



# Liberal Democrats North West

## Spring 2025 Conference Agenda



# Conference Agenda

Time	Hall	HU5	HU6	Auditorium
10 00				<b>Registration</b>
10 50	<b>Welcome:</b> Jackie Pearcey			
11 00	<b>Winning 72 Seats:</b> Paul Trollope	10 40 - 11.40: <b>Fleet Website Skills:</b> Jake Perkins	10 40 - 11.40: <b>Treasurers Advice:</b> John Skipworth	
11 30	<b>What The Federal Policy Review Means For Us:</b> Andrew Haldane			
11 35	Emergency Motion <b>Candidates Matter</b>			
11 45	Guest Speaker <b>Tim Farron MP</b>	12 10 - 1 10pm: <b>Targeted Email:</b> Jake Perkins	12 10 - 1 10pm: <b>Membership Engagement:</b> Tom Shaw	
12 10	Policy Discussion: <b>Marine Power</b>			
12 40	<b>May's Lancashire County Elections:</b> David Whipp, David Howarth			
1 20	<b>What Next:</b> Iain Donaldson			Pick up canvassing and leafleting packs for local campaigns
1 30	Ends			Or sign up to be a candidate in Lancashire

# Welcome to Conference



Welcome to Penwortham!

As I write my local Labour MP is in the news for a string of awful WhatsApp messages about constituents, and the MP for Burnley is now also part of the story. A reminder of how taking power for granted can turn into contempt for the electorate.

Looking to May we face all-up local elections for Lancashire County Council and I am sure across the county we will ensure as many candidates are on ballot papers as possible, with 84 seats to fill. The first step in getting people to vote Liberal Democrat is giving them the opportunity.

We're deliberately having a shorter conference than usual hoping attendees will use the daytime between end of business and when you would normally set off home to help in a key ward here in Lancashire - if you're from further afield perhaps you could 'adopt a ward' to come back and help in when you can over the next few weeks.

Elsewhere in the region we are in a 'fallow year' without scheduled elections,

Have a great day in!

Jackie Pearcey  
Chair  
Liberal Democrats North West

## 8 March Winning Against Labour

Winning Against Labour - Agenda		
9:30	Registration and Coffee on arrival	
10:00	Conference opens	
10:15	Opposing Labour when they are in control	Single Issue Campaigning to take the fight to Labour
11:30	Break	
11:45	Plenary - Building legitimacy in Labour facing areas	
12:45	Lunch	
13:30	Squeezing the Third Party - It's us or Labour	Building a Team to outpace the opposition
14:45	Conference closes	
15:00	Depart	

Join ALDC, LGA Lib Dems and colleagues from around the country who are in Labour facing areas for an in-person training event in Manchester.

Labour are losing support left, right and centre and the next couple of years give us an amazing opportunity. Labour has over 6500 councillors and many will be defending in major local elections in 2026 and 2027.

Tickets are £40 from [aldc.org/events](https://aldc.org/events)

Saturday 8 March 2025.

9:30 – 15:00

Mecure Hotel Manchester Piccadilly  
Portland Street, Manchester M1 4PH



# Policy Motions

## Motion 1: Marine Energy

**Proposer:** Andrew Haldane

**Summator:** tbc

- 1 Conference reaffirms its support for the NW Region's Policy initiative on Marine Energy as set out our
- 2 Regional Conference motion of Spring 2019 and subsequently incorporated within Autumn 2019 Federal
- 3 conference motion "Tackling the Climate Emergency".
- 4 Conference notes
- 5 i) That the Irish Sea is unique in having, by global standards, exceptionally high tidal ranges at multiple
- 6 locations throughout the length of its coastline providing opportunities for the construction of estuarine
- 7 barrages or coastal lagoons for the generation of Marine Energy.
- 8 ii) The EDF Marine Energy barrage at the Rance estuary in Brittany is now almost 60 years old and its 24
- 9 turbines continue to generate up to 600 million kilowatt-hours of power each year providing the cheapest
- 10 energy in France.
- 11 iii) Such schemes do not involve risks of delay and cost escalation associated with highly complex
- 12 technologies such as nuclear power but can deploy well-established civil engineering techniques and utilise
- 13 turbines comparable those widely deployed in hydroelectric power generation. They can be designed to
- 14 generate power on both the ebb and flow of the tide and incorporate storage to even out variations in the
- 15 rate of flow of the tide and to make more cost effective use of power generated overnight.
- 16 iv) Speculative private sector initiatives proposed under previous Tory governments did not take sufficient
- 17 account of the longevity of such plants, nor did they invest sufficiently in design and planning, instead
- 18 seeking inflated prices for the electricity produced.
- 19 v) Previous considerations of the potential for Marine Energy have not taken adequate account of wider
- 20 community benefits such as flood protection, opportunities to incorporate transport infrastructure or the
- 21 opportunity to locate industries with high power demands in reasonably close proximity to this reliable
- 22 source of clean energy.
- 23 vi) Opportunities to reduce construction costs have not been fully explored. These include scope for
- 24 significant economies of scale through sequential construction of schemes at various points on the coastline
- 25 and modular construction deploying prefabricated caissons constructed in coastal yards and towed into
- 26 position..
- 27 vii) Recent government announcements on the need for high energy consuming data centres has
- 28 highlighted the need for stable and reliable sources of clean energy both for these new users and existing
- 29 high energy consuming industries. Marine energy provides a viable alternative to nuclear for these
- 30 purposes as well as for less intense domestic and industrial usage. While the NW has some good national
- 31 grid connections, for example via the near life-expired Heysham nuclear facility, there are also economic
- 32 development opportunities to establish new plant for high energy consuming industries within reasonable
- 33 distance of new sources of Marine Energy.

# Policy Motions

34 Conference regrets that despite the need for further investment in renewable energy no serious initiative  
35 to exploit this resource has been forthcoming despite Labour manifesto commitments to Marine Energy  
36 and the establishment of Great British Energy as a vehicle for public investment.

37 Conference calls on the Government to task Great British Energy with the development and  
38 implementation of a strategy for the exploitation of Marine Energy. This should include

39 a) An analysis of cost cutting opportunities that may be derived from a rolling programme of  
40 implementation, design competitions for civil and electronic engineering inputs to the programme and  
41 detailed surveys of potential locations to enable more accurate construction cost predictions and the  
42 identification of optimal sites for such infrastructure.

43 b) A study of the potential societal gains additional to the provision of further clean energy capacity to  
44 address flood defence and environmental benefits, opportunities for contributions to transport  
45 infrastructure and economic development opportunities.

## Emergency Motion: General Election Review

**Proposer: James Tattersall**

**Summator: tbc**

1 Conference notes the General Election Review 2024 and its measures to build on our success.

2 The recommendation to resource a staff team to help committee members and provide consistent  
3 resources is welcome.

4 However, we oppose calls to remove from State Parties their authority concerning candidate approval  
5 and selection.

6 We commend the work of the English Candidates Committee in reviewing and simplifying the selection  
7 rules and processes which they have undertaken following the General Election.

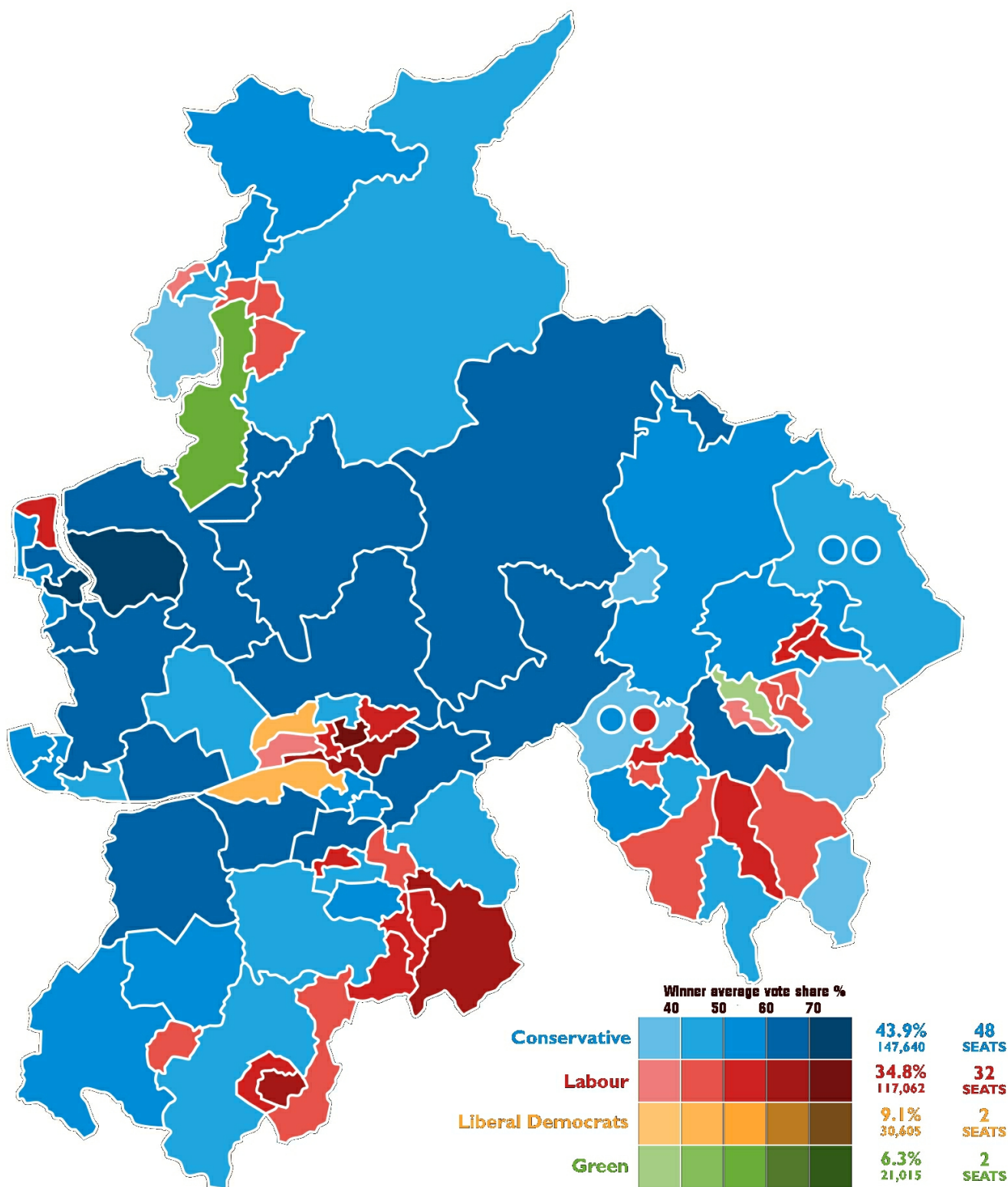
8 We acknowledge the work of our Regional Candidates and Campaigns Committees. We wish to express  
9 our firm belief that the ability of the party to field a full slate of candidates in the North West would not  
10 have been possible without their dedication to the task.

11 We are concerned that those involved with the General Election Review 2024 do not understand the  
12 extent to which the ability to secure high-quality candidates is critically dependent on those local  
13 candidates and campaigns committees.

14 We assert that the proposed centralisation of the process at Federal level could demotivate all involved,  
15 undermine their work, and add another layer of control.

16 We call upon the English State Party to oppose any efforts to remove state powers and hand them to  
17 the Federal Party.

# Lancashire County Council



The Lancashire 2021 County Council Election result. Map © CC BY-SA 4.0  
derived from work by ElectionMaps1  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2021\\_Lancashire\\_County\\_Council\\_election#/media/File:2021\\_Lancashire\\_County\\_Council\\_Election\\_Results\\_Map.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2021_Lancashire_County_Council_election#/media/File:2021_Lancashire_County_Council_Election_Results_Map.png)

