

Conference Diary

Below is a handy summary of the day which you can use to plan when you need to be in the hall, when you can attend training and which of the fringes you can fit in. Details of all the events are included in the relevant section of the agenda.

Main Hall	Lower School Room 14	Lower School Room 15	Lower School Room 16
10:00 Welcome			
10:05 Bob Russell MP			
10:15 Motion M1: Social & Economic Effects of Migration to the Region	ALDC training: Differentiated target mailings	Campaign plan reviews (by appointment)	EARS training: EARS – a basic overview
11:00 Constitutional and standing order amendments			
11:30 Emergency motions			
11:45 KEYNOTE SPEAKER Steve Webb MP			
12:30 LUNCH English Party PPC selection rules review – consultative session	Advice for agents and candidates and Q&A with the Electoral Commission	Local party chairs' network meeting	East of England Liberal Youth meeting
14:00 Campaigning for the 2009 elections Hilary Stephenson, Director of Campaigns			Selection Committee training
14:30 Andrew Duff MEP	ALDC training: Planning for joint elections in 2009	Campaign plan reviews (by appointment)	
14:50 Q & A MEP, MPs, Peers and EERA Group			
15:10 Motion M2: Rural Poverty			
15:40 Business Session Chair & Treasurer, Awards			
16:00 Close			

Deadlines

Friday 10 October 2008, 10:00am is the deadline for

- Amendments to constitutional and standing order amendment proposals
- Emergency motions
- Questions to Regional Chair and Treasurer
- Amendments to regional budget

Motions, amendments and questions should be submitted to the Regional Administrator, 171 Spring Hills, Harlow, Essex CM20 1TD, fax 020 8020 2943, admin@east.libdems.org

Access and facilities for people with disabilities

Hinchingbrooke Performing Arts Centre is fully accessible to people with disabilities, including a permanent induction loop.

We will have the services of a palantypist for the business in the main hall. If you will need to make use of this service, please let us know, preferably before the day by email to admin@east.libdems.org or before the start of conference. Seating will be pre-allocated for conference representatives who will need to see the palantypist's screen.

In the event of any queries on the day, please ask a steward or a member of the Regional Conference Committee.

FOCUS and newspaper exchange

Do bring along spare copies of your FOCUS newsletters, tabloids and members' mailings for the Exchange table.

Keeping in touch with your members?

Keeping in touch with members and telling them what we are doing encourages them to stay members and become more active. But it's often a struggle to find the time for regular members' newsletters. Now you can solve the problem using the **East of England newsletter service**.

- Four newsletters a year posted to all your members
- Local contact information
- Local stories included - all you have to do is send us the text
- Regional and national material to complete the newsletter

All this is available to local parties for just **£2 per member per year**. You pay based on the number of members when you join, so if you recruit more they get free newsletters for the rest of the year.

For more details visit the Members' Newsletter stand at the Regional Conference, email newsletter@east.libdems.org or visit www.east.libdems.org

Location

The Performing Arts Centre is part of Hinchingsbrooke School and is situated on Hinchingsbrooke Park Road. This road is off the B1514 between Brampton and Huntingdon. This road also leads to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and the Country Park so road signage for these two locations can be followed with confidence.

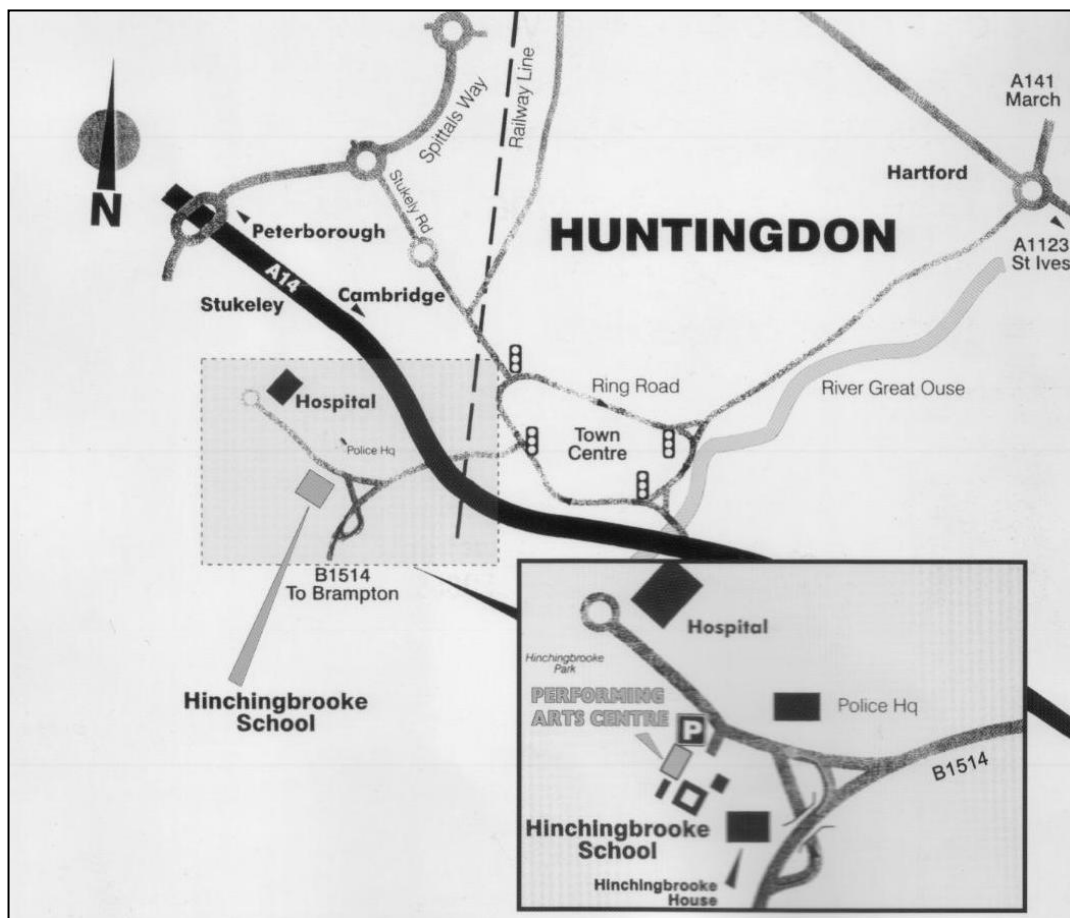
From the South, leave the A1 travelling north about 1,000 metres after the Buckden roundabout, following the signs to Brampton. Continue to follow the signs to Huntingdon and Hinchingsbrooke Park Road will be on your left immediately after the high stone wall of Hinchingsbrooke House.

From the North, coming down the A1 from Peterborough, do not follow the first sign to Huntingdon but continue down to Brampton Hut (where the A14 crosses the A1). Turn left here and after 500 metres follow the sign to Brampton B1514. Follow the signs towards Huntingdon and Hinchingsbrooke Park Road will be on your left immediately after the high stone wall of Hinchingsbrooke House.

From the West, travelling along the A14, go straight ahead at the A1 roundabout and then follow instructions in above paragraph.

From the East, coming along the A14 from Cambridge, leave the A14 at Godmanchester and follow the signs for Huntingdon. After you have crossed over the Old Bridge, you will be on the Ring Road. Take the left hand lane. The left turn to the Hospital is clearly marked after about 700 metres (after you have passed the bus station on your right). You will now be travelling along the B1514 in the direction of Brampton. After you have passed the railway station and gone under the A14 flyover, you will take not the first left turn into a housing estate, but the second left turn, clearly sign-posted for the Hospital and Country Park.

The Performing Arts Centre is 7 minutes' walk from the Huntingdon Railway Station which is on the mail line from Peterborough to Kings Cross.



Lunchtime fringe guide

English Party selection rules review consultative session

The rules and processes for the selection of PPCs by local parties which will be used after the next General Election are being reviewed.

This is your chance to have a say and find out more.

with Sal Jarvis, English Party Candidates' Chair
12:45-14:00, Main Hall

The
Electoral
Commission

Q&A with the Electoral Commission

Advice for candidates and agents for next year's local elections, followed by questions and answers

with Ros Baston, Senior Adviser, Party and Election
Finance Directorate, Electoral Commission
12:45-14:00, Lower School Room 14

Local party chairs' network

An augural meeting of a network for local party chairs (and vice-chairs) to keep in touch, exchange ideas and help one another.

with Steve Jarvis, Development Committee Chair, East of
England Liberal Democrats
12:45-14:00, Lower School Room 15

Liberal Youth meeting

A meeting for all party members in the East of England who are entitled to be members of Liberal Youth

Organiser: Chris Butler
12:45-14:00, Lower School Room 16

**LIBERAL
YOUTH**

Exhibitors

- ALDC, the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors & Campaigners
- Casework Manager and HandS
- East of England Regional Assembly Liberal Democrat Group
- Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine
- Liberal Democrat Image
- Liberal Democrats Online
- Watford Liberal Democrats

Also in the exhibition area

- The Returning Officer for the regional party elections
- The region's new local party newsletter initiative: come and find out how we can help you deliver a high quality newsletter to all your members – without doing any work yourself
- The Exchange table for your FOCUS leaflets, tabloids and members' mailings

Conference Agenda

10:00 Opening of Conference

Chair: Sal Brinton
Aide: Simon Wright

10.05 Speech by Bob Russell MP

10:15 Policy Motion M1: Social & Economic Effects of Migration to the Region

Submitted by: East of England Regional Policy Committee

1 Conference strongly endorses Federal Policy on 'Immigration in the 21st Century' which
2 acknowledges the huge benefits, economic, social and cultural, that immigration
3 has brought to the UK, while recognising that badly managed migration can lead to
4 social problems. For newcomers there can be problems of integration and for society
5 as a whole there are issues of service provision – if we do not predict and plan for
6 migration the pressures on schools, hospitals and other services can be significant.

7 Conference welcomes the economic benefits that labour migration has brought to the
8 East of England. The Region has benefited especially from migration from new EU
9 member states since 2004. In particular, agriculture, canning, much of the service
10 sector and manufacturing in the Region benefit from large numbers of migrant
11 workers. Indeed, migrant workers are vital to the Region's economy as they frequently
12 take on jobs native people are unwilling to do, as shown by the fact that the improved
13 economic conditions in Central and Eastern Europe means that farmers are now unable
14 to recruit seasonal workers and fruit goes unpicked, as British people are reluctant to
15 undertake seasonal work. Our hospitals are staffed by skilled migrant workers and
16 Care Homes are often staffed by migrant workers doing work for the community
17 during unsocial hours for low pay. The construction industry has become dependent on
18 carpenters and other skilled workers whom the British educational system is failing to
19 produce.

20 Conference recognises, however, that immigration may also have detrimental social
21 consequences as a result of strains on public services, including the health service and
22 schools and that exploitation of migrant workers can depress wages for the indigenous
23 workforce. Such pressures can lead to concern about immigration and must be
24 addressed if local communities and migrants are all to benefit from immigration.

25 Conference notes in particular that negative coverage of both asylum and immigration
26 can lead to hostility towards migrants and damage social cohesion. In the case of
27 asylum-seekers, we reaffirm the Lib Dem commitment to allowing asylum seekers to
28 take paid employment. This would reduce the asylum-seekers' reliance on the state,
29 which currently contributes to certain negative characterisations that have been
30 exploited by the BNP and others.

31 Conference regrets that inadequate census and other data collected by central
32 government make it hard to deliver effective solutions locally, since Local
33 Government financing typically fails to account for the impact of migrants for several
34 years. Conference further regrets the fact that the Government is collecting the billions
35 of pounds in tax from these workers but failing to re-direct these revenues back to the

36 communities in which they live. Conference nevertheless believes that there is scope
37 for improving the situation in the East of England.

38 Conference therefore calls on

- 39 1. the Equalities and Human Rights Commission to carry out an urgent
40 investigation into whether employment practices that discriminate against
41 migrant workers constitute race discrimination;
- 42 2. the government to amend employment legislation to ensure that migrant
43 workers in particular and agency workers in general are not discriminated
44 against;
- 45 3. the government to change existing legislation to enable asylum seekers to
46 work;
- 47 4. local authorities to ensure that Local Area Plans and LSPs take account of and
48 plan for immigration;
- 49 5. local and police authorities in the Region to alleviate these problems by
50 ensuring that adequate attention is paid to the age profile of immigrants in
51 planning appropriate levels of service provision, including maternity services
52 and education;
- 53 6. build on best practice for integrating immigrants, as shown by the Keystone
54 Development Trust in Thetford, which has done outstanding work with the
55 Portuguese and Polish communities and by the Norfolk police, who have
56 brought in Portuguese and Lithuanian PCSOs to work especially within their
57 communities.

Proposer: *Linda Jack*

Summator: *Alan Dean*

11.00 Constitutional and standing order amendments

Chair: Henry Vann

Aide: Stephen Robinson

Regional Constitution

Conference approves the changes to the Regional Constitution as in Document A.

Mover: Chris White

Seconder: Paul Clark

Regional Standing Orders

In Standing Orders add new 2.4:

'Not less than 21 days written notice of the date, time and place of any Conference shall be given to all voting members of the Regional Conference and to all local parties in the Region.'

Mover: Chris White

Seconder: Paul Clark

11:30 Emergency motions

The deadline for submission of emergency motions is 10:00am on Friday 10 October.

11:45 Keynote speech: Steve Webb MP

Chair: Paul Clark

Aide: Sarah Whitebread

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Campaigning for the 2009 elections

Chair: Linda Jack

Aide: Qurban Hussain

Presentation by Hilary Stephenson, Director of Campaigns

14.30 Report by Andrew Duff MEP

14:50 House of Commons Report

To receive the report of the Liberal Democrat Members of the House of Commons in the East of England

Proposer: *Bob Russell MP*

House of Lords Report

To receive the report of the Liberal Democrat Members of the House of Lords in the East of England

Proposer: *Lord McNally*

East of England Regional Assembly Report

To receive the report of the Liberal Democrat Members of the East of England Regional Assembly

Proposer: *Cllr Kathy Pollard*

15:10 Policy Motion M2: Rural Poverty

Chair: TBA

Aide: Steve Jarvis

Submitted by: East of England Regional Policy Committee

1 Conference notes the Commission for Rural Communities' Report *State of the*
2 *Countryside 2008*, which acknowledges 'significant levels of disadvantage' in rural
3 areas. However, because these pockets of disadvantage are typically within more
4 affluent rural areas, most reports fail to recognise the problems and policies are not
5 devised to deal with the issue. In the East of England, the Fens and parts of Norfolk
6 and Suffolk are particularly affected.

7 Conference notes that rural poverty falls into three main areas:

- 8 1. *Financial poverty* – this relates to income and employment. Wage rates in rural
9 areas tend to be low, while living costs, especially house prices, are above the
10 national average. Large numbers of people moving from urban to rural areas,
11 coupled with high levels of second home-ownership push up property prices in
12 many rural areas, rendering them unaffordable for local young people. There is
13 generally a lack of affordable housing in rural areas and older people often find
14 it difficult to downsize, so suitable family homes may not come onto the
15 market.
- 16 2. *Access poverty* – people in rural areas frequently find it harder to access
17 services than people in urban areas – distances to shops and post offices are
18 typically greater and social services may be limited. Public transport is more
19 limited in rural areas and car ownership is frequently a necessity rather than a
20 luxury. Increasing fuel prices hit those in rural poverty more heavily than
21 others.
- 22 3. *Network poverty* – arises as local communities begin to break down and young
23 people, for example, cannot rely on families to help with childcare as they have
24 traditionally done.

25 These three aspects of poverty are mutually reinforcing in the countryside in a way that
26 they may not be in urban areas. For example, those without access to transport may
27 find it harder to get a job and to access other services.

28 Conference welcomes the Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing,
29 with its emphasis on using the planning process to deliver sustainable rural
30 communities. Conference welcomes the *Rural Poverty in the East of England Paper*,
31 which calls on local councils and EEDA to seek ways to alleviate rural poverty,
32 addressing the issues of housing, employment, transport and access to services. In
33 particular, Conference supports:

- 34 1. Effective use of the planning process. In line with the practice in Uttlesford,
35 councils should consider permitting their Local Development Frameworks to
36 be overridden in order to provide additional social housing in rural areas.
37 While we reject the Government's idea of eco-towns, which are inherently
38 unsustainable, we believe Councils should set high ecological standards for
39 rural housing, not least to reduce heating fuel poverty.
- 40 2. The promotion of economic development in the countryside to bring more
41 highly skilled employment to rural areas so that people are not forced to spend
42 time and money commuting to earn a decent living. This will have benefits in
43 terms of sustainability and enhancing the community.
- 44 3. Introducing a 'Wheels to Work' scheme as practised in Devon, which helps
45 give people access to transport in order to take up employment or training that
46 would otherwise be inaccessible to them.
- 47 4. Improving public transport provision, by encouraging councils across the
48 Region to exchange best practice over bus services, removing the early
49 morning travel restrictions on bus pass users in rural areas, and introducing
50 and advertising car-sharing schemes and other initiatives that recognise the
51 changing nature of transport requirements, including rising fuel prices and
52 environmental issues.
- 53 5. Planners could consider creating community hubs in which, for example, Post
54 Offices or village halls could offer broadband internet access.
- 55 6. Credit Unions should be supported and actively promoted in more rural areas,
56 through the new community hubs and council publicity.
- 57 7. Councils should consider the poverty impact of their policies, which could be
58 assessed by setting performance indicators for enterprise and/or poverty.

Proposer: *David Chappell*

Summator: *Susan Gaszczak*

15.40 Chair's Report

To receive the report of the Regional Chair

Proposer: *Paul Clark, Regional Chair*

Treasurer's Report

To receive the report of the Regional Treasurer and approve the budget
for 2009

Proposer: *Chris Walker, Regional Treasurer*

Presentation of Prizes

16.00 Close of Conference

House of Commons Reports

The Region's MPs reporting to Regional Conference 2008

Bob Russell, MP for Colchester

This year I have twice visited our Armed Forces in Afghanistan, including in September when 16 Air Assault Brigade from Colchester (and units from Wattisham and Woodbridge) were there. Despite experiencing a significant number of casualties I witnessed high morale and a determination we can be proud of. I can confirm that every soldier has the body armour and equipment they require. We can all be justly proud of our Armed Forces. In return, they need and deserve our support and help.

At Westminster I continue to have a busy workload, including membership of the Home Affairs Select Committee and in my role as an Assistant Whip. In Colchester my constituency diary means that I regularly put in a 7-day 80-hour week with my Advice Bureau casework now double what it was ten years ago.

Norman Lamb, MP for North Norfolk

The year has been dominated by my work as the party's Shadow Secretary of State for Health. In March, the Spring conference approved a new health policy for the party. This focuses on devolving power to both communities and to individuals and giving an entitlement to treatment within a defined period of time.

At the September conference I proposed a motion on mental health services. The key principle in this motion is that those using mental health services should be treated equally to those accessing physical health services. I have spoken in numerous Parliamentary debates on the NHS.

During the year I also campaigned for recognition of women who had been members of the Women's Land Army. This ended with Secretary of State, Hilary Benn, agreeing to introduce a badge for Land Girls. I attended the first ceremony at 10 Downing Street with the constituent who had raised the issue with me.

I have also been very active on coastal erosion and coastal flooding. I am Chair of the All party Group on Coastal and Marine Issues. Earlier this year, a report from Natural England was leaked to the press. This proposed the possible flooding of 6 Broads villages – without any compensation to those who would lose their homes. I have continued to campaign for a compensation scheme for those who lose their homes to the sea. There should be some sort of adaptation fund for those most affected by global warming – including by sea level rise.

David Howarth, MP for Cambridge

David Howarth has served as the party's Shadow Solicitor General since July 2007, combining this role with the Shadow Secretary of State for Justice since February. He has led for the party on a number of bills speaking out strongly against the proposals to detain terrorists for 42 days and on the Anonymity for Witnesses bill. He has tabled a number of questions about the conditions of prisons, focusing particularly on the availability of rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners.

David was one of a cross-party group of MPs, who got the Planning & Energy Bill passed into law, giving local councils the power to set higher environmental standards for new housing.

He has raised in Parliament the proposed reduction to the science budget, which will particularly affect the University of Cambridge's Cavendish Laboratory and the British Antarctic Survey.

David is, of course, campaigning against the proposals to close three post offices in Cambridge. He is particularly angry that the consultation period for the affected post offices, all of which are heavily used by students and university departments, was held exclusively during the summer vacation.

House of Lords Report

Tom McNally continued as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group in the Lords with David Shutt as Chief Whip. The year saw the death of three much valued colleagues – two Scots, Ray Michie and Russell Johnston, and Richard Holme, who played such an influential role both in Parliament and in the Party.

Ros Scott continued to take a close interest in regional and local government matters, and the group as a whole was active in all aspects of Parliamentary and Party activity. The following items of legislation of interest to the region were covered:

- 1 The Climate Change Bill dealing with the concept of targets for the reduction of carbon emissions.
- 2 The Education and skills Bill which raises to eighteen the age which young people have to stay in full-time education and training.
- 3 The Crossrail Bill which gives powers to construct two tunnels beneath Central London between Paddington and Liverpool Street opening up to the mainlines East and West of London.
- 4 The Energy Bill deals with off-shore infrastructure, carbon dioxide storage, the renewables obligation and the decommissioning of energy installations.
- 5 The Local Transport Bill dealing with local bus services and local transport planning.
- 6 The Planning Bill, which is still under consideration in the Lords and which contains a large range of reforms of the planning system giving rise to concerns about local and democratic accountability.

As well as dealing with the legislative programme, Liberal Democrat Peers regularly questioned Ministers at Question Time and both initiated and took part in short debates. Among topics initiated by Lib Dem Peers were:

- 1 Ros Scott on fly tipping.
- 2 Dominic Addington on opportunities to play rugby.
- 3 Tony Greaves on maps showing rights of way.
- 4 Margaret Sharp on adult skills and learning.
- 5 Brian Cotter on retail development.

The Lords Group maintains good relations with our regional MPs and with Andrew Duff MEP. The Lords Group operates a mentoring link with prospective parliamentary candidates in target seats. The Group is also willing to provide speakers for local campaigning and fund raising activity. Requests for help should be addressed to Carolyn Rampton, the Liberal Democrat Whips Office, House of Lords, London SW1 0PW.

Rt. Hon. Tom McNally

Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords

East of England Regional Assembly Report

1 Change of leadership

I took over from Chris White as Liberal Democrat group leader on the Regional Assembly earlier this summer. I first of all want to thank Chris for the 10 years he spent leading the group. We owe him a huge debt for his sterling work during that time.

2 Where are we now?

Over the last few years we have overtaken Labour and now have the second largest number of councillors in the East of England. Currently 70% of the Regional Assembly is made up of elected councillors with 30% stakeholders. These stakeholders are drawn from a wide range of bodies including health, education, business and the environment sector. It is the stakeholders who can stop the Conservatives from dominating the Assembly.

The Regional Assembly was set up with two statutory responsibilities: to produce a Regional Spatial Strategy and to scrutinise the work of the East of England Development Agency. When Gordon Brown was anointed as Prime Minister last year his first act was to announce the abolition of Regional Assemblies, with the intention of passing regional planning powers to the unelected Regional Development Agencies. Understandably there has been huge opposition to this as it removes any form of democracy and local accountability.

3 Where are we going?

In addition a large range of regional bodies will continue to exist like the Arts Council, Strategic Health Authority and Go-East. We want to continue to engage with them – and with national government – on behalf of the region. For this reason we are working on a constitution for a new East of England councils grouping. Conservatives in Hertfordshire and Essex have been trying to derail this process. They want the Tory run Counties to dominate any new regional structures and so wish to remove the current arrangement where political representation is balanced and based on a regional template. They also want to drastically reduce the involvement of District councils. Needless to say we are fighting this. Unfortunately the current Chair of the Regional Assembly, Conservative John Reynolds, does not seem to have the same powers of persuasion within his own party as his predecessor.

4 A busy year

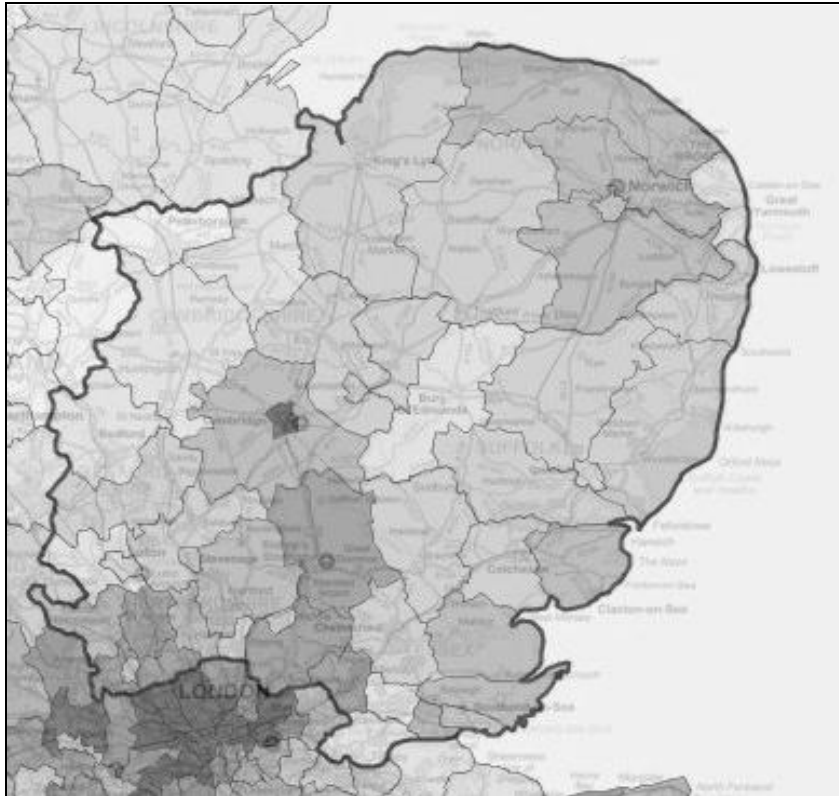
It has been another busy year for the Assembly and I would like to thank all those colleagues who serve on the various panels. As ever the most contentious issue has been planning. In particular we remain concerned that, whilst the region continues to expand, there is little or no complementary funding for additional infrastructure. Even when there was European funding available to upgrade the Felixstowe to Nuneaton rail route, the Government failed to get its act together in time to apply for it.

5 Where now for affordable housing?

Supplying the right kind of housing at the right time is a continuous battle. With the slowdown in the housing market, and falling house prices we can hope that younger people in particular may have an opportunity to get onto the housing ladder – if they can get a mortgage! At a recent regional seminar I was concerned that it is not only the areas in the South of the Region and hotspots like Cambridge where there are problems with affordability. In the rural areas low wages also cause major imbalances in people's ability to purchase. To see the presentation from this

seminar, visit the Regional Assembly site at <http://www.eera.gov.uk/Meetings.asp?id=SXD520-A77FE279&cat=702>

The map below reveals some of the variations that exist across the region. The areas with the highest ratios of house price to income emerge as Cambridge (12.3), St Albans (11.6) and Epping Forest (11.5). Conversely the areas that enjoy the lowest ratios are Peterborough (7.5), Huntingdonshire (8.1) and Fenland (8.1).



6 The year ahead

With County and new unitary elections looming next year we need to ensure that we are all ready to engage with a resurgent Tory party in the battle ahead. In Suffolk and Norfolk elections may well be postponed until 2010, when the proposed new unitary authorities will come into being. I would urge you all to attend any training offered by the party. Recent by-elections highlight the fact that we must improve our campaigning skills if we are to hold current seats and beat the Tories. Good Luck!

Kathy Pollard

Liberal Democrat Group Leader
East of England Regional Assembly

Regional Chair's Report

At our last regional conference we had the honour of being addressed by our then leader Ming Campbell. None of us could have guessed that two days later he would step down. We then entered a close-fought contest between Nick Clegg and Chris Huhne. This included hustings in the region, which were very well attended and gave members the chance to see up close the excellent calibre of both candidates and what a difficult choice they faced, as the closeness of the result testifies.

We fought elections in May in which we acquitted ourselves well across the region and improved significantly on last year's disappointing losses. In the face of a Tory party doing well, we made gains in Colchester and Chelmsford and gained outright control of St Albans. Of course there were losses; I would like to thank all those candidates who were not successful and assure them they helped the cause giving those in the area they stood the chance to vote Liberal Democrat.

Throughout the year we have also fought a number of by-elections. This time last year we contested a ward in Forest Heath DC against the Tories, which we won. We end the year with a county by-election, again in Suffolk and against the Tories, and again our candidate won. Where we work – even against the Tories – we can win.

Disappointingly there were a few by-elections during the year we did not contest, depriving residents of the opportunity to support us. We must work to avoid this and use every opportunity to fight and push forward the cause of liberal democracy.

We go into next year facing county and European elections, and a number of areas in the region also have unitary elections. These will cost, and the region will have to fund the European campaign on its own, so as in the past we may need impose a levy per member on local parties, but will work to keep this to previous levels.

The party also faces a presidential election as Simon Hughes is standing down having completed his term of office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his efforts in this role for the party and the region.

The region again held its popular and successful reception at Federal Conference in Bournemouth in September, and a big thank you to the East of England Regional Assembly who sponsored the buffet. I would like to thank Chris White who has led the EERA Lib Dem Group with such distinction for a number of years and wish all the very best to Kathy Pollard who has now taken on this mantle.

I would like to thank all the members of the Regional Executive and the regional staff for their help and support throughout the year, for which I am very grateful. Without their support and dedication and that of members across the region we would not be as successful as we are; the East of England is the third largest region in England and in touching distance of second place – so this time next year you never know!

Finally I hope all members enjoy this year's regional conference, which by popular demand has been brought back to Huntingdon. I wish candidates in all forthcoming elections all the very best; with the hard work and dedication being put in we can 'Make It Happen'.

Paul Clark

Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats

2009 Budget

<u>Income</u>		2009 £
Membership Rebates	Man	29,000
Regional Draws	Man	2,500
Training (Gross)	Conf	500
Appeals + Donations	Man	3,000
Standing Order Donations	Man	3,000
Conference (Gross)	Conf	7,000
Target Seats contribution	Man	4,800
Regional Newsletter Income	Man	4,000
Bank Interest	Man	1000
Miscellaneous	Man	
Euro Reserve	Camp	3,000
Total Income Budget		£57,800

<u>Expenditure</u>		
Campaigns Officer	Man	14,000
Regional Administrator	Man	3,700
Regional Newsletter Editor	Man	3,000
Regional Newsletter Costs	Man	2,700
Target Seats	Camp	20,000
LP Development	Camp	2,000
Training (Gross)	Camp	1,500
Conferences (Gross)	Conf	4,000
Fed Conference	Man	1,000
Policy Development	Policy	50
PPC Development + Approval	Cand	500
Office + Officers Expenses	Man	500
Office Equipment + IT	Man	700
Membership Awards + Support	Man	500
Communications	Man	1,000
Minorities/Open Politics	Man	300
Miscellaneous	Man	
Total Expenditure Budget		£55,450
Transfer to Campaign Reserve	Man	2,350

Year to date 2008

<u>Income</u>	Actual	Budget	Diff	Budget For Year
	YTD	YTD	YTD	
Membership Rebate	£24,612	£21,750	£2,862	£29,000
Membership Rebate - Maldon	£34	£0	£34	£0
Regional Draws	£1,646	£1,875	£-229	£2,500
Training (Gross)	£250	£375	£-125	£500
Appeals + Donations	£308	£1,125	£-817	£1,500
Standing Orders	£1,106	£1,500	£-394	£2,000
Conference (Gross)	£30	£0	£30	£7,000
Target seats contribution	£3,600	£2,250	£1,350	£3,000
		£0		
Bank Interest	£1,504	£900	£604	£1,200
Miscellaneous	£0	£0	£0	£0
Euro Reserve	£3,379	£2,250	£1,129	£3,000
Total Income	£36,469	£32,025	£4,444	£49,700
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Campaigns Officer	£8,452	£9,000	£-548	£13,500
Regional Administrator	£2,761	£2,000	£761	£3,000
Target Seats	£12,751	£10,625	£2,126	£15,000
Target Seats - ex Campaign Reserve	£9,084	£0	£9,084	£0
LP Development	£433	£1,500	£-1,067	£2,000
Training (Gross)	£638	£1,125	£-487	£1,500
Conferences (Gross)	£226	£3,000	£-2,774	£4,000
Fed Conference	£823	£750	£73	£1,000
Policy Development	£0	£38	£-38	£50
PPC Development + Approval	£436	£750	£-314	£1,000
Office + Officers Expenses	£79	£750	£-671	£1,000
Office Equipment + IT	£662	£525	£137	£700
Membership Awards + Support	£0	£375	£-375	£500
Communications	£0	£750	£-750	£1,000
Minorities/Open Politics	£0	£375	£-375	£500
Miscellaneous	£138	£0	£138	£0
Maldon	£175	£0	£175	£0
Total Expenditure	£36,658	£31,563	£5,096	£44,750
Surplus/(Deficit)	-£189			
Transfer to Campaign Reserve	£2,588	£2,588	£0	£3,450

1. Bank Account Balances @ 24 September 2008

Account	Balance	Notes
East of England cheque	£2,429	
East of England Business Money Manager	£21,767	
East of England 3 month deposit bond	£40,000	- matures 20 Nov 2008
"Euro" cheque	£5,095	
"Euro" 1 year deposit bond	£8,000	- matures 20 Oct 2008
Total	£77,291	

2. Earmarked funds @ 24 September 2008

Westminster by-election fund	£5,000
General Campaign Reserve	£34,257
Euro Campaign Fund	£13,095
Maldon	£228
Total	£52,579

3. Unrestricted funds @ 24 September 2008

£24,712

East of England Regional Liberal Democrats

Statement of Accounts For the year ending 31st December 2007

Contents

Introduction

This Statement of Accounts provides a report on the political and financial activities of the East of England Region Liberal Democrats. The East of England Liberal Democrats' registered address is:

4 Cowley Street
London
SW1P 3NB

For the purposes of the Political Parties Elections Referendums Act 2000, Jo Dawson is the registered Treasurer and Paul Clark is the registered Chair for 2007.

Review of political activities

Overview

The main activity of the Regional Party this year was to build upon the Party's growing strength nationally to win more votes and seats at every level of government. The electorate is growing increasingly disenchanted with the Labour government's "spin culture" and the Conservative party's inability to develop coherent policies on the issues that matter. Against this the Liberal Democrats constructive and principled stances on issues such as the Iraq war, fairer taxation and better public services have a resonance with the voters.

Membership

At the end of the year, the membership of the Region was 6,638(2006 –6,532).

Branches

The Regional party has 2 sub-branches and all income received and expenditure incurred by these branches has been included in these accounts the branches are as follows:-

- Maldon
- Great Yarmouth

Committees

The Regional Executive Committee met 6 times during the year. The Committee is responsible for managing the business of the Region. There was a change in the sub-committee structure this year in line with the constitutional requirements. The sub-committees are now: Management, Campaigns, Candidates', Conference, Development and Policy,

Campaigning

Our campaigning activities in the year continued to be focused on building the party across the area covered by the Regional Party, reporting back to the membership on what we have achieved and promoting the policies and principles of the party.

Review of financial activities

Overview

Despite the costs of our heightened activity we achieved a very satisfactory result for the year.

Income and expenditure

A comparison between one year and another is always very difficult as both income and expenditure vary enormously depending on where we are in the various electoral cycles.

Income

Income in the year increased as a result of greater fundraising.

Expenditure

Expenditure in the year increased due to grants towards the costs of the Bedford and Watford Mayoral elections.

Balance sheet

In line with the continued improvement in operating performance, the accumulated fund has once again been strengthened.

	Notes to accounts	2007 (£)	2006 (£)
Income			
Donations and Appeals		8,208	7,926
Membership Rebate		29,672	33,182
Moving Forward Seats contributions		4,800	0
Bank Interest		1,187	835
Fundraising	10	8,911	9,745
Training		0	869
Campaign Income		1,320	0
Notional income	9	300	300
Maldon branch	11	375	
		54,773	52,857
Total income			
Expenditure			
Campaigns Officer and Regional Administrator	8	14,451	14,642
Moving Forward Seats	8	23,133	0
Local Party Support	4	698	9,073
Training Costs		1,229	1,713
PPC Development and Approval		1,036	
IT and communications		1,247	146
Officers' Expenses		576	112
Federal Conference		1,894	909
Campaign		3,210	0
Fundraising costs	10	2,844	4,480
Policy Development			64
Notional expenditure	9	300	300
Depreciation	5	881	1,168
		51,499	32,607
Total expenditure			
Excess income over expenditure before taxation		3,274	20,250
Taxation on investment income			
Excess income over expenditure after taxation		3,274	20,250

	Notes	2007 (£)	2006 (£)
Fixed assets	5		
Information Technology		999	1880
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total fixed assets		999	1,880
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Current assets			
Debtors (inc. pre-payments)	6	4,992	1,305
Investments: Deposit Bond		8,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		65,752	77,012
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total current assets		78,744	78,317
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Creditors falling due in less than one year			
Creditors (inc. accruals)	7	982	5,599
Other	7	889	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net current assets/ liabilities		76,873	72,718
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets less current liabilities		77,872	74,598
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Creditors due in more than one year</i>			0
			<hr/>
Provisions for liabilities and charges			0
			<hr/>
Net assets		77,872	74,598
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Financed by:			
Accumulated Fund		74,598	54,348
Excess income over expenditure after taxation		3,274	20,250
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds		77,872	74,598
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and guidance issued by the Electoral Commission.

2. Accounting convention

The statements are prepared on a historical cost basis.

3. Change in basis

There have not been any material changes to the SOA, since last year's return.

4. Related party transactions

There was £69 printing for Maldon by election undertaken by Norwich S constituency.

5. Fixed assets

Changes to the tangible asset basis of the organisation during the year:

	Property	Fixtures and fittings	Information technology	Total
	£	£	£	£
Asset cost				
Balance brought forward			3,524	3,524
Additions			0	0
Disposals			0	0
Balance carried forward (a)			3,524	3,524

Depreciation

Method

	Straight line over 50 years	Straight line over 4 years	Straight line over 3 years
Balance brought forward		1,644	
Disposals		0	
Charge for the year (b)		881	
Balance carried forward		2,525	

Net book value brought forward

Net book value carried forward (a-b)

	1,880		
	999		

6. Debtors and prepayments

	This year £	Last year £
Other debtors	4,992	1,030
Prepayments		
Investment income		
Totals	4,992	1,030

7. Creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Trade creditors	1,503	5,598		
Accruals	368			
Short term loans and over-drafts				
Totals	1,871	5,598		

8. Salaries

The local party employed 3 full time and 1 part time staff. Salaries and pension contributions were:

- £ 22,172

9. Notional expenditure and income

Notional income represents the value of raffle prizes and refreshments donated by members of the party for fund raising events.

10. Fundraising

The local party runs a number of fundraising activities, the income and expenditure of which is as follows:

Event	Income	Expenditure	Net profit/(loss)
Regional Conference	4,235	2,844	1,391
Regional Draw	4,676	0	4,676
Total	8,911	2,844	6,067

11. Consolidation of branches

The income for Maldon Branch is a result of the division from Chelmsford LP and the boundary changes.

East of England Region Conference Standing Orders

1. OBJECT

- 1.1 These Standing Orders govern the preparation and conduct of the agenda of the Conferences of the East of England Region.
- 1.2 These Standing Orders endure until amended by a two-thirds majority of representatives voting at a meeting of the Conference, at which the amendment has been notified to the members at least one week in advance of the meeting.

2. REGIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The Regional Conference committee shall, subject to the direction of the Regional Executive to whom it shall report:

- 2.1 Make all necessary arrangements for the Regional Conference, or any special Regional Conference called during its term of office.
- 2.2 Co-opt such other persons as may be necessary to enable it to carry out its duties efficiently.
- 2.3 Prepare all necessary regulations and timetables in respect of motions, elections, arrangements of business, the agenda, the conduct of sessions of the Regional Conference and all matters incidental thereto. In particular it shall:
 - a) Timetable all constitutional amendments that have been properly submitted.
 - b) Have available for inspection at Conference, all motions not included, or composited, in the final agenda.

3. RULES OF DEBATE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

- 3.1 No motion or amendment shall be discussed unless it has been proposed and formally seconded.
- 3.2 Representatives shall direct their speeches to the question under discussion or to a point of order or to a personal explanation.
- 3.3 Subject to the right of amendment of the Conference Committee in the case of any specific item of business, the

discussion of all motions shall normally comprise:

- 3.3.1 Speech of mover of main motion and any alternative under 3.4 below, five minutes at most.
 - 3.3.2 Speeches of movers of any amendment: three minutes at most.
 - 3.3.3 Speeches from the floor: three minutes at most.
 - 3.3.4 Rights of reply as provided by S05: three minutes at most.
- 3.4 The Conference Committee may:

3.4.1 Recognise an amendment as an alternative option and allow its proposer the same time as the speech of the proposer of the motion.

3.4.2 Take two or more motions covering the same or associated subject matter to be debated simultaneously (along with any amendments to such motions): such debate shall conclude with a vote on each motion and amendment in turn, or between motions, or amendments or parts of motions or amendments, as appropriate.

- 3.5 3.5.1 Each motion will be moved and any amendment will then be moved, debated and voted upon in the order in which they affect the wording of the motion, except that the Session Chair may vary the order of debate to improve discussion where the nature or complexity of the motion make this desirable.

3.5.2 Subject to S03.4 above, all amendments shall be decided before substantive debate on any motion.

- 3.6 No member shall speak more than once on any motion or amendment or in any simultaneous debate under S03.4 above except:

3.6.1 To exercise any right of reply given by these Standing Orders;

3.6.2 By way of explanation;

3.6.3 To move any procedural motion;

3.6.4 On different aspects of a Report which is discussed in parts;

- 3.7 The Session Chair may, subject to contrary indication by Conference, allow any person who is not a Representative to

the Conference to speak in any debate.

- 3.8 Speakers will be selected by the Session Chair from those members who indicate their wish to speak. In choosing speakers, the Session Chair shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between different viewpoints within the conference. The Session Chair shall also have regard, in choosing speakers, to the number of times a particular person has already been called to speak during the meeting of Conference.

- 3.9 A motion or amendment once moved and seconded may only be withdrawn with the consent of Conference, which shall be signified without discussion.

4. PROCEDURAL POINTS

- 4.1 Subject to SO 7.4, a person may rise to a point of personal explanation, but a personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former speech by that person at the same meeting which may have been misunderstood. A person so rising shall be entitled to be heard forthwith.

- 4.2 The ruling of the Session Chair on a point of order or the admissibility of a personal explanation shall not be open to discussion and shall only be open to challenge on a two thirds majority of those present and voting.

- 4.3 When a motion is under debate only the following procedural motions shall be allowed:

4.3.1 That the Session Chair's ruling be set aside;

4.3.2 To adjourn the debate in motion;

4.3.3 That the question be not put;

4.3.4 That the question be now put;

4.3.5 That the motion be referred back to the mover.

Any such procedural motion, when moved and formally seconded, shall immediately become the motion under discussion unless deferred under S04.6. When any such procedural motion is moved and where the Session Chair has not deferred debate under SO 4.6, only a higher procedural motion on the list

above may then be moved before such procedural motion is decided.

- 4.4 Procedural motions 4.3.2 to 4.3.4 may only be moved without comment by a representative at the end of another person's speech.
- 4.5 The mover of any procedural motion under SO 4.3.1 or SO 4.3.5 may make a brief speech; the Session Chair in case SO 4.3.1 and the mover of the motion in case SO 4.3.5 shall have a brief right of reply.
- 4.6 Motions SO 4.3.4 and SO 4.3.5 above shall not be accepted unless the Session Chair believes that there has been adequate discussion of the matter under consideration. If a motion in case SO 4.3.4 is carried the movers shall have a right of reply before their motion is voted on.

5. RIGHT OF REPLY

- 5.1 The proposer of a motion shall have a right of reply at the close of the debate upon such motion, immediately before it is put to the vote.
- 5.2 If any amendment is proposed, the proposer of the motion shall be entitled to reply at the end of the debate upon the amendment.
- 5.3 The mover of any amendment shall have the right of reply immediately before the proposer of the substantive motion.
- 5.4 The right of reply may be delegated by the proposer concerned.
- 5.5 A representative exercising a right to reply shall not introduce new matter to the debate.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDMENT

- 6.1 A representative may, with the consent of Conference, signified without discussion, accept a drafting amendment to the motion which has been proposed and may also accept any duly tabled amendment.

7. VOTING

- 7.1 On being appointed each representative shall be issued with a voting card bearing his or her name. Such voting cards shall not be transferable.
- 7.2 Names of substitutes for any representative shall be notified to the Regional Conference Committee. Following valid receipt of such notification, each substitute shall be issued with a voting card bearing his or her name and become a representative for the meeting in question, replacing the representative so substituted.
- 7.3 All votes shall be taken by a show of voting cards. The voting shall be counted by tellers at the request of the Session Chair, the Conference Committee or 25 members upstanding.
- 7.4 No point of personal explanation may be raised during a vote. Points of order raised during a vote shall only be admissible if they relate to the conduct of the vote.
- 7.5 The Session Chair's decision and announcement of the result shall be final.

8. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

- 8.1 A representative may during any plenary Conference move a motion for the suspension of Standing Orders. The mover of the motion shall submit the motion and a brief written statement of the purpose of the proposed suspension to the Chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The Chair shall then (if the motion is in order) invite the Conference representatives wishing the motion to be considered to stand in their places and show their voting cards. If less than 35 representatives do so the motion shall not proceed.
- 8.2 If the motion proceeds, the mover may speak and a representative of the Conference Committee may reply. The Chair shall have the discretion whether to allow other speakers on the motion.
- 8.3 A motion to suspend Standing Orders shall be carried only if supported by at least two thirds of the Conference representatives voting. If the motion is carried, all Standing Orders shall be deemed to be still in force, except only for the purpose set out in the motion.

9. QUORUM

- 9.1 If there are fewer than 40 representatives present at any time, any one representative may demand, and procure, that discussion of a topic be deferred.

10. NO SMOKING RULE

- 10.1 No person attending the meeting may smoke.