

# **CONFERENCE**

Final Agenda  
Summer 2025



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# Friday 15th August

## 14.40 - 15.00 First Timers Training

Join Young Liberals Policy Officer, Ulysse Abbate, and get all the inside knowledge on how to make the most of Conference. Designed for first timers, but Conference regulars might learn something new too - all welcome.

## 15.00 - 15.15 Opening of Conference

## 15.15 - 15.45 Policy Motion - F2 Representation Is Not Optional: Women at the Table

Chair: Leo Dempster, Aide: Brendan Roberts

### **F2      *Representation Is Not Optional: Women at the Table***

*Submitted by Katharine Macy*

Conference notes that:

1. Women are significantly left out of decision making both in terms of representation through election and in consultations.
2. Women are more likely to rely on public transport
3. Women are more likely to have a significant caring role throughout their lives. The societal expectation, or Motherhood Penalty, placed upon women to fulfil care responsibilities alongside their careers has financial implications for the autonomy of women.
4. Many data sets are incomplete in terms of recognising gender.
5. When attempting to pursue careers in male dominated spaces, women are often subjected to discrimination, gaslighting, and bias making it harder to sustain these jobs and roles without it impacting their emotional and physical health.
6. Men's view of women matters and can delay equality, especially in the current contexts where leadership roles in Government, public bodies and private organisations are overwhelmingly held by men who are unwilling to hold space for women.
7. The gendered pay gap, at an average of £631 deficit per month, results in women being more likely to find themselves in financial poverty.
8. A significant number of people in financially vulnerable circumstances are women, with some figures showing a quarter of women of working age are economically inactive (often due to care arrangements and the cost of childcare) which can increase the debt risk and financial stressors in establishing financial independence.
9. Women without a private pension sits at a doubled figure compared with figures of men who do not have in place. In addition, the gap between gender's contributions is wide as the payments stemming from income are reduced with the imbalance of family leave between men and women, and the expectation upon women to often shift their work roles to prioritise child rearing.
10. That women from marginalised communities such as those coming from lower economic backgrounds and women of colour, are even more likely to experience these barriers.

Conference believes that:

1. Every person deserves equal access and equal rights regardless of their gender.
2. All genders should be empowered to achieve their best, independently.
3. Addressing these issues should not be the sole responsibility of the affected genders, but also lies with our male allies.
4. Intersectionality is integral to achieving gender equity and inclusion.

Conference calls for:

1. The Government to mandate that all government supported or funded focus groups, outside of situations where only other genders are relevant, must include at least 40% women, 40% men (and remaining 20% open to any identification) mix at leadership levels.
2. The Government to only provide funding where gender (and sex when relevant) are acknowledged and taken into account as a variable.
3. The Government to enforce a gendered lens on all policy assessment moving forward and encourage all providers and local governments to do the same.
4. The Government to mandate that all NHS training should acknowledge a gendered view of diagnosis and treatment, including but not limited to, studies, textbooks and examples.
5. The Government to provide support in educating men and other genders in supporting women, such as:
  - a. Ensuring that all school textbooks with images must include photos of all genders.
  - b. Encouraging schools to abolish gender segregation in lessons around sex and puberty.
6. The Government to reform financial policies by:
  - a. Introducing automatic pension top-ups for women who take extended family leave, to compensate for income-based contribution gaps.
  - b. Mandating that all pension providers report and publicly disclose gender disparities in pension savings, access, and outcomes.
  - c. Providing targeted financial education and pension support schemes for women, particularly those in caring roles or economically inactive due to unpaid labour.
  - d. Rebalancing tax reliefs and incentives to better support lower-income earners - especially women affected by the motherhood penalty and gendered work patterns.
7. The Liberal Democrats to recognise the impact on all genders in policy moving forward.
8. The Liberal Democrats to use All Women Shortlists whenever legal and pursue embedding this practice alongside training and changing practices to ensure women are able to engage
  - a. The Liberal Democrats should furthermore fight to ensure All Women Shortlists include all women, inclusive of trans women.
9. The Liberal Democrats to proactively ensure that candidates, campaigners and staff have access to and are provided with education on gender inclusivity to combat micro aggressions and bias within our own organisations.

## 15.45 - 16.15 Policy Motion - F3 Building a Holistic Liberal Democrat Psychoactives Policy

Chair: Harvey Thomas-Benton, Aide: Lucas North

### **F3      *Building a Holistic Liberal Democrat Psychoactives Policy***

*Submitted by Jonah Weisz*

Conference notes that:

1. The Liberal Democrats have a proud history of championing ethical consumption and harm-reduction strategies for the general population when discussing psychoactive substances. However, this policy approach is outdated, and overlooks the therapeutic potential of psychoactive substance research.
2. Recent neuropsychopharmacology research demonstrates that psychedelic treatments show promise for a wide range of conditions, including:
  - a. The Division of Brain Science at Imperial College London conducting studies on treatment-resistant depression and fibromyalgia; and
  - b. trials from around the world on cluster headaches, PTSD, anorexia nervosa and traumatic brain injuries
3. The failure of policymaking in this area has been widely covered, including within Westminster.
4. The lack of newly approved mental health treatments is stark, with government data showing almost ten times more cancer trial applications (29.4% of all trials) than mental health studies (3.3%) between 2019 and 2023. In 2023, over 19 people died by suicide per day in the UK, the highest rate since 1999.
5. The UK is being left behind despite establishing the first psychedelic research centre in the world. Other countries are taking steps to address this policy area, including:
  - a. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and parts of the US have legalised psychedelics for clinical treatments.

- b. The European Medicines Association is addressing the mental health clinical trials imbalance, adopting new guidelines for depression trials, with a dedicated section on psychedelics.
  - c. The Czech Parliament has, in July 2025, passed legislation that paves the way for qualified psychiatrists to administer psilocybin.
  - d. The Ukrainian Ministry of Health has proposed legislative changes to facilitate national psychedelic research.
6. In a recent review of barriers to research, the government's Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs recommended an extension of Schedule II research rights (significantly-less burdensome in terms of administrative process and cost) to Schedule I substances. These recommendations from late-2023 remain unimplemented.

Conference believes that:

1. Disabled people and those suffering with mental health conditions deserve research into treatment to be unhindered by government regulation that is not fit for purpose.
2. Those living with physical conditions also deserve uninhibited access to breakthrough therapies that may ameliorate the psychological burden of navigating chronic health conditions.
3. We stand to gain economically from bringing policy in line with science. By securing innovative treatments for underserved conditions, benefit dependency can be reduced as physically disabled and mentally unwell people are able to rejoin the workforce.
4. To ensure equitable outcomes, access on the NHS will be necessary, especially as the burden of mental and physical disabilities disproportionately falls upon economically disadvantaged groups and minorities.
5. The UK can and should recapture its early-mover advantage in neuropsychopharmacology research.

Conference calls upon the government to:

1. Immediately accept and implement all of the recommendations and suggested further options in the ACMD's 2023 report, Consideration of barriers to research part 2: schedule 1 controlled drugs to ensure that research is no longer obstructed by unnecessary bureaucracy.
2. Accept and implement all of the recommendations of the Home Affairs Committee's 2023 Drugs Report, including:
  - a. to undertake review of the classification system and the scheduling system under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 respectively,
  - b. to move psychedelic drugs to Schedule 2 in order to facilitate research on the medical or therapeutic value of these drugs
  - c. to urgently widen access to unlicensed cannabis-based products for medicinal use (CBPMs) available on the NHS and enable randomised controlled trials into CBPM use for chronic pain
3. Address structural issues of underfunding. Coordinate resources and research via a national Centre of Excellence for psychoactive research to restore our advantage and expedite innovation and progress.
4. Investigate routes to accessing psychedelic treatments through the NHS

## **Amendment 1**

*Submitted by Brandon Masih*

In Conference Notes 1), omit "However, this policy approach is outdated, and overlooks the therapeutic potential of psychoactive substance research."

And in Conference Believes, insert at the start, the following:

1. Liberal policy on Psychoactives should, in addition to harm reduction strategies, promote the therapeutic potential of psychoactive substance research.

In Conference Notes 6, omit "These recommendations from late-2023 remain unimplemented."

Insert after Conference Believes v)

1. Conference welcomes, in part, the July 16th 2025 Government response to ACMD "Consideration of Barriers to Research Part 2: Schedule 1 Controlled Drugs" that:
  - a. accepts improvements to accessibility for the import/export Licensing System for first-time or infrequent applicants and to evaluate if any implemented policy change reduces barriers to research, and
  - b. agreement in principle on exempting supply of Schedules 1 substances by Research Institutions from licensing and exempting MHRA/MHA/REC approved clinical trials from further Home Office licensing

Conference, however, notes with concern from the July 16th 2025 Government response, the rejection of Recommendation 3, which recommends granting hospitals and universities the ability to supply Schedule 1 substances for research under the same license provided for schedules 2 to 5.

After Conference Calls upon iv), insert the following

1. set out a timeline culminating at the end of the 2024-29 Parliament, the implementation of the recommendations from both the ACMD "Consideration of Barriers to Research Part 2: Schedule 1 Controlled Drugs" report and the Home Affairs Committee 2023 Drugs Report.

## 16.15 - 16.45 Policy Motion - F4 A Liberal Future for Two States

Chair: Ulysse Abbate, Aide: Harvey Thomas-Benton

### **F4      *A Liberal Future for Two States***

*Submitted by Young Liberals International Committee*

Conference affirms and acknowledges the strong policy positions that the Young Liberals have associated with on the issue of the conflict including: The Autumn 2021 Federal Conference motion F39, Towards a Lasting Peace, and the Autumn 2024 Federal Conference motion F32, The Israel-Gaza Conflict - an immediate bilateral ceasefire and securing two states. The 44th IFLRY General Assembly's motion, On the Future of Israel Palestine.

However it recognises the need for the Young Liberals to have its own, defined position on the conflict.

Conference notes:

1. That a two state solution has been the stated, consensus goal of the International Community since 1947.
2. Despite this consensus, there has sadly been no consistent, meaningful progress towards the long term establishment of a normalised, two state solution, with multiple conflicts resulting in 10,000s of deaths and the eventual occupation of much of the former Palestinian state by Israel.
3. That the Oslo process, meant to result in a two-state solution on the basis that Israel would halt the expansion of settlements in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that Palestinian groups would cease terrorist activities directed against Israel, failed as neither side honored these intentions.
4. The failure to justly resolve the Israel-Palestine question fuels extremism, violence and instability throughout the region and beyond.
5. Israeli and Palestinian civilians are the victims of this impasse, as demonstrated so cruelly by the murderous violence of both the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories and the attacks of 7th October 2023.
6. That the illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories by Israel, the expansion of illegal settlements and mass forced displacement of Palestinians in the West Bank, the oppressive dictatorship of Hamas within Gaza, as well as the devastation caused by Israel's military operation in Gaza has led to Palestinians being unable to establish their own state or live free lives.
7. That none of this violent repression has brought lasting security to Israeli civilians from dangers posed by Palestinian and non-Palestinian militants.
8. That the continuation of the conflict and inability to find a lasting, peaceful two-state solution has led to erosion of civil society in both Israel and Palestine respectively; with Hamas capturing much of the state mechanism within the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Government being dominated by corrupt, anti-democratic, pro conflict extremists who have used the continuation of the war as an excuse to erode Israel's democratic society.
9. Although the horrific conflict sparked by the October 7th massacre was briefly halted by a bilateral ceasefire, Israel violated it by resuming military operations in March 2025 and renewed its murderous war in Gaza leading to the collapse of all semblance of state based authority in the territory, whilst escalating its brutal policy of ethnic cleansing in the West Bank.
10. That Israel's blockade of humanitarian aid into Gaza has caused catastrophic hunger, medical collapse and suffering, with international agencies blocked from delivering life saving supplies; that the only way is to resolve this is to allow full unimpeded access to the UN and aid agencies, with an end to the dangerous US backed militarised aid delivery system.
11. The International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and former Minister of Defence Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity, whilst other Israeli Ministers have been sanctioned by the UK government - three members of Hamas have also been prosecuted but have since passed away.
12. The decision of the International Court of Justice in January 2024 found that there are plausible grounds to believe that Israel is committing acts of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza; and that it ordered Israel to take immediate measures to prevent genocide, punish those who incite genocide and allow in humanitarian aid.

13. That the current Israeli government not only failed to take any steps to prevent genocide but has ramped up its activities and its rhetoric, which has led human rights experts to conclude that genocide is being committed.
14. That the UK and other western governments have failed to hold Israel to account, and are continuing to supply arms and provide military support to Israel, despite condemning the actions of the current Israeli government; including by providing training to Israel Defence Forces Personnel on UK soil and conducting surveillance flights over Gaza.
15. That the UK-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement remains in effect despite explicitly including respect for human rights as an “essential element” in the agreement.
16. Hamas has still not released all of the hostages, let alone returned all of the bodies of deceased hostages, so cruelly taken on 7th October 2023, and that Israel has increased by thousands the number of Palestinians it has seized from Gaza and the West Bank and unlawfully imprisoned.

Conference believes that:

1. Since Israel has taken no steps to comply with the ICJ’s January 2024 demands, provided no evidence to rebut the allegations or address its concerns, continues to be represented by ministers who regularly make unambiguous statements in support of the genocide of Palestinians and has been accused by huge numbers of respected human rights lawyers of committing genocide in the 18 months since the ruling; it is right that we now describe Israel’s actions in Gaza as genocidal.
2. Only a political and diplomatic solution, not a military one, will resolve the future of the populations of Israel and Palestine in a way that will deliver lasting justice and peace.
3. While a two-state solution remains the best way to deliver the dignity and security which Palestinians and Israelis have a right to expect, it is the right of both peoples collectively to decide, if they wish, to alternatively agree to alternative democratic constitutional arrangements based on the principle of self determination.
4. Hamas must release the remaining hostages held in Gaza, as part of a long term ceasefire agreement that ends all military operations on a permanent basis.
5. The release of hostages by Hamas must be accompanied by release of the nearly 10,000 Palestinian prisoners currently held in Israeli jails who have not received a fair, or any trial, in violation of international legal standards.
6. There is no place in the Liberal Democrats for individuals who defend the unlawful taking of civilian life by State or Non-State Actors.

Conference calls on the Liberal Democrats and the Young Liberals to:

1. Continue working with partners across the Middle East and beyond who are pushing for a ceasefire, the creation of a sustainable two state solution and the rebuilding of Israeli, Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian Civic Society.

Conference calls on the UK Government to:

1. Work to bring about a durable ceasefire and an immediate end to Israel’s atrocities in Gaza, including by demanding: a. The release of all remaining hostages held by Hamas and all Palestinian prisoners unlawfully detained by the Israeli authorities. b. The total and permanent cessation of Israeli military operations in Gaza. c. The unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid through a UN-led corridor, replacing the failed and dangerous US-Israel aid distribution plan.
2. Immediately recognise the state of Palestine with de-jure territorial rights based on the 1967 border.
3. Ensure respect in full for the provisional measures the ICJ ordered in January 2024; respect the July 2024 ICJ advisory opinion on the unlawfulness of Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territories, and accordingly:
4. Introduce legislation to ban all trade in goods and services with illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.
5. Sanction any representatives or employees of the Government of Israel supporting or enacting illegal acts proposed or promoted by ministers who have already been sanctioned.
6. Immediately suspend the UK-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement until a lasting, meaningful agreement has been reached between the two parties.
7. Cease all military and security cooperation with Israel until it brings itself in line with international law. Ban UK citizens from serving in the Israeli military.
8. Prosecute British citizens for whom there is credible evidence of their having committed war crimes in Israel & Palestine.
9. Make all possible efforts to ensure that as a State party to the Rome Statute, the UK upholds its obligations, by arresting individuals who are subject to arrest warrants by the International Criminal Court (ICC), and lobbying other countries to ensure that international arrest warrants are enforced against individuals entering their territory.

10. To provide funding and support to educational charities and organisations in the UK working to educate and promote positive dialogue about the conflict, as well as other conflicts, in British schools.
11. Launch a public enquiry into the British government's involvement in the conflict, specifically in regards to the possibility that Ministry of Defence assets and intelligence may have been utilised by the IDF when conducting military operations which violated international law.
12. Press for a just and lasting resolution, including by:
  - a. Working to establish an international peace process with mediation carried out by independent third parties under the supervision of the UN Secretary General.
  - b. Working with the international community to facilitate free political activity in Palestine, advocating for the release of potential candidates currently held in Israeli detention, working to facilitate elections among Palestinians as soon as possible including in occupied East Jerusalem.
  - c. Promoting a process of truth and reconciliation within the Two States.
  - d. Providing financial and political support to the rebuilding of civil society in Palestine; promoting robust liberal democratic institutions and encouraging young democratic leaders to come forward in both States.
  - e. Providing support to organisations within Israel and Palestine which promote co-existence, reconciliation, mediation, and democracy.
  - f. Advocating for a process of mediation, compensation and coexistence within the West Bank to ensure that displaced Palestinians are able to live free within their own country, whilst avoiding further forceful displacement unless necessary under international law, and avoiding violence at all cost.

#### **Amendment 1: Consideration of the Status of Jerusalem**

*Submitted by Samuel James Jackson*

After 16. of 'Conference notes', insert:

17. That Jerusalem:
  - a. Has been divided into west and east since the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, with the former recognised as Israeli territory and the latter recognised as part of the Palestinian Territories by the international community.
  - b. Is claimed by both Israel and Palestine as their capital.
  - c. Is subject to conflicting national recognitions as the capital of Israel, Palestine or neither.
  - d. Is of great shared religious significance to Christianity, Judaism and Islam.
  - e. Was to be made an internationalised corpus separatum under the unrealised United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine.
  - f. As a dual capital of Israel and Palestine was endorsed by the United Nations and the European Parliament in 2012.

After 3. of 'Conference believes', insert:

4. A lasting peace between Israel and Palestine can only be achieved through cooperation between the two nations, and not via a settlement imposed upon the two by outside powers.

After 12.f. of 'Conference calls for the UK government to', insert:

- g. Imploring Israel and Palestine to hold formal discussions to resolve the status of Jerusalem, namely its constitutional relationship with both countries.

## **17.00 - 17.45 Q&A Session - Sir Ed Davey MP**

## **18.00 - 18.45 Conference Rally**

The first ever Young Liberals Conference Rally, hosted by **Joshua Reynolds MP**! Hear from Young Liberals who hold public office, are standing for public office in 2026, and who are local champions in their area.



## 19.30 - 21.00 Social

Join us for the **YL Conference Quiz**, hosted by Harvey Jones with special guest **Joshua Reynolds MP**! Open to all attendees.

## Saturday 16th August

### 09.00 - 09.15 Constitutional Amendment - F6 Embracing Democracy

Chair: Ulysse Abbate, Aide: Harvey Thomas-Benton

#### **F6      *Embracing Democracy***

*Submitted by Lucas North*

In the Conference Standing Orders, Remove Conference Standing Order 3.7

### 09.15 - 09.30 Constitutional Amendment - F7 Counted Votes and Secret Votes

Chair: Lucas North, Aide: Brandon Masih

#### **F7      *Counted Votes and Secret Votes***

*Submitted by Rebecca Jones*

Delete and renumber appropriately:

7.8 Request a counted vote;

7.8.1 Any voting member may ask for a counted vote, either immediately before or after a vote. If such a request is made after a vote then the vote shall be retaken with the aide recording the count of the vote.

7.10 Secret ballot.

7.10.1 Any voting member may move for a vote to be taken by secret ballot. The mover shall submit in writing to the Chair the specifics of the request.

7.10.2 The request may be taken for a specific vote, for multiple votes on the current item of business or for the remainder of that session.

7.10.3 Secret votes shall be taken by passing out voting paper, with members indicating yes or no. The Chair and aide shall be responsible for collecting and counting the votes.

7.10.3.1 Votes that are illegible or unclear may be rejected by the Chair as spoilt ballots, the decision of the Chair shall be final.

Insert new Standing Order 7.8 and renumber appropriately:

7.8: In cases where electronic voting is not used:

7.8.1. Request a counted vote;

7.8.1.1. Any voting member may ask for a counted vote, either immediately before or after a vote. If such a request is made after a vote then the vote shall be retaken with the aide recording the count of the vote.

7.8.2. Secret ballot.

7.8.2.1. Any voting member may move for a vote to be taken by secret ballot. The mover shall submit in writing to the Chair the specifics of the request.

7.8.2.2. The request may be taken for a specific vote, for multiple votes on the current item of business or for the remainder of that session.

7.8.2.3. Secret votes shall be taken by passing out voting paper, with members indicating yes or no. The Chair and aide shall be responsible for collecting and counting the votes.

7.8.2.3.1. Votes that are illegible or unclear may be rejected by the Chair as spoilt ballots, the decision of the Chair shall be final.

## 09.30 - 09.45 Constitutional Amendment - F8 Cleaning up the Constitution: International

Chair: Brandon Masih, Aide: Lucas North

### **F8      *Cleaning up the Constitution: International***

*Submitted by Tom Jordan*

In the Elections and Co-Options Regulations replace:

#### Section 4: International Delegations

1. For any Young Liberals delegations to international events or congresses the delegation shall be composed of: a. One reserved spot for the International Officer, or their substitute as chosen by the International Officer; b. One third (rounded down) of the delegation reserved for members of the International Committee, chosen by the International Committee; c. and. The remainder chosen via co-option.
2. Co-options for the remaining spots on International Delegations shall be open to all Young Liberals members, including International Committee members not chosen under 1.b.
3. The International Officer shall act as Assistant Returning Officer for the co-option and shall run the co-option, however any complaints, disputes or appeals shall be dealt with by the Returning Officer in accordance with Section 5 of these Regulations.
4. The Assistant Returning Officer shall publish a timetable for the receipt of nominations and voting for the co-option.
  - a. The election timetable shall allow a nomination period of at least three weeks
5. Candidates shall be entitled to submit an application and/or address as determined by the International Committee.
6. The co-option shall be conducted via the Single Transferable Vote system with a vote of the International Committee.
7. If any opening on the delegation, except the International Officers spot, becomes available after the co-option process due to the number of delegates increasing or a delegate dropping out the spot should go to the next available person in the following order of precedence: a. Runners up in the co-option process. b. International Committee members. c. Any other member of the Young Liberals chosen at the International Officers discretion.

With

1. For any Young Liberals delegations to international events or congresses the delegation shall be composed of: a. One reserved spot for the International Officer, or their substitute as chosen by the International Officer; b. The remainder chosen via co-option.
2. Co-options for the remaining spots on International Delegations shall be open to all Young Liberals members. All Young Liberal members should have the opportunity to apply for the delegation over a period of at least two weeks.
3. If any opening on the delegation, except the International Officers spot, becomes available after the co-option process due to the number of delegates increasing or a delegate dropping out the spot is open to any other member of the Young Liberals chosen at the International Officers discretion.

In the Executive Regulations replace:

K. International Officer:

V. Coordinate and support the International Congress Delegates Committee in carrying out its duties.

With

V. Coordinate and Chair the International Committee in carrying out its duties.

In the Committee Regulations replace:

Section 6: International Committee

1. The Members of the International Committee shall be:
2. The International Officer, as chair of the Committee;
3. The three directly elected members; and

With

Section 6: International Committee

1. The Members of the International Committee shall be:
  - a. The International Officer, as chair of the Committee;
  - b. The four directly elected members; and

Reasoning:

This amendment removes unused, constitutional practice around the selection of a delegation to LYMEC and IFLRY events. The International Committee does not, and has not for some time followed this rules, instead exercising it's own discretion when selection delegations. This constitutional amendment seeks to empower the IC and the IO, codifying this flexible approach.

## 09.45 - 09.55 Business Motion - F9 Nobody Expects the Special Requisition

Chair: Ulysse Abbate, Aide: Brandon Masih

### **F9      *Nobody Expects the Special Requisition***

*Submitted by Lucas North*

Conference resolves that a Special Conference is to be held between the 1st and 21st of October 2025, to debate an endorsement by the Young Liberals for the role of President of the Liberal Democrats

Conference further resolves that the Executive may endorse any candidate or candidates for any other role to be elected in the Liberal Democrat internal elections 2025 on behalf of the Young Liberals, save that the Executive may choose to refer the decision of whether to endorse any specific candidate to the above Special Conference

### **Amendment 1: Avoiding perceived conflicts of interest**

*Submitted by Nathan Hunt*

Conference resolves that the decision to endorse a candidate for the 2025 Liberal Democrat internal elections who is or has been a member of the Federal Young Liberals Executive between the 1st August 2025 and the close of the 2025 Liberal Democrats internal elections ballot shall automatically be referred to the above special conference, or an additional special conference if required, to avoid the perception of any conflicts of interest.

Rationale: this is incredibly precautionary, but aims to avoid any perception of any conflicts of interest around the Executive endorsing any of its members/previous members. Will mean that there's no risk that the integrity of their endorsement will be challenged!

## 09.55 - 10.25 Policy Motion - F10 4 Day Working Week

Chair: Brendan Roberts, Aide: Cormac Evans

### **F10 4 Day Working Week**

*Submitted by Katharine Macy*

Conference notes that:

1. A four-day work week is considered to improve both work productivity and improve workers work/life balance
2. Sick leave and electricity usage is decreased, saving the business money and showcasing the benefit to wellbeing and productivity
3. Maintaining a five day business week would allow hours to be spread out to suit various lifestyles and provide the opportunity to engage in life admin within the work week more easily
4. A four-day work week increases recruitment opportunities for businesses
5. A four-day work week would greatly benefit liberation groups such as women and carers
6. A four-day work week for the majority of workers would increase sustainability and decrease carbon footprints
7. A four-day work week increases efficiency while decreasing hours spent at work on unnecessary tasks

Conference believes that:

1. A rebalance is needed for the majority of individuals' and sectors' work/life balance
2. A four day work week would invigorate the working population and increase economical outputs

Conference calls for:

1. The UK Government to move to a four day work week for all employees while maintaining a five day business week
2. The UK government to explore and then implement how to incentive businesses to move to a four day work week with a five day business week
3. All councils to move to a four day work week for all employees while maintaining a five day business week

## 10.25 - 10.55 Policy Motion - F11 Adopt a Holistic Approach to Assessing the UK's Economy

Chair: Brendan Roberts, Aide: Leo Dempster

### **F11 Adopt a Holistic Approach to Assessing the UK's Economy**

*Submitted by Samuel James Jackson*

Conference notes that:

1. Key economic indicators considered by the UK Government include:
  - a. Gross Domestic Product and productivity.
  - b. Inflation and interest rates.
  - c. Earnings and employment.
  - d. Public spending, borrowing and debt.
  - e. Trade and exchange rates.
  - f. Retail sales and consumer confidence.
  - g. House prices.
  - h. Household debt.
2. The Office of National Statistics' tracking and assessment of the environment and net investments as factors in the UK's economic performance are sporadic.
3. There are multiple composite indexes – including Gross National Happiness, the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index and the OECD's Better Life Index – which measure a nation's economic performance by considering in addition to conventional economic indicators factors including:
  - a. Physical and mental health.
  - b. Education.

- c. Community.
  - d. The environment.
  - e. Good governance and democratic engagement.
  - f. Life satisfaction.
  - g. Safety.
  - h. Work-life balance.
4. The UK ranked thirteenth on the IHDI in 2023 at 0.869.
  5. According to the latest YouGov polling from March 2025:
    - a. 81% of Britons said that the government was badly handling the cost-of-living crisis.
    - b. 70% of Britons said that the government was managing the economy badly when responding to the Spring Statement.

Conference believes that standard economic indicators such as GDP and employment rates fail to adequately assess individual or community experiences of the UK economy, including regional wealth inequality, income inequality, work satisfaction, underemployment, and social mobility.

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat support for:

1. Creating good jobs and prosperity in every nation and region of the UK.
2. Fostering the stability, certainty and confidence that are vital for economic growth and investment.
3. Increasing investment in green infrastructure, including renewable energy and zero-carbon transport, industry and housing.
4. Making the tax system fairer and raising the money needed for our investment plans.
5. Ensuring the UK has the highest possible standards of environmental, health, labour and consumer protection, at least matching EU standards.
6. Tackling the productivity crisis by encouraging businesses to invest in training, take up digital technologies and become more energy efficient.
7. Unlocking British businesses' global potential, bring down trade barriers and use UK trade policy as a force.
8. Cutting resource use, waste and pollution by accelerating the transition to a more circular economy that maximises the recovery, reuse, recycling and remanufacturing of products.
9. Remaining committed to delivering the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the UK and around the world.

Conference urges the UK Government to:

1. Adopt a model for economic policy formulation which, in addition to traditional indicators of economic performance such as GDP and employment rates, considers:
  - a. Additional economic factors including:
    - i. Work-life balance.
    - ii. Work satisfaction.
    - iii. Wealth inequality.
    - iv. Income inequality.
    - v. Regional economic inequality.
  - b. Societal factors including:
    - i. Environmental quality and health.
    - ii. Physical and mental health.
    - iii. Education.
    - iv. Community and region.
    - v. Quality of governance and democratic engagement.
    - vi. Life satisfaction and happiness.
    - vii. Safety and crime.
2. Provide the ONS with the additional funding and staffing necessary for the tracking and assessment of such factors.
3. Promote a culture in which economic growth:
  - a. Is emphasised as a means of affording essential services.
  - b. Is not prioritised at the expense of:

- i. The environment.
- ii. Living standards.
- iii. Employment protections.
- c. Is not treated primarily as a mark of national prestige.

## 11.10 - 12.00 Speech - Cllr Carl Cashman, Leader of Liverpool Liberal Democrats

## 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch Break

See the Fringe & Training timetable for details of fringe events taking place during the lunch break, on pages **58 - 63**.

## 13.00 - 13.30 Constitutional Amendment - F13 Branch Development Officer

Chair: Brandon Masih, Aide: Tim Macy

### **F13     *Branch Development Officer***

*Submitted by Chang Liu*

Conference Recognises that:

1. We are a Federal Organisation that recognises that the most effective decision making process is often a Federal, devolved one.
2. The Young Liberals currently lack a Branch across the majority of the UK, with very few Branches being currently active. It is clear we need a change.
3. Branches should be the lifeblood of our organisation.

Subsequently Conference amends the Constitution Documents to:

Remove all references to the 'Branch Development Officer' in the Constitutional Documents, Regulations and any other relevant YL Documents, as grammatically appropriate.

Amend the Accreditation Regulations to now read:

1. The purpose of the Accreditation Scheme, as laid out in these regulations, is to provide a means for recognising functioning branches in order to support and acknowledge them.
2. The State Executives have the primary responsibility for the administration and management of the Scheme. Decisions to grant or revoke accreditation to a branch must be confirmed by a simple majority vote of the relevant State executive over 24 hours.
3. Prospective branches may apply to be accredited by the Young Liberals. In doing so, they should provide the following information:
  - a. Local Party affiliation, if applicable
  - b. Student Union accreditation, if applicable
  - c. Name of Chair/President
  - d. A contact email address
  - e. A contact phone number
  - f. An estimate of membership and activity
  - g. Details of any website or social media pages
  - h. Student Union recognition requirements, if applicable
4. Prospective branches must agree to follow the Branch Code of Conduct, as follows:
  - a. Take a zero-tolerance approach to discrimination, as per the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010.
  - b. Under no circumstances engage in activity that brings Young Liberals or the Liberal Democrats into disrepute.
  - c. Be committed to ensuring that they and their activities are accessible to all members.

- d. The Constitution, Rules and Procedures of the Branch must be compliant with this Constitution and the constitution of the relevant State Organisation.
  - i. Where rules imposed on University Societies by Universities and Student Unions conflict those rules may take precedence.
  - e. The membership of the Branch must be open to all Young Liberals members within the relevant geographical area or University.
5. The State Executive must consider this application based on the following criteria:
- a. That they do not overlap with any previously existing branches
  - b. That there is no previous behaviour, actions or statements such that their accreditation at that point would bring disrepute to the Young Liberals
6. If a branch becomes defunct, violates the branch code of conduct, or at the discretion of the State, a vote may be requested of the State Executive in order to remove a branch's accredited status. This shall be done over 24 hours, and require a simple majority. The Federal Executive may also, in a circumstance where the State Executive has failed to vote on the removal of a branch, hold their own vote.

## 13.30 - 14.00 Policy Motion - F14 Towards a European Army

Chair: Tim Macy, Aide: Ulysse Abbate

### **F14      *Towards a European Army***

*Submitted by Harvey Thomas-Benton*

Conference notes that:

1. NATO underpins the current security architecture of the United Kingdom.
2. The European Union has increasingly sought a security role within Europe in the post-Cold War era.
  - a. The United Kingdom left the Common Defence and Security Policy, PESCO and the broader European security architecture during Brexit.
3. Western Allies in Europe have been free riding the United States for its security in the post-Cold War world
4. The Trump Administration has increasingly made it clear that it is less interested in European security, including the defence of Ukraine.
5. The Trump Administration has made provocations to NATO allies, such as wanting to annex Greenland and Canada.
6. European militaries are currently divided, underfunded and have different security focuses.
7. Militaries in the EU use 178 different types of weapon systems (tanks/frigates/destroyers/fighter planes) compared to the US's 30.

Conferences believes:

1. The United Kingdom has a responsibility to support and deliver security in Europe.
2. European Security must be underpinned by countries with common liberal values and interests. European Security must be autonomous of the United States in order to avoid dependency.
3. The Trump Administration is an unreliable ally, which requires the UK and EU to strengthen their own capabilities.

Conferences welcomes:

1. The UK-EU Security Pact as the first step towards better cooperation with European allies in defence and security of the continent.
2. That the Security Defence Review recognises the importance of European security, and the UK's central role to it.
3. That the Security Defence Review recognises that the UK should play a greater role in nuclear defence and deterrence in Europe.
4. That the Security Defence Review calls for greater industrial partnership with European allies in developing our collective capabilities.

Conference affirms:

1. LYMEC's 'Defending Europe in times of need' policy

Conference calls for:

1. The UK and EU should work together to develop a new security and defence architecture which can defend Europe, autonomously from the United States.
  - a. In order to achieve this, the UK should be granted access to the Security Action for Europe Fund
  - b. The UK and EU should work together on a common procurement strategy for defence capabilities across European militaries
    - i. This should involve developing a continental industrial strategy which supports the European defence industry
    - ii. The end point should be standardising kit across European allies and their militaries.
  - c. The UK should be involved in PESCO missions, and seek to negotiate a deal with the EU for the UK to join PESCO.
  - d. The UK and EU member states should agree to increasing core defence spending to at least 3.5%.
    - i. Alongside this, increasing the number of personnel in militaries across Europe.
  - e. The UK and France to consider and negotiate implementing a new nuclear umbrella for Europe, underpinned by their nuclear weapons.
2. The UK and European NATO allies should maintain engagement with NATO, despite concerns for the Trump Administration

## 14.00 - 14.45 Speech - Lisa Smart MP

## 15.00 - 15.30 Policy Motion - F16 Direct Lithium mining (DLE): The method that can avoid another climate catastrophe

Chair: Brandon Masih, Aide: Tim Macy

### **F16     *Direct Lithium mining (DLE): The method that can avoid another climate catastrophe***

*Submitted by Rowan Pope*

Conference notes:

1. Lithium is a fundamental resource that the modern world depends on which is now powering many vital green technologies such as electric vehicles, wind power and electric vehicles.
2. Lithium at this current point is being mined in a way that severely damages the ecosystem with whole lakes and communities having to suffer because of this.
3. This environmental problem must be solved rapidly so that we can avoid another climate disaster.
4. Direct Lithium extraction known as a DLE is more environmentally friendly than the current methods that we are using.

Conference believes:

1. The Young Liberals have expressed great need to protect the environment in past motions.
2. The Young liberals recognise the climate crisis is catastrophic and must be delayed and stopped in all aspects of society.
3. The Young Liberals proudly support local governments/communities when it comes to concerns that are not being addressed.
4. The Young Liberals also champion the end of fossil fuels. This can be stopped by the introduction of better quality materials and produced in environmentally sustainable conditions

Conference calls for:

1. The Young Liberals to promote the use of DLE as the best way to mine lithium sustainably.
2. The Young Liberals to raise the concerns of harmful effects that current lithium mining methods are having on the environment when mining lithium.
3. The Young Liberals to work with other organisations such as the Cornish Lithium and British lithium to help guarantee that direct lithium extraction becomes the dominant mining method in the mining industry. Which will guarantee that this more sustainable method is being used.



## 15.30 - 16.00 Constitutional Amendment - F17 Tidying up the constitution: Removing LDCRE Representative

Chair: Harvey Thomas-Benton, Aide: Leo Dempster

### **F17 Tidying up the constitution: Removing LDCRE Representative**

*Submitted by Josh Lucas Mitte*

In Article 6

1. Remove 1.o
2. In 4, remove "Other than the LDCRE Representative".
3. Remove 4.a
4. In 6, remove "except the LDCRE Representative"

In Article 9

1. In 7, remove "and LDCRE Representative"

In Election and co-option regulations

1. Remove section 3

## 16.00 - 17.00 Questions to Officers - F18 Officer Reports & Questions to the Executive

Chair: Caredig ap Tomos, Aide: Rowan Pope

### **F18 Officer Reports & Questions to the Executive**

Members of the Federal Executive have submitted reports on their work, which can be found on pages **64 - 116**.

Questions have been submitted in advance, which can be found below. If time allows, the chair of the session may allow additional questions from Conference floor. Details of how to submit questions can be found at [youngliberals.uk/conference](http://youngliberals.uk/conference).

#### **Q1 Chair**

*Submitted by James Smith*

YL tends to have a culture of officers doing the bulk of the work in the AO and not being the ones to set the direction and goals and utilising the staff member as a resource to bring these projects and weekly activities to fruition - how do you go about changing this culture?

#### **Q2 Chair**

*Submitted by Nathan Hunt*

Balancing the role of chair of this organisation, and therefore being a member of the party's federal board and federal people and development committee, and still being an active and visible voice year round is a massive challenge - and I think you've done a commendable job of this.

What advice would you give to your successor around how they should manage their time or prioritise it to make the biggest impact on behalf of YL?

#### **Q3 Chair**

*Submitted by Nathan Hunt*

The federal board is an incredibly important part of our party, and making sure they understand and consider the challenges and views of young people is absolutely vital.

With the federal party's internal elections later this year, there will be a new board, and new faces on it.

What do you think the organisation needs to do over the next 6-12 months to make sure the new board members listen to and value young people's input, whoever they end up being?

**Q4 Campaigns**

*Submitted by James Smith*

What are your plans to hold action days for MPs in the final 2 summers of this parliamentary term?

Do you regret not holding summers of action in the first half of this parliamentary term?

**Q5 Comms**

*Submitted by James Smith*

How best can you use the staff member to draft weekly/bi-weekly emails to members or social media posts and graphics going forward?

**Q6 Comms**

*Submitted by Cara Hermit*

It's been no secret that we've taken a real step back from using X as an organisation, and I'm aware that there likely is an intentionality behind that, following the rightward shift of the platform. But I would like to raise that in our absence, the young liberal presence on that platform has been filled by significantly further right-leaning accounts, ones that rarely align with our social liberal views. For members whose only social media is X, the main exposure they have to young liberal views is from these very socially conservative liberal accounts. These accounts parrot little England views, anti immigration rhetoric, and fear-mongering that's far from what we as an organisation stand for, and it's our members that are being pushed this content, without an official presence to offer an alternative. We need to be a beacon of good-faith politics on what is an increasingly bad-faith platform, so will you commit to a return to X for the Young Liberals?

**Q7 Events**

*Submitted by Nathan Hunt*

Cambridge(shire) is an amazing place and it's great to see YL conference come to the East of England!

How were venues shortlisted for this conference, how did you find the process, and what advice would you pass on for future events officers?

**Q8 International**

*Submitted by Nathan Hunt*

It's been great to see lots of international opportunities promoted over the course of the year, and to see lots of YLers take up these opportunities.

How do you think international has been/could further encourage people contribute to international opportunities all year round? (such as engaging with ad-hoc events, writing for international newsletters etc)

**Q9 Membership Development**

*Submitted by Nathan Hunt*

Future Focus has been an interesting change in how YL has supported young council candidates, and it's been good to see YL review how it does this.

What do you think has been the top highlight and bottom lowlight of the process this year, and what would you recommend for your successor to tweak for next year?

**Q10 Secretary**

*Submitted by Nathan Hunt*

The YL WhatsApp is a new space, and it's good to see YL branching out when young people are less likely to use Facebook. What future plans are there for the WhatsApp and what consideration has been given to potential future expansion to other platforms (ie, Signal, Discord, or insert your favourite platform here etc) if appropriate?

## 17.00 - 17.30 Constitutional Amendment - F19 References Back

Chair: Cormac Evans, Aide: Lucas North

### **F19      *References Back***

*Submitted by Josh Lucas Mitte*

In 7.7.1, after "under debate" add:

"no later than 14 days prior to the opening of conference"

After 7.7.5, add:

7.7.6 Motions must be brought back to conference no later than 12 months or at the second conference following the reference back, whichever is latest.

7.7.6.1 If the motion has not been edited or worked on, the original motion must be brought back, and it may not be referred back again.

### **Amendment 1**

*Submitted by Rebecca Jones*

Remove the following Conference Standing Orders:

7.7 Refer back (to the Executive or a committee);

7.7.1 A voting member may submit in writing, a request to refer back the motion under debate. The submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred.

7.7.2 If more than one request is received, the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken with respect to any motion.

7.7.3 When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the request, and the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes.

7.7.4 The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

7.7.5 If the substantive motion is referred to the Executive, the Policy Committee or the Events Committee the appropriate Officer for that committee shall, in their report to the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

7.7.5.1 If elections take place before the next meeting of conference, the incumbent officer shall endeavour to inform their successor of their responsibilities under this Standing Order

## 17.30 - 17.45 Constitutional Amendment - F20 Shorter Elections & Cooptions

Chair: Leo Dempster, Aide: Brendan Roberts

### **F20      *Shorter Elections & Cooptions***

*Submitted by Abrial Jerram*

Replace 1 a of Section 1: Elections of the Election and Co-option Regulations with

The election timetable shall allow a one-week nomination period and a one-week voting period, with a week long gap in between.

Replace 1 of Section 2: Co-options of the Election and Co-option Regulations with

1. The Returning Officer shall publish a timetable for the receipt of nominations, which shall be a period of one week, and a discussion and voting period for the Executive of no longer than one week in total with the voting period being open for a minimum of three days.

## 17.45 - 18.00 Constitutional Amendment - F21 Procedural Motion Thresholds

Chair: Brendan Roberts, Aide: Leo Dempster

### **F21      *Procedural Motion Thresholds***

*Submitted by Rebecca Jones*

Amend the following Conference Standing Orders to say:

7.3.1. 2 voting conference members may jointly, during any conference session, move, in writing, a motion to overrule a decision or interpretation made by the Chair.

7.2.1. 3 voting conference members may jointly, during any conference session, move, in writing, a motion to have no confidence in the Chair of the debate. The mover shall make the request known to the Chair, Policy Officer and Events officer.

## 18.00 - 18.30 Emergency Motion - F22 Emergency Motion Debate

Chair: Lucas North, Aide: Harvey Thomas-Benton

### **F22      *Emergency Motion Debate***

Emergency motions can be submitted until 3pm, on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025. See [youngliberals.uk/conference](http://youngliberals.uk/conference) for more information, including how to submit an emergency motion for debate.

The selected emergency motion(s) will be announced by Policy Committee once available.

19.00 - 21.00 Social

Join us for the **Conference Awards**, followed by quick-fire debates on the main stage. Our panel of debate Chairs will open up a range of topics for debate, and all are welcome to contribute.

## Sunday 17th August

## 09.00 - 09.30 Policy Motion - F23 Driving Forward: Road to Access

Chair: Tim Macy, Aide: Harvey Thomas-Benton

### **F23      *Driving Forward: Road to Access***

*Submitted by Mackenzie Gregory*

Conference notes that:

1. Learning to drive is a vital life skill for many young people, particularly in rural and semi-rural areas where public transport is limited.

2. It is also especially important for many disabled people, for whom driving can offer greater independence, flexibility, and access to work, education, and social opportunities than relying on public transport.
3. The average cost of learning to drive, including lessons, tests, and insurance, now exceeds £3,000, according to Quote Zone's research.
4. Long waiting times for practical driving tests, often several months, are causing additional stress and financial strain for young learners.
5. The cost of car insurance for young drivers remains disproportionately high and often requires restrictive telematic policies (insurance plans that use a black box or mobile app to monitor driving behaviour, such as speed, braking, and mileage, in order to determine premiums).
6. Black box insurance policies often include curfews, speed monitoring, driving score tracking, and location surveillance, with limited transparency or accountability from insurers.
7. The DVSA practical driving test does not currently require experience with night-time driving, motorway driving, or adverse weather conditions, leaving many new drivers underprepared for real-world situations.

Conference reaffirms that:

1. Access to transport is a matter of social and economic justice, and no one should be locked out of learning to drive due to financial or geographical barriers, including young people, who are often among the most affected.
2. Public transport must be improved and expanded, but driving remains essential for upholding the freedom of many young people, especially in rural areas.
3. Privacy and autonomy should be respected, and the use of telematics in insurance should not be a condition of affordability for young drivers.
4. Improving access to high-quality driver education, testing infrastructure, and fair insurance options will enhance road safety and opportunity without relying on intrusive surveillance.

Conference calls for:

1. Urgent investment to expand DVSA testing capacity, including more examiners and new test centres in underserved areas.
2. A national bursary scheme to subsidise driving lessons and tests for low-income young people.
3. A formal review and reform of car insurance practices for under-25s, ending reliance on black box policies and improving pricing transparency, with regulated limits on policy price multipliers due to age.
4. Inclusion of real-world driving conditions like night and motorway driving in tests or training.
5. Nationwide driver education programmes in schools and colleges covering safety, costs, and driver rights.
6. Commitment to transport equity with accessible, affordable driving alongside improved public transport.
7. Giving 2% of Vehicle Excise Duty revenue to fund the Young Drivers Support Fund.
8. Reallocating £50 million annually from road safety enforcement to education and test access, which in turn will improve road safety.
9. Establishing public-private partnerships with insurers and driving schools to generate voluntary contributions and discounted lessons.

## 09.30 - 10.00 Policy Motion - F24 Fusion Energy: The power to save the world

Chair: Cormac Evans, Aide: Lucas North

### **F24      *Fusion Energy: The power to save the world***

*Submitted by Rowan Pope*

Conference notes:

1. The climate change crisis is an existential crisis that needs multiple types of revolutionary energy- creating methods for it to be solved.
2. The Labour Government is currently not doing enough to combat the climate crisis, with limited policies within the Autumn and spring budgets on it.
3. Fusion energy is seen as the most optimal form of renewable energy that is desired by many.

4. The recent breakthroughs in fusion energy such as the United States' breakthrough two years ago as well as the breakthrough of 22 minutes of sustainability made by Europeans just 2 years later this year shows that we no longer live in a world where this method is seen as fantasy.
5. Fusion industry is currently undergoing rapid growth which is speeding up its development and can also be a huge benefit for not just this country and its allies but for all of humanity. Therefore helping to reduce carbon emissions and avoid a climate extinction event.

Conference believes:

1. Whilst policy passed in 2023 by the Young Liberals recognises the potential of nuclear energy, the potential for fusion energy is even greater.
2. Nuclear Fusion energy creates more energy than any other method that is feasible at this time.
3. The adoption and implementation of fusion as a commercialised form of energy in the UK and allies would significantly reduce the threat of climate change.
4. The current rate of development for fusion energy is too slow and needs to rapidly increase in order to get the benefits as soon as possible.

Conferences calls for

1. The Young Liberals to support fusion energy in an effort to combat the climate crisis.
2. For The Young Liberals to demand further discussions on this revolutionary technology at a federal level.
3. To call for further investment into the fusion industry by the UK Labour government in order to speed up the technology's growing development and eventual commercialisation.
4. To encourage universities, colleges and schools to talk and teach more about fusion energy and its capabilities.
5. To encourage UK fusion companies to collaborate with international organisations that could benefit the UK in assisting its development of fusion energy.

#### **Amendment 1: Tomorrow's Energy Technologies and Today's Climate Crisis**

*Submitted by Nathan Hunt*

Amend motion title to "Tomorrow's Energy Technologies and Today's Climate Crisis"

Replace Conference notes with:

1. The climate crisis is an existential crisis that requires many sources of clean energy to be combatted.
2. The Government's target to achieve "clean power by 2030" for Great Britain's electricity system.
3. Nuclear fusion is widely seen as a potential source of clean, renewable, zero-carbon source of electricity generation.
4. Nuclear fusion has been in development since the mid-20th century, but has not yet been used to commercially generate electricity.
5. While recent breakthroughs have been made in fusion development and the wider industry, the technology has not yet been adapted to commercial use, and the timeline for this remains uncertain.
6. Other sources of renewable or low-carbon electricity, such as wind, solar, and nuclear fission are significantly more mature, have become a core part of our electricity system, and can be planned and developed with technological certainty.

Replace Conference believes with:

1. The climate crisis is here now, and real action is needed now - not the future.
2. The Labour Government is not doing enough to combat the climate crisis or achieve clean power by 2030, with Labour needing to go further and faster to meet the scale of these challenges.
3. There is no silver bullet when it comes to decarbonising electricity generation.
4. While fusion may play a role in future commercial electricity generation, and continued development should be supported, it is not a substitute for real action now.
5. Further deployment of tried and tested forms of renewable and low-carbon electricity are needed to meet the urgent needs of the climate crisis and decarbonise the grid.

Replace Conference calls for with:

1. Investment in and development of nuclear fusion to be maintained.
2. The UK Government to speed up the deployment of the next generation of renewables and low-carbon electricity generation sources, as a national priority.

3. Liberal Democrats to campaign for deployment for further renewables and low-carbon electricity generation sources, and their associated infrastructure.
4. Elected Liberal Democrats all levels to do what they can to facilitate further development of renewables across Great Britain.

Add at the end of the motion:

Conference also renews, reaffirms, and pushes back the lapse date of the YL policy "Avoiding Gridlock: Supporting Nuclear Energy", under which we call for the Liberal Democrats to reverse the party's longstanding "no new nuclear" policy for new fission sites.

## 10.00 - 10.30 Speech - Olly Glover MP

## 10.30 - 10.50 Policy Motion - F26 Abolishing Anti-Homelessness Architecture

Chair: Lucas North, Aide: Brandon Masih

### **F26     *Abolishing Anti-Homelessness Architecture***

*Submitted by Tim Macy*

Conference notes

1. That anti-homelessness architecture, such as slanted or divided seating, is commonplace in many local authorities in the UK.

Conference believes

1. That making an area inhospitable for rough sleepers is counter-productive, and helps to criminalise them rather than encouraging and allowing them to get help
2. That anti-homelessness architecture often also makes public seating less accessible for many disadvantaged groups.

Conference calls for

1. All local authorities, especially those run by the Liberal Democrats, to stop using hostile architecture and to combat homelessness compassionately.
2. The Liberal Democrats to campaign at all levels of government against anti-homelessness architecture and for improved funding to be spent on long term solutions to rough sleeping such as homelessness shelters, more efficient temporary accommodation, and solving the housing crisis.

## 11.00 - 11.30 Constitutional Amendment - F27 Chairs, Aides, and Minute Takers

Chair: Leo Dempster, Aide: Tim Macy

### **F27     *Chairs, Aides, and Minute Takers***

*Submitted by Tom Jordan*

Constitutional Amendment to the Standing Orders Section 5.0 to read:

- 5.1. Policy Committee shall allocate a Chair, Aide and Minute Taker to each session

- 5.1.1. During a session, the Chair shall be responsible for the conduct of the debate.

- 5.1.2. During a session, the Aide shall assist the Chair and verify votes.

- 5.1.3. During a session, the Minute Taker shall ensure that votes, the outcome of agenda items, and whatever else they see fit is recorded

- 5.1.4. The Chair, Aide, and Minute Taker should not vote when presiding over a debate.
- 5.1.5. The Chair and Aide should not be members of the Executive.
- 5.2. Debates on motions shall be conducted in the following manner:
  - 5.2.1. The Chair shall announce the time limits for speakers as determined by Policy Committee
  - 5.2.2. The proposer, or their nominee, shall introduce the motion
  - 5.2.3. Each amendment shall be introduced by its proposer or their nominee
  - 5.2.4. Conference shall debate the motion
  - 5.2.5. The proposer of each amendment, or their nominee shall summate the debate on that amendment. If the amendment has not been opposed, the Chair should decline to call for a summation on the amendment
  - 5.2.6. The proposer of the motion, or their nominee, shall summate the debate on the motion. If the motion has not been opposed, the Chair should decline to call for a summation on the motion
  - 5.2.7. Conference shall vote on the amendments, and then on the motion as amended
- 5.3. Policy papers and their accompanying Policy Motion shall be debated on as one item

Section 2.1 shall now read

- 2.1. Events Committee, in consultation with Policy Committee, shall set the agenda for Conference. The agenda for each conference, save a Special Conference, shall include time for:
  - 2.1.1 The approval of the minutes of the last Conference
  - 2.1.2. Policy motions, including policy papers
  - 2.1.3. One or more consultative sessions; save that the Committee may decide that there are not consultations to be had
  - 2.1.4. Emergency motions
  - 2.1.5. An executive scrutiny panel
  - 2.1.6. A business session, for the consideration and debate of business motions and constitutional amendments
  - 2.1.7. Training sessions and any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate.

Sections 7.1-7.2 to read

- 7.1. Any member may rise on a point of order which shall be taken immediately except that, during a vote, no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the conduct of the vote or the removal of the Chair. The Chair's decision on all points of order shall be final unless overruled.
- 7.2. No confidence in the Chair;
  - 7.2.1. A voting conference member may, during any conference session, move, in writing, a motion to have no confidence in the Chair of the debate. The mover shall make the request known to the Chair.
  - 7.2.2. The debate on the business at hand shall halt, the Chair and Aide shall temporarily hand over to two members of Policy Committee, or if not available, Events Committee, who shall conduct the vote on the procedural motion. Henceforth referred to as "Acting Chair" and "Acting Aide".
  - 7.2.3. The Acting Chair shall read the request and shall allow the mover to speak, and the Chair to reply. The Acting Chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion of no confidence will be limited to two minutes.
  - 7.2.4. The motion shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current debate will temporarily adjourn until Policy Committee selects a new Chair and Aide for the debate



Insert Section 11

11. At each Conference, accurate minutes of all votes taken and items discussed must be recorded. It is the Secretary's responsibility to collect the minutes of the Conference from the Minute Takers, and then have them presented at the next Conference for approval. These minutes must be publicly available first in draft at earliest convenience, and then when verified for all YL members to access.

Reason:

This amendment, bundled as one, aims to improve the Conference going experience and make enhances YLs institutional strength through several changes.

The introduction of minutes at Conference, it is frankly bizarre that we as an institution recognise the need to take and publish accurate minutes of our Executive and Committee meetings - but not our Conference.

There are then some minors changes, tweaking and fixing language to ensure that the standing orders are more comprehensive and coherent. Additionally I have changed the instruction of Chairs from may to should when it comes to declining a summation on a policy without opposition.

#### **Amendment 1**

*Submitted by Harvey Thomas-Benton*

Amend 5.1.5 so that it reads that

The Chair and Aide should not be members of the executive, unless they are on Policy or Events Committee

## **11.30 - 12.00 Constitutional Amendment - F28 Lapsing Policy**

Chair: Ulysse Abbate, Aide: Cormac Evans

### **F28     *Lapsing Policy***

*Submitted by Harvey Thomas-Benton*

Deleting the following lines:

9. Policies adopted shall lapse after 5 years, unless renewed.

a. Policy Committee may extend a policy motion for up to 12 months, by which time it must have been brought to conference in some form for renewal.

## **12.00 - 13.00 Lunch Break**

See the Fringe & Training timetable for details of fringe events taking place during the lunch break, on pages **58 - 63**.

## **13.00 - 13.45 Panel - F29 Lessons from Liberals abroad**

### **F29     *Lessons from Liberals abroad***

A chance to explore the experiences of Liberals from outside of Britain with our International Guests.

## **13.45 - 14.15 Business Motion - F30 Getting YL policies to reach more people**

Chair: Brandon Masih, Aide: Leo Dempster

### **F30     *Getting YL policies to reach more people***

*Submitted by Josh Lucas Mitte*

Conference notes:

1. The Young Liberals Policy book has 205 pages and over 140,000 words

2. The Welsh Young Liberals produced a mini-manifesto ahead of the 2021 Senedd Elections
3. The policy book is a compilation of all policy passed in the past 5 years

Conference believes:

1. The policy book is too long as it stands, making it inaccessible to some new people interested in YL and/or members with a short attention span
2. More people would read a shorter, more digestible form of the policy book
3. The policy book, as an unedited record of policy passed in the past 5 years, has presented inconsistencies and outdated goals, such as net zero by 2025 in June 2024
4. There should be a policy document presenting our updated policy stances in a succinct, cohesive manner

Conference also believes:

1. Manifestos are more effective in getting across an organisation's beliefs and policy views
2. Manifestos are more effective in building up campaigns

Conference calls for

1. The Policy Committee to begin a process of creating a condensed, cohesive version of the policy book
2. To reaffirm that newer policy overwrites old policy by calling on the Policy Committee to:
  - a. ensure older policy overwritten by new policy is not included in the condensed policy book
  - b. update the condensed policy book after every conference
3. The Young Liberals Federal Executive, in collaboration with the Campaigns and Communications committee, to present a manifesto every 2 years or the year before the General Election, whichever is earliest, starting at the next scheduled Young Liberals Conference

#### **Amendment 1: Delivering YL Policy through real local government**

*Submitted by Nathan Hunt*

Add new Conference notes:

1. A number of policies in the YL policy book can be implemented through the mechanisms available within local government.
2. The significant power base of the Liberal Democrats in local government, and the notable number of YL councillors.

Add new Conference believes:

1. Getting YL policy implemented in the real world is a priority for the organisation, and local government can be used to achieve this.

Add new Conference also believes:

1. Manifestos can be used to support and lobby within our party, as well as externally.

Add new Conference calls for:

1. Policy Committee to develop a short-form, supplementary manifesto focused on YL policy that can be implemented via local government structures, and can be used to support and encourage Liberal Democrat councillors to implement YL policy - including the steps to implement the relevant policy.
  - a. Policy Committee to work with YL councillors where appropriate to develop this supplementary manifesto, and include case studies of successes if and where appropriate.

Reasoning: this amendment would also require Policy Committee to produce a manifesto dedicated to policy that can be implemented in local government - current campaigns from YL which could fall under this include drink spiking which comes under local licensing policy, and elements of other policies such as education policies, vape recycling, etc to name a few.

## **14.15 - 15.00 Speech - Harvey Jones, Chair of the Young Liberals**

## **15.00 Close of Conference**

Thank you for attending Young Liberals Summer Conference 2025. We wish you a pleasant journey home, and look forward to seeing you in Cardiff for Young Liberals Winter Conference 2026!

