



East of England
Liberal Democrats

Annual Conference

Saturday 8 February 2020
Cambridge Regional College

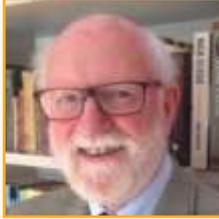
AGENDA



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

This agenda should help you get the most out of conference. Please read carefully and talk to a steward or member of the regional team if you have any queries.

Message from Victor Scrivens (Chair, Conference Committee)



Welcome to regional conference!

The East of England faces its biggest threat, from Norfolk through Suffolk to Essex. Along our coastline we are under attack. Not from hordes of Vikings but from our own climate. The effects of climate change are already with us. In Norfolk, one of our lovely towns is rapidly being eroded. The dangers from flooding beset not just coastal towns but many of our communities.

Our objective at conference is to look at ways on a local basis we as individuals, as councillors, and as councils can address and even turn back some of these most disturbing problems.

We will look at Lib Dem policy debated at Federal Conference in September, then hear from local councils about what efforts they have made and their future plans.

You then have the opportunity to attend one of three breakout sessions, looking at these issues in more detail. There you can share your views with leaders from a number of District Councils in the East of England and specialists from environmental disciplines

We are delighted to welcome Sir Ed Davey, not only acting Leader, but also former Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

Our newest MP and our two former MEPs will be with us, as will Dave Hodgson celebrating ten years as Mayor of Bedford, sharing his experiences and those of newly elected council leaders.

I hope you enjoy the conference and take home some challenging but inspiring thoughts and ideas.

REGISTRATION

Registration on the day costs £38 or £32 in advance at www.eastlibdems.org.uk/conference.

Collect your badge and agenda from the registration desk when you arrive. Please wear your badge and return the plastic holder when conference ends.

ACCESS

Cambridge Regional College is a modern facility with level access. Training sessions and fringe events all take place on the second floor, accessible by lift or stairs. See map on the inside back cover.

If you are able, please use the stairs so the lifts are available for those who need them. Using the stairs is good for your health!

The main hall and refreshments are on the ground floor.

EMERGENCIES AND FIRST AID

In case of emergency please contact a steward or report to the registration desk. We are grateful to all our stewards for giving up their time.

REFRESHMENTS

A buffet lunch will be served from 12.30pm until 1.30pm in the Park restaurant on the ground floor and is included in the cost of your registration.

SPEAKING AND QUESTIONS

If you wish to speak in a debate or ask a question please complete a speaker's card and hand it to the steward in the main hall. Speaker's cards can be picked up from the registration desk or the steward in the main hall. You can also submit questions in advance by emailing conference@eastlibdems.org.uk before 5pm on Friday 7 February.

STANDING ORDERS

Standing orders are the rules which govern the conduct of conference. You can download a copy at www.eastlibdems.org.uk/standing-orders. Copies are also available at the registration desk.

WIFI

WiFi log-in details will be available on the day.



0930 Doors open

1000 Welcome to Conference

Victor Scrivens (Chair, Conference Committee) and a representative from South Cambridgeshire Liberal Democrats will welcome members to conference. Cambridge Regional College is in the district of South Cambridgeshire which has been controlled by the Liberal Democrats since May 2019.

Parliamentary reports

Session Chair: Jo Hayes (Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats)

Session Aide: Lorraine Flawn (Secretary, East of England Liberal Democrats)

Daisy Cooper MP



Daisy Cooper is MP for St Albans. She was elected in December 2019, and is Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Justice and on Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. She also stood in St Albans in 2017, when the Liberal Democrats moved from 3rd to second place. Daisy runs the 1500+ strong St Albans Commuter and Passenger Action Group and is active in the Save the St Albans Pubs" campaign.

Don Foster



Don Foster (Lord Foster of Bath) is President of the East of England Liberal Democrats. He served as MP for Bath from 1992 until 2015. Don was a minister in the Department for Communities and Local Government and Liberal Democrat Chief Whip. He joined the House of Lords in October 2015 and lives in Suffolk.

Daisy and Don will report to members about the work of Liberal Democrats in the House of Commons and House of Lords and take questions.

1015-1130: TRAINING SESSIONS

- **Building and maintaining your volunteer team (Room J210)**
The difference a good campaign team can make and their roles; how to recruit people to your campaign team and setting targets to recruit
With Zöe Franklin, ALDC Development Officer
- **Introduction to being an agent part 1 (Room J202)**
Understanding the roles of an agent; understanding key features of election law and knowing where to go for further information
With Jon Whitehouse, East of England Liberal Democrats Development Officer

1040 Tackling the climate emergency

Session Chair: Councillor Bridget Smith

Victor Scrivens and Cllr Pippa Heylings will look at some of the problems we face regarding global warming, hear from local councillors how they are tackling the issues we face, and explain the three breakout sessions below that lead to the Climate Emergency motion to be debated at 3.15pm.

1110-1155: CLIMATE EMERGENCY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- **Planning to achieve Net Zero Carbon (Room J201)** with Cllr Pippa Heylings (rapporteur), Cllr Stephen Robinson & Cllr Sarah Butikofer
- **Fossil fuel Divestment from Pension funds (Room J232)** with Cllr Graham Neale (rapporteur), Cllr Bridget Smith and Cllr Rose Moore
- **Infrastructure - Possible rapid short-term actions (Room J233)** Paul Kimber (rapporteur), Sebastian Street and Cllr Markus Gehring

1110 Regional Officers' reports

Session Chair: John Shreeve (Chair, Suffolk County Co-ordinating Committee)

Session Aide: Lorraine Flawn (Secretary, East of England Liberal Democrats)

Jo Hayes (Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats)

Sally Symington (Treasurer, East of England Liberal Democrats)

See reports on pages 10 – 15

Every two years members elect regional officers and an executive committee to oversee and carry out the functions of the regional party.

Jo Hayes will report to members on the activities of the regional party and the regional executive. Sally Symington will report on the financial affairs of the regional party.

Members will be asked to vote to receive these reports and the 2018 accounts. They will also be asked to endorse the consultation statement on page 14.

There will also be votes to delegate authority to the regional executive to appoint auditors to produce an independent report on the 2019 accounts; and to approve the 2020 outline budget on page 12.

Submit a question to conference@eastlibdems.org.uk by 5pm on Friday 7 February or fill in a speaker's card on the day.



Jo Hayes



Sally Symington



1140 Election campaigns briefing

Session Chair: Dan Norton (Chair, Campaigns Committee)

Session Aide: Lorraine Flawn (Secretary, East of England Liberal Democrats)

With Dan Norton (East of England Campaign Committee Chair), Zöe Franklin (ALDC Development Officer) and Rupert Moss-Eccardt (Police and Crime Commissioner Candidate, Cambridgeshire)

Everywhere has elections in May. Find out more about the party's plans for the Police and Crime Commissioner and council elections in 2020.

1200 European Parliament report

Session Chair: Lorraine Flawn (Secretary, East of England Liberal Democrats)

Session Aide: Joye Rosenstiel



Barbara Gibson

Barbara was elected to the European Parliament in 2019. A relative newcomer to politics, Barbara is a businesswoman and academic who became a Hertfordshire County Councillor in 2016.

Lucy Nethsingha



Lucy was elected in 2019. She was Leader of the Lib Dem group on Cambridgeshire County Council and has served as a councillor for 14 years. Lucy chaired the European Parliament's Legal Affairs committee.

Our two MEPs, elected in June 2019 and whose term of office ended on 31 January 2020, will report on their work and take questions.

1200-1300: TRAINING AND FRINGE SESSIONS

- **Electing Daisy: How we won in St Albans (Room J210)**

Daisy Cooper was one of only two Liberal Democrat candidates to gain a seat at the General Election. Find out more about her successful campaign *with Cllr Chris White, Campaign Director for Daisy Cooper*

- **Leaflets made easy with ALDC Artworker (Room J202)**

The new online Artworker tool is the simple way to produce leaflets and other literature. Learn how to edit templates and send them to print *With Zöe Franklin, ALDC Development Officer*

1230 LUNCH

Lunch will be served in the Park Restaurant and Cafe on the ground floor until 1.30pm. There are several short briefing and fringe sessions during the lunch period (see overleaf).

1300-1330: LUNCHTIME FRINGE

- **Local party officers' briefing (Room J201)**

Whether you are a new local party officer or not, find out more about the support available and your key responsibilities.

- **Green Liberal Democrats (Room J232)**

Green campaigning with Cllr Graham Neale of Green Liberal Democrats.

- **Candidates' General Election debrief (Room J233)**

Opportunity for General Election candidates and agents to feed back about their experience. With Ben Goodwin, General Election Review Group.

1330 Keynote speech

Session Chair: Jo Hayes (Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats)

Ed Davey MP



Sir Ed Davey is MP for Kingston and Surbiton and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats. He is also Lib Dem Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer. Ed was first elected to Parliament in 1997 and served as Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change between 2012 and 2015.

Ed will take questions after his speech.

1430 Afternoon break

1445 Veterans and newbies

Session Chair: Dave Hodgson (Mayor of Bedford)

Cllr Sarah Butikofer (Leader, North Norfolk Council)

Cllr Bridget Smith (Leader, South Cambridgeshire Council)

Cllr Stephen Robinson (Leader, Chelmsford Council)

Dave Hodgson celebrates 10 years as Mayor of Bedford with some successful leaders of new Liberal Democrat councils, looking at mutual challenges and successes.

1445-1600: TRAINING SESSIONS

- **Getting your message right (Room J210)**

Every campaign needs an effective local message that works. Learn what we mean by message and how to develop and communicate your message.

With Zöe Franklin, ALDC Development Officer

- **Introduction to being an agent part 2 (Room J201)**

Second part of agents' training. Money and election expenses.

With Jon Whitehouse, East of England Liberal Democrats Development Officer



1445-1600: TRAINING SESSIONS continued

- **Using the new Lighthouse system to manage your members (J202)**

Lighthouse is the Liberal Democrats new online local party management tool, replacing Salesforce for Local Parties. Find out what it does and how to use it.
With Greg Foster, Head of Membership & Engagement, Liberal Democrat HQ

1515 Tackling the climate emergency

Session Chair: Callum Robertson (Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats Policy Committee)

Session Aide: John Shreeve

Mover: Victor Scrivens

Seconder: Cllr Pippa Heylings

Conference notes:

1. That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing catastrophic damage around the world;
2. That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the potentially irreversible devastation that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C is still possible with ambitious and immediate action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector;
3. That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;
4. That strong policies and legislation to cut emissions and change behaviours have associated health and wellbeing improvements, but will need help bringing economic benefits and safeguards;
5. And that, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed Climate Emergency motions.

Conference endorses the national policy 'Tackling the Climate Emergency' passed at the 2019 Liberal Democrat Federal Conference

Conference commits to requesting all councils in the East of England to:

1. Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2045 and make the Council's own activities net-zero carbon by 2030;
2. Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2045;
3. Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale;
4. Ensure that political and chief officer leadership teams embed this

- work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;
5. Request that Council Scrutiny Panels consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;
 6. Work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, local plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;
 7. Request that the Council and partners take steps proactively to include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;
 8. Request that the Executive Portfolio holder with responsibility for Climate Change convenes a Citizens' Assembly in 2020 in order to involve the wider population in this process;
 9. Recommend that Councils set up a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties;
 10. Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that the council's pensions plan and other investments have, and review the council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio and consider divestment of fossil fuel investments;
 11. Consider and generate other actions that could be implemented quickly, for example: purchase of land for planting of trees, building green funds with high net worth individuals and businesses to enable positive actions, reducing our chemical impact on the environment by reducing spraying of verges, actively investing in and encouraging renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of buildings in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of Passivhaus housing and net carbon new developments and communities, giving leadership and guidance to the local people in how to implement personal programmes by for example coordinating a series of information and training events to ensure full awareness of the emergency and share good practice of what personal actions need to be undertaken to help restrict our own impact on the environment;
 12. Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make these actions possible, and lobby local MPs to do likewise.



The mover has up to five minutes to speak. Other speakers have up to three minutes. If you wish to speak please submit a speaker's card.

Please note this motion may be the subject of amendments proposed in one of the earlier climate change breakout sessions (1110-1155).

1555 Closing announcements

1600 Close of Conference

WHO'S WHO?

President

Don Foster

Chair

Jo Hayes

Vice-Chair

Lucy Nethsingha

Secretary

Lorraine Flawn

Treasurer

Sally Symington

Committee Chairs

Campaigns Committee

Dan Norton

Candidates' Committee

Paul Clark

Conference Committee

Victor Scrivens

Development Committee

Stuart Beadle

Policy Committee

Callum Robertson

County Co-ordinating Committee Chairs

Cambridgeshire

Stephen Drew

Essex

Simon Banks

Hertfordshire

Elaine Thatcher

Norfolk

Steffan Aquarone

Suffolk

John Shreeve

Executive Committee members:

Matthew Craven (Young Liberals), Nick Hollinghurst (councillors), Christian Hogg, Ian Horner, Linda Jack (co-opted), Robert Johnston, Adam Robertson, Jon Whitehouse (staff)

Conference Committee members

Victor Scrivens (Chair), Simon Banks, Peter Chivall, Lori Flawn, Joye Rosenstiel (Chief Steward), John Shreeve, Pippa Heylings

Staff

Development Officer **Jon Whitehouse**

STALLS

ALDC

Advice, resources and training for Liberal Democrat councillors and campaigners across Britain.



Green Liberal Democrats

The Green Liberal Democrats promote environmental issues within the party



East of England Newsletter scheme

A cost-effective way of making sure your local party's members hear from you all year round. Discuss your needs with Jonathan Paxton or contact him at newsletter@eastlibdems.org.uk

Liberal Democrat membership team

Your questions about membership, registered supporters and the Lighthouse tool answered.



Liberal Democrat European Group

Promoting the benefits of Britain's place in Europe and communicating the work of our Liberal Democrat MEPs.

RETURNING OFFICER VACANCIES

Volunteer Returning Officers oversee parliamentary selections, ensuring rules are followed and candidates and members are treated fairly. We need new Returning Officers in advance of the next round of selections. Please contact candidates@eastlibdems.org.uk.



In the past year the Party has experienced a surge in membership, this region included. On behalf of the Regional Executive, welcome to everyone who has joined us.

Last year the Regional Executive adopted a strategic plan to promote campaigning activity in all 58 parliamentary constituencies with the aim of developing a core vote based on our values. To implement this plan, the Regional Executive invested in training. Our Regional Development Officer Jon Whitehouse has been working closely with ALDC to deliver training across the region, offering all local activists the know-how to campaign effectively.

The Regional Executive made grants available to local parties which submitted a convincing plan for use of the money in local campaigning.

The Executive signalled the importance of encouraging younger activists by making grants to local parties which adopted council candidates under 30 years of age.

Brexit

Last autumn the Regional Executive set aside a fund to make anti-Brexit leaflets available free of charge to local parties that were prepared to deliver them. Over the ensuing few months on behalf of Region I arranged for bulk print orders totalling 375,000 anti-Brexit leaflets to be despatched direct from the printers to volunteers across the Region for distribution by local volunteers to households. Teams of volunteers including myself delivered in many places across the Region, using publicly available datasets to identify appropriate areas.

The leaflets asked people to sign the party's petition for the public to be given a Final Say referendum on Brexit. These reinforced social media ads from HQ. Many thousands of people have signed, some online and others returning the paper tear-off slip on the leaflets. Many of the petition-signers have become volunteers; some have joined us as members.

The Regional Party is directly responsible for only one set of elections: the European Parliamentary ones. Two years ago, a member of the Regional

Executive confidently said there would be no more European elections in the UK. This time last year Theresa May's Cabinet Office was saying the same. But whether European elections took place in the UK did not depend on the UK, but on the EU. A Final Say referendum on the Brexit deal and a possible General Election were also on the cards. So in December 2018 the Regional Executive set up an ad hoc working group tasked with contingency preparations for any elections or referendum that we might need to fight. The group immediately set to work and even held a teleconference on Christmas Eve.

The working group was preparing to run activation workshops to engage more members in campaigning. However, this was overtaken by events. We employed Ian Horner as a temporary campaign manager. As a result, our Region was ahead of others in preparations for the European elections which became inevitable in March, when Brexit date was postponed.

Local elections

At the same time activists were working on local election campaigns. We stood far more candidates this time than in the past, though regrettably still not everywhere. Please don't leave this to others: be prepared to stand, helping to ensure the Lib Dem name and logo is on every ballot paper in the Region.

The Party has had its best local election year for a long time. Mayor Dave Hodgson held the Executive Mayoralty of Bedford Borough Council (a unitary authority), and we gained six seats; the Council remains in no overall control (NOC). Following our stunning gain of South Cambridgeshire last year, we took control of Chelmsford, overturning a Conservative majority of 23 with an increase of 26 Lib Dems to 31, and North Norfolk (previously in NOC) with an increase of 15 to 30. We gained five seats in Three Rivers, strengthening our control, and held firm control of Watford.

Elsewhere, we now have 13 councillors on East Cambridgeshire DC and need just one more gain to deprive the Conservatives of their majority. In Welwyn Hatfield we gained four and pushed it into NOC. In St Albans we increased our group to 25, just six short of majority control, pushing the Council into



CHAIR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

NOC, and now run it as a minority administration. In Dacorum our seats increased by 16 to 19.

In North Herts we gained five, pushing it into NOC. In Colchester we gained a seat and kept the Council in Lib Dem-led NOC. We made smaller gains in many places. Not all seats were up for election; some councils elect a third at a time. Smaller numbers gained last May could signal the potential to make more gains.

Later in May we gained two of the seven MEP seats in this Region, our best result since the European Parliamentary Constituency was formed in 1999. The Party has increased its MEPs from one to 16, a significant part of the Renew bloc in the new European Parliament.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to these successes, whether financially, as candidates or as volunteers in the campaigns. Everything you do is needed and appreciated.

Norman Lamb

The Regional Executive was saddened to hear that Sir Norman Lamb MP has announced his intention to retire at the next general election. Norman led the Lib Dem Group on Norwich City Council, before standing down to stand for Parliament in North Norfolk, which he won in 2001 at his third attempt, having slashed and ultimately overturning what had been a large Conservative majority. He has held the seat ever since. In the Coalition Government he served in several roles including Minister of State at the Department of Health. Since 2015 he has been our sole MP in the Region. His re-election in 2017 was a remarkable feat, which he followed by being elected Chair of the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee. Norman is admired by all for his tireless work on behalf of his constituents and his campaigning for causes such as mental health. He was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours for public and political service. Norman, thank you for your admirable service, and we wish you all the best.

This is my third year as Chair. I would like to thank everyone who serves on the Regional Executive and its Committees, helping to run the Party behind the scenes, including organising this Conference.

In addition to chairing the Regional Executive, I am ex officio on the English Council Executive, which runs the English State Party, and I have participated in its deliberations, which are mainly on administration. I supported the delegation of the disciplinary jurisdiction to the new complaints procedure which commenced on 1st July. I was vocal in calling upon the Party to invest in campaigning in our own right at grassroots level to influence public opinion in case of a Final Say referendum on Brexit.

The period since the referendum of 23 June 2016 has been exceptionally volatile. I believe the Regional Party has weathered the storms well and emerged in good shape. Thank you all for your help and support.

POSTSCRIPT

Since I wrote the above report the General Election of 12th December was called and this Conference was postponed.

In this region we contested 56 out of the 58 constituencies, standing down for the Greens in Bury St Edmunds and for the pro-Remain independent, Gavin Shuker (former Labour MP) in Luton South. The Regional Party was not permitted by HQ to run a campaign, but hired a temporary campaign organiser and made donations to individual campaigns. Thank you to all who helped in any way; to the candidates and their agents; and especially to the candidates and campaign teams who helped in more promising seats than your own.

We lost only six deposits, compared with 27 in 2017. Several seats achieved large increases in vote share. We ended up with one MP in the region, losing North Norfolk and gaining St Albans. Congratulations to Daisy Cooper MP for her stunning win. Commiserations to all who worked so hard but were defeated.

It was not the contest we wanted. We wanted a People's Vote, which we might have won. It has been an exhausting three and a half years since that terrible day of the Referendum. As I write, just a few hours are left before the UK leaves the EU. What do we do now? Conserve our strength and choose our next battle.

The Brexit door closes, another will open.

TREASURER'S REPORT TO CONFERENCE – SALLY SYMINGTON



The 2018 Statement of Accounts was signed and submitted in March 2019 and accepted by HQ's compliance department.

2018 FIGURES

The principal funding for the region arises from the service fee received from HQ for members within the region, based on a percentage of the membership fees received and shows a small increase on 2017.

However, membership numbers suffered during a reorganisation of the database at LDHQ and ended the year at 9372. This number recovered significantly during 2019 and now stands at around 11,000.

Activities in the region comprise administration and development support to local parties, the production of a quarterly newsletter (both via part-time employees) and the regional conference.

2020 BUDGET

As 2019 has been an unexpected Euro Election year, the budget was adapted and a high proportion of the Region's reserves were spent on the campaign.

The uptick in membership following successes in the local and Euro elections has boosted the service fee rebate from LDHQ and with the current low level of overheads, the reserves will be rebuilt quickly.

The 2020 budget envisages reserves returning to a sustainable level and leaves scope for greater investment in support for local party campaigning, training and admin support at regional level.

FINALLY

Thank you to the many volunteer treasurers in local parties and branches. The Electoral Commission reporting requirements are onerous and a big debt of gratitude goes to those who facilitate the smooth running of the finances and ensure the essential compliance required to avoid fines.

Conference is requested to

1. Receive the Treasurer's Report and 2018 accounts.
2. Delegate authority to the regional executive to appoint auditors to produce an independent report on the 2019 accounts.
3. Approve the 2020 outline budget (below).

	2020 Budget (£)	2019 YTD (Q3)
Income		
Donations & Appeals	10,000	38,968
Fundraising	2,500	2,624
Membership Rebate	60,000	44,515
Newsletter Income	15,000	0
Local party Euro-election contributions		22,648
Regional Conference	4,000	641
	91,500	109,396
Expenditure		
Candidates Committee	250	0
Campaigning costs	5,000	140,929
Charges and taxes	300	
Fundraising costs	2,000	1,932
Grants to local parties	10,000	11,880
Miscellaneous	2,000	11,228
Newsletter costs	12,000	5,584
Office & administration	1,000	319
Policy committee costs	50	0
Regional conference	5,000	0
Staff costs	10,000	13,666
Training costs	1,000	0
	48,600	185,538
Surplus / Deficit	42,900	-76,142

Find us on 

Keep in touch on Facebook by liking the East of England Facebook page at [Facebook.com/EastOfEnglandLibDems](https://www.facebook.com/EastOfEnglandLibDems).

Message us to join the private East of England Lib Dem campaigners group, or one the private county discussion groups.



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

Registered address: 8-10 Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AE. The responsible Officers for the purposes of the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 were Jo Hayes (Chair) and Tony Mason (Treasurer).

Membership on 31 December 2018: 9,372

Download a complete copy of the 2018 statement of accounts, including notes, at www.eastlibdems.org.uk/accounts18.

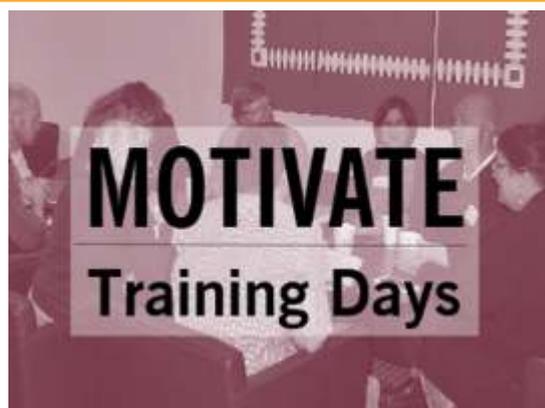
A limited number of paper copies are available at the registration desk.

Income & Expenditure Account

	2018	2017
Income		
Membership	48,868	41,985
Donations	8,471	6,122
Fundraising income	1,459	883
Investment income	35	15
Transfers in		578
Miscellaneous	23,868	21,147
	82,701	70,730
Expenditure		
Office costs	280	320
Staff costs	11,528	17,230
Transfers out		2,307
Campaigning costs	5,162	305
Fundraising costs	996	316
Financing charges	57	207
Miscellaneous	15,760	14,829
	33,783	35,514
Surplus	48,918	35,216

Balance Sheet

	2018	2017
Fixed assets		
	-	-
Current assets		
Cash in hand and at the bank	117,752	62,363
Debtors and prepayments		4,810
Total current assets	117,752	67,173
Liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	9,121	7,460
Loans	-	-
	9,121	7,460
Net assets	108,631	59,713
Reserves		
Accumulated fund as at start of the year	59,713	24,495
Surplus	48,918	35,218
Accumulated fund as at end of the year	108,631	59,713
Total reserves	108,631	59,713



SUNDAY 8 MARCH NEEDHAM MARKET, SUFFOLK

Suffolk Motivate takes place from 10am until 4pm on Sunday 8 March. Open to all members (not just those from Suffolk).

Learn campaign skills and meet other candidates and campaigners. Free event, £5 charge for lunch.

Book now at www.aldc.org/training

Members will be asked to endorse this consultation statement during the regional reports session at 11.10am.

Consultation carried out by the regional party, whether with other bodies, members or registered supporters of the Liberal Democrats, or with external groups, and whether generated by the regional party or in order to respond to consultation generated elsewhere, will follow the principles and guidance of the national and local compacts as far as is practicable, and in particular, will:

1. Explain clearly the purpose and scope of the consultation;
2. Ensure consultation is relevant and genuine;
3. Present information in an unbiased and truthful way and not to attempt to predetermine the response;

Campaigns Committee (Chair, Dan Norton)

We have had (at time of writing) three sets of elections in the region this year, representing the best run of performance for the Liberal Democrats since at least 2010.

In the local elections on May 2nd, Liberal Democrats won 251 seats on 20% of the vote, second to the Conservatives in the region. We took control of North Norfolk and Chelmsford councils, held Three Rivers and Watford and became the largest party in St Albans and Bedford, holding the mayoralty. The region provided grants for parties targeting gains and to support young candidates.

However, there were still too many areas where we did not stand candidates or seriously contest any wards. Developing these areas is a priority for the region next year.

In the European elections we pushed on even further! We won 23% of the vote, delivering two MEPs. We topped the poll in St Albans, Cambridge, South Cambs, Watford and North Hertfordshire.

With very little notice we managed to dovetail the European campaign in after the local elections, with a flying start leaflet ready to go from four hubs the weekend after polling day and expanding out over the following weeks.

4. Where consultation is carried out as part of the regional party's decision-making process, plan it into the process from the start;

5. While bearing in mind that some consultation may necessarily be hurried, wherever possible allow reasonable timescales for response, taking into account that bodies may need to consult members or stakeholders;

6. Ensure consultation is not directly or indirectly discriminatory, and make all reasonable efforts to obtain responses from minority and excluded or disadvantaged groups;

7. Provide accurate and balanced feedback to respondents, individually or collectively (such as by newsletter or website article);

8. Take due account of consultation responses in making relevant decisions.

We also had the parliamentary by-election in Peterborough. Beki Sellick came fourth with 12.3% of the vote, up from 3.3% in 2017.

At the time of writing we anticipate a general election. We have been working with HQ to identify target seats and to help non-target seats prepare for the campaign.

Candidates' Committee (Chair, Paul Clark)

2019 has been a busy year for candidate selection. We started the year in normal mode as quickly as we could with the very limited Returning Officer resources we have.

The first test came with the European election and the very tight timescale to run a selection process that gave members the opportunity to have a say. This was achieved with seven excellent candidates and resulted in two Liberal Democrats being elected as MEPs.

Next we had the Federal Party enacting the Snap Election protocol in August. At this stage we only had nine candidates selected. We were able to run three more fast selections but with the remaining ones I was tasked as Regional Candidates Chair with appointing candidates to these seats, which has been done.



COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

We also have the process of selecting Police and Crime Commissioner candidates for six police forces across the region. This is currently underway with Rupert Moss-Eccardt selected for Cambridgeshire.

Finally a very big thank you to the Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers for all the work they done. It is really appreciated. If you are interested in getting involved in the selection process please contact me (candidates@eastlibdems.org.uk) or Jon Whitehouse (jon.whitehouse@eastlibdems.org.uk) for more information.

Policy committee (Chair, Callum Robertson)

It has been a busy year for the Liberal Democrats, with record gains in both the

European and local elections. It is refreshing to see so many friends now sitting on councils implementing liberal policies in the East of England.

The work of the policy committee has been varied but we have mainly been signposting to policy working groups. The regional policy committee also submitted amendments to the climate change paper. These were sadly not taken on by the Federal Conference Committee.

We have also now got a very good working relationship with the Young Liberals who have been leading the way in passing young person related policies. We look forward to continuing that work.

ROOM PLAN (2ND FLOOR)

The main hall, registration desk, refreshments and lunch are on the ground floor. All other sessions are on the second floor, up the stairs or via the lift.

Room J210

Building your volunteer team (1015-1130)
Electing Daisy: How we won in St Albans (1200-1300)
Getting your message right (1445-1600)



Room J201

Planning to achieve Net Zero Carbon (1110-1200)
Local party officers briefing (1300-1330)
Introduction to being an agent part 2 (1445-1600)

Room J202

Introduction to being an agent part 1 (1015-1130)
Leaflets made easy with ALDC Artworker (1200-1300)
Using the new Lighthouse system (1445-1600)

Room J232

Fossil fuel divestment (1110-1200)
Campaigning on the environment (1300-1330)

Room J233

Infrastructure - Possible short-term actions (1110-1200)
Candidates' General Election debrief (1300-1330)

CONFERENCE TIMETABLE AT A GLANCE

Main Hall (Ground floor)

Breakout sessions (2nd floor)

Training (2nd floor)

Registration opens

0930

Welcome to Conference Parliamentary Reports

Daisy Cooper MP (House of Commons)
Don Foster (House of Lords)

1000

1015

Tackling the climate emergency Plenary discussion

Regional officers' reports
Jo Hayes (Chair)
Sally Symington (Treasurer)

1040

1110

Election campaigns briefing Looking ahead to May's election

1110-1200
1. Planning to achieve Net Zero Carbon J201
2. Fossil fuel divestment pension funds J232
3. Infrastructure – possible rapid short-term actions J233

1140

European Parliamentary report Barbara Gibson, Lucy Nethsingha

1200-1300
Electing Daisy: How we won in St Albans
with *Cllr Chris White in room J210*

1200

1230

LUNCH BREAK

1300

Keynote speech Ed Davey MP

1300-1330
1. Local party officers briefing in room J201
2. Candidates General Election debrief J233

1330

AFTERNOON BREAK

1430

Veterans and newbies panel discussion Dave Hodgson (Mayor of Bedford)

1445

1515

Tackling the climate emergency Policy motion

1015-1130
Introduction to being an agent, part 1
with *Jon Whitehouse in room J202*

Building your volunteer team
with *Zöe Franklin (ALDC) in room J210*

1200-1300
Leaflets made easy with ALDC Artworker
with *Zöe Franklin (ALDC) in room J202*

1300-1330
Campaigning on the environment
with *Cllr Graham Neale (Chair, Green Liberal Democrats) in room J232*

1445-1600
Introduction to being an agent, part 2
with *Jon Whitehouse in room J201*
Getting your message right
with *Zöe Franklin (ALDC) in room J210*
Using the new Lighthouse system
with *Greg Foster (Membership team) in room J202*

1600

Conference closes. Safe journey home.

