

# 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	Room A	Room B	Room C	Room D
<b>10:00 Welcome and introduction:</b> David Howarth MP				
<b>10:10 Motion M1:</b> A Liberal Vision for the East of England	<b>TRAINING</b> Freepost design and organisation	<b>BRIEFING</b> PPERA for Treasurers		Campaign plan reviews (advance booking only)
<b>10:40 Motion M2:</b> Cabinet system of local government		<b>TRAINING</b> Understanding your membership	<b>TRAINING</b> Getting a PPC – training for the selection committee	
<b>11:05 Constitutional amendments</b>	<b>TRAINING</b> Cheap and cheerful campaigning			
<b>11:35 Emergency motions</b>				
<b>11:50 Andrew Duff MEP</b>				
<b>12:10 Q &amp; A MEP, MPs, Peers and EERA Group</b>				
<b>12:30 LUNCH</b>				
<b>13:00 Lunchtime fringe</b>	Local Party Chairs' network	I&DeA Peers' meeting	End of an EERA - life after Regional Assemblies	
<b>14:00 Motion M3:</b> Bringing broadband to rural areas				
<b>14:20 Brian Orrell, English Liberal Democrats Chair</b>				
<b>14:30 General Election briefing</b>				
<b>14:50 Keynote speaker:</b> Lynne Featherstone MP, introduced by Norman Lamb MP				
<b>15:40 Business Session:</b> Chair & Treasurer, Awards				
<b>16:00 Close</b>				

## Deadlines

**Friday 30 October 2009, 10:00am is the deadline for**

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

Motions, amendments and questions should be submitted to the Regional Administrator, 4 Pound Lane, Sutton, Ely CB6 2PR, fax 020 8020 2943, [admin@east.libdems.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Members' newsletters – letting the Region take the strain

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. More and more local parties are solving 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](mailto:newsletter@east.libdems.org) or visit [www.east.libdems.org](http://www.east.libdems.org)

# Location

The Performing Arts Centre is part of Hinchbrooke School and is situated on Hinchbrooke Park Road. This road is off the B1514 between Brampton and Huntingdon. This road also leads to Hinchbrooke 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 Hinchbrooke Park Road will be on your left immediately after the high stone wall of Hinchbrooke House.

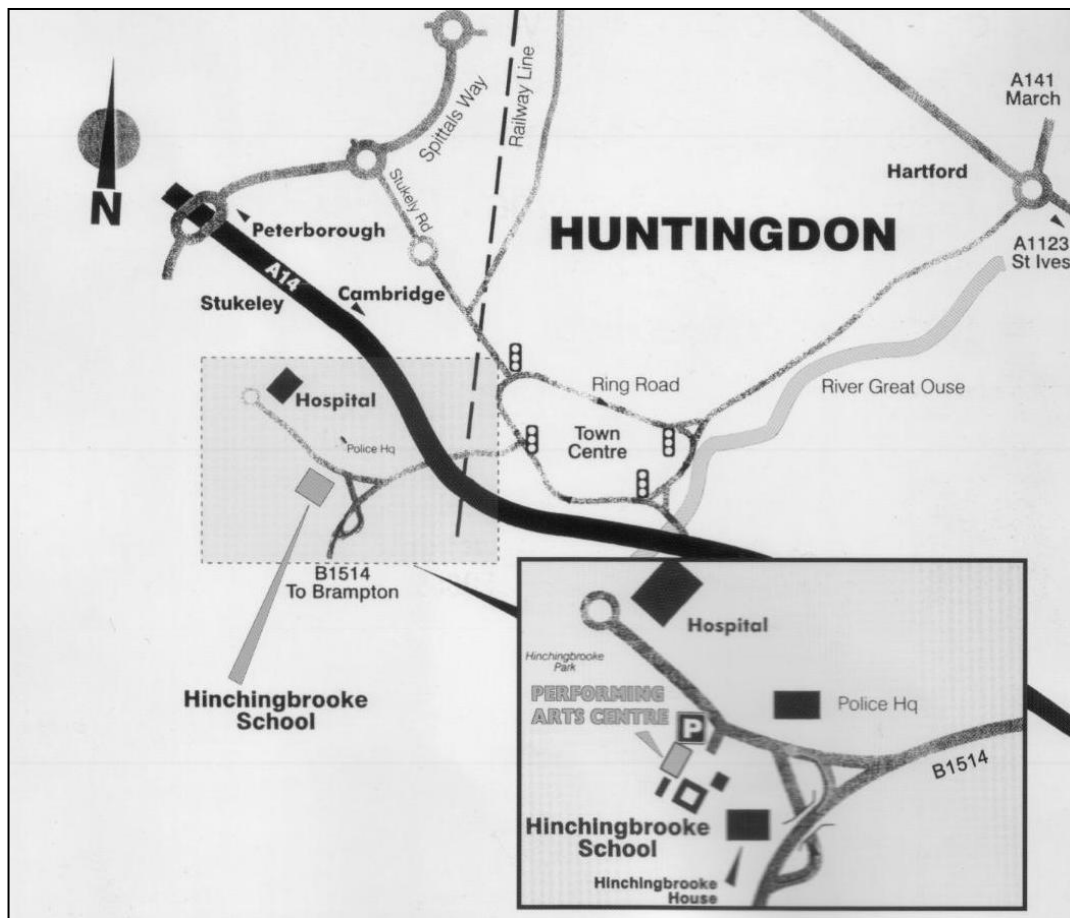
From the North, coming down the A1 from Peterborough, do not follow the first sign to Huntingdon but continue down to Brampton Hut (where the A14 crosses the A1). Turn left here and after 500 metres follow the sign to Brampton B1514. Follow the signs towards Huntingdon and Hinchbrooke Park Road will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

immediately after the high stone wall of Hinchbrooke 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

## Local party chairs' network

An opportunity for Liberal Democrat local party chairs (and vice-chairs) to keep in touch, exchange ideas and help one another

with Roy Benford, Development Committee Chair,  
East of England Liberal Democrats  
13:00-14:00, Room A



## I&DeA Peers

An informal get-together and information exchange for all I&DeA accredited member peers, with Isobel McCall

13:00-14:00, Room B

## END OF AN EERA

Regional Assemblies, including EERA, are being axed by Central Government. What structures will follow – and what do they mean for Liberal Democrats?

This event is hosted by the Liberal Democrat Group on the East of England Regional Assembly

*This event is open to all members, but will be of particular relevance to council group leaders*

13:00-14:00, Room C

Prizes have been kindly donated by our parliamentarians for a

## GRAND AUCTION!

to take place at this year's Regional Conference.

Visit the auction table in the Exhibition area and place your sealed bids in the box provided before 3:30 pm.

The prize-winners will be announced at the end of the Conference.

## Exhibitors

- Chelmsford  
Liberal Democrats
- Colchester  
Liberal Democrats
- East of England  
Regional Assembly  
Liberal Democrat Group
- Green  
Liberal Democrats
- Liberal Democrat  
Friends of Palestine
- Liberal Democrat Image
- Members' newsletter  
service
- Norwich South  
Liberal Democrats
- St Albans  
Liberal Democrats
- Watford  
Liberal Democrats
- Waveney  
Liberal Democrats  
& Trinity Print

## Also in the exhibition area

- Grand Auction!
- The Returning Officer for the regional party elections
- The Exchange table for your FOCUS leaflets, tabloids and members' mailings

# Conference Agenda

**10:00**            **Opening of Conference**

**10.05**            **Speech by David Howarth, MP for Cambridge**

Chair:            Theresa Higgins, Regional Conference Chair

Aide:            Qurban Hussain

**10:15**            **Policy Motion M1: A Liberal Vision for the East of England**

*Submitted by: East of England Regional Policy Committee*

1            Conference notes with regret that the East of England faces a set of political and  
2            economic issues that are largely outwith its control. The global financial crisis coupled  
3            with poor decisions by the Labour government mean that unemployment is rising,  
4            people are struggling to pay their mortgages and businesses are failing. And the  
5            expenses scandal has led to scepticism and alienation among many citizens who may  
6            not bother voting at all in the 2010 elections or might consider voting for fringe or  
7            extreme parties.

8            Conference recognises that there are no quick fixes to these problems but believes that  
9            Liberal Democrats do have solutions that will help the East of England to weather the  
10            crises and emerge strengthened politically, economically and environmentally.

11            Conference welcomes the policy paper “A Liberal Vision for the East of England”, in  
12            particular the proposals to:

- 13            1. review local government arrangements, with the possibility of increasing the  
14            number of unitary authorities;
- 15            2. create an Academy of Eastern Action;
- 16            3. promote green jobs and local apprenticeships designed to fit local people for the  
17            jobs that are available;
- 18            4. free businesses from unnecessary red-tape and give them incentives to reduce  
19            carbon emissions, including allowing staff to work from home where appropriate;
- 20            5. work to eliminate the practice of upwards only rent reviews, and ensure that  
21            business evictions could only take place when there is evidence that the business  
22            is unviable, not the rents too high for the economic cycle;
- 23            6. make waste disposal authorities responsible for ensuring a waste treatment  
24            infrastructure that can maximise resource recovery from municipal, business and  
25            (where appropriate) agricultural waste;
- 26            7. empower individuals and groups to take direct responsibility for their own local  
27            environments, including managing open spaces and wildlife areas;
- 28            8. get people and freight off the roads and onto trains by focusing on rail expansion  
29            rather than motorway widening, including upgrading rail links to Felixstowe and  
30            support for the Lower Thames multi-modal crossing and enhancing east-west rail  
31            links;
- 32            9. ensure that new housing will be accessible by sustainable methods of travel,  
33            reducing the need for car ownership and supporting car-free developments;
- 34            10. use local development frameworks to ensure that major new housing  
35            developments have access to a full range of local services, including shops,  
36            schools, healthcare and leisure facilities;
- 37            11. ensure that young people have access to youth facilities at least within 3 miles of  
38            their home, and give them a voice in decisions that affect them through  
39            representation as co-optees on relevant committees and in the allocation of  
40            budgets related to their service;
- 41            12. stop treating young people as a problem, for example by ending the use of  
42            mosquito devices and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.

Proposer: Linda Jack  
Summator: Paul Burall

## Amendment

*Submitted by: Braintree & Witham Local Party*

- 1 That paragraphs 10 and 11 of section VI are modified so as to read as in the extract below:
- 2 “11. ensure that young people have access to youth facilities within at most 3 miles of their homes,  
3 and give them a voice in decisions that affect them through representation as co-optees on  
4 relevant committees and in the allocation of budgets related to their service;  
5 12. stop treating young people as a problem, for example by ending the use of mosquito devices  
6 and making sure that Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are only applied when Acceptable  
7 Behaviour Contracts and other appropriate help have failed.”

Proposer: Steve Bolter  
Summator: Colin Sykes

## 10:40 Policy Motion M2: Cabinet system of local government

*Submitted by: Brentwood & Ongar Local Party*

- 1 The East of England Liberal Democrats note that various authorities across the region have  
2 introduced a cabinet system of local government following the Local Government Act 2000.  
3 We believe that the cabinet system has failed to enhance the democratic process, has left  
4 many residents and councillors feeling disenfranchised and powerless  
5 to properly influence the decision making process and has put even more power into the  
6 hands of small cliques of councillors, and should thus urgently be reformed.
- 7 Conference therefore calls on the Government to:
- 8 1. conduct an urgent review into all the issues surrounding the cabinet system of  
9 local government as soon as possible;  
10 2. give local authorities that have introduced the cabinet system the freedom to revert  
11 back to the Committee / Panel system if they so wish;  
12 3. ensure that no local authority currently operating a Committee / Panel system  
13 should be forced into adopting the cabinet system.

Proposer: David Kendall  
Summator: Karen Chilvers

## 11.05 Constitutional and standing order amendments

Chair: Sal Jarvis  
Aide: Jonathan Chatfield

### Regional Constitution

Conference approves the changes to the Regional Constitution as below.

- 1 **Filling casual vacancies**  
2 **ARTICLE 5: Committees of the Regional Executive**  
3 **Insert new:**  
4 5.12 (a) Where a casual vacancy shall arise on a Committee, Sub-Committee or Working Group,  
5 the Regional Executive shall have power to fill the vacancy.

- 6 (b) Where there is a casual vacancy in the chair of a body constituted under 5.1 or 5.3  
7 above, the Regional Executive shall have the power to appoint a new chair: the new chair  
8 need not be a member of the relevant body at the time of appointment.  
9 (c) The Regional Executive shall have full discretion to determine the manner and extent of  
10 advertising for volunteers to fill such vacancies.

**[for reference re new 5.12 (b) above]**

5.1 There shall be the following committees, which shall be constituted as set out in Articles 6-11 (and summarised in Article 5.9), which shall have the delegated powers therein described as well as such further powers as the Regional Executive may decide.

- **The Management Committee**
- The Campaigns Committee
- The Candidates Committee
- The Conference Committee
- The Development Committee
- The Policy Committee

5.3 The Regional Executive shall establish such further committees, subcommittees or working groups as it shall consider appropriate from time to time to carry out the work of the Regional Party, and may assign special responsibilities to any of its members, including duties which would otherwise pertain to one of the Officers. The Regional Executive may also delegate authority to committees jointly constituted with other regions for particular purposes. No committee, subcommittee, working group or individual member shall take action on behalf of the Regional Executive beyond their terms of appointment. All committees of the Regional Executive, subcommittees and working groups shall report on their activities to the Regional Executive.

11 **Correction of errors**

12 **Amend:**

- 13 8.1(c) delete 'Two' and write 'Three'  
14 10.1(a) delete 'Three' and write 'Four'.

**[current wording]**

8.1 The Policy Committee shall comprise

- (c) Two members elected by the Liberal Democrat Group on the East of England Regional Assembly

10.1 The Conference Committee shall comprise

- (a) Three members elected by the Regional Conference representatives

15 **Changing Policy Committee to a two year term**

16 **Amend 5.4 to include underlined section and delete the section crossed through:**

17 The Officers of the Regional Party shall have a duty to convene a preliminary meeting of each  
18 committee listed in 5.1 above to take place after 1 January after the Annual General meeting of the  
19 Regional Party at which the committee was open to election. The business of that meeting shall  
20 begin with the appointment of a Chair from amongst the members of the Committee (other than  
21 co-opted members), except that the Chair of Candidates Committee shall be elected by the  
22 Regional Conference. Further meetings ~~for the rest of the year~~ shall be convened by the relevant  
23 committee chair.

24 **Add new:**

- 25 8.1A The term of office for all elections under 8.1 shall be, for terms of office beginning on or  
26 after 1 January 2010, two calendar years.

**[current 5.4]**

5.4 The Officers of the Regional Party shall have a duty to convene a preliminary meeting of each committee listed in 5.1 above to take place after 1 January after the Annual General meeting of the Regional Party. The business of that meeting shall begin with the appointment of a Chair from amongst the members of the Committee (other than co-opted members), except that the Chair of Candidates Committee shall be elected by the Regional Conference. Further meetings for the rest of the year shall be convened by the relevant committee chair.

**[for reference re new 8.1 (a) above]**

ARTICLE 8: Regional Policy Committee

8.1. The Policy Committee shall comprise

- (a) Three members elected by the Regional Conference representatives
- (b) Two members appointed by the Regional Executive
- (c) Two members elected by the Liberal Democrat Group on the East of England Regional Assembly
- (d) Two members elected by Parliamentarians.

27 **Role of the Development Committee**

28 11.2 delete (d): and re letter accordingly

**[Current wording]**

11.2 The function of the Development Committee is to:

- (a) encourage local parties to increase membership
- (b) to arrange for the training and personal development of European, Westminster and council candidates
- (c) to arrange for the training of local party activists
- (d) to arrange for the training of members of assessment panels and returning officers
- (e) to encourage the development of trainers and the recruitment of new trainers
- (f) to oversee, in liaison with the Regional Party Secretary, internal communications.

29 **Increase membership of management committee**

30 6.1 Add (d) Regional Training Co-ordinator

**[Current wording]**

6.1 The Management Committee shall comprise:

- (a) all officers
- (b) all chairs of committees defined under Article 5.1
- (c) one representative elected by and from staff employed by the Regional Party

31 **Mandatory amendments following from decisions of the Party in England for the recognition of**  
32 **Liberal Democrat Council Groups:**

33 1.4 (f) add 'and recognised Council Groups' after 'assist Local Parties'

**[Current wording]**

1.4. The objects of the Regional Party shall be:

- (a) to seek to achieve the objects set forth in the Preamble to the Party Constitution;
- (b) for that purpose, to secure the election of Members of Parliament and the European Parliament from constituencies in the Region and of members of regional, local and other elected public authorities in the Region;
- (c) to participate in the formulation of Party policy and to play a full part in the democratic processes of the Party;
- (d) to play a full part in the campaigning activity of the Party at all levels;
- (e) to formulate policy in relation to the East of England Regional Assembly and to hold to account Liberal Democrat members of the East of England Regional Assembly;
- (f) to assist Local Parties within the Region; and
- (g) to promote diversity of cultures within the Party and to represent the interests of under-represented groups in the Region.

34 1.7 add: "Recognised Council Group" means a Council Group on a Local Authority which has been  
35 recognised in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 8 of the Articles of the Party in  
36 England;

**[Current wording]**

1.7. In this constitution:

'The Regional Party' means the body governed by this constitution:

'The Region' means the area of the Counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, including the unitary authority areas of Luton, Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.

'The Party' means the Liberal Democrats;

'The Party in England' means the Liberal Democrats in England;

'The Party Constitution' means the Federal Constitution of the Party and the Articles of the Party in England;

'The Regional Assembly' means the East of England Regional Assembly;

'Parliamentarian' means members of the House of Commons representing constituencies in the region: members of the House of Lords being members of a local party in or holding elected office within the region; and members of the European Parliament representing the region.

All terms defined in the Party Constitution shall have the same meaning in this Constitution.

37 2.5 (d) delete 'Party Groups' and insert 'recognised Council Groups'

**[Current wording]**

2.5. The following members of the Regional Party shall be voting members of Regional Conference:  
(d) representatives of Party Groups on principal local authorities within the Region;

38 2.9 Delete 'Liberal Democrat Group' and insert 'recognised Council Group'

**[Current wording]**

2.9. The number of representatives to be elected by the Liberal Democrat Group on each principal local authority in the Region shall be according to the following scale:

<u>Membership of Group</u>	<u>Number of Representatives</u>
1 to 4	1
5 to 8	2
9 to 12	3

together with one further representative for every 4 members (or part thereof) in excess of 12.

39 2.10 Delete 'Liberal Democrat Groups' and insert 'recognised Council Groups'

**[Current wording]**

2.10. The representatives elected by the Liberal Democrat Groups on principal local authorities and on the Regional Assembly shall be elected by and from those Groups. No person may participate in any such election who is not a current member of the Party. The Secretary shall annually in June seek nominations from such groups; nominees shall be deemed to be valid until the following June.

40 2.13 Delete 'Liberal Democrat Groups' and insert 'recognised Council Groups'

**[Current wording]**

2.13 Motions for the Regional Conference may be submitted by

- two voting members of Regional Conference,
  - Local Parties,
  - Specified Associated Organisations,
  - Liberal Democrat Groups on principal local authorities or on the Regional Assembly,
- or by the Regional Executive or the Regional Policy Committee.

41 4.12 At end insert:

42 'Such Standing Orders shall provide that:

- 43 (a) if any member of the Executive or of any Committee of the Executive has any pecuniary  
44 interest direct or indirect in any contract, proposed contract or other matter, that member  
45 shall declare that interest and shall withdraw from the meeting while the contract, proposed  
46 contract or other matter is under consideration, unless the Executive, after the member has  
47 declared his or her interest, invites him or her to remain; and
- 48 (b) if a dispute regarding any Local Party or any Council Group is the subject of debate at any  
49 meeting of the Executive or any Committee of the Executive, any member of that Local Party  
50 or Council Group (as the case may be) or anyone directly or indirectly involved in the dispute  
51 shall withdraw from the meeting while such a dispute is under debate, unless the Executive or  
52 the relevant committee invites him or her to remain.

**[Current wording]**

4.12. The Regional Executive shall have power to make, and from time to time revise, Standing Orders for the conduct of its business.

53 6.1 Add at end: 'At least one of the members shall be a person who is or has within the preceding  
54 four years been a councillor on a principal local authority.'

55 (see also amendment above)

**[Current wording]**

6.1 The Management Committee shall comprise:

- (a) all officers
- (b) all chairs of committees defined under Article 5.1
- (c) one representative elected by and from staff employed by the Regional Party

56 6.3 After 'requirements of the Party Constitution' insert: 'and in relation to any question concerning  
57 the recognition of Council Groups.'

58 After (d) insert

59 '(e) monitoring the joint arrangements made by the relevant Local Parties for the approval and

60 selection of candidates for local authority elections and imposing and/or appointing a Party member  
61 to administer the procedures for the approval and/or selection of candidates for local authority  
62 elections where the relevant Local Party or Local Parties have not adopted or having adopted have  
63 not followed a procedure for the approval and/or selection of candidates in accordance with the  
64 provisions of the Party Constitution;’  
65 After (f) insert: ‘(h) determining whether to exempt all or any parish or town councils in the Region  
66 from the requirements for the approval of candidates;’  
67 After (g) insert ‘(j) the exercise of the powers of the Region under Article 8 of the Articles of the  
68 Party in England (Councillors and Recognised Council Groups) including determining whether the  
69 requirements for the recognition of Council groups shall apply to all or any parish or town councils  
70 in the Region.’  
71 and re-letter accordingly.

**[Current wording]**

6.3. The Management Committee shall exercise the Region’s powers and duties under the Party Constitution in relation to the adherence of Local Parties to the Party Constitution and to their own respective constitutions, and the compliance of such constitutions and any proposed amendments with the requirements of the Party Constitution. In particular, it shall be responsible for:

- (a) ensuring the adherence of Local Parties to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Party Constitution, and to their own respective constitutions;
- (b) reviewing any proposed new constitution for a Local Party or any proposed amendment to its existing constitution to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the Party Constitution;
- (c) investigating the affairs of any Local Party if there is reason to believe that the Local Party is not adhering to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Party Constitution or its own constitution: or that events in connection with the affairs of the Local Party which are or may be seriously detrimental to the Party have taken place or are about to take place; or if requested by the Local Party itself to carry out such an investigation;
- (d) implementing any recommendations resulting from such an investigation;
- (e) the exercise of the powers of the Regional Party in constituencies where no Local Party is recognised or where the Local Party has been suspended;
- (f) reporting to the Regional Executive on disputes as to proposed combinations of constituencies to form a Local Party; and
- (g) the exercise of the powers of the Region under Article 2 of the Articles of the Party in England (Membership).

72 Insert new 6.4:

73 ‘Where there appears to be any conflict affecting a Local Party or a Council Group, the Local Parties  
74 Committee may appoint a conciliator, who shall be impartial and neither a member of the relevant  
75 Local Party or authority (as the case may be) nor any Local Party within the area covered by the  
76 authority, to seek to mediate and resolve the conflict. Any person who has acted as such a  
77 conciliator shall not play any part in any later investigation or formal decision regarding the relevant  
78 dispute.’

79 Re-number existing 6.4 as 6.5

80 Insert new 6.6:

81 ‘For the purposes of any such investigation, the Management Committee shall appoint a person (who  
82 must be a member of the Party but not necessarily of the Regional Party) to act as an investigator.  
83 No such person shall be a member of the Local Authority concerned nor of any Local Party covered  
84 by the authority. The investigator shall have such access as they require to the books and records of  
85 the Recognised Council Group concerned. The Recognised Council Group and any affected  
86 councillor shall be informed of any allegations against it and given a reasonable opportunity to reply  
87 or to take corrective action.’

88 Re-number existing 6.5 as 6.7; 6.6 as 6.8; 6.7 as 6.9

89 Insert new 6.10

90 ‘The Regional Party may de-recognise a formerly recognised Council Group if the Regional Executive  
91 is satisfied that:

- 92 (a) there is persistent or serious non-adherence on the part of the Council Group either to the  
93 Liberal Democrat Federal Party Constitution, the constitution of the Liberal Democrats in  
94 England, or its own Standing Orders, or

95 (b) by the actions of the Council Group, events are occurring or about to occur in connection with  
96 the affairs of the Council Group which are, or may be, seriously detrimental to the Liberal  
97 Democrats.

98 Such power shall not be exercised without the Council Group being informed of what is proposed  
99 and offered a reasonable opportunity to reply or take corrective action. Any member of the  
100 Council Group concerned or any Local Party covered by the authority concerned may appeal to the  
101 English Appeals Panel against a decision to de-recognise.'

102 And renumber 6.8 as 6.11 and subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

103 9.2 (b): delete 'superintending of' and insert 'monitoring of the joint arrangements made by the  
104 relevant Local Parties for campaigning in'

**[Current wording]**

9.2. The Campaigns Committee shall be responsible to the Regional Executive for:

- (a) the stimulation and co-ordination of campaigning and publicity activities within the Region;
- (b) the undertaking of regional campaigns and the superintending of elections to principal local authorities covering more than one Local Party;
- (c) the management of Regional Election campaigns for the European Parliament and for referendum campaigns;
- (d) the encouragement of Local Parties to co-ordinate campaigning for Parliamentary and local elections and between elections;
- (e) the promotion of the political image of the Party within the Region;
- (f) the appointment of a person to serve as Regional Media Co-ordinator and the management of the work of the Regional Media Co-ordinator;
- (g) providing and co-ordinating assistance to Local Parties for Parliamentary and local elections;
- (h) liaison in respect of these matters with appropriate Associated Organisations and Specified Associated Organisations.

Mover: Chris White

## **11:35 Emergency motions**

*The deadline for submission of emergency motions is 10:00am on Friday 30 October.*

## **11.50 Report by Andrew Duff MEP**

## **12:10 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*

## **12.30 Lunch**

## **14:00 Policy Motion M3: Bringing broadband to rural areas**

*Submitted by: Braintree & Witham Local Party*

Chair: Susan Gaszczak

Aide: Sal Brinton

1 Conference welcomes the “Carter Report”, “Digital Britain 2009”, and the commitment  
2 to making 2Mb/s broadband available to all households.

3 Conference recognises the importance of broadband to those living in rural areas, where  
4 services such as libraries, shops, social and cultural facilities, are not easy to reach, particularly  
5 for children, students, the elderly, those without private transport and those working from  
6 home. It recognises that school age children need broadband for their homework (to do  
7 research and to run educational software, much of which requires a fast connection).

8 Conference congratulates those district, unitary and county councils that have given funding  
9 to parish councils, or community groups, to help them set up local wireless networks which  
10 bring broadband to those not served by cable or telephone line broadband.

11 Conference urges the Government and the East of England Development Agency to  
12 give the highest priority to bringing broadband, at 2Mb/s or more, to areas where there is no  
13 broadband at all, or where the “broadband” service is provided at less than 0.5Mb/s.

14 Conference draws the attention of the Government and the East of England Development  
15 Agency to the effectiveness of community broadband in bringing broadband to the most  
16 difficult to reach rural areas (“the last 1%”), and commends them to offer local authorities a  
17 share of the Digital Britain Funding to use to support new community networks and the  
18 extension of existing ones.

Proposer: Steve Bolter

Summator: Alan Crowe

## **14.20 Brian Orrell**

English Liberal Democrats Chair

## **14.25 General Election briefing**

Presentation by Chris White, Regional Campaign Chair, and Ian Horner,  
Campaigns Officer for the East of England

## **15:05 Keynote speech: Lynne Featherstone MP**

Chair: Paul Clark

Aide: Simon Wright

## **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 2010

Proposer: *Chris Walker, Regional Treasurer*

## **Presentation of Prizes**

## **16.00 Close of Conference**

## **House of Commons Reports**

### **Bob Russell, MP for Colchester**

It is always a challenge to try and find few words to describe an MP's year!

Last year I experienced one of the most poignant and proud moments as MP when I had the privileged opportunity to welcome to Parliament some members of Colchester Garrison on their return from Afghanistan. The saddest moment for me was when we visited the Field of Poppies outside Westminster Abbey. The group stood in silence as they remembered comrades who had died in Helmand Province.

On a happier note, the success of our long-fought campaign on behalf of the Gurkhas (with the inspired leadership of Joanna Lumley) was a great result for all Liberal Democrats.

The last few months have been a particularly hard time for all MPs, their staff, supporters and families following the expenses scandal. As Liberal Democrats we can hold our heads up as a Party. We have not been accused of serious misdemeanour, but there is no room for complacency. Parliament has been seriously damaged by the activities of a minority of MPs.

With the General Election now on the horizon, fundraising will be an essential need for every Constituency. In Colchester we have found various novel ways of raising funds and at the Autumn Conference we launched the "Clegg and Cable's Credit Crunch Chocolate" – don't miss your chance to buy a bar!

### **Norman Lamb, MP for North Norfolk**

This has been a tough year with the scandal over MP's expenses dominating attention. The attempt by both Labour and many Conservative MPs to prevent publication of expenses claims only made matters worse. I have little confidence that anything fundamental will change. However, we should recognise the extent of public disgust and use this as an opportunity for real reform of the way Parliament operates – to make it more open, more accountable and more effective at holding Government to account.

My schedule has been incredibly heavy as Shadow Secretary of State for Health. This involves not only a significant number of debates in Parliament, but also speaking engagements at many national conferences in health and social care. I have spoken in 27 debates in the last year and asked 328 written questions – mostly on health related issues.

Swine Flu has been a focus of attention. There has not been any significant political divide between the parties on this issue and the Secretary of State has been good at keeping me informed of developments.

We have had the Green Paper on the funding of care for the elderly and disabled people. Nothing significant will happen on this before the General Election. Reform is long overdue.

Finally the Health Bill – including a proposed constitution for the NHS and proposals to ban tobacco displays. We have argued for a ban on vending machine sales – because of evidence of children purchasing cigarettes from them. We have opposed a total ban on displays – but argued for restrictions on advertising at point of sale.

### **David Howarth, MP for Cambridge**

The past year in my role as the party's Shadow Secretary of State for Justice and Shadow Solicitor General has been a busy one, inundated with badly-thought-out government legislation. I led for the party on the Political Parties and Elections Bill, where we pushed strongly for a package of genuine reforms to take big money out of politics, and on the Coroners and Justice Bill, where as part of a broad coalition we helped to defeat the government's dangerous proposals for data sharing and secret inquests.

I have also been very active on the policing of protests, helping the Camp for Climate Action to publicise the outrageous abuse of police power at their camp at Kingsnorth last year, and working closely on the issue in the run-up and aftermath to the G20 protests. We have seen some progress over the past few months, but there is much more work still to do.

Finally, I have continued to campaign on issues affecting Cambridge, including the new local housing allowance which is pricing tenants out of the city, the under-funding of the concessionary travel scheme, and the need for more support for self-excluding bullied children.

## **House of Lords Report**

The seventy-one peers who take the Liberal Democrat whip in the House of Lords continue to punch above their weight.

In the session under review 46 peers took an active part in scrutinising 15 government bills and a wide range of secondary legislation. 15 Lib Dem Peers initiated debates on topics ranging from safety on public transport to dyslexia. Six of the group introduced Private Members Bills on issues ranging from Lords Reform to Dog Control. Others serve on a wide range of specialist and *ad hoc* committees dealing with topics ranging from the economy to broadcasting. Externally Peers serve on a range of Party Committees as well as providing a mentoring programme for Parliamentary candidates.

The Constitutional Unit of University College London, in a study of the workings of the Lords, found the Liberal Democrats to be the most cohesive, best disciplined and most effective of the groupings in the House. As a result of the Group's cohesiveness and its ability to deliver a higher proportion of its members into the voting lobby for divisions it is often the way the Liberal Democrats decide to vote which determines whether an amendment, or indeed a Bill, will carry or not.

That has enabled the Lib Dem teams on Bills such as the Marine and Coastal Access Bill and the Welfare Reform Bill to win important concessions from the Government. The Group has also used its influence to resist Government attempts to encroach on civil liberties and human rights in legislation such as the Policing and Crime Bill and the Coroners and Justice Bill.

The House of Lords has not been immune from the scandal surrounding Parliamentary expenses. The fact that the Lords costs one sixth the cost of the House of Commons to the tax payer and is one of the most cost-effective legislative bodies in the world did not prevent media scrutiny of an expenses system which has been vaguely drawn and lightly policed. This is not to excuse abuses if and when proved. It is worth remembering, however, that it was the stand taken by the Liberal Democrats in the Lords which scuppered attempts to remove Parliamentary expenses from the ambit of the Freedom of Information Act.

On Lords Reform itself the Labour Government has dithered for over ten years over a second stage of reform. It is now very doubtful if the Lords will be reformed in this Parliament. However in the last session both David Steel and Matthew Oakeshott brought forward Private Member Bills which kept the issue before Parliament.

The Lords Group was proud to provide the Party with its new President – the Eastern Region's Baroness Ros Scott of Needham Market. Tom McNally continues as Leader of the Group with David Shutt as Chief Whip.

**Rt. Hon. Tom McNally**

Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords

## **East of England Regional Assembly Report**

### **The end of an EERA**

Gordon Brown's decision to abolish Regional Assemblies has left us at the mercy of the Conservatives in the East of England. They have shown no mercy - or any inclination at all to be democratic or to allow any kind of political balance in the successor body.

The Prime Minister's original cunning plan was that unelected Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) would determine planning policy in every region. After a huge outcry he agreed to set up boards made up of council leaders which will work jointly with the RDAs.

In this Region we will have a Leaders' Board of 52 council leaders plus a representative from the Broads Authority. A Strategy Board of 16 is to be drawn from this, containing:

- 5 County leaders (all Tory),
- 6 Unitary leaders (4 Tory, 1 Labour, 1 awaiting Bedford Mayoral by-election result) and
- a District leader from each of the 5 Counties (likely to be Tory).

This Strategy Board will meet with the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) to draw up future planning policy and is to be chaired by EEDA.

In the East of England the Tories control 42 councils, Lib Dems 6, Labour 3. Lib Dem councils are: Watford, Three Rivers, St. Albans, Cambridge, Colchester and North Norfolk.

So unless we win the Mayoral by-election in Bedford we will have no representation on the Strategy Board, even though we are the second party in the region! By the time you read this we will know the result.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have taken part in the work of the Regional Assembly since its inception.

### **European Funding agreed for Rail Freight link**

A third of the traffic on the A14 is made up of HGVs. They cause congestion and a disproportionate number of accidents. The upgrading of the Felixstowe to Nuneaton rail route will enable a modal shift from road to rail. It has been championed by Lib Dem politicians, including MEP Andrew Duff. Eight million pounds of European funding has been provisionally allocated towards the upgrade.

### **Regional Planning Consultation**

EERA has been asked by Government to extend the current Regional planning blueprint by 10 years to 2031. There are four scenarios for growth and these are detailed in the consultation document, available on the website: [www.eera.gov.uk](http://www.eera.gov.uk)

Scenario 1 will probably be seen as the most acceptable as it is basically a roll forward of the rate of growth already agreed in the current Regional plan ie 26,000 homes a year. The worst case scenario is Scenario 4 which is based on Government projections of new households. It would require the building of 33,700 new homes each year. The majority of the growth would be in Hertfordshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk.

The consultation closes on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Kathy Pollard**

Liberal Democrat Group Leader, East of England Regional Assembly

## **Regional Chair's Report**

I would like to open what is my last report as Chair of the East of England Region having served my three years in office, by saying a very big thank you to all those across the Region who have supported and helped me take the Region and the Party forward in the East of England.

The help, support and assistance I have received from members and staff has been greatly appreciated. The East of England is a vibrant and exciting place to be and is greatly enriched by many of its members. It has been an honour and a privilege to lead the Region to the various triumphs and success we have enjoyed over the last three years.

This last year we have returned our MEP Andrew Duff to the European Parliament higher up the list, but sadly we were not able to elect Linda Jack as well. We have elected more County Councillors across the Region than we did four years ago, and made stunning gains in the Unitary Elections in the Region.

We also had a full blown By Election in Norwich North, where we comfortably saw off the Green Party challenge which augured well for the General Election in the area. A big thank you here is due to all those members of the East of England and other Regions who went to Norwich to make the result possible.

During my time as Chair we have also become the second largest Region within the Party, and a number of our members are involved at many levels of the Party. One excellent example of this is Baroness Ros Scott, who since we last met has been elected as our Party President, where she is doing an excellent job. All this is testament to the commitment and quality of the members in the East of England.

We have over the last year continued to build our capacity as we approach the next General Election and we have a number of seats in our sights where we hope to make gains both from Labour and the Conservatives. We have a number of excellent PPC's in place who have the ability to serve their community with distinction, and the Region will be doing its utmost to support them getting elected so they have that opportunity.

Next year is an important opportunity for Liberal Democrats and one we must grasp with both hands. We have a Labour Government that the people do not trust and a Conservative Party that many remember in power before and do not want back. Only the Liberal Democrats stand out as being different, but we will need to fight hard to ensure that we get together to give Britain the fresh start it deserves.

I hope to be still involved with the Region and working with many of you to take us further forward and would like to take this opportunity to wish my successor as Chair of the Region all the very best. I have said it before, but it is worth repeating – being the Chair of the East of England has been an honour and a privilege and I thank all of you for the support I have received in my time in the post.

**Paul Clark**

Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats

## **Regional Treasurer's Report**

I am pleased to present the 2008 Statement of Accounts, (SoA), the budget for 2010 and figures for 2009 year to date.

The 2008 SoA reflects the extent of the continuing support Region provided to Moving Forward Seats, as well as the contributions received from the relevant local parties. The Region provided greatly increased financial support to local parties compared to 2007. We also continued to build up the Euro election campaign fund. Regular donations in the form of standing orders are encouraged but generally donations and appeals showed a slight decrease on 2007. Unfortunately fund raising profits from the regional conference and regional draws were also lower than 2007.

Early in 2008 we opened a Business Money Manager Account, which paid a higher rate of interest than the previous Business Notice Account while offering instant access to our money. We also took the opportunity to put £40k on deposit, at an even higher rate of interest, initially for 6 months and subsequently for periods of 3 months. As a result of these initiatives the interest earned in 2008 was more than double that of 2007.

However, overall, expenditure exceeded income by around £2k.

The 2010 Budget includes budgetary amounts similar to the current year for many of the income and expenditure headings. However with the general election in mind, we are aiming to considerably increase income from Appeals and Donations. Further we have included £20k for campaign expenditure. As a result we are projecting a small shortfall for the year. This will be financed by the anticipated £7k we will have in hand at the end of 2009.

The statement of income and expenditure for the first 9 months of 2009 shows how we are performing against budget. It also highlights what we spent on the European election campaign and the income received from local parties who ordered election material. The overall excess of expenditure over income has been financed out of the cash balances held at the end of 2008, as detailed in the 2008 SoA. A separate statement shows bank account and other cash balances at the end of September 2009.

PPERA reporting is a significant and important aspect of the Regional Treasurer's role as he has responsibility for ensuring that all local parties adhere to the requirements. Most local parties comply with the requirements but a few have been somewhat tardy in submitting returns during the year. I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is for donation returns and accounts to be completed correctly and submitted on time. The Electoral Commission has started enforcing the legal penalties in PPERA. For example donations have been forfeited where incorrect electoral registration numbers have been used following the publication of a new electoral roll and fines have been imposed where accounts have been submitted late.

I ask Conference to accept these accounts, the budget for 2010 and my report.

**Chris Walker**

Treasurer, East of England Liberal Democrats

# East of England Liberal Democrats

## Statement of Accounts For the year ended 31 December 2008

### 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, Chris Walker is the registered Treasurer and Paul Clark is the registered Chair for 2008.

### Review of political activities

#### Overview

The main activity of the Regional Party during 2008 was to build upon the Party's growing strength nationally and 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 to the electorate. Against this, the Liberal Democrats' constructive and principled stances on issues such as the Environment, 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 5,980 (2007 – 6,638).

#### Branches

The Regional party has one sub-branch, Maldon, and all income received and expenditure incurred in 2008 by that branch has been included in these accounts.

Great Yarmouth, previously a sub-branch, has now merged with the North Norfolk local party and for 2008 is accounted for there.

#### Committees

The Regional Executive Committee met on a number of occasions during the year. The Committee is responsible for managing the business of the Region. There is also a set of sub-committees, which are the Management, Campaigns, Candidates', Conference, Development and Policy, in the region as per the constitution. They deal with issues as mandated and then feed into the Regional Executive Committee.

#### Campaigning

Our campaigning activities throughout the year have continued to be focused on building the capacity of 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 our increased financial support for local parties we achieved a reasonable 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 was marginally down despite an increase in the amount of bank interest received.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure in the year increased due to greater support for local parties and increased fundraising costs.

### **Balance sheet**

As a result of lower income and increased expenditure the accumulated fund has been slightly reduced.

## Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2008

	Notes to accounts	2008 (£)	2007 (£)
<b>Income</b>			
Donations and Appeals		7,950	8,208
Membership Rebate		29,888	29,672
Moving Forward Seats contributions		4,800	4,800
Bank Interest		2,458	1,187
Fundraising	10	7,617	8,911
Training		250	0
Campaign Income		0	1,320
Notional income	9	300	300
Maldon branch	11		375
<b>Total income</b>		<b>53,263</b>	<b>54,773</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Salaries	8	16,185	14,451
Moving Forward Seats		23,918	23,133
Local Party Support		5,196	698
Training Costs		552	1,229
PPC Development and Approval		436	1,036
IT/communications		673	1,247
Office/Staff/Officers' Expenses		1,234	576
Federal Conference		1,500	1,894
Campaign		0	3,210
Fundraising costs	10	4,199	2,844
Notional expenditure	9	300	300
Depreciation	5	864	881
Earlier years anticipated income not received		554	
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>55,611</b>	<b>51,499</b>
 Excess income over expenditure before taxation		 <b>(2,348)</b>	 <b>3,274</b>
<b>Taxation on investment income</b>			
 Excess income over expenditure after taxation		 <b>(2,348)</b>	 <b>3,274</b>

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2008

	Notes	2008 (£)	2007 (£)
<i>Fixed assets</i>	5		
Information Technology		534	999
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>534</b>	<b>999</b>
<i>Current assets</i>			
Debtors (inc. pre-payments)	6	2,317	4,992
Cash at bank and in hand		75,212	73,752
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>77,529</b>	<b>78,744</b>
<i>Creditors falling due in less than one year</i>			
Creditors (inc. accruals)	7	2,539	982
Other			889
<b>Net current assets/ liabilities</b>		<b>74,990</b>	<b>76,873</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>75,524</b>	<b>77,872</b>
<i>Creditors due in more than one year</i>		0	0
<b>Provisions for liabilities and charges</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>75,524</b>	<b>77,872</b>
Financed by:			
Accumulated Fund		77,872	74,598
Excess income over expenditure after taxation		(2,348)	3,274
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>75,524</b>	<b>77,872</b>

## 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 were none.

### 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			399	399
Disposals			0	0
Balance carried forward			3,923	3,923

#### Depreciation

##### Method

	Straight line over 50 years	Straight line over 4 years	Straight line over 3 years
Balance brought forward		2,525	0
Disposals		0	0
Charge for the year		748	116
Balance carried forward		3,273	116

Net book value brought forward

Net book value carried forward

	999	0	
	251	283	

### 6. Debtors and prepayments

	This year £	Last year £
Other debtors	1,020	4,992
Prepayments	1,297	
Investment income		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>4,992</b>

## Notes to the accounts (continued)

### 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	2,539	1,503		
Accruals		368		
Short term loans and over-drafts				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>1,871</b>		

### 8. Salaries

The local party employed 2 part time staff and contributed to the cost of a full time employee. Salaries, NIC, pension contributions, etc were:

Gross salaries	£13,969
NIC	£1,281
Pension contributions	£830
Payroll fee	£105
<b>Total</b>	<b>£16,185</b>

### 9. Notional income and expenditure

This represents the value of expenses that could have been claimed by members of the Regional Executive and other committees.

### 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	4,483	4,199	284
Regional Draws	3,134	0	3,134
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,617</b>	<b>4,199</b>	<b>3,418</b>

### 11. Consolidation of branches

	Regional party	Maldon	Total
	£	£	£
Income	53,227	36	53,263
Expenditure	55,291	320	55,611
Excess of income over expenditure	(2,064)	(284)	(2,348)
Transfers	0	0	0
Excess of income over expenditure showing in the units accounts	(2,064)	(284)	(2,348)

## 2010 Budget

<u>Income</u>	2010 £
Membership Rebates	31,000
Regional Draws	2,000
Training (Gross)	500
Appeals + Donations	15,000
Conference (Gross)	5,000
Target seats contribution	2,400
Regional Newsletter Income	4,400
Bank Interest	0
Euro Standing Orders	2,000
<b>Total Income Budget</b>	<b>£62,300</b>

<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Salaries	20,200
Regional Newsletter Costs	2,500
Target Seats	12,500
Campaign	20,000
LP Development	1,000
Training (Gross)	1,500
Conferences (Gross)	4,000
Fed Conference	1,000
Policy Development	50
PPC Development + Approval	500
Office + Officers Expenses	500
Office Equipment + IT	700
Membership Awards + Support	100
Communications	200
Minorities/Open Politics	100
<b>Total Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>£64,850</b>
<b>Budget Shortfall</b>	<b>-2,550</b>

## 2009 – first nine months

<u>Income</u>	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Diff YTD	Budget For Year
Membership Rebate	£25,684	£24,167	£1,517	£29,000
Membership Rebate & Donations - Maldon	£146			
Regional Draws	£763	£1,250	-£487	£2,500
Training (Gross)	£450	£500	-£50	£500
Appeals + Donations	£33,030	£38,750	-£5,720	£41,000
Regional Conference (Gross)	£1,635	£1,635	£0	£7,000
Target seat contribution	£3,600	£3,600	£0	£4,800
Regional Newsletter Subs	£4,063	£4,000	£63	£4,000
Bank Interest	£427	£750	-£323	£1,000
Campaign	£23,234	£24,500	-£1,266	£24,500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£93,032</b>	<b>£99,152</b>	<b>-£6,266</b>	<b>£114,300</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Salaries, etc of staff	£12,800	£15,123	£2,323	£20,700
Regional Newsletter Costs	£1,579	£1,940	£361	£2,700
Target Seats	£14,814	£15,000	£186	£20,000
Target Seats - ex Campaign Reserve	£5,000	£0	-£5,000	£0
LP Development	£0	£0	£0	£0
Training (Gross)	£719	£1,063	£344	£1,500
Regional Conference (Gross)	£175	£175	£0	£4,000
Federal Conference	£725	£725	£0	£1,000
Policy Development	£0	£35	£35	£50
PPC Development + Approval	£0	£142	£142	£200
Office + Officers Expenses	£0	£71	£71	£100
Office Equipment + IT	£248	£525	£277	£700
Membership Awards + Support	£0	£0	£0	£0
Communications	£0	£142	£142	£200
Minorities/Open Politics Maldon	£0 £209	£0	£0	£0
Campaign	£120,889	£127,000	£6,111	£127,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£157,158</b>	<b>£161,941</b>	<b>£4,992</b>	<b>£178,150</b>
<b>Excess of Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>£64,126</b>			

## 1. HSBC Bank Account Balances and other money at 30-Sep-09

	Balance
East of Eng cheque a/c	£1,436
East of Eng Business Money Manager a/c	£6,851
Eastern Region cheque a/c	£469
Cheques to be banked	£349
Nochex	£463
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,568</b>

## 2. Earmarked funds at 30-Sep-09

Maldon LP	£28
<b>Total</b>	<b>£28</b>

## 3. Unrestricted funds at 30-Sep-09

**£9,540**

# 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.