



PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Autumn Conference

Saturday, 13 October 2018

**The Forest School, Robin Hood Lane
Winnersh, Wokingham RG41 5NE**

DIARY

26 September 2018	Deadline for amendments to policy resolutions
28 September 2018	Deadline for £20.00 <i>Early Bird</i> bookings
8 October 2018	Deadline for amendments to business resolution
8 October 2018	Deadline for submission of emergency resolutions

Send amendments, preferably by email to conference@southcentrallibdems.org.uk.
If not able to email, then post to 60 Potley Hill Road, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 6AG

BUSINESS RESOLUTION

BUDGET 2019-2022 AND ACCOUNTS

Proposed by South Central Region Executive Committee

- 1 Conference:
- 2 1. adopts the 2019-2022 Budget;
- 3 2. appoints the independent inspector for 2018 accounts;
- 4 3. approves the inspected accounts for 2017.

POLICY RESOLUTIONS

1. FOOD SECURITY

Proposed by South Central Regional Policy Committee

1 **Conference notes with concern:**

2 A. Food stocks and responsibility for food security for the nation has been left to businesses to
3 achieve, without setting any requirements or expectations for these organisations. With
4 approximately 60% of our food imported and some fresh fruit and vegetable supply chains having
5 food reserves for less than 24 hours, our food supplies are at risk should there be significant global
6 supply chain disruption, whether Brexit or another shock event (e.g. fuel price spike).

7 B. Our agricultural system has evolved to be dependent upon EU subsidisation through the
8 Common Agricultural Programme (CAP), resulting in approximately 55% of farmer income being
9 earned through this.

10 C. Climate change and changing global demographics and trade will continue to increase pressure
11 on demand for food products.

12 D. Alignment between health and sustainability initiatives are missing, leading to conflicting
13 policies and approaches in various government departments.

14 **Conference believes:**

15 i) Brexit is showcasing the complexities of our food system. Businesses and their supply chains are
16 not prepared for even minor shocks, let alone significant changes to how food can move in and out
17 of our borders.

18 ii) There are no immediate quick win solutions to improving our food security. Supply chains are
19 built by businesses, not governments, and national agricultural production is currently built for the
20 current demand and trade model.

21 iii) The trajectory of our national diet is heading towards greater malnutrition and obesity. This will
22 lead to greater social and healthcare costs.

23 iv) Approaches to food security need to be aligned across government departments.

24 **Conference calls for:**

25 1. Government to develop a food security task force to develop cross-cutting policies to deliver
26 environmental, social, economic, and health outcomes.

27 2. Continued alignment of UK and EU agricultural and food policies, regardless of Brexit
28 outcomes.

2. SKILLING A WORLD IN TRANSITION

Proposed by South Central Regional Policy Committee

1 Conference notes with concern:

2 A. The rapid growth of technology is developing new opportunities for commercial growth and
3 efficiency. Whilst there is general agreement that keeping up with these changes will be critical to
4 being successful in the global economy, the skills required to succeed in this new economy are not
5 necessarily equally available throughout UK communities.

6 B. Adopting new technologies in the workplace is unlikely to take place in existing workforces and
7 enterprises, particularly older small and medium sized businesses. It is more likely to occur through
8 the absence of new jobs created.

9 C. Positions that are most at risk of these new technologies and disruptive business models are
10 likely to be those that occupy manual or mid-management levels of organisations, striking at the
11 heart of our middle classes. Beyond individual roles, companies that are slow to adopt to changing
12 workforce requirements may face challenges competing.

13 D. Low employment and income challenges in some parts of the country contributed to an anti-
14 immigrant sentiment that was fuelled in the Brexit referendum campaign.

15 E. Brexit and increasing labour costs are likely to accelerate the transformation of some sectors as
16 human resource becomes scarcer. We are already seeing this taking place in some areas of our
17 agricultural economy.

18 F. Capital flight out of communities may accelerate as the owners and beneficiaries of technologies
19 replacing local wages reside outside the communities that apply them.

20 **Conference believes:**

21 i) It is essential that the new economy benefits all in our society. Our educational and tax systems
22 are not fit for purpose in promoting this change.

23 ii) Existing regulations, skills grants, and local authority support are not sufficient to address the
24 risks these communities and businesses face.

25 iii) Not every community will be impacted in the same way. A one size fits all approach for the
26 country will be inefficient and is unlikely to succeed.

27 **Conference calls for:**

28 1. Government to create a transition strategy and funding system through taxation to support
29 communities.

30 2. Risk map of where hot spot communities may lie for targeted support.