

Refreshments

Lunch will be served in the Restaurant
There will be 2 sittings at 1.00 and 1.40

Please take a ticket for the first sitting if you wish to attend the lunchtime Fringe meeting

Tea / Coffee will be available in the foyer at 9.15, 11.00, 3.30 and lunchtime on Saturday
and 11.00 on Sunday

At other times it is available to buy at the Bar

Gala Dinner will be in the Champagne Suite
7.30 for 8.00pm

Amendments to Policy Motions

Amendments to motions will be accepted up to the start of Conference (10.00am)
on November 20. They must be handed, in writing, to
Val Cox or Judith Cole, the Conference Chairs
or emailed to val.cox3@btinternet.com or judithcole.cix.co.uk by Nov 16th

Speakers cards

There will be cards for people wishing to speak in debates
available at the Registration desk and Speakers Table

Soap Box

Any delegate can speak for 90 seconds on a topic of their choice.
There will be no vote and no questions but hopefully it will lead to
conversations later

Topics will be chosen from those submitted to the Speakers Table by
2.00pm on Saturday and 10.15am on Sunday

Any Questions

There will be cards for the Any Questions panel on Saturday
available at the Registration desk and Speakers Table

Policy Box

Put your ideas on policy for the Party or suggestions for the
Coalition Government into the Policy Box.
They will be considered by the Joint Policy Committee

Morning Praise

will take place at 9.00am on Sunday
in the Sancerre Suite

Full Agenda Saturday Nov 20

- 10.00 Welcome** Judith Jolly Chair Devon & Cornwall Region
- 10.05 Adoption of new Standing Orders for Joint Conferences** Dave Browne
Regional Secretary, Devon and Cornwall
- 10.15 Speech**
- Baroness Ros Scott**
President of the Liberal Democrats
- 10.30 Presentation**
- Liberal Democrats : Electoral performance and prospects
- Professor Michael Thrasher**
Elections Centre of Plymouth University
- Chair David Hughes
- 11.15 Coffee**
- 11.30 Liberal Democrat Lotto**
Brian Mathew
Lotto Fund Co-ordinator
- 11.35 Speech**
- Andrew Stunell OBE MP**
MP for Hazelgrove
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State to
the Department for Communities and Local Government
- Chair Adrian Sanders MP
Question and answer session
- 12.05 Councillors Any Questions Panel**
- Chair Andrew Stunell MP
- Panel Cllr Tim Carroll South Somerset DC
Cllr Sheila Hobden Exeter City Council
Dennis Brewer 2011 Mayoral candidate for Torbay
Cllr Mark Alcock Oldham Met Borough Council & ALDC
Cllr Gerald Vernon – Jackson Portsmouth City Council & LGA
- 12.50 The Fairer Votes Campaign**
Tim Kent
Yes Campaign Regional Coordinator

1.10 Lunch

1.30 – 2.15

Fringe meeting

Good Energy

Alternative energy - wind power

Juliet Davenport

Chair Andrew George MP

2.20

Speech

Duncan Hames MP

MP for Chippenham

Chair Andrew George MP
Question and Answer session

2.40 Debate

Chair Jenny Shorten
Aide Dave Browne

Economic Regeneration in Coastal Areas

Submitted by Torbay Local party

Proposer Dennis Brewer
Summator Adrian Sanders MP

- 1 Conference notes that :
- 2 i) At present the combined population of coastal towns is around 2.9 million, with
- 3 nearly 6% of England's population residing in seaside resorts.
- 4 ii) The share of the population over state pension age is markedly above the English
- 5 average, 34% compared to 19%, placing a larger than average burden upon local
- 6 health and social services.
- 7 iii) 26 of the 37 principal seaside towns in England have an overall level of deprivation
- 8 greater than the English average and 21 of the 88 most deprived communities are in
- 9 coastal areas.
- 10 iv) Coastal towns are characterised by physical isolation, often with poor transport
- 11 infrastructure, which means it is harder to access jobs, creating a barrier to social and
- 12 economic inclusion.
- 13 v) Seaside towns frequently have a relatively low level of social housing stock, for
- 14 example in Torbay only 7.9% of its housing stock is classified as social housing
- 15 compared with 19% nationally, increasing the burden upon public services and
- 16 discouraging younger people to remain in their home towns.

- 17 vi) Businesses in coastal towns are frequently far from the main centres of economic
18 activity, meaning that in relation to population the stock of VAT registered businesses
19 in England's principal towns is lower than the English average (293 per 10,000).
20 Businesses need stimulation and opportunity so that they can provide jobs to the
21 population
- 22 vii) Employment rate in coastal towns is at present lower than the English average and
23 34 out of the 37 principal seaside towns have lower employment rates than the
24 regions of which they form a part,
- 25 viii) There are a high number of inhabitants claiming incapacity benefits in coastal towns
26 (15.2% compared to 12.65% national average)
- 27 ix) Tourism is a fundamental part of the seaside town economy. The UK's share of
28 world tourism is in decline (falling from 5.1% in 1995 to 4.5% in 2005). British tourism
29 is at a competitive disadvantage compared to its European neighbours, because
30 most EU member countries choose to apply a reduced rate of VAT to their tourism,
31 whereas the UK does not.
- 32 x) Conference believes that coastal towns should be of utmost importance to the
33 Coalition Government, because they are in need of economic regeneration, due to
34 their high levels of deprivation.
- 35 Conference therefore calls upon the British Government to:
- 36 i) Provide better transport links to coastal towns, improving rail links and exploring
37 investment opportunities for high speed rail.
- 38 ii) Provide additional funding to local authorities to invest in social homes, prioritising areas
39 with a low proportion of homes in the social sector and those with the highest housing
40 needs
- 41 iii). Provide better social care provision for pensioners, particularly focussing on community
42 care, providing social housing wardens where necessary and providing access to
43 personalised funding and assistance.
- 44 iv) Make Small Business Rate Relief automatic to prevent businesses unaware of the
45 relief losing out.
- 46 v) Provide incentives for small businesses to create jobs, extending the current
47 National Insurance exemption holiday period to all small businesses.
- 48 vi) There also needs to be additional funding to support those who move out of education
49 and into work to reduce the number of NEETS.
- 50 vii) Reduce the rate of VAT on visitor attractions and accommodation to 5%. There
51 would be a loss of £1 billion in VAT receipts to the treasury but this would be more
52 than offset by indirect gains arising from income and corporation tax gains and
53 multiplier gains of £445 million and savings in social security payments of £770
54 million. This would provide a boost to the UK economy, and would stimulate growth in
55 the coastal towns that rely heavily on tourism as their principle industry.

3.05

Ministerial Speech

Steve Webb MP

MP for Thornbury and Yate
Minister of State for Work and Pensions

Chair Shirley Holloway
Question and Answer

3.35 **Tea**

3.50

Soap Box

Members can speak for 90 seconds on a subject of their choice

Chair Sheila Hobden

4.00

Ministerial Speech

Nick Harvey MP

MP for North Devon
Minister of State for the Armed Forces

Chair Sue Farrant
Question and Answer session

4.30 **Debates**

Chair Noel Thompson
Aide Tim Dumper

Submarine Dismantling Project

Submitted by Plymouth Local Party

Proposer: Stuart Bonar
Summator: Dennis Silverwood

- 1 Conference notes the UK has 27 current or decommissioned nuclear submarines, all of
- 2 which will ultimately require the safe disposal of their nuclear and toxic contents; that
- 3 the 16 submarines that have already left service are presently stored afloat at either
- 4 Devonport or Rosyth, and that current afloat storage capacity will run out before 2020.

- 5 Conference further notes that the Ministry of Defence's Submarine Dismantling Project 6
- 6 (SDP), which is developing a solution for the disposal of these submarines in the UK,
- 7 expects the work to last for decades at one of a number of shortlisted sites, of which
- 8 Devonport is one.

- 9 Conference recognises the increasingly widespread conviction that from a health, safety
- 10 and environmental point of view it is inadvisable to locate a nuclear disposal facility at
- 11 the heart of a city, such as Plymouth, especially a city in a region of natural beauty so
- 12 dependent upon tourism for its economic viability.

13 Conference recognises the reality that the value of Ministry of Defence (MOD) work to
14 the local economy will shrink drastically over the coming years and that the likely value
15 of the SDP work, whilst substantial, will not make up for the loss.

16 Conference believes that the SDP does not provide a viable economic future for
17 Plymouth and that the blight, be it real or perceived, that such a site creates will
18 damage and possibly prohibit the development of a clean maritime future for Plymouth
19 and the South West peninsula.

20 Conference further believes therefore that Plymouth and the wider South West region
21 must diversify economically and develop in other directions

22 Conference therefore urges

- 23 1. Plymouth City Council to reject SDP as a viable economic future for Plymouth.
- 24 2. Liberal Democrat ministers to work to ensure that Plymouth is given first claim to
25 assets in the city superfluous to the Ministry of Defence and that projects located in
26 or near these assets are given priority access to funds from the new Green
27 Investment Bank.

The NHS White Paper

Submitted by South West Devon Local Party

Proposer Kay Barnard
Summator Andrew Bridgwater

1 Conference notes the recent government white paper *Equity and excellence: Liberating*
2 *the NHS*.

3 Conference further notes that existing Liberal Democrat policy:

- 4 A. Proposes increased local accountability for the NHS through directly elected Local
5 Health Boards.
- 6 B. Supports empowerment of patients and equity for patients, particularly those with
7 mental health problems.
- 8 C. Acknowledges the risk of destabilisation of NHS services through the use of private
9 sector providers and sets criteria to minimise this risk.

10 Conference believes that:

- 11 i) The NHS is best served by co-operation and collaboration between hospitals
- 12 ii) The patients with some of the most difficult healthcare requirements, such as
13 elderly patients with multiple medical conditions, are likely to benefit the least from
14 a competitive market, and suffer most where there is lack of co-ordination between
15 providers of services.
- 16 iii) GP-led commissioning consortia are unlikely to have sufficient expertise in
17 negotiating contracts to eliminate the risk of exploitation by corporate suppliers, and
18 will need to procure specialised and often more expensive commissioning support,
19 creating significant potential for conflicts of interest.
- 20 iv) A more fragmented health service often leads to poor opportunities for clinical
21 training.
- 22 v) The white paper proposals will tend to increase choice and service provision in
23 affluent and densely populated areas, and by attracting more services to the centres
24 of population will reduce or remove services in poorer and more sparsely populated

25 areas.

26 In particular conference restates the principles that every provider should:

23 a) Meet all NHS standards for Quality, Information and Communication.

24 b) Demonstrate that it provides value for money and does not undermine the local
25 health economy.

26 c) Ensure that no NHS patient shall receive a diminished service as a result of the
27 introduction of a new provider.

28 Conference therefore urges the Coalition Government to:

29 1 .Legislate to ensure that no company or organisation that offers services in support of
30 the commissioning process should either provide healthcare services directly, or have
31 commercial links to a company or organisation that provides healthcare services.

32 2. Include in their plans explicit powers for local authorities to intervene if local services
33 are at risk.

34 3. Ensure that any contract with a provider that does not train clinical staff should
35 include a levy to support training of clinical staff in NHS facilities.

36 Conference also calls on all Liberal Democrat-led local authorities in South West England
37 to use the proposed strategic role given to them in the white paper to protect the
38 sustainability of an integrated health service, and to improve cooperation and
39 communication between providers.

5.15

Speech

Graham Watson MEP

MEP for the South West and Gibraltar

Chair Peter Ellis, Chair of Western Counties

Close

6.00 - 7.00 Fringe Meeting

St Emillion

Big Society - Liberal Democrat Perspectives

Chair Chris Bones Leader of Commission on Future of the Party

Panel Stephen Kearney Chief Executive of Action to Regenerate Community Trust

Paul Harrod Director of Restore Trust

Paul Crossley Leader, Liberal Democrats, Bath and NE Somerset Council

Julia Olsen Director of Action to Regenerate Community Trust

7.30 for 8.00

Gala Dinner

Speaker

Lord Robin Teverson

Sunday Nov 21

9.00 Morning Praise led by Clare Champion- Smith Sancerre Suite

9.30 AGMs Devon & Cornwall Chair Judith Jolly
Western Counties Chair Peter Ellis

10.20 Speech

Dan Rogerson MP

MP for North Cornwall
Co-Chair Parliamentary Education Committee

Chair Judith Jolly
Question and Answer session

10.50 Speech

Hilary Stephenson

National Director of Campaigns

11.00 Coffee

11.15 Debates Chair Neil Halsall
Aide

Digital Radio change – over in South West England

Submitted by Wells Local Party

Proposer: Brian Livings
Summator: Garfield Kennedy

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 1. That the date for the change-over from analogue to digital radio is 2015;
- 3 2 That there are currently many millions of analogue radios used not only on a daily
- 4 basis by householders, but also in places of employment, workshops, garages, garden
- 5 sheds, caravans, vehicles, etc, and that those radios will become obsolete.
- 6 This conference believes:
- 7 1 The current date for changing from analogue to digital radio will cause undue stress
- 8 and expense to millions of UK citizens during a period of severe economic down-turn.
- 9 2 Many people particularly in rural areas in the South West of England, which has a
- 10 high proportion of pensioners and the lower-paid, could ill afford to buy new digital
- 11 radios.
- 12 3 Across the South West there are locations where the digital signal cannot be
- 13 received or the quality of the digital signal will be inferior to that currently received on
- 14 analogue.
- 15 This Conference calls for:
- 16 The change-over from analogue to digital radio to be deferred until at least 2020.

Liberal Democracy for the West of England

Submitted by 6 voting Representatives : Noel Thompson, Peggy Thompson, Michael Parle , John Farrand –Rogers, Cllr Alison Clish-Green, Andrew Bridgwater.

Proposer Dan Rogerson MP
Summator tbc

1. Conference reaffirms the support of the two regional parties of the Party's
 2. membership of the Coalition and urges its Members of both Houses of
 3. Parliament to press continually for liberal and democratic national economic
 4. and social policies and constitutional reforms and urges the Liberal
 5. Democrat members of Her Majesty's Government continually to press during
 6. this Parliament for:-
7. 1 Further measures to reduce the gap in prosperity and opportunity between the
 8. privileged and rich and the poor and deprived, recognising the prevalence in
 9. these regions of pockets of low income and limited and often merely seasonal
 10. employment prospects,
11. 2 An accelerated programme of measures to alleviate the effects of climate
 12. change harnessing the vast carbon neutral resources in these regions,
13. 3 Further measures to encourage economic growth in parallel with the stringent
 14. action to reduce the national debt aiming to enhance the Regions' prosperity
 15. recognising their distinctive mix of tourism, agriculture, horticulture, fishing,
 16. shipbuilding and servicing, culture and higher education.
17. 4 Further delegation of direct powers to elected local bodies in environmental
 18. protection, health services, education provision and housing and transport
 19. infrastructure to meet the Regions' circumstances and needs,
20. 5 Parliamentary and local electoral boundaries which will provide better balance of
 21. electoral populations and which will respect local traditions, identities, loyalties
 22. and aspirations.
23. 7 Action to provide closer and mutual benefit from co-operation between these
 24. regions and the European Union and the developed and developing world.

12.00

**Tessa Munt MP for Wells
and Stephen Gilbert MP for St Austell and Newquay
interviewed by Gavin Grant**

12.30

Soap Box

Members can speak for 90 seconds on a subject of their choice

Chair Kay Friend

12.40

Speech

Chris Fox

Chief Executive of the Liberal Democrats

1.10

Close

Peter Ellis

Chair of Western Counties

Exhibitors

Stands will be in Macon Room and the foyer

Harmsworth Printing

Focus Factory

Flying Colours

Good Energy

Yes Campaign for Fairer Votes

Lib Dem Image

ALDC

Local Government Association

Membership Department

Association of Liberal Democrat Trade Unions

Agents and Organisers Association

Plymouth Constituency Raffle

Liberal Democrat Lotto

Boundaries Review

A display on potential boundary changes in the South West