

Policy Motion

Beyond the Ebac- Choice & Opportunity in Education

Regional conference:

welcomes the work of the regional policy committee on *Beyond the Ebac – Choice and Opportunity in Education*.*

welcomes the coalition government's commitment to excellence in education whilst recognising that not all its policies are Liberal Democrat policies that would be

retained by a Liberal Democrat majority government;

supports a motion going to federal conference affirming the following principles,

previously set out in the party's policy document Equity and Excellence:

- i. the Liberal Democrat belief that narrowly defined targets do not drive excellence;
- ii. that the government should not prescribe excessive amounts of the school curriculum;
- iii. that there should be an entitlement for students to a minimum curriculum, guaranteeing the minimum skills needed in the modern age;
- iv. That academic and vocational education should be fully integrated;
- v. That elected local authorities have a key strategic role in guaranteeing the quality of education offered to young people.

It further supports the principles set out in the draft regional policy document, *Beyond the Ebac*, that:

- a) choice and opportunity are inextricably linked for young people;
- b) that young people should be encouraged to develop their interests and aptitudes;
- c) that young people should be enabled to leave school with a broad knowledge of the world in which they live.

Conference wishes to see policies to address the following issues:

1. that the English Baccalaureate in its present form is not compatible with these principles;
2. that the significance and benefits of vocational choices appear to be downgraded through the emphasis on the "Ebac";
3. that the residual role of local authorities in the government's Education Bill is not strategic and removes the democratic local accountability that Liberals have espoused since the Education Act of 1870.

Proposed: Regional Policy Committee

Proposer: Lee Dargue

Summation: Cllr Jon Hunt



REGIONAL CONFERENCE and AGM

Autumn 2011

5th November

Birmingham Chamber of Commerce

75 Harborne Rd, Edgbaston,

Birmingham B15 3DH

www.wmlibdems.org.uk

AGENDA

- 0930-1000 **Registration** and Coffee
- 1000-1010 **Opening of the Conference & Welcome** from our President, Jock Gallagher
- 1010-1015 **Business Motion 1**
To approve the conference agenda.
Moved by Christine Tinker, Chair Conference Committee
- 1015-1030 **Business Motions 2 & 3**
To approve the Reports of the Regional Chair and Treasurer.
Moved by Jonathan Webber and Alan Beddow .
- 1030-1050 **Hustings** for candidates standing for a contested post.
- 1050-1120 **Beyond the Ebac? Liam Nolan**, headteacher of Perry Beeches School, Birmingham, TES School of the Year 2011 shares his ideas on education, followed by a discussion on the Regional Policy Committee's ideas for education in preparation for the motion this afternoon.
- 1120-1140 Coffee break.
Please note, 12 noon is the deadline for voting slips to be placed in the ballot box at the registration desk.
- 1140-1240 **Morning Fringe**
1. Winning with Localism. How to use the Localism Bill in our campaigning.
Cllr Howard Sykes
2. How we win in Shropshire. How we've managed three successful by-election results in Unitary Council elections.
Ben Jephcott & Heather Kidd, Agent.
- 1240-1255 **A Day in the Life of a LibDem MP with Lorely Burt** (not forgetting her role of Co-Chair of the LibDem Parliamentary Policy Committee on Business, Innovation and Skills)

- 1255-1330 LUNCH provided by Wolverhampton SW LibDems.
- 1330-1410 **Motion: Beyond the Ebac - Choice and opportunity in Education.**
Proposed by the Regional Policy Committee.
The full motion is on page 4 of this agenda.
- 1410-1420 **West Midlands Election Results 2011.** Declared by the Returning Officer, Roger Shade.
- 1420-1440 **LIZ LYNNE MEP and JOHN HEMMING MP** will talk about the work they have been doing and take questions afterwards.
- 1440-1540 **Afternoon Fringe**
1. Diversity. - What steps should we be taking?
Jacki Boyle, Diversity Officer and Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats (EMLD)
2.. Constituency Boundary Review - latest update on where we are with the Boundary Commission.
David Murray
3. How we win in Shropshire - How we've managed three successful by-election results in Unitary Council elections.
Ben Jephcott & Heather Kidd, Agent.
- 1540-1550 **Introduction of Lord Tom McNally** and appeal.
- 1550-1635 **Guest Speaker, Lord Tom McNally**
Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords and Justice Minister.

Dates for your diary
Spring Federal Conference
9-11 March 2012 Newcastle, Gateshead
W. Midlands Region Spring Conference 2012
Sat 24 March. Details to follow