

**EAST OF ENGLAND LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**  
**Regional Chair's report to the Regional Executive**  
**meeting (by video conference) on 21 November 2020**

This report covers my activities since the last meeting of this Executive (12 September 2020). This is our fourth meeting of the four required for 2020. It includes a very short Management Committee report.

**English Council Executive**

ECE met on 16<sup>th</sup> September by videoconference. Concern was expressed at the Federal decision not to fund elections next May. The English Party chair asked for a meeting with the Federal Communications and Elections Committee (FCEC).

The English Party Vice Chair Alison Rouse circulated papers entitled "Delivery Structure for..." each level (local, regional etc) of the various party bodies. These could be useful to incoming Party Executives.

The ECE met again to agree a variation to the budget.

**Diversity**

I had a small part in editing the diversity video which was shown several times at the virtual Federal Conference.

Vice-Chair for Regional Development Alison Rouse produced a paper containing three proposals for the English Party to do in support of diversity: involving SAOs in delivering training, inviting HQ people who work on or have oversight of Diversity to attend ECE meetings and thirdly facilitating a Diversity Audit to find out how diverse our local parties and councillors are (and aren't).

**Improving the behavioural culture**

I wrote a mass email to local party officers and executives in the region about the new Regional Working Group on challenging behaviour in the party across the region. Such feedback as I got was positive, even enthusiastic. The Working Group had its first videoconference meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October and decided to produce a guidance document for circulation to new local party executives in January.

**Tiering of seats**

I took part in discussion with Campaigns Dept staff on initial tiering in the Region, dividing into Start Up, Development, Moving Forward and Advanced. This is a

necessary, evolving guide to what kind and extent of support is appropriate. It is based on a range of factors some of which can't be changed, such as the election results last time, and some which can, including the capacities of local parties. So if local parties want to move up they can improve their chances by putting themselves in order and recruiting more activists.

### **Videoconference meeting on setting Party strategy**

I attended a pre-Conference discussion on 21<sup>st</sup> September on setting the Party's strategy and heard from our newly appointed Director of Strategy, Messaging and Research, Mimi Turner. Her attention is focused on engaging with communities we currently do not reach. She is not a political campaigner, more a marketing expert with a difference. Her observations struck me as extremely insightful.

### **Management committee**

Nichola Martin turned down the second co-funded campaign officer role so we had a vacancy. Following receipt of a forecast from the English Party Treasurer of reduced membership fee income next year the Management Committee met on 30<sup>th</sup> October to reconsider whether we should fill this vacancy. It was agreed to go back to HQ and renegotiate. This was done. A satisfactory agreement has been reached to fill this vacancy after all, with revised co-funding arrangements.

### **AGM**

I reported to the AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

### **AND FINALLY**

This is my last meeting as chair as my four years are almost up. It's been a roller coaster ride with two unexpected general elections, one unexpected European one and a pandemic. Yet we are still battling on. Thank you all for all you've done in support.

Jo Hayes  
21 Nov 2020