

Calderdale Liberal Democrats motion to Yorkshire & Humber regional conference

Conference Notes that:

1. Spring 2014 Liberal Democrat Federal Party Conference in York passed Policy Paper 117 "Power to the People", which included proposals for regional devolution
2. The Liberal Democrats and their precursor parties have a long-standing commitment to democracy and devolution
3. The current City Regions and combined authorities lack democratic legitimacy and accountability
4. Research by the University of Huddersfield indicates that 75% of Yorkshire residents are in favour of Yorkshire regional devolution
5. The population and GDP of Yorkshire is roughly equivalent to that of Scotland

Furthermore, Conference believes that:

- i. Yorkshire forms a single recognisable region, with a common culture, dialect, and identity which is one of the strongest in the UK
- ii. Power is best exercised by those directly elected by and accountable to the people, and at the closest possible level to the people

Therefore, Conference calls for:

- A. Regional Devolution for Yorkshire, consisting of a single directly elected parliament
- B. Election to the Yorkshire Parliament to be by STV in multi-member constituencies
- C. Powers devolved to Yorkshire to be equivalent to those devolved to the Scottish Parliament
- D. A corresponding reduction to the size of the federal parliament of the UK in Westminster once devolution is complete
- E. The powers and funding of regional and sub-regional Quangos to be subsumed into the Yorkshire Parliament
- F. Abolition of the offices of Police and Crime Commissioners for the Yorkshire Police forces, with the powers to be subsumed into the Yorkshire Parliament

Conference further calls for:

- a. The Yorkshire Parliament to be responsible for conducting the consequential reorganisation of local government within Yorkshire, towards a single tier of primary authorities

b. Town & Parish Councils to be retained and strengthened, and unparished areas encouraged to form Town, Parish and Community Councils

c. A presumption that as much power as possible shall be devolved to these authorities