

Regional Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the statement of accounts for 2007, the budget for 2009 and figures for 2008 year to date.

The statement of accounts for 2007 reflects the extent of the support Region provided to Moving Forward Seats as well as the contributions received from the relevant local parties. The Region continues to support local parties in by-election campaigns with a ring-fenced sum kept in reserve. It also continues to build the Euro election campaign fund. Regular donations in the form of standing orders are encouraged and generally donations and appeals showed an increase on 2006. Fund raising profits from the regional conference and regional draws were higher than 2006 and helped build up general campaign reserves.

The 2009 Budget shows budgetary amounts similar to the current year for many of the income and expenditure headings. However it additionally includes income and expenditure figures for the Regional Newsletter. As in previous years the "Transfer to Campaign Reserve" is the balancing item.

Earlier this year we opened a Business Money Manager Account, which pays a higher rate of interest than the previous Business Notice Account and offers instant access to our money. We also took the opportunity to put £40K on deposit, at an even better rate of interest, initially for 6 months and currently for a further 3 months. The increased interest earned is reflected in the year to date statement, which also shows how other income and expenditure items are performing against budget.

Details of our current bank accounts and the amounts of the various earmarked funds, referred to above, are shown in a separate statement.

PPERA reporting is a significant and important aspect of the Regional Treasurer's role as he has responsibility of ensuring that all local parties adhere to the requirements. Most local parties comply with the requirements but some have been somewhat tardy in submitting returns during the year. I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is for returns and accounts to be completed and submitted on time. The Electoral Commission has started enforcing the legal penalties in PPERA, that is to make parties surrender impermissible donations and fine those who submit their accounts after the legal deadline.

I ask conference to accept these accounts and my report.

Chris Walker
East of England Liberal Democrats Regional Treasurer
September 2008