

EAST MIDLANDS LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SPRING CONFERENCE 2018.

SATURDAY 24th FEBRUARY

9:30am – 4:30pm

City of Derby Academy

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HOUSEKEEPING

- Fire exits are clearly marked. The fire assembly point is in the car park.
- The information desk will be staffed throughout the day for queries and support including accidents, welfare and general queries.
- All attendees will need to register at the reception point.
- Lunch vouchers will be given at reception at the beginning of the day. Please check whether you have a meat or vegetarian option as per your booking.
- You will be able to eat lunch in the breakout area.
- All smoking must be offsite.
- Filming and photography will take place at this event. Please contact a steward if you have any issues with this.
- Wi-Fi is available upon request. Please ask at the information desk for more details.
- In case of an emergency, please contact the information desk.

The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community, and in which no one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity. We champion the freedom, dignity and well-being of individuals, we acknowledge and respect their right to freedom of conscience and their right to develop their talents to the full. We aim to disperse power, to foster diversity and to nurture creativity. We believe that the role of the state is to enable all citizens to attain these ideals, to contribute fully to their communities and to take part in the decisions which affect their lives.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Baroness Lorely Burt **Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Women**

Lorely Burt is the former MP for Solihull. She was the first female Chair of the Liberal Democrats' Parliamentary Party. Born and raised in the West Midlands, Lorely went on to study Economics at Swansea University and later an MBA at the Open University.

Before standing for Parliament, Lorely worked as an Assistant Governor at Holloway Prison, worked in personnel for national companies and set up an award-winning training company. She later co-founded WeConnect, a networking agency for women in business.

In 2005 Lorely overturned a Conservative majority of 9,407 to become the first ever Liberal Democrat MP for Solihull. She held the seat for 10 years, up until the 2015 election. After entering Parliament, Lorely became the Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Northern Ireland, an Opposition Whip and later the Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

In 2007, she was elected as the first female Chair of the Liberal Democrats' Parliamentary Party. After the 2010 General Election she became the Business, Innovation and Skills Co-Chair before being appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander in late 2012, a role that saw her support the work to deliver a £700 tax cut for workers.

She was appointed as Assistant Government Whip in November 2014.

During her time as MP for Solihull, Lorely had a strong record delivering for local people. Among her many achievements she successfully campaigned to save Solihull's NHS Walk-In Centre from closure and ensured local people are consulted on future plans, successfully campaigned for Double-Crewed Ambulances to be based in Solihull, and Successfully campaigned in partnership with Solihull College to encourage local businesses to take on apprentices.

In July 2015 Lorely was appointed to Tim Farron's first spokespersons team taking responsibility for Business, Innovation and Skills. In November of that year she was introduced to the House of Lords. In October 2016 she was made Shadow Secretary of State for Equalities.

Baroness Susan Kramer
Liberal Democrat Treasury Spokesperson

Susan Kramer was born in 1950 in Holborn and educated at St Paul's Girls' School and at St Hilda's College, Oxford where she read Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Susan was a Beilby Scholar and was President of the Oxford Union. She later went on to obtain an MBA in 1981 from the University of Illinois, USA.

From 1973 to 1993 Susan lived in the USA primarily in Springfield, Illinois (the state capital) and Chicago, Illinois. She began her career in banking in 1982 at Continental Illinois Bank, then the world's largest commercial lender. She was a Vice-President at Citicorp in Chicago working with large national and multi-national companies. After returning to the UK, Susan and her husband set up a number of partnerships including Future Water International which constructed a waste-water treatment scheme in rural Hungary and Infrastructure Capital Partners which advised on infrastructure finance in Central and Eastern Europe.

Susan joined the Liberal Democrats in 1993 and became involved in local campaigns including opposition to expansion at Heathrow airport. She was a Liberal Democrat candidate for the Parliamentary seat of Dulwich and West Norwood in 1997 and for the European Parliament in 1999.

In 2000 Susan was the Liberal Democrat candidate for Mayor of London. In 2005 she was elected MP for her constituency of Richmond Park, losing the seat in 2010. During her time in the Commons she was in turn a member of the Treasury Select Committee, Liberal Democrat spokesperson for International Development, then Trade & Industry, next Transport, followed by the Duchy of Lancaster and lastly for Heathrow.

Susan was introduced into the House of Lords in 2011 focussing on Finance and Business issues including her long-standing interest in developing a framework for community banks. She was appointed as Minister of State for Transport in October 2013.

In the Department for Transport, Susan was responsible for HS2 Phase 2, local and sustainable transport, and led on a huge investment in low emission vehicles. She has also overseen the implementation of a large programme of railway station improvements including the extension of disabled access facilities.

In 2015 Susan was appointed by Tim Farron as the Party Spokesperson for Economics. Susan remains involved with a number of charities located in or with ties to Richmond as a Trustee of the Richmond Park Charitable Trust, a Trustee of the Kingston Trust and a Patron of the Holly Lodge Centre.

Outside of politics Susan was married to John Kramer for 34 years until his death in 2006. She has 2 children and 3 grandchildren and lives in Barnes in South West London.

POLICY MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

POLICY1: Exit From Brexit.

Proposer: Stephen Freedland (City of Nottingham)

Summated by: Daniel Gordo-Holmes (City of Nottingham)

This Conference notes:

- 1) The Conservative government is determined to pursue a form of Brexit where the UK leaves the Single Market and the Customs Union, becomes independent of the European Court and regains the right to control immigration from the European Union.
- 2) Remaining within the Single Market with all its rules has no advantages for the UK compared with remaining full voting members. It forces the UK to follow rules and regulations over which the UK has no influence and will be forced to make ever increasing contributions to the European Union from a desperately weak negotiating position.
- 3) Too many leading EU politicians are making it clear that they have no intention of making any significant progress towards a trade deal on goods and services prior to March 2019. They prefer to spin out the process to extend the period that the UK makes budget contributions to the EU.
- 4) Consequently, the policy that we can obtain a soft Brexit is an undesirable and dangerous illusion that is used to try and unite divided Labour and Conservative parties.
- 5) Like most of the developed world, Europe's economic growth and share of world trade is falling. There is a real danger that the European Union could use protectionism to insulate itself from changes in the rest of the world.

This Conference believes:

- 1) It is in the best economic interest of the UK to remain within the European Union.
- 2) The European union would benefit from full engagement by outward looking UK governments, corporations, political parties and citizens.

Conference further believes that:

- 1) While it may be possible to negotiate some free trade deals in some sectors prior to Brexit, this should not be the priority.
- 2) Any such deals should include some agreement that regulatory divergence should be avoided except where there is a clear consumer or environmental benefit.

- 3) After Brexit, talks could begin on a more comprehensive trade deal, negotiating as equals, in mutual self-interest without any one-sided contributions to the European Union Budget; this has been achieved by Canada.

This Conference calls for:

- 1) The abandonment of the commitment to a transitional or implementation period.
- 2) A further in out referendum before March 2019 based on any Brexit deal negotiated.
- 3) A campaign for an exit from Brexit.
- 4) The government to concentrate on negotiating and implementing;
 - a. Minimal but effective border controls for trade and migration to be implemented in March 2019 should Brexit be confirmed.
 - b. Continued membership of Euratom (the European Atomic Energy Community), until satisfactory alternatives are in place.
 - c. Continued security cooperation, and
 - d. Generous reciprocal citizens' rights which are even handed with the UK commitment enshrined in UK law and subject to UK courts, rather than seeking an impossible trade deal.
- 5) Any divorce payments following Brexit to be the legal minimum that would be determined in court.

POLICY 2: Reforming the Barnett Formula & Improving the diversity of the House of Lords

Proposer: Michael Mullaney (Bosworth)

Summated by: Daniel Gordo-Holmes (City of Nottingham)

Conference notes that:

1. The Barnett Formula that determines the level of funding that each area receives for local services was created in the 1970s and has not been properly re-assessed since.
2. The formula has lost its link with need, being extremely generous to some of the Country's richest areas, while neglecting some of the Country's poorest.
3. Areas in the UK that disadvantaged by the current formula were more likely to vote in favour of Brexit.

4. By the Government's own measurements of "Core Spending per Head", four out of the lowest six Counties are in the East Midlands;
5. The East Midlands also does badly on allocations of Capital Funding.

Conference believes that:

1. The current funding formula does not fit in with the Liberal Democrat values of fairness.
2. To heal the divides of Brexit, left behind areas need to feel that the Government cares about them.

Conference calls for:

1. The current funding formula to be reviewed and replaced by one that is fairer and better reflects need.
2. The Liberal Democrat Party to adopt this as a policy in its next General Election manifesto.

POLICY 3: Improving the Diversity of the House of Lords

Proposer: Christina Morgan-Danvers (City of Nottingham)

Summated by: Helen Tamblyn-Saville (Bassetlaw)

Conference notes that:

1. It is 100 years since women got the right to vote through the Representation of the People Act 1918. The UK population is approximately 51% female and 12% BAME.
2. Reform of the House of Lords (HoL) has been inadequate despite several attempts over the last century. Most successful attempts at reform have been small incremental steps.
3. Women were excluded from the House of Lords before 1958. Every government since MacMillan's premiership has appointed twice as many male life peers than female. Theresa May's government has appointed very few female life peers (two of eleven between March 2017 and Jan 2018).
4. HoL membership is currently 26% female (up from 16% in 2001) and Operation Black Vote lists 46 peers as BAME. The proportion of women in the HoL is lower than in every other parliament and assembly in the UK. The proportion of female councillors is also higher at 33%.
5. Legislation exists to seat female bishops as Lords Spiritual preferentially, to address historic gender discrimination. Hereditary peers are almost always male due to anachronistic succession of titles.

6. In 2011, the Liberal Democrat conference adopted a resolution on gender balance in the House of Lords, which called for Parliamentarians to “ensure any further interim appointments mitigate, rather than perpetuate, the current gender imbalance, and, if an appointed element is retained.”

Conference believes that:

1. A Parliament that reflects the diversity of the population would be better able to represent the people.
2. Commitment to large scale reform of the HoL should not prevent the Liberal Democrats from supporting small measures to correct historic imbalances.

Conference calls for:

1. Continuation of the Liberal Democrat policy for a second chamber elected by single transferable vote.
2. Legislation to ensure that for each set of appointments to the House of Lords the number of male life peers does not exceed those of female life peers.
3. For a ten year period two female life peers should be appointed for every male life peer, or until gender balance.
4. For a BAME peer to be appointed for every ten life peers.

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT ORGANISATIONS

REGIONAL CANDIDATES COMMITTEE

The past couple of years have shown that this country needs Liberal Democrat values more than ever. The party needs people to stand up for these values and communicate them to voters. If you think you have the qualities to do this as a parliamentary candidate or can develop these with the right training, get in touch! We can advise you on getting through the approval process.

Equally important, members wanting to become approved candidates must go through the candidate selection process. This is conducted by a returning officer, who is appointed by the regional candidates' chair. Returning officers are volunteers who can claim travel and other expenses.

A 6-hour training course, followed by shadowing a full selection with an experienced returning officer, is required training. If you think you might be interested in tackling this important role, please contact the candidates office on candidates@libdems.org.uk



Tad Jones is the chair of the East Midlands Regional Candidates Committee, a group that oversees the work of assessing approving selecting and supporting candidates and returning officers for elections the regional candidates.



The Green Liberal Democrats (GLD) are at the East Midlands Regional Conference!

GLD, for a long time one of the most active “pressure groups” in the Party, has set its sights on developing its influence towards yet new heights now that the Liberal Democrats have grown party membership to well above 100,000 members (*bigger now than the Conservative Party!*) The stall will have copies of GLD leaflets available on various issues ranging from Fracking to Energy issues, to Tropical Rain-forests and many more besides. All being well we will have copies of our Zero Carbon Report available to buy (*or you can download a pdf*).

You will also be able to join the **Green Liberal Democrats** at the stall. (Or you can join NOW if you go to this link.. <https://greenlibdems.org.uk/en/>)



ALDTU exists to support Liberal Democrats taking an active role within their trade unions and encourages Lib Dems who want to seek office within their unions. We believe that Liberal Democrat Trade Unionists have valuable insights to offer both the Party and Trade Unions in general. We work to further liberal democrat policies and values within unions, bringing community politics into the workplace. We believe that the Unions belong to their members and are not the exclusive property of any political party.

A number of Liberal Democrat Trade Union members have served on the executive councils of their respective unions. We campaign within the party for closer relations with the Trade Union movement, understanding the problems of working people in the world of work. We seek to inform the Party on industrial policy. We seek to help the Party to avoid committing itself to policies, based upon misapprehensions and misunderstandings of the role of Trade Unions.

We campaign for real employment rights and the wider discussion of employment issues. We encourage the development of labour rights throughout the world by working towards international TU solidarity. We monitor our Government's adherence to International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions and their enforcement in trade agreements. We acknowledge that the fight against slavery still continues. Help to give Liberal Democrats a more influential role, in influencing trade unions to be constructive partners, in both industry and the democratic process. Making our voices heard both within the Party and the trade union movement as a whole.

For further information contact:
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SAVE THE DATE

The East Midlands Liberal Democrats Autumn Conference & AGM will be in Northamptonshire on Saturday 3rd November 2018. We are looking forward to seeing you there.