, presented as a possible, but not exclusive, way of remaining in the Union.
7. Details of our commitment to the environment, including working towards a circular economy and fighting climate change with practical steps to achieving a very low carbon economy.

**Amendments to this motion should be submitted to the Conference Office (email [conference@eastlibdems.org.uk](mailto:conference@eastlibdems.org.uk)) by 10am on Friday 6 October 2017**

## 1115 House of Lords report

**Baroness Sarah Ludford (Brexit spokesperson in the House of Lords)**

Sarah will report back to members about the work of Liberal Democrat peers in the House of Lords and take questions.

At the end of the session members will be asked to vote on whether they wish to receive the report.

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Session Chair: Belinda Brooks-Gordon

Session Aide:

## 1130 Brexit Plenary

**Andrew Duff (Visiting fellow, European Policy Centre and former MEP)**

**Baroness Sarah Ludford (Brexit spokesperson in the House of Lords)**

Your chance to discuss the developing Brexit situation and how the Lib Dems should respond. After short opening statements, members have the opportunity to comment and ask questions to which the panel will respond.

Andrew Duff was one of the East of England's representatives in the European Parliament from 1999 until 2014. He has written and spoken extensively on Europe. Sarah Ludford was a London MEP between 1999 and 2014. She was appointed to the House of Lords in 1997 and is Lords Spokesperson on Exiting the European Union

Belinda Brooks Gordon is an East of England's representative on ALDE Council. The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) is the European Political Party to which the Liberal Democrats belong.

**Questions to the panel should be submitted to the Conference Office (email [conference@eastlibdems.org.uk](mailto:conference@eastlibdems.org.uk)) by 10am on Friday 6 October 2017. The chair may take additional questions and comments from the floor.**

# 1230 Lunch

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Session Chair:

Session Aide:

# 1330 Keynote speech

Our special guest speaker will give a keynote speech and take questions from members.

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Session Chair:

Session Aide:

# 1445 Report of English Party Review Group

**Sally Symington (Chair, English Party Review Group)**

The English Party' comprises the eleven English regional parties and the Young Liberals. The principal functions of the English Party relate to membership recruitment and administration; parliamentary, mayoral and police and crime commissioner candidate approval and selection; and disciplinary and conduct issues.

The party is reviewing its role and governance. Sally Symington, who is a member in Hertfordshire, is the chair of the review group. She will report to members and seek views.



Session Chair:

Session Aide:

# 1500 Motion: A Carbon Levy plus dividend policy to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and poverty

**Proposed by the East of England Liberal Democrats Policy Committee**

**Mover: Joe Jordan**

**Summator: Stewart Reddaway**

Conference notes:

1. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is urgent.
2. A carbon tax encourages both energy efficiency and the use of low-CO<sub>2</sub> energy.

Conference believes:

1. That a carbon tax should be levied on all production or import of fossil fuels. All the money raised (net of partial rebates and costs) should be paid back via the benefits system as a cash dividend to the whole population on an equal-per-head basis, with half the adult rate for a child. It follows that people with below average carbon footprints (i.e. those for whom the dividend exceeds the effect of price rises due to the tax) would be subsidised by those with above average footprints. Although the poor may have high heating costs, their total carbon footprint from all spending is always below average and so they will be winners. Also, almost all people in fuel poverty will be winners.
2. The tax should be called a levy because the money is paid back, and not retained by the government. For the same reason, the policy is not tax hypothecation.
3. Over a decade the levy should rise progressively to between £100 and £150 per tonne. (At £125 per tonne, and with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 30% lower than today, the annual adult dividend would be about £1000, or £2000 for an adult plus two children.) Levy rates for several years ahead should be published so investors and others can plan with confidence.
4. The levy will enable spending to be reduced on subsidies to low-CO<sub>2</sub> energy, and on tax breaks aimed at reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Reduced poverty could lead to reduced spending on benefits.
5. Fuel duty should be reduced to partially compensate for the levy, and the levy should be fully refunded for CO<sub>2</sub> saved by Carbon Capture and Storage.



6. The government should negotiate for the levy to become international, including in the EU.
7. Some of the money raised by the levy should be used to give partial rebates to carbon-intensive industries, to encourage them not to migrate abroad. Consideration should be given to extending the carbon levy to imports of carbon-intensive commodities.

Conference calls for:

1. A carbon levy on all production or import of fossil fuels and petroleum products.
2. All the money raised (net of partial rebates and costs) to be paid back via the benefits system as a cash dividend to all UK residents on an equal-per-head basis, but with half the adult rate for children.

**Amendments to this motion should be submitted by email to [conference@eastlibdems.org.uk](mailto:conference@eastlibdems.org.uk) by 10am on Friday 6 October 2017**

**The movers have submitted the following explanation:**

A comprehensive carbon tax uses market forces to go to the root of the problem of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. However, this motion pays all the money raised (net of partial rebates and costs) back to the whole population on an equal-per-head basis via the benefits system. This means that people with below average total carbon footprints are subsidised by those with above average footprints. All the poor, and almost all the fuel poor, will be winners.

Not taxing carbon is like trying to reduce smoking without taxing cigarettes.

The dividend makes the policy tax-neutral overall, which helps sell it politically. It is also technology-neutral, as it does not try to “pick winners”

Administrative costs should be low. The levy would be collected from big companies on goods that are already monitored. The dividend is the same for all adults.

Over time, the policy could replace the EU ETS (Emissions Trading System), which prices only half of CO<sub>2</sub>, results in volatile carbon pricing, and has, so far, been a failure.

To keep the motion relatively short, various issues have been omitted. For example:

- o How far and wide support for carbon-intensive industries should go
- o What should be done about carbon embedded in imports.
- o Estimates of the CO<sub>2</sub> saved as the levy is ramped up
- o International aviation and shipping

The policy is national, but for Eastern region it will particularly help off-shore wind and the use of farm waste in anaerobic digestion.



# 1530 Emergency motion

**Emergency motions should be submitted by email to  
conference@eastlibdems.org.uk by 10am on Friday 6 October 2017**

Emergency motions should be brief and relate to a topical issue.

# 1555 Closing announcements

# 1600 Close of Conference



## TRAINING SESSIONS

### Duncan Room

1020 – 1115

#### HOW TO INTERPRET YOUR CONNECT DATA

Connect can produce all sorts of numbers but what do they mean? James Lillis explains how to use the figures to help your campaign

James Lillis is a Federal Party campaigns officer and was campaign manager for the successful Richmond Park by-election in 2016. He is a councillor in Peterborough.

1130 – 1230

#### TARGET SETTING FOR LOCAL PARTIES

Smaller and medium sized local parties face many challenges. Ian Horner will help local party officers and activists focus on the key issues and plan ahead.

Ian is an experienced campaign manager and agent who has run many successful election and by-election campaigns.

1240 – 1330

#### COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Get answers to your queries about PPERA, expense returns, data protection, candidate selection and other compliance matters. **Collect your lunch first and bring it to the session.**

Darren Briddock is Compliance Manager for the Liberal Democrats based at Lib Dem HQ.

1445 – 1555

#### TRAINING FOR CURRENT AND POSSIBLE AGENTS

Agents are unsung heroes of the election process, ensuring campaigns keep on the right side of the law. Find out more and update your knowledge with Darren Briddock.

Darren Briddock is Lib Dem Compliance Manager.

### Board Room

1045–1130

#### TALKING TO VOTERS USING THE MINIVAN APP

MiniVan is the Lib Dems' easy to use doorstep canvassing app. Find out how to use it with Jon Whitehouse. If possible, download NGP MiniVan onto your Android or Apple phone in advance.

Jon Whitehouse is East of England Development Officer and a district councillor in Epping.

1130 – 1230

#### CONNECT FOR MANAGERS AND AGENTS

Making the most of Connect in your campaign.

James is a councillor in Norwich, a former regional development officer and runs his own IT company specialising in education.

1240 – 1330

#### LOCAL PARTY DEVELOPMENT

The East of England's development committee is proposing a new initiative to support local parties. Victor Scrivens explains more. **Collect your lunch first and bring it to the session.**

Victor is a member of the East of England development committee and of the regional executive.

1445 – 1555

#### FUNDRAISING USING SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media can be a quick and effective way of of raising badly needed funds. Find out more with ALDC.

ALDC is the organisation for Lib Dem councillors and campaigners, providing campaign advice and support



## WHO'S WHO

### Officers

President	Andrew Duff
Chair	Jo Hayes
Vice-Chair	Sara Bedford
Secretary	Gill Collings
Treasurer	Tony Mason

### Committee Chairs

Campaigns Committee	Lucy Nethsingha
Candidates' Committee	Paul Clark
Conference Committee	Gill Collings
Development Committee	Stuart Beadle
Policy Committee	Joe Jordan

### County Co-ordinating Committee Chairs

Cambridgeshire	Spencer Hagard
Essex	Theresa Higgins
Hertfordshire	David Davies
Norfolk	Denys Robinson
Suffolk	Jon James

### Executive Committee members

Simon Banks  
Belinda Brooks-Gordon  
Peter Chivall  
David Jones  
Rabi Martins (Diversity champion)  
Andy McGuinness  
Lucy Nethsingha  
Daniel Norton  
Stephen Robinson  
Victor Scrivens

### Staff

Development Officer	Jon Whitehouse
Newsletter editor	Lorna Dupré

## CONFERENCE VENUE

### VENUE LOCATION

The address of the Conference Venue is Red Lodge Millennium Centre, Lavender Close, Red Lodge, Bury St Edmunds IP28 8TT.

Red Lodge lies on the A11 between Newmarket and Bury St Edmunds.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

You are strongly advised to check your route and timetables before your journey. This information has been compiled in good faith using published information from the bus and train operators. East of England Liberal Democrats cannot take responsibility for any inaccuracy or disruption.

### Train and bus from CAMBRIDGE / NEWMARKET

#### *Greater Anglian train*

Cambridge	0844	Platform 6
Newmarket	0904	
Kennett	0912	

#### *Bus service 16 (Stephensons)*

Kennett	0928	on Station Way
Red Lodge	0937	Blackberry Way bus stop

### Bus from BURY ST EDMUNDS

#### *Bus service 16 (Stephensons)*

Bury St Edmunds	0852	Railway Station (adj)
Red Lodge	0937	Blackberry Way bus stop

It is a two-minute walk from the Blackberry Way bus stop to Red Lodge Millennium Centre in Lavender Close.

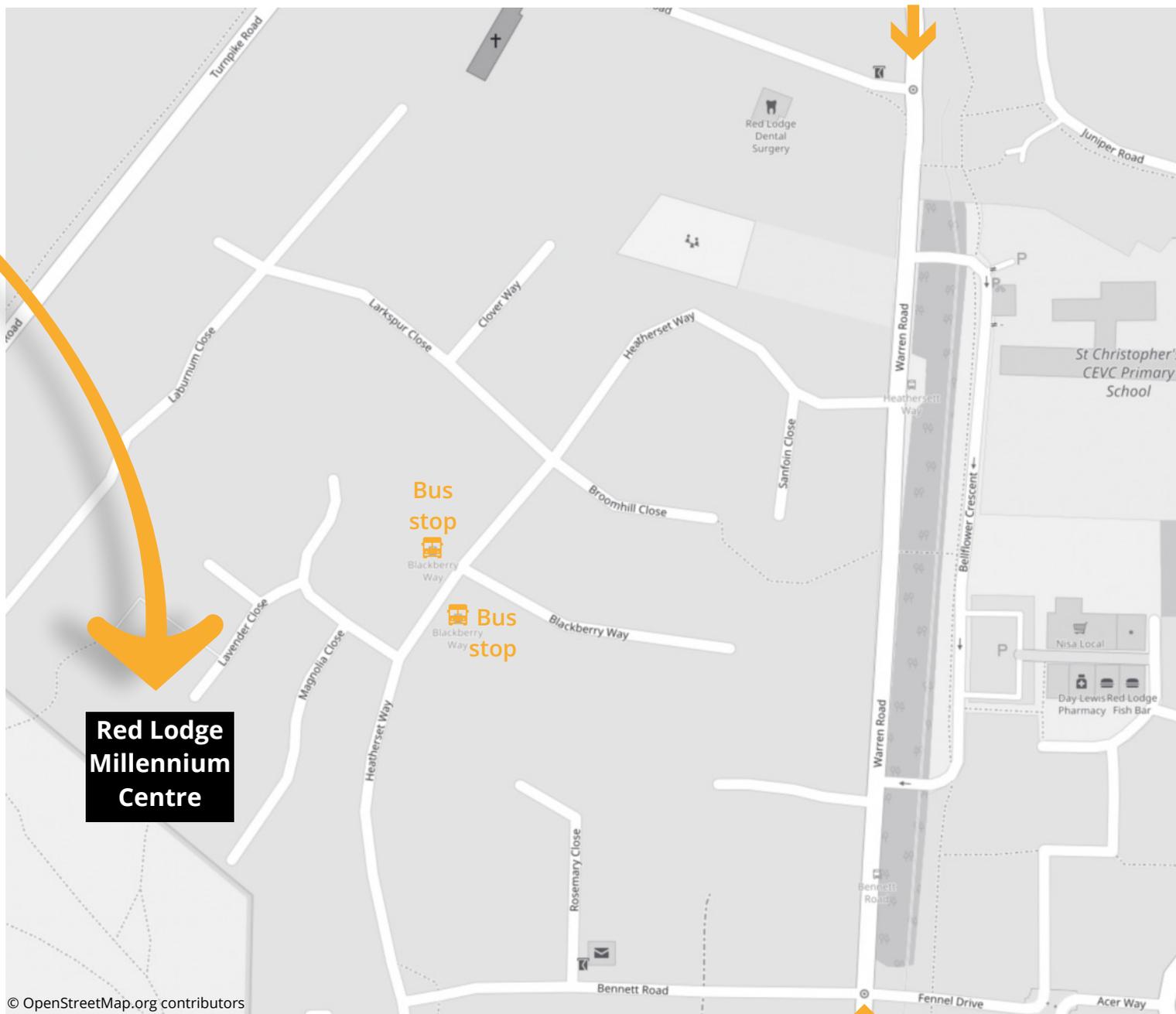
Alternatively you can book a cab to meet you at Kennett station.

### Taxi / minicabs

Minicab / taxi firms based in Red Lodge include (book in advance as no taxi rank at the station):

- Britannia Cabs - 01638 750300
- Cabline Taxis - 01638 751999
- Style Taxis - 01638 669966





From A11

From A14

## ARRIVING BY ROAD

Red Lodge is easily accessible from A11 and A14. The postcode is IP28 8TT. Estimated journey times:

- Bedford 1 hour ten minutes
- Cambridge 40 minutes
- Chelmsford 1 hour 20 minutes
- Ipswich 55 minutes
- Norwich 1 hour 10 minutes
- St Albans 1 hour 30 minutes

### From the A11

Leave the A11 at the B1085 exit towards Red Lodge. At the roundabout take the first exit onto Warren Road.

Follow Warren Road, passing through three more roundabouts (2<sup>nd</sup> exit, then 3<sup>rd</sup> exit, then 1<sup>st</sup> exit).

Turn 1<sup>st</sup> right into Heathersett Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> right into Magnolia Close and 2<sup>nd</sup> into Lavender Close.

### From the A14, travelling from the East

Take the B1506 exit towards Newmarket. At Kentford turn right onto Herringswell Road towards Red Lodge.

At second roundabout turn left onto Bennett Road. Turn second right onto Heathersett Way, first left onto Magnolia Close and second left into Lavender Close.



## CONFERENCE TIMETABLE AT A GLANCE

	Main Hall	Duncan Room	Board Room
<b>0930</b>	<b>Registration opens</b>		
<b>0930</b>		Meeting for New Members Jo Hayes (Chair)	
<b>1000</b>	Welcome to Conference House of Commons Report Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP	-	-
<b>1020</b>	Regional officers' report Jo Hayes (Chair) Tony Mason (Treasurer)	Training (until 1115) How to interpret your Connect data	-
<b>1045</b>	Motion Campaigning in University Towns		Training (until 1130) Talking to voters using the MiniVan app
<b>1115</b>	House of Lords Report Baroness Sarah Ludford		
<b>1130</b>	Brexit plenary session with Andrew Duff and Baroness Sarah Ludford	Training (until 1230) Target setting for local parties	Training (until 1230) Connect for Managers and Agents
<b>1230</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>		
<b>1240</b>	-	Training (until 1330) Compliance Q and A	Development (until 1330) Development Committee proposals for training
<b>1330</b>	Keynote speaker name	-	-
<b>1445</b>	Report of English Party Review Group Sally Symington	Training (until 1555) For agents and potential agents	Training (until 1555) Fundraising using Social Media
<b>1500</b>	Motion: A Carbon Levy plus dividend policy to reduce CO <sub>2</sub> and poverty		
<b>1530</b>	Emergency motion		
<b>1555</b>	Closing announcements	-	-
<b>1600</b>	<b>Conference closes. Safe journey home.</b>		

