



Lorraine Flawn
Manifesto

Regional Executive
Elections 2025

The Regional Executive provides the essential linkage between the Party in England and Local Parties, (LPs) It facilitates clear paths of communication between Local Party members and activists, and the policies and people seeking to represent them, which is vital to the proper functioning of the Liberal Democrat Party and to democracy itself.

I was initially asked to join the Regional Executive as secretary after the post became vacant back in 2017 It was a steep learning curve, but well worthwhile. I went on to serve 2 more terms as secretary and learned a great deal about how the party is organised, its strengths and weaknesses and how and where I might put my skills to further use. During this period, I was also heavily involved in organising the annual regional AGM and conference which provided me with further insight into how the Region and Local Parties interacted and operated.

In my second term I realised that with a General Election looming, it was critical that we had PPCs in place across the region enabling them and their Local Parties to mount more effective campaigns and allowing as much opportunity as possible for the candidates to connect with their electorate, understand their issues and gain credibility. I completed the relevant party training to enable me to act as both a Returning Officer and e-ballot administrator and was able to gain some experience in both these roles while still secretary; initially shadowing more experienced ROs and then taking on these roles in my own right.

The Acting RCC having accepted the role on a temporary basis only, I realised I was now in a strong position to undertake it, with experience on the ground of selections and my growing knowledge of the Region and English party procedure requirements. Once elected, persuading Local Parties to start their selection processes was a big task. It became clear that many LPs had a potential candidate in mind, but often as yet not approved. I therefore had to work closely with HQ's Candidates Officer if I was to ensure that the LPs were able to field their preferred candidate. Because of the threatened early election, I became responsible for appointing candidates to a significant proportion of our constituencies. However, the good working relationship I had created with HQ enabled me to ensure all of the most serious contenders were fast-tracked through the approvals process. In general, I believe I gained the trust of HQ and LPs alike in the knowledge that I had a clear plan to complete the task of selecting or appointing 61 PPCs with approved candidates chosen by or at least acceptable to the LPs. Which I did – with just days to spare.

I am really to start the appointment of PPCs across the Region giving them the responsibility as well as the opportunity to campaign and get name recognition before the next election. I see encouraging Young Liberals and ethnic minorities on board as vital to ensuring their views and aspirations are heard and taken seriously and critical to growing our core LD vote and appealing to a wide section of society. We must look to increase our position, which means growing our resource and support manpower. I believe that candidates that clearly appeal to our younger generation and increasingly diverse communities will prove central to this.

Endorsements

I've worked with Lori on regional exec and conference for 3 years. She is one of the hardest working and committed Liberal Democrats I've met. She has consistently been an ally of the Young Liberals and done an excellent job at finding a diverse range of candidates, in a short time span, for the General Election. The membership would be silly not to let her continue this incredible work.' (*Will Tennison Membership Development Officer Federal Young Liberals*)

I would like to take this opportunity to endorse Lorraine Flawn as the regional party executive member and Regional Candidates Chair. As the new Leader of the Opposition and Libdem Group in Luton I was relieved that I had someone in regional who understood the reality on the ground and was supportive rather than imposing. (*Amjid Ali Leader of the Opposition, Luton Libdem Group.*)