



East of England Liberal Democrats
Regional Conference
Saturday 22 October 2011

*Cambridge Regional College, King's Hedges Road
Cambridge CB4 2QT*

AGENDA

DIRECTIONS

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Cambridge railway station is served by trains from many places in the region. The new guided bus connects the railway station with Cambridge Regional College.

To get to Conference take service A (Stagecoach, to St Ives park and ride) from Cambridge railway station to the Cambridge Regional College stop. This departs at 12, 32 and 52 minutes past the hour, and takes 21 minutes to get to the College. Services start at 0752 on Saturdays. The bus stop is on the left hand side of the road at Cambridge station, and there are clear signs from the station ticket office directing you to the bus stops. You want services to St Ives, Huntingdon and the north of the city.

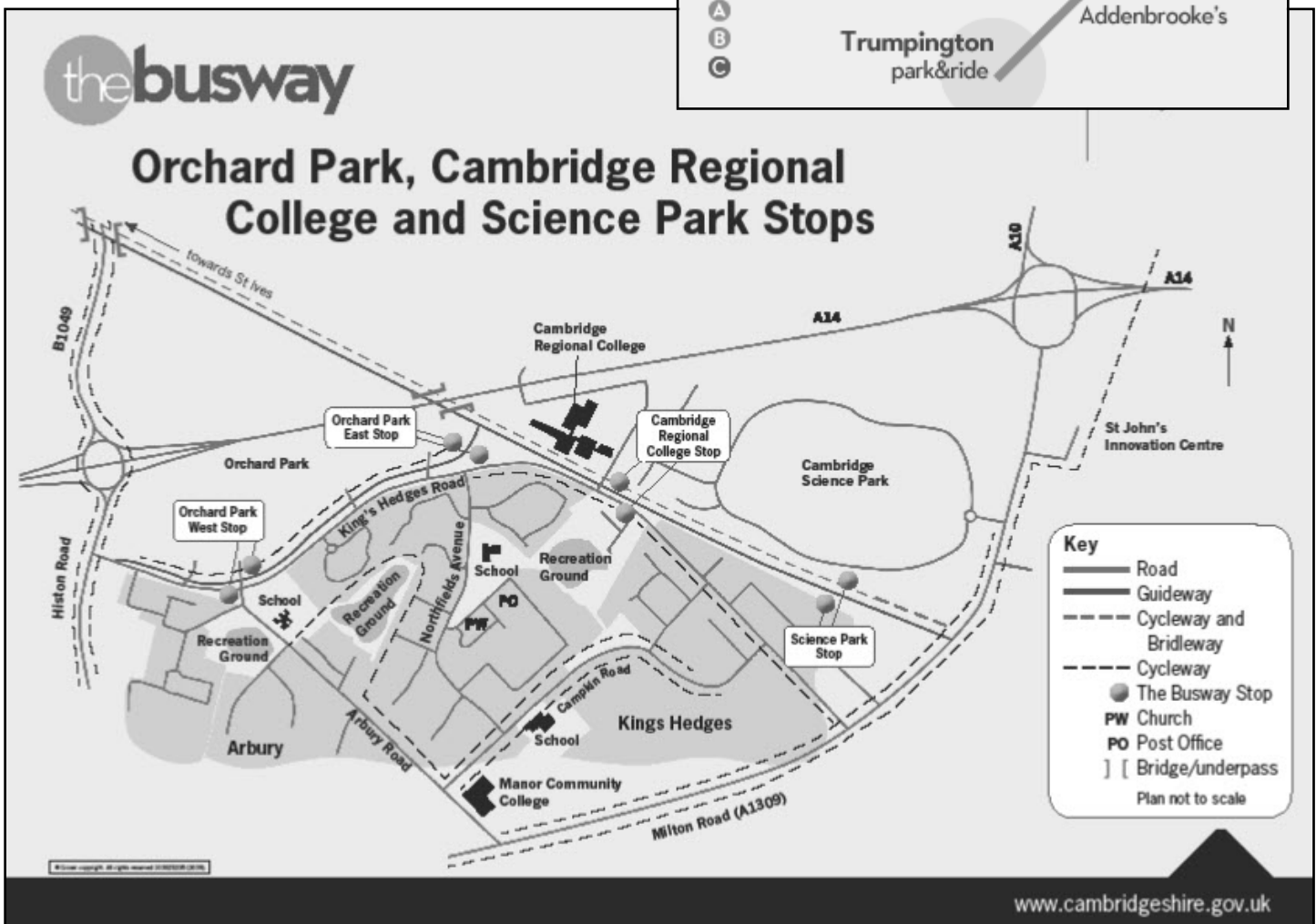
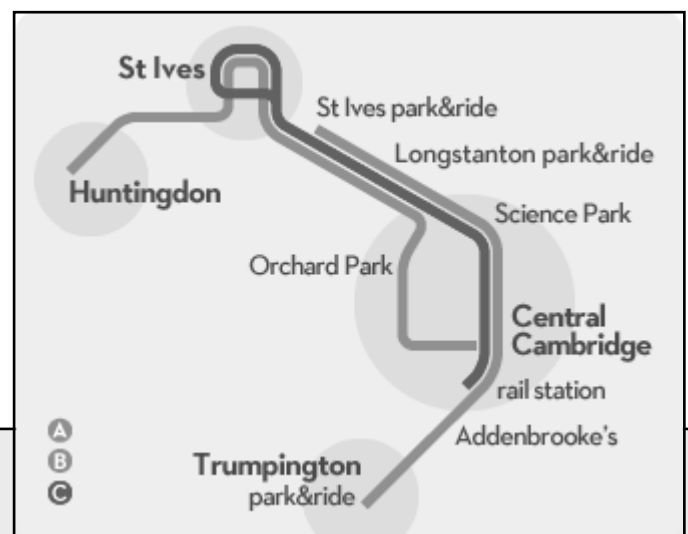
(Whippet's Route C also serves Cambridge Regional College, but the first service would arrive after the Conference has started).

Return journeys after the Conference are every 20 minutes too, with the last bus leaving just before 6.30 pm.

BY CAR

Cambridge Regional College (CB4 2QT) is on the north side of the city, and is accessible from the A14. There are copious quantities of free parking on the College campus.

Car sharing saves money - and the environment!





Andrew Duff MEP



Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for **Europe**
Alliance des Démocrates et des Libéraux pour l'**Europe**

This conference and programme has been produced in conjunction with Andrew Duff, Liberal Democrat MEP for the East of England and the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe.

Find more about Andrew Duff at www.andrewduff.eu or the work of the ALDE group in the European Parliament at www.alde.eu

CONFERENCE INFORMATION



WELCOME TO CONFERENCE

We look forward to welcoming you to the East of England Regional Conference 2011 at our new venue - Cambridge Regional College.

Whether you're a regular attender or a first time conference goer, there's plenty for you at this event - from policy debates and fringe meetings to training and our exhibition.

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

Theresa Higgins
Regional Conference Chair

DEADLINES

Friday 14 October, 10:00 am is the deadline for the receipt of

- Emergency motions
- 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

Cambridge Regional College is accessible for people with disabilities; there will be an induction loop in the main hall.

We have also secured palantypist services 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. 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 to the collection box when conference concludes.

ON-THE-DAY REGISTRATION

You can register for conference on the day itself, but this will cost you £30, instead of £20 or £25 (£15 concessions, first timers) in advance.

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Up to the minute conference news, including information about any changes to the published timetable, may be found in the Daily Announcements sheet, which will be in your delegates' pack on the day.

ELECTIONS

Nominations for regional party officer positions and committee places close at 2:00 pm on the day of the conference (please note that this is two hours earlier than in previous years). 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, in the Mall area, will be open until 3 pm only.

FIRST AID

We have two qualified first aiders on site - please ask at the information desk if needed.

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 buffet lunch, generously sponsored by Andrew Duff MEP, will be served from 12:45 pm. Your delegate pack will contain vouchers for two complimentary cups of tea or coffee; any additional beverages may be purchased from the commercial outlets on site.

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				
1015	MOTION A: A green future for the East of England	1015-1130 EARS demonstration: John Jefkins, EARS	1015-1130 Voter ID: John Bridges, ALDC	1015-1130 Winning with localism: Chris White, LGA	
1045	PARTY BUSINESS: Reports from MP's, Peers				
1105	MOTION B: Science in the East of England				
1130	PRESENTATION: Campaign 2012				
1145	PRESENTATION: Diversity in the Liberal Democrats	1145-1300 Recruiting more members: Billi Williams, Membership Department	1145-1300 Working towards 2013: John Bridges, ALDC	1145-1230 The Local Government Group and what it can offer councillors: Isobel McCall, LGG	
1205	SPEECH: Dorothy Thornhill, Mayor of Watford				
1205	PARTY BUSINESS: Report from Andrew Duff MEP				
1245	LUNCH				
1400	MOTION C: Accountability in the reshaped NHS	1330-1445 Understanding and keeping your members: Billi Williams, Membership	1330-1445 Finding candidates: John Bridges, ALDC	1330-1445 CONNECT demonstration	
1425	PARTY BUSINESS: Reports from Chair, Treasurer; Budget 2012				
1445	EMERGENCY MOTION				
1500	PARTY BUSINESS: Constitutional amendments	EXHIBITION CLOSSES AT 1500			
1515	PARTY BUSINESS: Web site award				
1520	BUSINESS Q&A: with Lorely Burt MP, Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Policy Committee on Business, Innovation & Skills				
1555	Thanks and close of Conference				

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Chair: Theresa Higgins
Aide: Steve Jarvis

10:00 Welcome to Conference

10:05 OPENING SPEECH

10:15 MOTION 1: A green future for the East of England

Submitted by: East of England Regional Policy Committee

- 1 Conference welcomes the policy paper *A Green future for the East of England* as a blueprint for
2 ensuring that the region maximises the jobs and quality of life benefits that switching to a Green
3 economy can bring.
- 4 Conference especially welcomes proposals to encourage the collaboration between the public,
5 private and voluntary sectors that is so essential if the full benefits of the Green revolution are to be
6 delivered.
- 7 In particular, conference endorses the following proposals:
- 8 • Maximising the take-up of the Green Deal by ensuring that the region has the necessary skills and
9 investment resources; that the application process for householders and landlords is simple and
10 makes the benefits are clear; and that communities are encouraged to promote group purchasing
11 to reduce costs;
 - 12 • Prioritising water efficiency in recognition of the vulnerability of the region to water shortages;
 - 13 • Promoting the development and market for Green products and services;
 - 14 • Developing the East of England as a major provider of renewable energy;
 - 15 • Working to develop more sustainable means of transport, including ensuring the necessary
16 investment to modernise the rail network to deliver a far better service for passengers and to
17 encourage a switch of freight from road;
 - 18 • Minimising waste and the use of finite resources;
 - 19 • Ensuring that the natural environment is managed in a sustainable way and that, especially in
20 deprived urban areas, open spaces are managed to provide the attractive green environments
21 that have been proved to benefit mental and physical health.

Proposer: Alan Dean
Seconder: Paul Burall

Amendment 1

Submitted by: Bill Powell, Belinda Brooks-Gordon, Peter Canning

At end of line 14, add:

“in gaseous as well as electrical forms by mandating a prescribed level of carbon neutral fuel gas in gaseous fuels delivered to end users over the natural gas pipelines.”

Proposer: Bill Powell
Seconder: TBA

10:45 PARTY BUSINESS: House of Commons Report

To receive the report of the members of the House of Commons in the East of England
Proposer: Norman Lamb MP and Bob Russell MP

PARTY BUSINESS: House of Lords Report

To receive the report of the members of the House of Lords in the East of England
Proposer: The Rt Hon The Lord McNally PC

11:05 MOTION B: Science in the East of England

Submitted by Simon Wright MP and Catherine Smart

1 Conference notes *The Public Attitudes to Science 2011* survey, which reports that 82 per cent of
2 people agree that “science is such a big part of our lives that we should all take an interest” but that
3 51 per cent of people feel they see and hear too little information about science.

4 Conference notes the significant scientific output of the East of England, with businesses in the
5 region investing more in research and development than those in any other region and the region
6 providing a home for a number of internationally renowned research intensive facilities including the
7 Cambridge Science Park, Institute for Food Research, Genome Analysis Centre, and the St John
8 Innovation Centre.

9 Conference welcomes the Government’s significant commitment to science and engineering in the
10 East of England, particularly through new funding commitments of £26 million to develop the
11 Norwich Research Park and £44 million to develop the Babraham Research Campus, and further
12 welcomes the £6.2 million awarded to Chelmsford based e2v through the Regional Growth Fund to
13 invest in new engineering jobs and academic posts.

14 Conference believes however that there is a pressing need to strengthen the level of high-quality
15 engagement with the public on all major science issues; and increase the number of people who
16 choose to study scientific subjects and work in research and scientific careers.

17 Conference calls on Liberal Democrat representatives at all levels to seek to engage the public in the
18 contribution made by science to our region’s well-being, and to promote the research and
19 development opportunities which exist in the East of England to cement our reputation as a region
20 of scientific excellence.

Proposer: Simon Wright MP

Secunder: Julian Huppert MP

Chair: Mark Valladares

Aide: Catherine Smart

11:30 PRESENTATION: Campaign 2012

Ian Horner, Campaigns Officer for the East of England

11:50 PRESENTATION: Diversity in the Liberal Democrats

Baroness Sal Brinton, Chair of the Liberal Democrats’ Diversity Engagement Group

12:05 SPEECH: Dorothy Thornhill, Mayor of Watford

12:15 PARTY BUSINESS: 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

12:45 LUNCH

Chair: Baroness Scott of Needham Market
Aide: Kevin Wilkins

14:00 MOTION C: Accountability in the reshaped NHS

Submitted by: Suffolk Coastal local party

1 Conference urges its parliamentary and local government representatives to improve the emerging
2 NHS landscape to ensure that all Health and Social Services providers receiving public money be
3 subject to scrutiny and referral back to Secretary of State for Health, also to hold at least quarterly
4 board meetings in public with public questioning.

5 Conference should further consider:

- 6 • Access to redundant/under-used NHS property to provide unmet community health needs by
7 either third sector or social enterprise providers
- 8 • Future reconfiguration of regional specialist service should be based on expanding centres of
9 excellence rather than the amount of PFI indebtedness.

10 Of particular concern to Suffolk, and probably other PCT areas in the East of England, are the
11 following:

- 12 1. Prejudicial interest of decision makers who appoint Health Service providers
- 13 2. Fragmentation of communities' health providers
- 14 3. Adjustment of funding formula to reflect communities' needs and existing health provision
- 15 4. Provision of urban and rural health services, particularly Out of Hours service and its connection
16 to community health services which has had a detrimental impact on local community health

Background briefing:

Sheffield Spring Conference 12 March 2011: Motion F5 *Updating the NHS: Personal and Local*
NHS Pause to the Government's White Paper *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*

Proposer: Michael Ninnmey

Seconder: Dr Janet Massey

14:25 BUSINESS REPORTS

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 2012
Proposer: Ian Radford, Regional Treasurer

14:45 EMERGENCY MOTION

Note: the deadline for receipt of emergency motions is 10:00 am on Friday 14 October. In the event that more than one motion is submitted which meets the criteria for emergency motions, a ballot of voting conference representatives will be held to select one motion for debate, and in that case a ballot paper will be included in the conference delegates' pack.

15:00 PARTY BUSINESS: Constitutional amendments

Submitted by the Regional Executive

Conference approves the changes to the Regional Constitution as below:

1. Articles 1.4(e), 1.5(i), 2.5(e), 8.1(c), 8.2(h)

Delete and re-letter accordingly.

This clause has become superfluous following the abolition of the East of England Regional Assembly in 2010.

2. Article 1.7

Delete the words "The Regional Assembly" means the East of England Regional Assembly;"

See Amendment 1.

3. Article 2.2(b)

Delete "and from representatives of the Party serving on the East of England Regional Assembly;"

See Amendment 1.

4. Article 2.3(e)

Add at beginning, "In even-numbered years,", add "two" after "following" and replace "year" with "years".

This would change the length of term for the Executive Committee from one year to two years. At the moment, members of the Executive Committee are often coming to grips with the responsibilities when they have to run for re-election. Changing the length of each term to two years would allow the Regional Party to benefit from enhanced levels of experience in post, would encourage the Executive Committee to execute a strategic vision and hopefully enhance its performance.

5. Article 2.10

Delete "authorities and on the Regional Assembly".

See Amendment 1.

6. Article 2.13

Delete "authorities or on the Regional Assembly".

See Amendment 1.

7. Article 3.1A

Renumber 3.2 and re-number accordingly.

8. Article 3.1A

Delete "three" and replace with "two", delete "2005" and replace with "2014".

The President is currently elected every third year, and the amendment brings this into line with Amendment 5.

9. Article 3.4

Delete "and candidates for Regional Assembly elections".

See Amendment 1.

10. Article 4.2(b)

Delete all from "elected" to "Region".

This stems from Amendment 5, as well as removing the requirement that every county has to be represented amongst the Ordinary Members. The Executive Committee retains the right to co-opt members in order to ensure geographic diversity at Article 4.2(g).

11. Article 4.2(c)

Delete "at the time of the Annual General Meeting".

This permits the Youth and Student SAO to elect its representatives at its own Annual General Meeting.

12. Article 4.2(d)

Delete "at the time of the Annual General Meeting".

This permits the Parliamentarians to elect their representatives on a basis of their choosing.

13. Article 4.3

Delete “annually” and replace with “in even-numbered years”.

This reflects the proposed change in Amendment 5.

14. Article 4.6

Delete “the following” and insert after “31st December” “in the following year”. Replace “three” with “two”, and “two” with “four”.

These reflect the proposed change at Amendment 5, with consequential changes to reflect the extension to the term length.

Proposer: TBA

Secunder: TBA

Chair: Julie Smith

Aide: TBA

15:15 PARTY BUSINESS: Presentation of web site award

15:20 BUSINESS Q&A: with Lorely Burt MP

MP for Solihull and Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Policy Committee on Business, Innovation & Skills

16:00 Thanks and close of conference

REPORTS TO CONFERENCE

REGIONAL CHAIR

Dr Julie Smith

The past year has been one of mixed fortunes. We came to Regional Conference a year ago buoyed up by local successes across the East of England, having held our three parliamentary seats and the Watford mayoralty, and gaining Norwich South. And the party was in government nationally for the first time in many decades. While the Coalition was not everyone's first preference it clearly offered major opportunities to implement Lib Dem policies. The enthusiasm diminished somewhat, however, once the government pushed for a policy of raising tuition fees, which led to a loss of trust in the party nationally, as many voters and even party members felt let down by a clear breach of pledges made by our parliamentary candidates last year.

The results were seen in May as we lost over 100 council seats in the Region, which coincided with the unsuccessful Alternative Vote referendum. Thanks go to all the hard-working councillors who lost their seats and to all our candidates last May – we are grateful for your hard work and look forward to working with you again in local campaigns **right now** and in our Council chambers from May 2012 onwards as we rebuild our councillor base.

There were also some positive results in May – in Fenland we saw a Lib Dem group form for the first time, Colchester Borough Council saw us retain all our seats and we held onto control in Cambridge, Three Rivers and Watford. Most significantly, Dave Hodgson was re-elected as Mayor of Bedford with an increased majority. Congratulations to him and the Bedford team.

The Federal Party decided to reconfigure its Campaigns Department in June, which had a knock-on effect for the Regions. In the East, both the MEP and the Region have responded by increasing Ian Horner's hours, so that he is now fully employed by us. In the short term this was possible because of the generosity of a few members agreeing to set up standing orders and because of the residue of an English Party Development Grant awarded in late 2010 for fundraising. The part-time fund-raising post had been left vacant by Michael Kitching in December and so Ian Horner will now take a lead on fundraising as well as campaigns in the Region. Fundraising will be crucial as we plan our campaigns for local and police commissioner elections in 2012, County elections in 2013 and the European Parliament election in 2014, not to mention the 2015 general election, and I hope everyone will support Ian in this task.

As you may be aware, I am not re-standing for a third and final year. I should like to thank all the members of the Executive with whom I have worked for the last two years; and Lorna Dupré, who has ensured the Regional administration has been as smooth as possible. I wish my successor all the very best.

REGIONAL TREASURER

Ian Radford

I am pleased to present the 2010 Statement of Accounts, (SoA), the budget for 2012 and figures for 2011 to date.

The 2010 SoA shows halving of income from the 2009 European Election year, although at £57432 it is more in line with the levels of income for 2008 (£53263). Towards the end of last year, the region was successful in its application for a grant from the English Party towards the cost of employing a part time Fund Raising Officer. Unfortunately, the appointee to that post left very quickly to join a charity before his work had a chance to succeed. Income from donations and appeals fell from nearly £40000 in 2009 to £6032 in 2010. In 2008 the level had been £7950. During the second half of 2011 the region has employed a part time campaigns and fundraising officer to help fulfil our obligations following the successful grant application. The share of draw proceeds also helped swell the fundraising income during 2010.

The newsletter service costs including editorial salary amounted to £5197 which resulted in a loss of £437 on the service for the year. It is anticipated that a small surplus will be made this year.

The major items of expenditure in 2010 related to salaries and associated costs. The regional party continued to employ a part time administrator and part time newsletter editor and contributed to the cost of a full time employee. From July 2011, we no longer contribute to the cost of a full time employee. Expenditure on support for target seats amounted to £21734.

Regional conference made a small surplus of £260 after paying palantypist costs of £561.

At the end of the year, the accumulated funds had risen slightly to £14026.

The 2012 budget assumes a further drop in membership rebate but an increase in income from appeals and donations following on from the work of the fundraiser. It looks likely that there will be elections for the post of Police Commissioner in each of the six counties next year and some support will be given if and where we field candidates. We have budgeted £1000 towards costs at federal conference, but this year these costs have been met by two generous donations. The minorities and open politics budget of £1000 remains unchanged and the cost of the palantypist could be allocated against this budget.

The statement of income and expenditure for the eight months to 31st August is reported against budget. From this you will see that our budgeted income has not been achieved. Income from membership rebates has dropped substantially, and income from our share of draw proceeds has dried up, indeed we have not received our anticipated share of winter draw money for last year. Income from appeals and donations has also been poorer than expected due in some part to the problems we had in filling the vacant fundraiser's position. The statement also shows our bank balances at the end of August. The Nochex account is the online facility for accepting conference registration monies.

Once again I should stress the importance which local party treasurers should place upon the PPERA reporting requirements. All treasurers have the responsibility for ensuring that their local parties adhere to the legal requirements of the Act. Some local parties comply with the requirements but others continue to be tardy in the submission of their returns. Even nil returns must be submitted on time. Failure to comply can lead to a withholding of rebates by the federal party and is a breach of electoral law. Draconian sanctions are available to the Electoral Commission where breaches are identified.

I ask conference to accept these accounts, the budget for 2012 and my report.

East of England Region Liberal Democrats Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2010

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 Region Liberal Democrats' registered address is 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. For the purposes of the Political Parties Elections Referendums Act 2000, Ian Radford is the registered Treasurer and Dr Julie Smith is the registered Chair.

Review of political activities

Overview

The first part of the year was dominated by the general election, which was held on 6th May 2010. We retained all three of our held seats in the Region and gained a fourth, Norwich South. The middle part of the year was spent drawing up a new five-year Regional Development Plan and campaigning in the local elections in Norwich, necessitated by a High Court ruling to strike down the move to Unitary status. During the period we also retained the Mayoralty of Watford. The latter part of the year saw a successful Regional Conference, including presidential hustings.

Membership

The membership across the Region grew significantly both before and after the election and ensuing Coalition formation. At the end of the year membership was 6537 (2009 – 6013).

Branches

Maldon was run as a branch of the Region until 15th March 2010, when it re-established itself as a separate local party. All income received and expenditure incurred by the branch up until the time it became independent has been included in these accounts.

Committees

The regional party's 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 Management, Campaigns, Candidates', Conference, Development and Policy committees in line with the constitution. They deal with issues as mandated and then feed into the Regional Executive Committee.

Campaigning

Our campaigning activities in the year 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 the costs of our heightened activity the regional party achieved a very satisfactory result for the year.

Income and expenditure

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

Income

Income in the year decreased as a result of a significant reduction in donation, appeal and campaign income.

Expenditure

Expenditure decreased dramatically during the year mainly due to the very high level of European campaign expenditure in the previous year.

Balance sheet

Net assets increased slightly during the year.

Income and Expenditure Account For the Year Ended 31 December 2010

	Notes to accounts	2010 (£)	2009 (£)
Income			
Donations and Appeals		6032	39569
Membership Rebate		28926	31551
Target Seat contributions		3200	4800
Bank Interest		1	428
Fundraising	10	12287	7262
Training		440	450
Campaign income		1786	24574
Newsletter service subscriptions		4760	4990
Notional income	9	0	300
Total income		57432	113924
Expenditure			
Salaries		19199	18383
Target Seats		21734	24752
Local Party Support		0	1000
Training Costs		333	719
PPC Development and Approval		0	103
IT/communications		328	463
Postage		0	1150
Office/Staff/Officers' Expenses		899	934
Federal Conference		899	1719
Campaign costs		4186	119739
Fundraising costs	9	6434	3664
Newsletter service costs		2713	2686
Notional expenditure	8	0	300
Depreciation	5	133	384
Total expenditure		56858	175996
Excess income over expenditure after taxation		574	(62072)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2010

	Notes	2010 (£)	2009 (£)
Fixed assets	5		
Information Technology		17	150
Total fixed assets		<u>17</u>	<u>150</u>
Current assets			
Debtors (inc. pre-payments)	6	4987	3576
Cash at bank and in hand		15292	12103
Total current assets		<u>20279</u>	<u>15679</u>
Creditors falling due in less than one year			
Creditors (inc. accruals)	7	6270	2377
Other			
Net current assets/ liabilities		<u>14009</u>	<u>13302</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>14026</u>	<u>13452</u>
Creditors due in more than one year	7	0	0
Provisions for liabilities and charges		0	0
Net assets		<u>14026</u>	<u>13452</u>
Financed by:			
Accumulated Fund		13452	75524
Excess income over expenditure after taxation		574	(62072)
Total funds		<u>14026</u>	<u>13452</u>

Chair

Date

Treasurer

Date

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 December 2010

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

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			3923	3923
Additions				
Disposals				
Balance carried forward			3,923	3,923

Depreciation

Method	Straight line over 50 years	Straight line over 5 years	Straight line over 3 years
Balance brought forward		3524	249
Disposals			
Charge for the year		0	133
Balance carried forward		3524	382

Net book value brought forward

Net book value carried forward

		150	
		17	

6. Debtors and prepayments

	This year £	Last year £
Other debtors	4986	3549
Prepayments		27
Investment income		
Totals	4986	3576

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	3240	2377		
Accruals	2730			
Short term loans and overdrafts	300			
Totals	6270	2377		

8. Notional income and expenditure

Nil

9. Fundraising

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

Event	Income	Expenditure	Net profit
Regional Conference	4424	4164	260
Share of Draw Proceeds	5593		5593
Grant from Federal Party	2270	2270	0
Total	12287	6434	5853

10. Consolidation of branches

	Regional party	Maldon	Total
Income	57356	76	57432
Expenditure	56133	(725)	(56858)
Excess of income over expenditure	1223	(649)	574
Transfers	0	0	0
Excess of income over expenditure showing in the unit's accounts	1223	(649)	574

Income and Expenditure 8 months to 31st August 2011

Income	Actual YTD £	Budget YTD £	Variance YTD £	Budget full year £
Membership rebates	17933	21333	-3400	32000
Membership Draw	-1500	1333	-2833	2000
Appeals and Donations	2712	9333	-6621	14000
Training Gross	1006	333	673	500
Regional Newsletter	2133	1333	800	2000
Regional Conference	668	3333	-2665	5000
Grant	2730	0	2730	0
Interest	1	0	1	0
	25683	37000	-11317	55500
Expenditure				
Staff Salaries	15282	15000	282	22500
Regional Newsletter Costs	1723	1333	390	2000
Local Party Development and Support	1197	667	530	1000
Training	1344	2000	-656	3000
Regional Conference	668	2667	-1999	4000
Federal Conference	845	667	178	1000
Policy Development	0	33	-33	50
PPC Development and Approval	0	333	-333	500
Office and Officers' expenses	785	333	452	500
Office Equipment and IT	182	467	-285	700
Membership Awards and Support	0	67	-67	100
Communications	0	167	-167	250
Minorities/Open Politics	0	667	-667	1000
Nochex Costs	0	67	-67	100
	22026	24467	-2441	36700
Excess of Income over Expenditure	3657	12533	-8876	18800
Balances at 31st August 2011				
Treasurer's Account	1891			
Money Manager Account	10003			
European Account	5506			
Nochex account	533			
	17934			

Preliminary Budget 2012

		Budget 2012
Income	Cttee	£
Membership Rebates	man	27500
Draws	man	2000
Training (Gross)	dev	500
Appeals and Donations	man	20000
Regional Conference (Gross)	conf	5000
Regional Newsletter		2500
Total Income		<u>57500</u>
Expenditure		
Salaries	man	32500
Regional Newsletter	man	2500
Election Support	man	9000
LP Development	dev	1000
Training (Gross)	dev	1000
Regional Conference (Gross)	conf	4100
Federal Conference	man	1000
Policy development	policy	100
PPC development and approval	cand	500
Office & officers' expenses	man	750
Office equipment and IT	man	500
Communications	dev	250
Minorities/open politics	man	1000
		<u>54200</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure		3300

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Julian Huppert, MP for Cambridge

It's been an encouraging year for Cambridge, although there have been some chastening moments. We lost some excellent councillors in May, and although we successfully bucked the national trend by saying 'Yes' to AV, it was small consolation for the loss of the referendum.

I have had the honour of becoming co-chair of the party's Transport Committee, and this has given me opportunities to push for a new station in Chesterton – a long-running campaign for Cambridgeshire Liberal Democrats. At the same time we've been calling for greater local powers to preserve the diversity of places like Mill Road, through an amendment to the Localism Bill that some have dubbed 'the Cambridge amendment'.

There's been plenty of work on Home Affairs, with phone-hacking, counter-terrorist legislation, the riots and police commissioners to think about. And outside Parliament I've chaired a successful working group on IT, which produced an exciting policy paper.

Life in Coalition continues to be a hectic mixture of challenges and opportunities.

Norman Lamb, MP for North Norfolk

In a surprising turn of events, one of my big interests – health – has been dominating political debate recently. The Health & Social Care Bill has shown the best and worst of Parliament. On one hand, there has been sensible scrutiny and reasoned amendments; on the other, misinformation and hysteria. The Liberal Democrats can be rightly proud of being on the right side of that divide. At our Spring Conference the party made a number of commitments; those commitments have now become government policy. It is great to see our democratic processes translated into real action.

I was also pleased with the Dilnot Report. Social care has often been neglected by politicians on all sides, but this will provide a sound basis for long-overdue reform.

In North Norfolk I have supported a number of local campaigns, trying to improve health services and mobile coverage in the area. It was great to join Norwich City hero Jeremy Goss recently to raise over £7,000 for local charities. Although the work of government is demanding, I will never forget that my first duty is to my constituents.

Bob Russell, MP for Colchester

Many predicted this time last year that the Coalition would not survive and there would be another General Election. Well, we are still here in Government – but it has not been easy with two parties, with different identities and core principles, working together to sort out the mess left by the last Labour Government.

The Parliamentary team are working hard, up front and also behind the scenes, to amend and seek to insert within legislation our policies and values. There have been successes, with some Right Wing Tory MPs complaining that the Liberal Democrats (Nick Clegg in particular) are too influential!

It has to be remembered that we are very much the minority partner in the Coalition, but what cannot be denied is that elements of Liberal Democrat policy are Government policy which would not have happened had we not joined the Coalition Government in the national interest.

The impact of the economic crisis has created an unprecedented workload for me and my small team of staff. It is tough, and likely to get tougher. But, with the correct measures and determination, we can help turn around the financial disaster.

Simon Wright, MP for Norwich South

My work in Parliament this year has mainly focused on green issues. As a member of the Public Bill Committee for the Energy Bill, I had the opportunity to scrutinise one of our flagship policies – the Green

Deal. This will enable a massive homes insulation programme to be rolled out with a value of as much as £10,000 per home with no up-front costs for the household. It forms a key part of the Government's plan to shift to a low carbon economy. This has accompanied my work on the Environmental Audit Select Committee which has looked at how we will provide finance for the new green economy through the proposed Green Investment Bank, as well as sustainable food production – an issue close to us here in the East of England.

I also had the honour of becoming Parliamentary Private Secretary to Sarah Teather in her role as Minister of State for Children and Families. I will use my experience as a former teacher to support Sarah in her important role – giving children a fairer start in life.

Back in Norwich, it's been a busy year for me and my team. I've worked with other local MPs to lobby government for the retention of RAF Marham, for an early start date to complete dualling of the A11, and for support to roll out broadband across the County – all campaigning 'wins'. Next is the need to improve the Norwich-London rail service, and the rail-franchising process provides us with the most important opportunity to achieve this for many years.

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Rt Hon The Lord McNally PC

In the last 12 months the Liberal Democrat East of England team in the House of Lords has increased with two new Peers, Sal Brinton and Qurban Hussain, joining Ros Scott, Andrew Phillips and myself. Both Sal and Qurban have proven themselves to be valuable additions to the Lib Dem group in the Lords. Qurban made his maiden speech in March in a debate on small businesses, and has since contributed to debates and discussions in the Lords on multiculturalism, to which his considerable expertise has proved very beneficial.

Sal has thrown herself into the work of the House of Lords with her usual enthusiasm and dedication. She very ably supported Kishwer Falkner as the European Union Bill was making its way through the Lords, and is currently helping Joan Walmsley and the Lib Dem team to scrutinise the Education Bill.

As Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice, I am in charge of government policy on human rights and civil liberties; data protection and freedom of information; the National Archive and the Crown Dependencies. I am also responsible for all MoJ business in the House of Lords. I will be the lead Minister for the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill when it comes to the Lords, but in the last year I have led for the Government on parts of the Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Bill, the Public Bodies Bill and the Pensions Bill. Within the MoJ I have pushed forward reforms on libel law, working closely with my colleague Anthony Lester to produce the government's draft Defamation Bill, which is currently being scrutinised by a pre-legislative scrutiny committee of the Lords and Commons.

Other Bills that have been debated in the Lords this year include Ed Davey's Postal Services Bill, to provide for the restructuring of Royal Mail; the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, to provide for elected police commissioners; Chris Huhne's Energy Bill, to tackle the pressing issues of energy efficiency, energy security and the need for low-carbon energy sources; the Localism Bill, which is designed to devolve greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities more control over housing and planning decisions; and the Fixed-Term Parliaments Bill, to ensure that parliaments routinely last for five years, curbing the power of the Prime Minister in this respect and giving more power to Parliament.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Andrew Duff MEP

2010 was the year in which it became clear that financial instability and economic austerity are here to stay for some considerable time. It was also the year of the formation of the new Conservative/Liberal Democrat government in the UK.

In the European Parliament we are not bound by the coalition pact at home. Tory and Lib Dem MEPs continue both to oppose each other robustly where necessary and to cooperate where possible on a case by case basis (as we do with Labour).

As spokesman on constitutional affairs for the Alliance of Liberals and Democrat for Europe (ALDE), I cover a portfolio where there is almost no common ground with Conservatives. I believe that Tory policies and actions put continued British membership of the EU at risk. In particular, I have fought against the EU Bill (now, alas, Act) which installs automatic British referenda on all the important constitutional decisions of the EU. Effectively, this imposes a unilateral British veto on the political evolution of the Union.

Other key questions for me have been the electoral reform of the Parliament (on which I am rapporteur), the establishment of the new European External Action Service, trying to improve relations between the European and national parliaments, and the start of the negotiations on the reform of the EU financial system. I published *Post-National Democracy and the Reform of the European Parliament*, Notre Europe, Policy Paper 42, 2010 [EN & FR].

In the field of foreign and security policy, I have been especially active on Turkey and Cyprus, and in working to deepen the EU's relationship with NATO. I am an active founder member of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

My latest pamphlet *Federal Union Now* was published by the Federal Trust in September 2011. I argue that only a decisive move to a federal economic government of a fiscal union, backed up by a decent budget, will save the euro and help economic recovery. I define what is meant by federal union, and suggests some of the changes which must be made to the Lisbon treaty in order achieve it. These include the creation of an EU treasury, the issuance of sovereign eurobonds and financial self-sufficiency. Measures are also proposed to boost the political legitimacy of the European Parliament. The best way to revise the treaties is through a democratic Convention. The new constitutional settlement should enter into force before all member states have ratified it – and a special category of associate membership should be created for the United Kingdom if it chooses not to be part of the European federation.

I remain President of the Union of European Federalists, the supranational movement which campaigns across Europe for a stronger and more democratic EU, and am co-chair of the Spinelli Federalist Intergroup of MEPs. I am leading preparations to launch one of the first European Citizens' Initiative (whereby a million citizens can trigger an EU law).

In the East of England we adjust to the abolition of the former regional structures (EEDA and Assembly) and cope with increased centralisation on Whitehall. There continues to be a steady rise in the volume of constituency casework, including some complex issues concerning family or commercial law. I have been engaged in helping East of England firms and universities ride out the economic storm and exploit all the opportunities that UK membership of the EU offers. The rise in applications to and receipts from EU science R&D funding is especially encouraging for our region. I will fight for the region to continue to benefit from the reform of EU structural funds.

The AV referendum was an unmitigated disaster: the wrong campaign at the wrong time on the wrong question.

On a brighter note, it was a pleasure to edit a book to celebrate Shirley Williams's 80th birthday with the publication of *Making the Difference: Essays in honour of Shirley Willams*, Biteback, 2010.

Office and staff

During 2010 my staff has been Tim Huggan, Constituency Officer, responsible for office management, media, party communications and the constituency diary. Ian Horner, my Agent, takes on new responsibilities for party liaison. Alex Scott has been succeeded by Kilian Bourke as Casework Officer. Sam Bailey has worked as an intern in the Cambridge office. In Brussels and Strasbourg my parliamentary

assistants have been Petr Novak and Sietse Wijnsma. They are joined by Maxime Calligari as a *stagiaire*. My paying agent is Janet Hart of Harts Chartered Accountants, Berkhamsted. I do not employ or pay as service providers members of my family or comparable partners.

Parliamentary allowances

MEPs receive a daily subsistence allowance for official attendance on Parliamentary duties outside the UK. In 2010 I received €46,488 (€45,370 in 2009). My attendance record for plenary votes over the entire mandate of the Parliament (2004-09) was 97 per cent - compared with the average for all MEPs of 80 per cent. It continues to be high.

In 2010 I received €40,706 for travel and hotel accommodation (€43,600 in 2009) on parliamentary business inside and outside the EU. My total wage bill and staff costs for 2010 were €185,948 (€185,883 in 2009). (The maximum possible staff allowance per MEP was €212,288.) In 2010, all MEPs received £42,144 for office costs and other general expenditure. My total general expenditure was £47,207. Receipts for all items of expenditure in excess of £25 in value are made available on request.

The summary of the account is verified by an independent professionally qualified accountant as being in compliance with the rules of the Liberal Democrat European Parliamentary Party and with the rules of the European Parliament. The audit statement is filed with the LDEPP Whip.

Declaration of Interest: In addition to the parliamentary salary, I receive occasional fees and royalties for papers and publications. Like other parliamentarians, I receive occasional free parking at London City Airport.

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:
- Speech of mover of main motion and any alternative under 3.4 below, five minutes at most.
 - Speeches of movers of any amendment: three minutes at most.
 - Speeches from the floor: three minutes at most.
 - Rights of reply as provided by SO5: three minutes at most.
- 3.4** The Conference Committee may:
- Recognise an amendment as an alternative option and allow its proposer the same time as the speech of the proposer of the motion.
 - 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:
- To exercise any right of reply given by these Standing Orders;
 - By way of explanation;
 - To move any procedural motion;
 - 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:
- That the Session Chair's ruling be set aside;
 - To adjourn the debate in motion;
 - That the question be not put;
 - 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.

East of England Liberal Democrats, Orwell House, Cowley Road, Cambridge CB4 0PP
Cover image: St Albans Liberal Democrats are presented with the Penhaligon Award for membership
by Tim Farron MP, President of the Liberal Democrats, September 2011. Photo: Dave Radcliffe