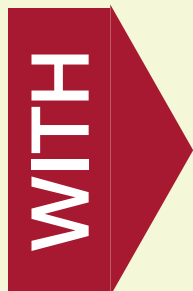


PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE, HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL, HUNTINGDON PE29 3BN

## CALENDAR

<b>Friday 1 October, 10:00</b>	<b>Deadline for amendments to motions</b>
<b>Saturday 16 October</b>	<b>Mailing of final agenda to all registered representatives</b>
<b>Friday 22 October</b>	<b>Deadline for £20 standard rate bookings</b>
<b>Friday 22 October, 10:00</b>	<b>Deadline for submission of emergency motions</b>
<b>Friday 29 October</b>	<b>Deadline for £25 late rate bookings (registrations on the day will incur a £5 surcharge)</b>



Credit Alex Folkes / Fishnik  
Photography

Lorely Burt MP, Lord Tom McNally, Baroness Scott of Needham Market and more

Exhibition stands and advertising space in the final agenda are still available:  
please contact Regional Administrator [admin@east.libdems.org](mailto:admin@east.libdems.org) or 07930 337596

## POLICY MOTION

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

38 Conference welcomes the opportunity to review services and the way they are organised and  
39 delivered that is offered by the need to cut local authority spending. Conference therefore:  
40 1. Calls on local authorities to confine their activities to those that are essential and that cannot be  
41 provided by the third or private sectors;  
42 2. Calls on local authorities to support voluntary organisations in the third sector in developing  
43 their capabilities through continued funding for Councils for Voluntary Service;  
44 3. Urges principal authorities to seek to collaborate across boundaries to maximise the  
45 effectiveness and efficiency of their services and to consider urgently the possible benefits of  
46 handing appropriate powers and services to town and parish councils;  
47 4. Requests the regional Party to ensure that Liberal Democrat councillors and candidates are  
48 provided with the necessary training and briefings to ensure that they have the skills and  
49 knowledge to lead the Localism agenda and carry out their responsibilities to the highest  
50 standard.

*(Note: the deadline for submitting motions required this motion to be submitted before LEP proposals had been completed for submission to the Government.)*

## BUSINESS MOTIONS

### BUDGET

Conference approves the Regional budget.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Conference approves the amendments to the constitution of the Liberal Democrats in the East of England.

*(Please note that these are holding motions. Details of the budget and constitutional amendments will be contained in the final agenda mailing. The deadline for amendments will be 10:00am on Friday 22 October).*

In addition to these items the conference will receive reports from the regional chair, and the region's MPs, Peers, and MEP; and a closing report from the (now ceased) East of England Regional Assembly group.

## FRINGE AND TRAINING EVENTS

Full details of the Fringe, exhibition and training events will be included in the final agenda. This will be placed on the regional party's web site [eastlibdems.org.uk](http://eastlibdems.org.uk). It will also be dispatched by post to all representatives whose registration to attend regional conference has been received by Monday 25 October.

Don't forget to check the regional web site for the latest conference information. In the case of any queries, please contact the Regional Administrator at [admin@east.libdems.org](mailto:admin@east.libdems.org) or 07930 337596.



## Facing the Future

The East of England regional conference on 30 October will also include an opportunity to discuss 'Facing the Future' - the wide-ranging policy review initiated by the party's Federal Policy Committee.

What are the likely policy challenges of the next few years, especially now we are in coalition government?

How does our existing policy face up to these challenges, and where do we need to do more work?

Come along and give your views!