

East of England Liberal Democrats
Regional Conference

Saturday 30 October 2010

Hinchingsbrooke Performing Arts Centre, Huntingdon

AGENDA

DIRECTIONS TO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

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.

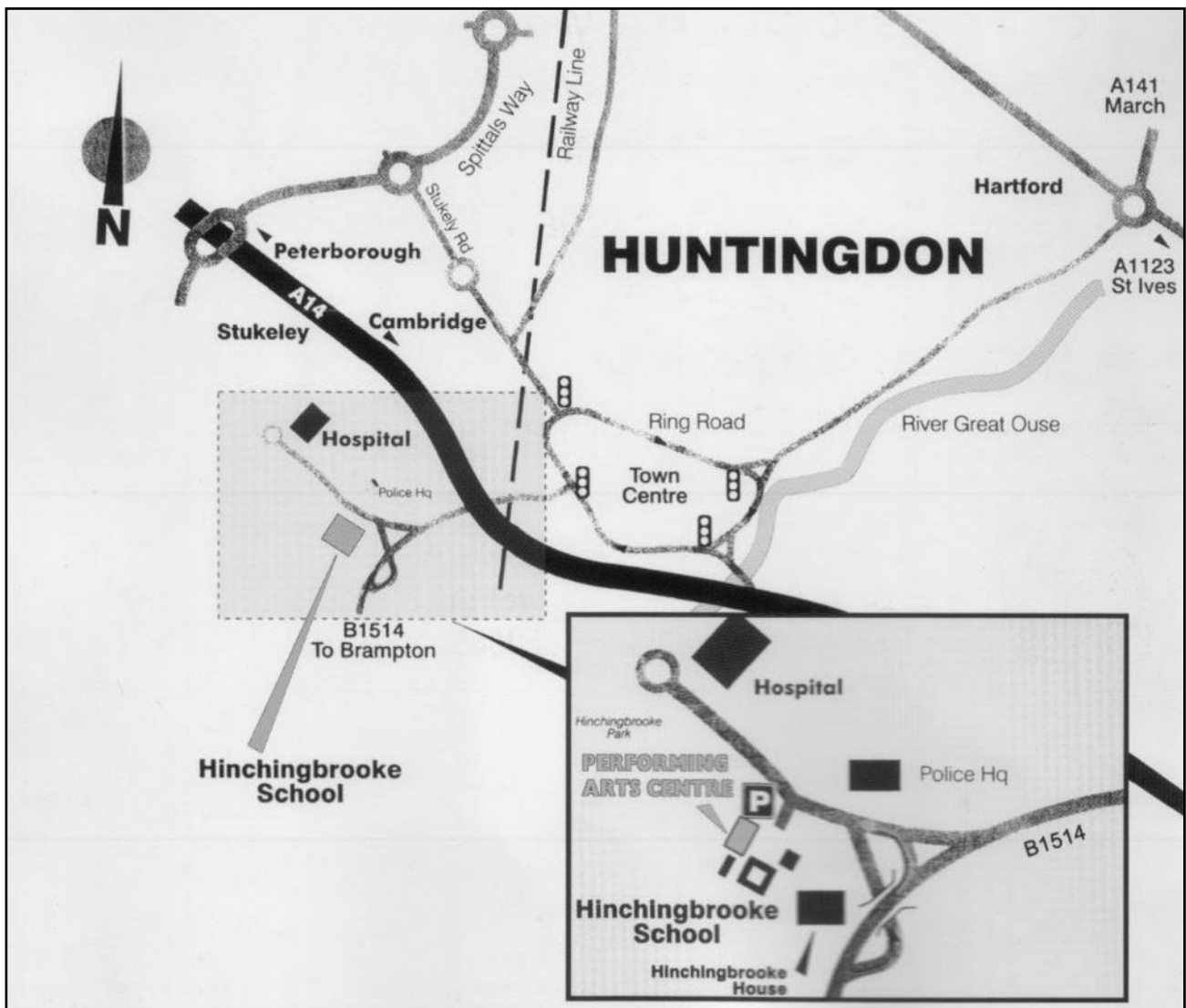
From the South, leave the A1 travelling north about 1,000 metres after the Buckden roundabout, following the signs to Brampton. Continue to follow the signs to Huntingdon, and Hinchingsbrooke Park Road will be on your left immediately after the high stone wall of Hinchingsbrooke House.

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 Huntingdon railway station which is on the main line from Peterborough to Kings Cross.



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

WELCOME TO CONFERENCE



We look forward to welcoming you to the East of England Regional Conference 2010 at the Performing Arts Centre in Hinchingsbrooke.

Whether you're a regular attender or a first time conference goer, there's plenty for you at this event - our first conference since entering coalition government.

Please take a moment to read the information below so you don't miss out.

Allan Siao Ming Witherick
Regional Conference Chair

DEADLINES

Friday 22 October, 10:00am is the deadline for the receipt of

- Emergency motions
- Amendments to Motion 2 (Aviation policy) and to constitutional amendments
- Questions to the regional chair and treasurer
- Amendments to the regional budget

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

ACCESS AND FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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

We are hoping to secure the services of a palantypist for the business in the main hall. If you need this service, please let us know, preferably before the day by email to admin@east.libdems.org or before the start of conference, and we will advise you if we have been successful. Seating will be pre-allocated for users of this service.

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

BADGES

Badges for pre-registered conference representatives will be available to collect in the

registration area. Please wear your badge at all times while in the conference centre, and return it in the box provided when conference concludes.

ON-THE-DAY REGISTRATION

You can register for conference on the day itself, but it will cost you £30, instead of £20 or £25 if you register in advance.

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Up to the minute conference news, including any information about changes to the published timetable, will be available in the Daily Announcements sheet - please pick up your copy from the registration area.

ELECTIONS

Nominations for regional party officer positions and committee places close at 4:00 pm on the day of the conference. Nomination papers are available from the Returning Officer on the day at conference; they are also available to download in advance of conference from the regional party web site www.eastlibdems.org.uk

EXHIBITION

The exhibition will be open for the duration of conference, and will include Lib Dem Image, suppliers of all your campaigning materials and branded Liberal Democrat goods.

FOCUS EXCHANGE

Do bring along spare copies of your FOCUS newsletters, tabloids, members' newsletters etc for the Exchange table in the exhibition area.

REFRESHMENTS

A sandwich lunch will be served at 12:45 pm. Tea and coffee will be available free of charge all day.

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.

Time	Main Hall	Room A	Room B	Room C	Room D
1000	Welcome to Conference				
1005	Opening speech: Simon Wright MP				
1015	Motion 1: Governance in the East of England				
1045	Constitutional amendments				
1100	Presentation: Campaign 2011				
1130	Business reports: Chair and Treasurer	1130-1205 Boundary working group meeting (by invitation)			
1145	Parliamentarians' reports and Q&A				
1205	Facing the Future Consultation: with Norman Lamb MP				
1245	LUNCHTIME FRINGE				
1400	Speech: Baroness Scott of Needham Market	1300 Winning Teams	1300 Local party chairs & treasurers		
1410	Motion 2: Aviation policy	1410-1505 Member recruitment	1410-1505 FOCI 2: The new Prater Raines web site offer	1410-1505 Finding good council candidates	
1440	Emergency motion (if any)				
1455	Awards presentations				
1505	Keynote speech: Lorely Burt MP				
1555	Thanks and close of Conference				

Presidential hustings 4:00-5:00 pm

After the close of Conference, the two candidates for the presidency of the Liberal Democrats, Tim Farron and Susan Kramer, will speak and answer questions in the main hall. Please be seated in good time for this event as capacity in the hall is limited.



CONFERENCE AGENDA

10:00 Welcome to Conference

Chair: Allan Siao Ming Witherick

Aide: TBA

10:05 SPEECH: Simon Wright MP (Norwich South)

10:15 MOTION 1: The future of governance in the East of England

Submitted by: East of England Regional Policy Committee

1 Conference welcomes the Coalition Government's intention to return local government to local
2 people. However, Conference recognises that the abolition of the regional tier of governance
3 combined with the need to drastically cut public spending creates a major challenge for all local
4 authorities. Conference is concerned that some regional functions have been centralised to national
5 quangos; that deprived areas within the region may be disadvantaged by the shift of Government
6 support to the North of England; and that no clear supra-local arrangements have been made to
7 fulfil necessary strategic functions, a special concern being the vacuum in planning for the housing
8 needs of the people of East of England caused by the abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

9 Conference therefore:

- 10 1. Calls on the Government to ensure that decisions by such national quangos as the Technology
11 Strategy Board and the Green Investment Bank are fully informed by information and advice
12 from local authorities and businesses within the region in order to ensure that the unique
13 opportunities offered within the East of England are not stifled;
- 14 2. Urges the Government to recognise that there are pockets of deprivation in the East of England
15 that are as bad or worse than those elsewhere in the United Kingdom and that these require as
16 much support as those elsewhere;
- 17 3. Calls on all local authorities within the region to co-operate to ensure that supra-local
18 arrangements are made at the appropriate level to facilitate strategic decisions on spatial
19 planning, transport, energy, waste treatment and so on.
- 20 4. Calls on Liberal Democrat Councillors to do everything they can to ensure that Local
21 Development Frameworks are progressed based on evidence of economic and housing need.
22 Recognising that many authorities now face difficult planning decisions, we reject the
23 Conservative concept of 'community right-to-build' as a gimmick that will not solve the housing
24 deficit and risks lowering standards for new housing.

25 Conference regrets that many of the proposed Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) within the
26 region are based on traditional local government boundaries and appear not to recognise the
27 realities of economic and planning geographies. Conference urges Liberal Democrats to:

- 28 1. Work for the development of LEPs that recognise genuine economic and other geographies and
29 are not limited by traditional local government boundaries;
- 30 2. Seek flexibility in the way that LEPs are set up and run so that they can adapt to changing needs
31 and learn rapidly from best practice;
- 32 3. Oppose LEPs being given powers over planning and other issues that should be clearly under
33 the control of democratically-elected bodies rather than unaccountable local quangos;
- 34 4. Investigate the possible benefits of specialist LEPs covering parts of the region with a particular
35 interest aimed at ensuring that the region gains the maximum benefit from such major economic
36 development opportunities as offshore wind energy.

37 Conference welcomes the opportunity to review services and the way they are organised and
38 delivered that is offered by the need to cut local authority spending. Conference therefore:

- 39 1. Calls on local authorities to confine their activities to those that are essential and that cannot be
40 provided by the third or private sectors;
- 41 2. Calls on local authorities to support voluntary organisations in the third sector in developing
42 their capabilities through continued funding for Councils for Voluntary Service;

- 43 3. Urges principal authorities to seek to collaborate across boundaries to maximise the
 44 effectiveness and efficiency of their services and to consider urgently the possible benefits of
 45 handing appropriate powers and services to town and parish councils;
 46 4. Requests the regional Party to ensure that Liberal Democrat councillors and candidates are
 47 provided with the necessary training and briefings to ensure that they have the skills and
 48 knowledge to lead the Localism agenda and carry out their responsibilities to the highest
 49 standard.

Proposer: Paul Burall

Seconder: Alan Dean

10:45 BUSINESS MOTION: Constitutional amendments

Submitted by two voting Regional Conference representatives

- 1 Conference approves the changes to the Regional Constitution as below:
 2 4.2 Insert new '(h) one member elected by principal councillors in an on-line secret ballot.'
 3 5.10 Delete 'members by the Liberal Democrat Group on EERA' and insert 'members elected by
 4 principal councillors in an on-line secret ballot.'
 5 8.1 (c) Delete 'Three members elected by the Liberal Democrat Group on the East of England
 6 Regional Assembly' and insert 'three members elected by principal councillors in an on-line secret
 7 ballot.'

Proposer: Julie Smith

Seconder: Mark Valladares

Note: the deadline for receipt of amendments to this motion is 10:00 am on Friday 22 October.

11:00 PRESENTATION: Campaign 2011

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

11:30 BUSINESS REPORTS

Chair: Julie Smith

Aide: Lloyd Harris

Chair's report

To receive the report of the Regional Chair

Proposer: Julie Smith, Regional Chair

Treasurer's report

To receive the report of the Regional Treasurer and approve the budget for 2011

Proposer: Ian Radford, Regional Treasurer

11:45 PARLIAMENTARIANS' REPORTS

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: The Rt Hon The Lord McNally PC

East of England Regional Assembly Report

To receive the final report of the Liberal Democrat members of EERA

Proposer: Cllr Kathy Pollard

MEP's Report

To receive the report of the Liberal Democrat member of the European Parliament for the East of England

Proposer: Andrew Duff MEP

12:05 CONSULTATION: Facing the Future

With Norman Lamb, MP for North Norfolk and chair of the Liberal Democrats' Facing the Future policy working group

12:45 LUNCH

14:00 SPEECH: Baroness Scott of Needham Market, Party President

Chair: Susan Gaszczak

Aide: Mark Valladares

14:10 MOTION 2: Aviation policy

Submitted by: Saffron Walden local party

- 1 Conference welcomes the aviation policy commitments in the Coalition Agreement to
- 2 a. refuse permission for additional runways at Stansted and Gatwick
- 3 b. cancel the third runway at Heathrow and
- 4 c. replace Air passenger duty with a per flight duty.
- 5 However Conference notes that
- 6 i. the threat of future development around the three main London Airports has blighted and
- 7 continues to overhang communities near these airports, and
- 8 ii. BAA acquired blighted property around Stansted Airport under privileged terms, albeit it at
- 9 blight-adjusted prices.
- 10 In order to tackle this blight, Conference urges the Coalition Government to
- 11 1. Pressurise airport operators to sell off their non-operational land holdings and buildings
- 12 acquired under privileged terms;
- 13 2. Require the airport owners to support the regeneration of communities already blighted by the
- 14 threat of additional runways, and
- 15 3. Seek undertakings from the airport operators that they will not submit applications for additional
- 16 runways at their London Airports for at least 50 years.

Proposer: Alan Dean

Seconder: Peter Wilcock

Note: the deadline for receipt of amendments to this motion is 10:00 am on Friday 22 October.

14:40 EMERGENCY MOTION (if any)

Note: the deadline for receipt of emergency motions is 10:00 am on Friday 22 October.

14:55 PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Membership award

Web site award

15:05 KEYNOTE SPEECH: Lorely Burt MP (Solihull)

Chair: Sal Brinton

Aide: TBA

16:00 Thanks and close of conference

REPORTS TO CONFERENCE

REGIONAL CHAIR

Dr Julie Smith

The Party moved forward in the Region again in 2010, as we moved from three to four parliamentary seats and Dorothy Thornhill retained the Watford Mayoralty for a third time. As the Leaders' debates led to Cleggmania and activists preferred to stay in their home patches, the battle was not always easy and we did not take as many seats as we had hoped. However, the hard work of Simon Drage and Ian Horner and many, many supporters did pay dividends in Norwich South, which Simon Wright narrowly took from Charles Clarke. Elsewhere, Julian Huppert retained the Cambridge seat vacated by David Howarth, who has returned to academic life, while Bob Russell and Norman Lamb were both returned with increased majorities.

Thanks are due to all those who stood for election, served as an agent or contributed in any way to the 2010 campaign. Overall, the Lib Dems are currently the second party in the Region, with four MPs; Labour has just two seats, while the Greens failed to make progress.

2010 saw a lot of changes in the Regional Executive. Apart from myself, we have a new Secretary, Mark Valladares, new Treasurer Ian Radford and Allan Siao Ming Witherick has become Chair of the Conference Committee. I was saddened to lose two Vice-Chairs in quick succession as David Callaby resigned in the New Year to be replaced briefly by Stephen Marshall, who resigned in September, to be followed by my predecessor as Chair, Paul Clark.

We appointed a part-time fundraiser, Michael Kitching from 1 September thanks to co-funding from a Development Grant from the English Party. Michael is working with Martin Hayman, who advises the Federal Party on fundraising – if he tries to contact you, please do give him as much support as possible. Simon Wright resigned as Newsletter Editor upon election and has been succeeded by Lorna Spenceley, who is also part-time Regional Administrator.

As incoming Regional Chair, my main task until early May was to encourage activists to get onto doorsteps, particularly in our target seats, and to campaign myself. Since then, the main tasks have been to work with the Development Committee to produce a five-year plan for the Region, covering the period of the current Parliament, which will be available shortly. I shall be speaking at the Norfolk County Conference on 6th November and am always willing to visit County or Council groups or local parties if you think that I can be useful, either to explain what the Region is doing or to help with campaigning, particularly as we prepare for the Fairer Votes Referendum, a large number of Council elections and the Bedford Mayoral election on 5th May 2011.

Finally, I would like to thank the whole Executive and staff for their work during 2010. In particular, I must thank Lorna, upon whom we rely to ensure the Region runs efficiently and without whom my job would be impossible.

REGIONAL TREASURER

Ian Radford

I am pleased to present the 2009 Statement of Accounts, (SoA), the budget for 2011 and figures for 2010 year to date.

Firstly I would like to thank Chris Walker my predecessor for all his help and for the preparation of the 2009 SoA. These accounts reflect the extent of the continuing support Region provided to target seats in the General Election Campaign, as well as the contributions received from the relevant local parties. The Region provided reduced financial support to local parties compared to 2008. During 2010 we have started to rebuild the Euro election campaign fund. Regular donations in the form of standing orders are encouraged but generally donations and appeals showed a strong response to appeals for the Euro election campaign. The membership rebate increased by 6% and I expect a further small increase this year. The Euro campaign costs are shown at nearly £120000 which inevitably led to a deficit of £62072 for the year and a reduction in funds at the year end. This coupled with the falling rates of interest resulted in a dramatic reduction in bank interest which has been almost nonexistent during 2010. At the year end our accumulated funds had fallen from over £75000 to just £13000 and at the same time fund raising became more difficult and led to cash flow pressures during the General Election campaign.

On a positive note, the region has been successful in its application for a grant from the English Party towards the cost of employing a part-time Fund Raising Officer. At the time of writing this the exact job description for this post has yet to be agreed with the English Party.

The 2011 Budget includes budgetary amounts similar to the current year for many of the income and expenditure headings. However with the fund raising grant approved we are aiming to increase income from appeals and donations. As a result we are projecting an excess of income over expenditure for the year. This will enable us to start rebuilding our reserves for the next European and General Election campaigns. No amounts have been included in the budget for the AV campaign which is anticipated to be self funding. The budget shows increased funding of training in line with anticipated activity in support of the 'Winning Teams' initiative.

The statement of income and expenditure for the first 9 months of 2010 shows how we are performing against budget. It also highlights what we spent on the General Election campaign particularly with respect to target seats. The overall excess of expenditure over income has been financed out of the cash balances held at the end of 2009, as detailed in the 2009 SoA. The statement also shows bank account and other cash equivalent balances at the end of September 2010.

PPERA reporting remains a significant and important aspect for the regional and constituency treasurers' role. All treasurers have responsibility for ensuring that local parties adhere to the legal requirements. Some local parties comply with the requirements but a few have been very 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. This is the case even if a nil return is appropriate. Failure to comply puts the local party in breach of electoral law. The Electoral Commission has started enforcing the legal penalties under 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. Further sanctions such as suspension are available to the Commission.

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

[NB This replaces the version of the Treasurer's report published in the printed agenda book].

East of England Region Liberal Democrats Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009

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 2009.

Review of political activities

Overview

The main activity of the Regional Party in the first half of 2009 was the European Elections and to ensure our sitting MEP was re-elected and to build our base in an attempt to get a second MEP elected. Following this our work has been focused on the forthcoming General Election and ensuring we continue to build upon the Party's growing strength nationally. 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 6,013 (2008 – 5,980).

Branches

The Regional party has one sub-branch, Maldon, and all income received and expenditure incurred in 2009 by that branch has been included in these accounts.

Committees

The Regional Executive Committee met on a number of occasions during the year. The Committee is responsible for managing the overall business of the Region. There is also a set of sub-committees in the region, which are the Management, Campaigns, Candidates', Conference, Development and Policy committees 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

As might be expected in a European election year, expenditure greatly exceeded income and our funds reduced by over 80%.

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 more donations and successful appeals and the sale of campaign material.

Expenditure

Expenditure in the year increased due to the costs of the European Elections.

Balance sheet

Net assets reduced in the year as funds built up to pay for the European elections were expended.

Income and Expenditure Account For the Year Ended 31 December 2009

	Notes to accounts	2009 (£)	2008 (£)
Income			
Donations and Appeals		39,569	7,950
Membership Rebate		31,551	29,888
Target Seat contributions		4,800	4,800
Bank Interest		428	2,458
Fundraising	10	7,262	7,617
Training		450	250
Campaign income		24,574	0
Newsletter service subscriptions		4,990	0
Notional income	9	300	300
Total income		113,924	53,263
Expenditure			
Salaries	11	18,383	16,185
Target Seats		24,752	23,918
Local Party Support		1,000	5,196
Training Costs		719	552
PPC Development and Approval		103	436
IT/communications		463	673
Postage		1,150	0
Office/Staff/Officers' Expenses		934	1,234
Federal Conference		1,719	1,500
Campaign costs		119,739	0
Fundraising costs	10	3,664	4,199
Newsletter service prodn costs		2,686	0
Notional expenditure	9	300	300
Depreciation	5	384	864
Earlier years anticipated income not received		0	554
Total expenditure		175,996	55,611
Excess income over expenditure after taxation		(62,072)	(2,348)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2009

	Notes	2009 (£)	2008 (£)
Fixed assets	5		
Information Technology		150	534
Total fixed assets		150	534
Current assets			
Debtors (inc. pre-payments)	6	3,576	2,317
Cash at bank and in hand		12,103	75,212
Total current assets		15,679	77,529
Creditors falling due in less than one year			
Creditors (inc. accruals)	7	2,377	2,539
Other			
Net current assets/ liabilities		13,302	74,990
Total assets less current liabilities		13,452	75,524
Creditors due in more than one year		0	0
Provisions for liabilities and charges		0	0
Net assets		13,452	75,524
Financed by:			
Accumulated Fund		75,524	77,872
Excess income over expenditure after taxation		(62,072)	(2,348)
Total funds		13,452	75,524

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 December 2009

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			3,923	3,923
Additions			0	0
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	3,273	116	
Disposals	0	0	
Charge for the year	251	133	
Balance carried forward	3,524	249	

Net book value brought forward

Net book value carried forward

	251	283	
	0	150	

6. Debtors and prepayments

	This year £	Last year £
Other debtors	3,549	1,020
Prepayments	27	1,297
Investment income		
Totals	3,576	2,317

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 £
Creditors	2,377	2,539		
Accruals				
Short term loans and over-drafts				
Totals	2,377	2,539		

8. Consolidation of branches

	Regional party £	Maldon £	Total £
Income	113,777	147	113,924
Expenditure	175,840	156	175,996
Excess of income over expenditure	(62,063)	(9)	(62,072)
Transfers	82	(82)	0
Excess of income over expenditure showing in the units accounts	(61,981)	(91)	(62,072)

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

Event	Income	Expenditure	Net profit/(loss)
Regional Conference	4,872	3,664	1,208
Share of Draw Proceeds	2,390	0	2,390
Total	7,262	3,664	3,598

11. Salaries

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

Gross salaries	£15,887
NIC	£1,281
Pension contributions	£1,049
Payroll fee	£166
Total	£18,383

Signed Date
Paul Clark, Regional Chair

Signed Date
Chris Walker, Regional Treasurer

Income and Expenditure 9 months to 30th September 2010

Income	Actual YTD £	Budget YTD £	Variance YTD £	Budget full year £
Membership rebates	23862	23250	612	31000
Membership Draw	4777	1500	3277	2000
Appeals and Donations	5265	12750	-7485	17000
Training Gross	440	375	65	500
Regional Newsletter	1143	3300	-2157	4400
Target seat contribution	3200	2400	800	2400
Regional Conference	1115	1115	0	5000
Corex Boards	1125	0	1125	0
Temporary Loans	2650	0	2650	0
Interest	1	0	1	0
	43578	44690	-1112	62300
Expenditure				
Staff Salaries	14379	15150	-771	20200
Regional Newsletter Costs	1244	1875	-631	2500
Target Seats	21734	12500	9234	12500
Gen Election Campaign	4186	20000	-15814	20000
Local Party Development	0	750	-750	1000
Training	333	1125	-792	1500
Regional Conference	502	502	0	4000
Federal Conference	899	1000	-101	1000
Policy Development	0	38	-38	50
PPC Development and Approval	0	375	-375	500
Office and Officers' expenses	244	375	-131	500
Office Equipment and IT	186	525	-339	700
Membership Awards and Support	0	75	-75	100
Communications	0	150	-150	200
Minorities/Open Politics	0	75	-75	100
Nochex Costs	32	0	32	0
Short term loans repaid	2350	0	2350	0
	46089	54515	-8426	64850
Excess of Expenditure over Income	2511	9825	-7314	2550
Balances at 30th September 2010				
Treasurer's Account	5517			
Money Manager Account	2			
European Account	3302			
Nochex account	770			
	9591			

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Bob Russell, MP for Colchester

Having experienced my busiest ever Conference in terms of national and regional media interest, because of my comments about child poverty and concerns over public spending cuts which will hit already disadvantaged people in society the most, I wish to assure folk that I have no intention (despite all the false rumours) of leaving the party! That would be ridiculous.

Nor do I accept that I am a “rebel”. How can arguing in support of the 3.9 million children living below the official poverty line be rebellious? I will continue to do all I can to tackle this awful Labour legacy.

I shall also continue to highlight the fact that the gap between rich and poor widened under 13 years of a Labour Government; and that 75 per cent of the pending cuts are Labour’s cuts.

We need to hammer that message home. Here in the East of England, as a party we have to “up our game” particularly where we are defending Council seats next May or hope to make gains from other parties.

Norman Lamb, MP for North Norfolk

Up until the election I had the role of Shadow Secretary of State for Health. This was massively challenging but enormously rewarding.

One key issue in the run-up to the election was the urgent need for reform of the funding of care for elderly people and others with care needs. I sought to broker an agreed way forward as this major social reform requires a consensus across the parties. I am pleased that the coalition has established a commission aimed at delivering reform. It will report within a year.

My role now is as Chief Parliamentary and Political Adviser to Nick Clegg. I am also an assistant government whip and I am chair of the party’s Federal Policy Committee.

I chair the working group on ‘Facing the Future’ which is designed to come up with a proposed programme of policy development to meet the challenges we face both globally and nationally over the next 10 years. It will be crucial in helping to ensure that we maintain our identity as a party during the period that we are in coalition with the Conservatives.

Julian Huppert, MP for Cambridge

In May, I had the honour of being elected as MP for Cambridge, replacing David Howarth, one of our foremost Parliamentarians.

Cambridge constituents are particularly politically aware. To stand up for fairness, liberal values and freedom is essential, but I’m also enthusiastic about science and engineering. On the Home Affairs Select Committee and the Joint Committee on Human Rights, as well as various APPGs, I will make the case for evidence-based policy.

I’ve already raised concerns about the immigration cap and student visas with Ministers, and I secured an adjournment debate on sustainable transport in Cambridgeshire, advocating better rail infrastructure for the region. I’ve had the opportunity to demonstrate the wastefulness of funding homeopathy. And I was able to tackle the Prime Minister himself on the need to include Trident in the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Life in Parliament is exhausting but hugely worthwhile. It’s tremendously exciting to be part of a genuinely new kind of politics in our country.

Simon Wright, MP for Norwich South

It feels like some time since I was returned as the Member of Parliament for Norwich South in May. That narrow victory over Labour could not have been won without the efforts of so many Lib Dem members

and activists from across the region. It is humbling and inspiring to represent my constituents at Westminster.

We have taken the historic decision to form the Coalition; a hard decision, but the right one for our party and for the country. I am relishing the opportunity to support liberal policies which are, at long last, being implemented.

I have worked hard to represent Norwich and the wider region in Parliament. I have spoken in debates on transport links including the need to finish the dualling of the A11; met with Ministers and other MPs to discuss how best to develop Norfolk's infrastructure; and been appointed to the Environmental Audit Committee.

It's been a steep learning curve, but also a tremendous privilege to represent Norwich South in Parliament. Long may it continue!

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Rt Hon The Lord McNally PC

The year was, of course, dominated by the General Election. The November Queen's Speech contained many measures which had no hope of reaching the Statute Book and were more "window dressing" for Labour's election campaign. Nevertheless a goodly number of Bills were seen in to law and the Lords team played an active part in the scrutiny of legislation and holding the Government to account.

During the General Election itself several Peers made themselves available for campaign duty. Baroness Shirley Williams, true to her Eastern Region roots, made several forays into the region, showing no signs of flagging in her eightieth year.

Following the General Election we have been playing our part in government, as well as having a significant back bench role. In government Tom McNally has remained as Lib Dem Leader in the Lords and has also become Deputy Leader of the Lords and Justice Minister. Jim Wallace has become Advocate General for Scotland and the senior law officer in the Lords. David Shutt remains our Chief Whip, and also has become Deputy Government Chief Whip. Lindsay Northover and William Wallace have been appointed Government Whips, Navnit Dholakia remains as the party's Deputy Leader in the Lords. We have also retained our party whips led by Dominic Addington, assisted by John Lee, Diana Maddock and Roger Roberts. We have also elected a Convenor of the Liberal Democrat peers, John Alderdice, with Jane Bonham-Carter as his deputy, to assist in the cohesion of our group whether in government or serving on the back benches.

Early in the new Parliament Graham Tope, Ros Scott and Chris Rennard played a key role in the passing of the Local Government Act which revoked structural changes which were passed late in the last Parliament to create unitary authorities in Exeter and Norwich. We had opposed the measures as rushed and badly thought out when proposed by the Labour Government, a view later confirmed by a judicial review which struck down the orders.

EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Kathy Pollard, former Liberal Democrat Group Leader of EERA

On March 31st this year EERA ceased to exist. So what have we lost? The responsibility of taking some very difficult decisions on housing, planning and gypsy and traveller numbers. Those were the issues that made EERA so unpopular with some councils and members of the public. EERA became the convenient scapegoat and, for many, was synonymous with that nasty Labour government, imposing impossible targets from above, and not forgetting those wicked European institutions in Brussels.

Here are some of the many actions and positive outcomes since the formation of EERA in 1999:

- £30m secured to improve rail freight from Felixstowe, reduce congestion on the A14 and support a new port in South Essex
- Set an ambitious target of 17% for renewable energy across the region

Lobbied for increased investment in affordable housing from £431m to £826m in 2008/11

- Set a target of 30% for affordable housing in new housing developments
- Since 1999 increased access to over £1bn of European funding
- Campaigned consistently against a second runway at Stansted
- Worked with MEPs and others to represent the East of England within Europe on policy areas like transport, climate change, agriculture and fisheries
- Scrutinised the work of the East of England Development Agency and worked with the Government Office and other regional partners on economic development, migration, social and other issues.

I am sad at the demise of the Assembly. It was an opportunity to work in a consensual way across party on some difficult issues for the Region. It also gave us the opportunity to lobby Government and Europe at a strategic regional level.

However, with the failure of the referendum in the North East, Gordon Brown decided he needed to abolish all regional assemblies. At first he wanted to hand over regional planning matters to unelected Regional Development Agencies. Following a welter of protest he relented – a little – and the ill fated Leaders' Boards were set up. These were to work in partnership with the RDAs to set planning targets.

In the East of England the Leaders Board was named the East of England Local Government Association (EELGA), although only the leaders of councils are represented. There was no recognition by the Tories of the need for political proportionality. In our region that means there is an overwhelming Conservative majority with just 7 councils run by Liberal Democrats, 4 by Labour and 41 by the Tories.

EELGA limps on, even though the coalition has removed the majority of its funding. It must rely solely on subscriptions from the individual authorities. The vast majority of staff have just been made redundant. It's been rather poignant to get emails from long serving regional officers saying farewell and that they are "seeking other opportunities".

The Brussels office continues, although with reduced staffing, and there are still some regional panels. There is also a need for an accountable legal entity in the region to deal with European funding. We're still not sure quite how that will be achieved after the abolition of EEDA.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to all Lib Dem councillors, past and present, who have done so much within the regional assembly over the last 11 years, not least Chris White for his stewardship of the Lib Dem group for most of those years.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Andrew Duff MEP

The report of Andrew Duff MEP will be separately circulated.

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:
- Timetable all constitutional amendments that have been properly submitted.
 - 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 SO5: 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 SO3.4 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 SO3.4 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 SO4.6. 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.

