



# Liberal Democrats North West

## Spring 2021 Conference Agenda

# Conference Agenda

Time	Main Room	Room 2	Room 3	
10 00	Welcome To Conference: Jackie Pearcey, NW President	<p>All day there will be a second Zoom channel running as a social / chatter space to replace the environment of the bar or reception desk areas of conference.</p> <p>Attendees at Autumn online conference told us this was one key thing they felt was missing compared to usual, so this time we will try to recreate it!</p>		
10 10	House of Commons report: Tim Farron MP			
10 40	Speaker: Wendy Chamberlain MP, Lib Dem Chief Whip in the House of Commons			
11 10	Paddy Ashdown Memorial Lecture. Speaker: Shafaq Mohammed			
11 50	Boundary Review: Mark Clayton, VC Standards & Practice, NW Lib Dems			
12 00	UK & EU Future Debate, chaired by Andrew Haldane, VC Policy, NW Lib Dems			
12 30	Electoral Reform with guest speaker from Make Votes Matter			
1 00	Lib Dems for Seekers of Sanctuary fringe: challenges facing asylum seekers in a hostile climate.			1-2 LGBT+Lib Dems fringe: Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans & Queer History Month discussion.
2 00	Looking Ahead To May: Elections Panel with Jo Conchie, Simon Lepori and John Potter			
2 40	House of Lords Report with Lord Stunell			
3 10	Environmental Policy Panel with Green Lib Dems and Cllr Jane Brophy, Chair, NW Lib Dems			
3 50	Speaker: Kirsty William MS, Minister for Education in Wales' Coalition Government.			
4 30	Young Liberals			
4 40	Closing Remarks, with Cllr Jane Brophy, Chair NW Lib Dems			
4 50	Ends			

# Policy: Spring 2021

## The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the Future of the UK-EU Relationship

Proposer: Andrew Haldane

Summator:

Note this will be taken at Federal Spring Conference as motion F17

Conference believes that the Conservative government's EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement:

- A. Is a threadbare deal, bad for jobs, business, security, and the environment.
- B. Is the only 'free' trade deal in history to put up new barriers to trade instead of pulling them down, and leaves the UK services sector in total limbo.
- C. Represents a comprehensive betrayal of the promises made by the Leave campaigns during the referendum and by the Conservatives' 2019 election manifesto.

Conference further believes that this botched deal will make the British people poorer and less safe by, among other things:

- i) Erecting new and significant non-tariff barriers to trade in UK goods and services with the EU, putting at risk at least 3.3 million jobs, and pushing many businesses already struggling as a result of COVID-19 over the edge.
- ii) Putting up barriers to future foreign investment in the UK through creating permanent uncertainty over the UK's potential future divergence from EU standards.
- iii) Withdrawing from Europol, Eurojust and the Schengen Information System database.
- iv) Removing the rights to free movement of UK citizens to live, work, study and retire within the EU.
- v) Failing to put in place any frameworks for UK-EU cooperation on foreign, external security or defence policy.
- vi) Ending UK participation in the Erasmus programme.

Conference condemns the UK government for ensuring that the bill implementing the new treaty was pushed through Parliament with only a charade of democratic accountability and no opportunity to scrutinise its flaws.

Conference accordingly congratulates the Liberal Democrat parliamentary parties in the Commons and Lords for opposing the bill.

# Policy: Spring 2021

Conference notes that the Labour Party supported the bill, leaving the Liberal Democrats as the only major UK-wide pro-European party in Parliament.

Conference further notes that the new Agreement will be reviewed every five years and that, in any case, provides for the UK to join EU programmes by mutual agreement.

Conference believes that the future UK-EU relationship must be strengthened, to the benefits of both the UK and EU, and recognises that there are many ways in which this could be achieved, including, but not limited to, UK membership of the EU Customs Union, the European Single Market or both, and closer cooperation over health, climate change, environment, crime and policing, education, scientific research, foreign, security and defence policy.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrats' support for a longer-term objective of UK membership of the EU, as set out in the September 2020 conference motion 'The UK and Europe'.

Conference therefore:

1. Instructs the Federal Policy Committee to carry out a programme of work, including consulting widely within the party, to determine the best possible future framework for the UK-EU relationship across all policy areas, with the aims of:
  - a) Demonstrating the benefits to UK citizens and businesses of a much closer relationship compared to the government's inadequate measures; and
  - b) Maximising public support for eventual UK membership of the EU.
2. Calls on the Liberal Democrat parliamentary parties in the Commons and Lords to expose the inadequacies of the government's arrangements and to promote the benefits of closer relations between the UK and EU.

# Guest Speakers

## Kirsty Williams MS

Kirsty Williams has been the Member of the Senedd for Brecon and Radnorshire since 1999.

She has served as Minister for Education in the Welsh Government since May 2016, as the sole Liberal Democrat in a Labour-Lib Dem coalition government. She is at the forefront of curriculum reform in Wales.

Kirsty was born in Taunton Somerset in March 1971, and after a brief spell in Somerset and Liverpool the family returned to the village of Bynea in Carmarthenshire when Kirsty was 3 years old. Kirsty studied for her degree in American Studies at Manchester University and The University of Missouri.



## Wendy Chamberlain MP

Wendy is the party's Chief Whip in the House of Commons, and Spokesperson for Scotland, Wales and Work & Pensions. She gained her seat from the SNP in 2019 to become MP for North East Fife.

Wendy joined Lothian and Borders Police in 1999, serving for 12 years as a Police officer. After a period in a variety of operational policing roles, she moved into HR and Learning and Development, during which time she worked for the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland and in the Business Management Unit of the Scottish Police College.

She grew up in a Liberal tradition, with an Argyllshire grandfather who knew both Ray Michie and Jo Grimond. She joined the Scottish Liberal Democrats in May 2015.

# Guest Speakers



## Tim Farron MP

Spokesperson for Housing, Communities & Local Government, and Food & Rural Affairs. MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale.

Tim is the Member of Parliament for Westmorland and Lonsdale.

Tim's win in 2005 ended a 95 year rule by the Tories, winning by 267 votes. In the 2010 general election Tim maintained his seat and achieved an 11.1% swing from the Conservatives.

Tim lives in Milnthorpe, south Cumbria, with his wife Rosie, his daughters Isabella and Gracie and his sons Jude and Laurie.

Tim has headed many local campaigns, fighting to protect and bring more services to Westmorland General Hospital, build more affordable homes for local families and bring more well paid jobs to the South Lakes.

## Lord Stunell

Andrew Stunell is the former MP for Hazel Grove. He held the seat for 18 years from 1997 until stepping down in 2015.

Andrew was born in Sutton, Surrey and educated at Surbiton County Grammar School for Boys, he went on to study Architecture at University of Manchester and Liverpool Polytechnic. He became an architectural assistant upon graduation.

As a DCLG Minister he took the lead in developing and bringing the Localism Act into law, which handed decision-making power back to local communities and local councils from Whitehall. Andrew also raised building standards, lifting the required energy performance of new buildings by a quarter in October 2011, and putting in place plans to achieve 'Zero Carbon Homes' by 2016.



# Guest Speakers & Fringes



## Shafaq Mohammed

Shaffaq Mohammed was born in Kashmir, Pakistan and moved to the UK aged 4 with his father, a steelworker, who came to Sheffield to work in the steel mills.

Shaffaq Mohammed is now a Liberal Democrat Councillor on Sheffield City Council, but from May 2019 to January 2020 he was one of the sixteen Lib Dem MEPs serving a term in office cut short by Brexit.

He will present our annual Paddy Ashdown Memorial Lecture, which this year is titled “Liberalism beyond the West”, reflecting on his work around Human Rights and Gender Equality in the European parliament.

## Lunchtime Fringe: LGBT+LD (1-2pm)

It's LGBTQ History Month, so join the party's lesbian, gay, bi and trans liberation and equality group to discuss the history of Liberals, Social Democrats, Lib Dems and LGBT+ rights.

You can find out more on our special history webpage [lgbt.libdems.org.uk/always](http://lgbt.libdems.org.uk/always) (pictured right).



Standing up for asylum seekers and refugees in our country

## Lunchtime Fringe: LD4SOS (1-2pm)

LD4SOS Chair John Skipworth and colleague Suzanne Fletcher talk about the challenges facing asylum seekers in a hostile environment during the Covid-19 pandemic. This will be a Question and Answer session and questions in advance are welcome to [johnskipworth038@btinternet.com](mailto:johnskipworth038@btinternet.com)



Liberal Democrats North West, 2.07 Boatshed, 16 Exchange Quay, Salford Quays, M5 3EQ.

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