EAST OF ENGLAND LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2026



31ST OCTOBER 2026

10AM - 4PM

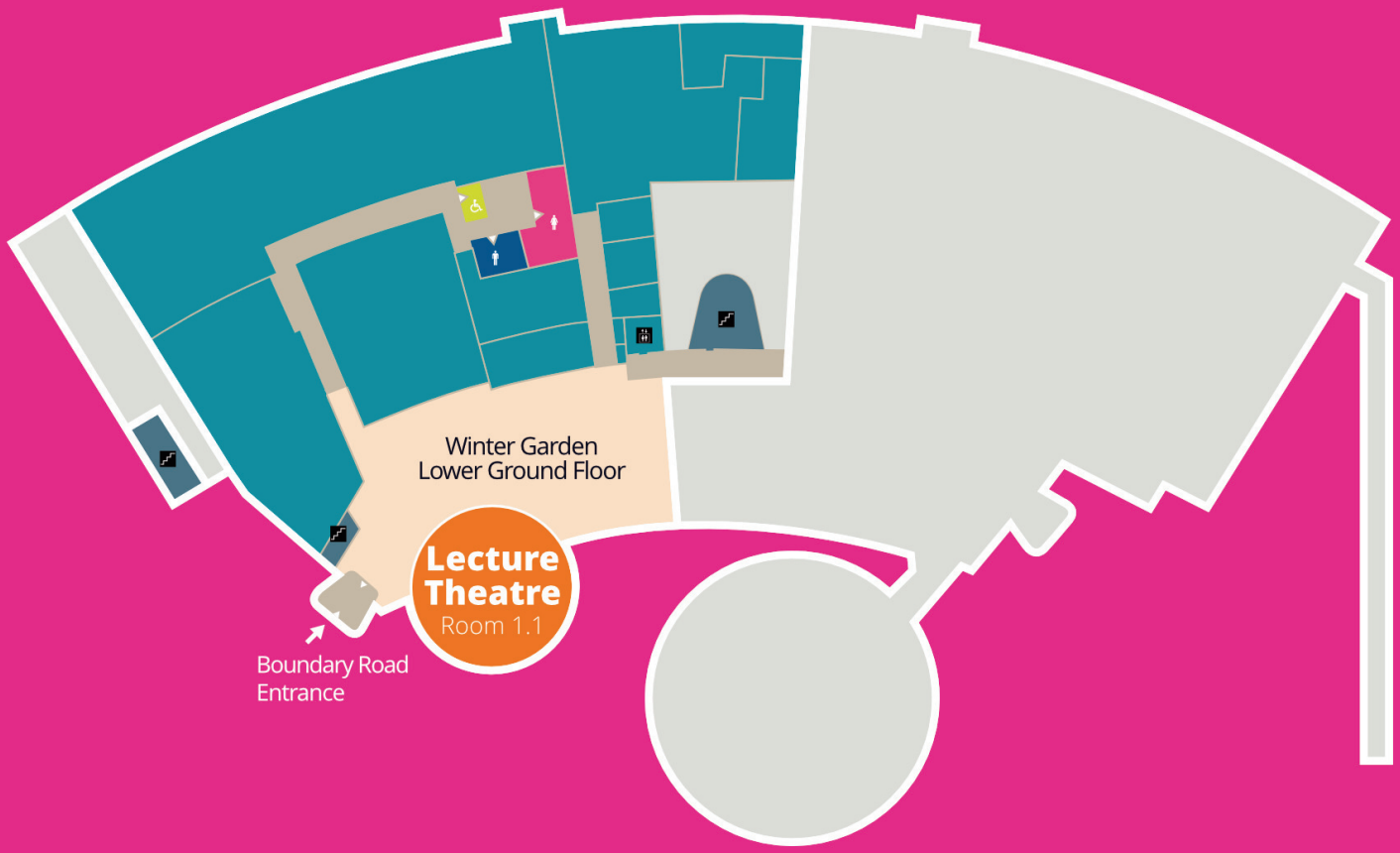
ESSEX BUSINESS SCHOOL

WIVENHOE PARK, COLCHESTER, CO4 3SQ

GROUND FLOOR



LOWER GROUND FLOOR



WELCOME TO THE EAST OF ENGLAND LIBERAL DEMOCRATS CONFERENCE 2025

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Constitutional Amendments can be found in the supplement



WELCOME TO CONFERENCE



JACQUI MORLEY

Regional Vice-Chair and
Chair of Conference Committee

I am very happy to welcome you to this year's Regional Conference and AGM – coming back to Essex Business School after a very successful conference with the support of the Event Essex team.

As I said last year, our annual conference is always a highlight of the regional calendar: a chance to come together, share ideas, and reflect on the commitment and teamwork that drive our region forward. This year's programme is packed with engaging speakers, lively debates, and interactive fringe sessions that promise to inspire and challenge in equal measure.

You'll also find a great range of training sessions from ALDC, the Compliance Department, and our Campaigns Team, offering practical skills and insights to strengthen your local work.

There will be opportunities throughout the day to consult with committee chairs and compliance staff for tailored advice on local issues, so do take advantage of their expertise. And please don't miss the chance to visit the stalls where you'll find useful resources and representatives on hand to answer questions.

We are also at the time when we elect our new regional executive for 2027-2028 so, if you plan to stand, please make sure that you have submitted your forms by the deadline of 2pm today!

Whether this is your first conference or your fifteenth, I hope you'll take full advantage of everything on offer, connect with friends old and new, and leave feeling inspired for the year ahead.

Jacqui





WELCOME TO ESSEX!

MARIE GOLDMAN MP

MP for Chelmsford

Thank you for making the time to make it to Essex Business School today!

I hope you enjoy today's programme of training, discussion and networking and as always, I look forward to meeting members from across the region and hearing how Liberal Democrats councillors and campaigners are delivering for resident in Essex, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Suffolk and Norfolk.

In Parliament, I am fortunate to have been a Vice-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the East of England, which has given me insights into many of the great things happening across our region, many of them as a result of Lib Dem efforts.

I am hopeful that 2027 can be a year where even more Lib Dems will be elected to enact change for as many of our communities

Marie

WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO AS MP FOR CHELMSFORD

I've no idea where the last year has gone! It's been incredibly busy both in Westminster and Chelmsford.

In Parliament, we've had so many issues come up, with some unpleasant and deeply unpopular choices by the Labour Government, but also some fabulous Lib Dem wins. These included the government's adoption of my wonderful colleague, Max Wilkinson MP's Sunshine Bill, putting solar panels on the top of every newbuild home from 2028. It also included a historic vote in favour of the excellent Al Pinkerton's Ten-Minute Rule Bill to create a UK-EU Customs Union, narrowly passed by a majority of one vote!

Of course, this latter is symbolic only, but it shows that we're leading the conversation on lots of topics, even if the media refuses to give us credit for it.

But let's not forget that our new Prime Minister has already indicated he is adopting Liberal Democrat positions on lots of other issues.

Back in Chelmsford, I continue to fight for better health services, and for more support for our beleaguered small businesses, especially in the hospitality sector.

And of course, I am proud to continue my work as the party's Women & Equalities Spokesperson – a huge privilege that is both rewarding and challenging.

KEY INFORMATION

ACCESSIBILITY

All spaces in the Business School are accessible for wheelchairs and there is a hearing loop available in each of the rooms in use.

If you need any assistance, please ask the front desk or a member of the Conference team and we would be more than happy to help.

Main Space
There is a ramp down the left side of the main auditorium and space for wheelchairs near the front.

ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

We will be following the Federal Conference Committee's policy on Assistance and Emotional Support animals, which can be found at **www.libdems.org.uk/conference/animalspolicy**.

Please email contact@eastlibdems.org.uk for any further information.

FIRST AID

Please head to the main desk or speak to a member of the Conference team if you are in need of First Aid or other medical attention during the event..

REFRESHMENTS

Lunch is provided as part of your ticket price - please advise us of any dietary requirements when purchasing your ticket or email contact@eastlibdems.org.uk.

There will be a refreshment break in the mid-morning and mid-afternoon with tea, coffee, juice and biscuits. Outside these times, water will be available at a number of points around the venue. Please bring a refillable water bottle if possible to help us reduce energy waste.

DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE

Unauthorised distribution of literature is not allowed inside or directly outside the conference venue. Any persons attempting to bring a large number of flyers/literature into the venue may be prohibited from entering and a dilapidation charge will be levied against any organisation or individual responsible for 'fly-posting'.

MORE ABOUT OUR VENUE



Essex Business School

Essex Business School is the UK's first carbon neutral business school! The central garden and living roof acts as a temperature buffer and is an important part of the building's ventilation and heating system. The building also faces south to maximise energy generated by the solar panels on the roof.

The University of Essex

Opening in 1964 as one of the 'Plate Glass' Universities (a group of 7 universities given their charter in the 1960s), it is now a UK Top 25 University, with strong teaching and research credentials and a renowned Department of Government.

The University sits in Wivenhoe Park, a nature park covering 220 acres. The park was painted by John Constable in 1816 and is the only university campus in the UK with a Green Flag award.

INTERNET ACCESS

Free Wi-Fi is available at the venue - just select the EssexGuest network and register with your name and email address. No password is required.

Alternatively, if you are student or member of staff at a university which uses EduRoam, you should connect automatically to the University's internal WiFi.

QUIET ROOM

A number of quiet rooms are available for those needing a quiet space or for prayer, meditation, to express milk or to feed your baby in a more private area.

These can be found on the third floor of the building and are sign-posted at the top of the stairs and lift.

Please be respectful of others using these rooms.

CHAIR'S REPORT



CHRIS WHITE OBE

Regional Chair

2026 has been a year of upheaval across the East of England. In May, voters in Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk went to the polls in county council elections postponed from 2025, and the results redrew the political map. Reform UK swept to control in Essex and Suffolk and became the largest party in Norfolk, while Labour endured one of its most difficult nights in the region, losing Cambridge City Council.

Amid that turbulence, Liberal Democrats held firm. In Norfolk we returned 13 county councillors, the second-largest group, and took seven of the ten seats in North Norfolk. In South Cambridgeshire we won 43 of 45 seats, an emphatic endorsement of Liberal Democrat leadership.

In Huntingdonshire we broke new ground, doubling our 2022 result to elect 20 councillors and securing strong results in parts of the district where we had previously had little presence.

In Watford, we had a clean sweep of seats up for election and saw Peter Taylor re-elected (again!) as mayor. Meanwhile in St Albans the Green Party was pushed back in an energetic campaign of door-knocking.

Those results build on 2025, when we took control of Cambridgeshire County Council and took the leadership of Hertfordshire County Council.



All change?

The ground beneath local government is shifting too. In September the government withdrew its decisions to break up Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk into new unitary councils, and put its plan for four unitaries in Hertfordshire under review – a plan the Liberal Democrat-led county council had challenged as the most expensive and disruptive option. Next May's elections will now go ahead for district councils on existing boundaries.

But there is further uncertainty in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough while Hertfordshire waits to hear whether there will be a Mayor of Hertfordshire or some larger area. Bedfordshire's mayoral future is also unclear although there will in any case be an election for the Mayor of Bedford in May, which we narrowly lost last time (under a less democratic election system).

Getting our own house in order

A party that asks to run councils must be well run itself. That is why this conference marks an important step for the regional party. We are modernising our constitution so that it is clearer, more democratic and fit for the way we campaign today, giving local parties a stronger direct voice.

Alongside that, we are bringing our financial management practices up to date, with clearer budgeting, stronger oversight and greater transparency for members about how their money is raised and spent.

These changes will make us more effective, more accountable and better prepared for the campaigns ahead.

Looking forward

The changes in Federal and English Party rules means that we are already much further on in terms of parliamentary selections than we were at the same point in the last parliament.

As a result we can welcome Matt Sanders as the parliamentary candidate for South West Herts, Cheney Payne as parliamentary candidate for Cambridge and Peter Taylor as parliamentary candidate for Watford as well as increasing numbers elsewhere across the Region (including re-selected MPs!).

And we are reminded that changes in local government don't only happen in May, with the autumn seeing the first Liberal Democrat-led administration in Luton.

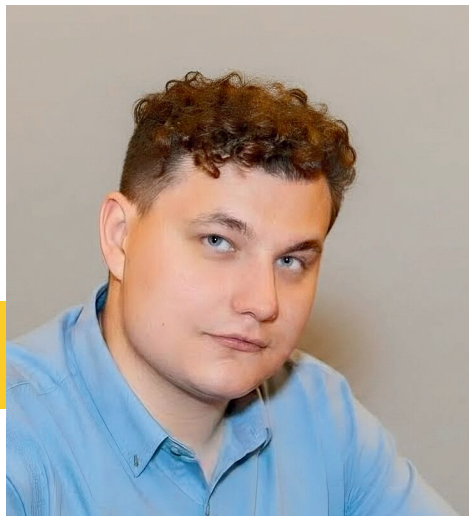
Clearly, given all this progress, and as Reform UK and the former environmentalist Green Party falter, we need to be ambitious.

But that also means knocking on more doors and producing (and delivering) more and better leaflets!

Chris



TREASURER'S REPORT



JAKUB MAKOWSKI

Regional Treasurer

The region's accounts were submitted to the Electoral Commission in July 2026, as this was past the deadline set out by the Electoral Commission they were accompanied by a letter of explanation.

After the submission of accounts and the resignation of the sitting Treasurer, I was appointed by the Regional Executive as the new Regional Treasurer on 17th July 2026.

2025 Accounts

The total income for the region for the year ending 31st December 2025 was £106,690.93, an increase from £92,151.89 which was the total income for the region for the year ending 31st December 2024.

The membership rebate continues to be the largest source of income for the region and amounted to £56,907.26 in 2025. Donations increased significantly to £5,247.60 in 2025.

The total expenditure for the region for the year ending 31st December 2025 was £128,800.02. The main expenditure cost is the regional campaign staff and in 2025 it amounted to £47,964.14. The regional campaign staff continues to be fifty percent funded by the federal party with cost to the region capped at £50,000. Office and admin costs, which included the costs of some additional temporary staff amount to £14,021.25.



2026

This year the region has continued to invest some of its resources into additional staff for the first half of the year. From the second half of the year the region has rationalised the staffing cost to simplify operations and has supported Local Parties which wanted to retain additional support. Fundraising continues to be a focus for the region with new events being rolled out, such as the Fundraising Dinner at the party conference in Brighton.

Following a thorough review the Regional Party has focused significantly on recovering funds owed to the region as well as settling any outstanding invoices this year to put the region in the strongest possible position by the end of the year.

Outline budget for 2027

In 2027 the region will continue to focus on streamlining the financial operation by looking to modernise and automate the way we do bookkeeping, invoicing and reporting to ensure we can get into a strong financial position to support our elected representatives across the region and ensure a high level of compliance with all requirements.

We will continue to increase our fundraising efforts with a diversified strategy that will cover events, digital, and conference based fundraising. Consequently, the budget outline for 2027 will take those objectives into account. Additionally, given the Government's lack of firm direction with local government reorganisation, we need to ensure that as a region we retain
a level of agility and flexibility to support Local Parties which the budget outline also takes into consideration.

Conference is requested to:
1. Receive the Treasurer's report and 2025 accounts;
2. Approve the 2027 outline budget;
3. Appoint an independent examiner

Jakub

PROPOSED BUDGET OUTLINE FOR 2027

Income:

Projected income Item 2027			**2026 Budget**
Membership Rebate	£57,000		£50,000
Donations and Appeals	£4,000		£2,000
Fundraising	£6,000		£4,000
Regional Newsletter	£7,000		£7,000
Regional Conference	£6,000		£5,000
English Party	£12,000		£12,000
Miscellaneous	£500		£0
Total	**£92,500**		**£80,000**

Expenditure:

Projected expenditure Item 2027			**2026 Budget**
Staff Costs	£50,000		£50,000
Development Committee	-		£1,500
Policy Committee	-		£500
Campaigns	£4,500		£1,500
Fundraising Costs	£1,000		£500
Grants to LPs	£1,000		£500
Newsletter Costs	£9,000		£7,000
Admin Costs	£1,500		£1,000
Regional Conference	£5,000		£7,000
Miscellaneous	£1,000		£500
Total	**£73,000**		**£70,000**

Net total surplus	**£19,500**		**£10,000**



The Lib Dem Campaign Shop

Liberal Democrats
CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS

The Liberal Democrats Campaigns Team have partnered with printers Election Workshop to allow you to order 100% national content leaflets.

These leaflets are generic - on different campaign themes. They are designed to be a useful addition on top of your local literature.

Because they are 100% national, they do not have to be declared on election expense returns if delivered during local elections.



www.LibDems.org.uk/Shop

The Campaign Hub

Liberal Democrats
CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS

Drop in literature

The Campaigns and Elections team regularly produce 'drop in' articles for you to localise, all designed to easily slot into the templates throughout this plan.

These are often based on national press releases, and are accompanied by data that allows you to localise the story.

Recent examples include drop ins on tackling shoplifting, our GP Guarantee, and our plan to Keep Britain Moving.

You can find the drop ins at:
LibDems.org.uk/Packs

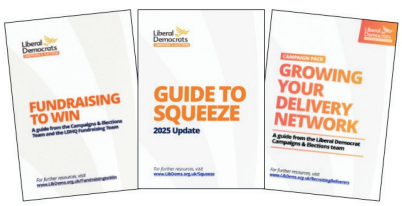


Guidance Packs

The team also regularly produce guidance and manuals packed full of best practice, practical tips, and expert advice - from member recruitment to fundraising.

These packs are regularly updated, and on a wide range of topics. If there is something you think would be useful, please get in touch on campaigners@libdems.org.uk.

You can find these at:
LibDems.org.uk/Guidance-Manuals



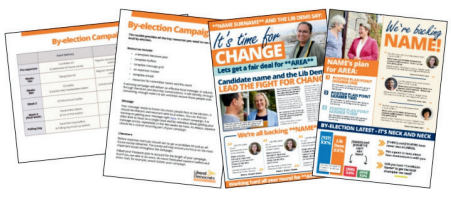
By-Election Pack

The team have also produced a comprehensive pack of materials to help you run a large-scale winning by-election, all in one place.

The pack includes:

- A template literature plan, leaflets & message grid
- Expenses Tracker
- Resources for polling day & the count

You can find the pack on the Hub at:
LibDems.org.uk/ByElectionCampaignKit



If you haven't signed up for the Campaign Hub yet, join for free at:

www.LibDems.org.uk/Access

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Please note that, due to the pending constitutional amendments, only the Candidates and Local Parties and Council Group Committees have submitted reports to Conference.

CANDIDATES COMMITTEE

Chair: ***Lori Flawn***



- As your Regional Candidates Chair, it's my responsibility to work with you to select PPCs across our region. There is a draft timetable for selections which I encourage Local Party executives check so we can get candidates selected in good order.
- I am delighted to be able to confirm that all 7 of our MPs have been duly reselected to stand as Liberal Democrat candidates at the next general election whenever one is called. We have been making decent progress in respect of other constituencies too. However, this is against the background of ramping up capacity as well as speeding up the process back at HQ.
- The candidates office is now much better resourced under the leadership of Claire Halliwell, a seasoned LibDem who has been involved in all aspects of candidature, including fighting an election. Training new members is progressing. Candidates office are now able to take much of the pressure off selection procedures through the judicious use of pre-constructed templates for advertising selections and formulating timetables and will provide support throughout as necessary.
- We have a testing timetable ahead and we are looking to select at pace; who knows when the next GE may be called? The combination of the electronic hustings and e-balloting system now means that geography is no hindrance and (A)ROs can operate across the country from their own home and at their own convenience. And with the support now available from HQ, any stress has largely been removed, though the tasks remain both important & rewarding. Do consider signing up for E-ballot or ARO training. Help get your constituency's next candidate selected soon!

LOCAL PARTIES AND COUNCIL GROUPS COMMITTEE

Chair: ***Jacqui Morley***



The Local Parties and Council Groups Committee helps ensure that every Local Party operates in line with both the English Party Constitution and its own constitution. We review and approve any new or amended Local Party constitutions to make sure they meet Party rules. The Committee also recognises Council Groups under the constitution and, in certain circumstances, helps resolve issues within them.

Much of our work involves reviewing Council Group standing orders to ensure they comply with the constitution, as well as the constitutions and AGM minutes of Local Parties each year. Over the past year, we've provided guidance on councillor group standing orders and supported Local Parties through boundary changes across Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, as well as providing advice and support to local party Executives.

If you'd like advice or support on any Local Party or Council Group matters, or want to learn more about the Committee's work, please feel free to contact me at Jacqueline.morley4@gmail.com.





PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS



DAISY COOPER

St Albans

Deputy Leader and Spokesperson for the Treasury

A year of action, from St Albans to Westminster

What a year it's been. As Liberal Democrat Treasury Spokesperson, I used my Autumn Conference speech to unveil my plan to Get Britain Growing Again, shaped by thousands of conversations with businesses across the country, including across the East of England.

At its heart is a simple ambition: get our economy moving and back British business. We Liberal Democrats are calling for a new growth and defence partnership with Europe, while tearing down barriers to investment, innovation and skills and making sure Britain becomes the best place in the world for start-ups to scale up and stay.

Closer to home, I promised to take St Albans' priorities to Parliament, from the cost of living and doing business to health, care and our environment. And over the past year or so, we've already seen results.

Outdated Treasury rules threatening city-centre GP practices have been changed, recognising the importance of health services on the high street. New guidance means summer-born children with SEND will no longer be forced to miss a year of education when moving schools.

I've secured progress elsewhere too. The planning fees cap that has left St Albans taxpayers subsidising major developers by millions is due to be scrapped. And following years of my campaigning, the Government has consulted on changing the rule that can time out sexual-assault complaints against NHS medical professionals.

I'm delighted to see my long-running campaigns bearing fruit. I'm determined to keep delivering for St Albans while championing our interests nationally. Bring on the next year.

CHARLOTTE CANE

Ely and East Cambridgeshire



I'm very proud to represent the people of Ely and East Cambridgeshire, standing up for local issues in Parliament and engaging with residents across the constituency. In the past 12 months, I've closed over 11,600 pieces of casework, held 33 advice surgeries, visited a whole range of schools and businesses, and attended engagements and events across the constituency.

In Parliament, I've led a debate on the vital improvements to Ely rail junction and given speeches in debates on access to NHS dentistry, local government reorganisation, support for pubs, social housing, mobile connectivity, and much more. Alongside Cambridgeshire Lib Dem colleagues, I've also presented a petition to Downing Street calling on the Government to save at-risk beds at the Arthur Rank Hospice. I've been continually pressing Ministers via Parliamentary questions and letters on all these issues, as well as on energy costs, water resource resilience, support for farmers, and improving rail services. I'm currently running a petition to urge the Government to fix Cambridgeshire's soil-affected roads.

I'm pleased to have made progress on some local issues, including: reinstating a cancelled Greater Anglia train service, the early closure of the problematic Grunty Fen landfill site, and supporting a local GP in their application to become a Commercial Research Delivery Centre. Other recent local issues I've been working on include: the 'Forest City' proposals, battery storage sites, broadband connectivity in Wicken and Openreach and the proposed relocation of Waterbeach station.

IAN SOLLOM

St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

Spokesperson for Universities and Skills



While Westminster focuses on a new Prime Minister, I've stayed focused on standing up for the people of St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire, alongside my university and skills brief.

In August, our brilliant team delivered a stunning by-election win over Reform in Eynesbury, St Neots, showing what Liberal Democrats can achieve when we work hard for our communities. This summer I took our community-first approach on the road, with pop-up surgeries and visits to local businesses, charities, community groups and farmers discussing water management.

Back in Westminster, climate remains a priority. After attending the Emergency Climate Briefing, I've joined calls for it to be shown on national television. I'm continuing work to ensure our growing communities are supported with suitable local health provision, and I'm fighting for fair funding for education and policing across Cambridgeshire.

Still with fairness as a theme, I'm challenging the failing Child Maintenance Service and pushing the government to make disability support fair for working adults.

VICTORIA COLLINS

Harpenden and Berkhamsted

Spokesperson for Science, Innovation and Technology



Over the past year and as Lib Dem Spokesperson for Science, Innovation and Technology, I have led the Everyday AI project, bringing together more than 100 voices from business, charities, think tanks and academia. The result was A Liberal Vision for AI: 20 calls for government to back British innovation, build trust and fix our infrastructure. I have since called for an international AI safety agency and treaty.

AI could be the biggest boost to British jobs or strip them back. It will change the way we work and the skills we need.

Without action, though, the gains flow to a few and three jobs become one. In my session today, I will set out how we seize the opportunity and share it fairly, from a £10,000 Lifelong Training Grant to skills tax credits for employers. Come along to hear how Britain can get the best from AI, and avoid the worst.

STEFF AQUARONE

North Norfolk



My work this year has focused on getting North Norfolk's needs
taken seriously: accessible healthcare, reliable transport and the basic infrastructure our communities depend on. Alongside supporting individual constituents, I have challenged the national decisions that make life harder in rural and coastal areas. This report brings together progress so far and the campaigns I am continuing to pursue.

Supporting constituents

My office has recorded nearly 19,000 case closures since the election. Behind that workload are people seeking help with everything from access to justice or healthcare, to people wishing to share their views or ask about my position on certain policies. Some cases require sustained work across several organisations, particularly where health and care services fail to join up. I have continued supporting families seeking appropriate treatment and care closer to home, and pressing those responsible for answers when people fall between services. Demand remains high, and maintaining our level of response to constituents is a continuing priority.

Healthcare that reflects coastal life

I have continued campaigning for fair access to healthcare, including NHS dentistry and women's health services, and pressing the case for a dental school at the University of East Anglia. My parliamentary questions in July sought government support for an Urgent Treatment Centre in North Norfolk and answers about ministerial engagement with coastal health inequalities. Services must take account of travel distances, limited public transport and the needs of our older population.

Benjamin Court remains a focus of my engagement with local NHS leaders. In August, discussions with Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust covered proposals for neighbourhood mental health provision and gaps affecting people with substantial needs. I am seeking clarity about what will be happening locally. Through my work on social care, I have also argued that unpaid carers' experience must shape reform.

Better buses and reliable mobile coverage

I have worked to secure a new and improved Stalham bus service and am developing the case for rural transport hubs, including a possible pilot. In Parliament in June, I challenged ministers on the connection between poor transport, youth unemployment and young people leaving North Norfolk to find opportunities elsewhere. A useful bus network needs to support everyday journeys between our towns and villages as well as travel into Norwich.

During summer visits to coastal and Broads villages, I experienced repeated hour-long periods without a Vodafone signal. I've challenged VodafoneThree's general assurances and sought a constituency visit with representatives able to explain when and where improvements will happen. My work on mobile coverage and broadband is about dependable connections for residents and businesses, with clear answers on delivery.

Protecting our coast and rural economy

In Parliament in July, I called for a "Coast Re" scheme to provide insurance support for households threatened by coastal erosion. I also raised the threats facing Trimingham and Happisburgh in June's climate debate. Communities facing the loss of homes need a credible national response alongside the work being done locally through Coastwise. I have continued work on sewage pollution and water infrastructure, challenging the adequacy of regulation, investment and resilience. My engagement on the rural economy has also covered the pressures on hospitality businesses, whose seasonal income makes rising employment costs and business rates particularly difficult to absorb. In June, I pressed ministers on planning rules for on-farm reservoirs, which can support farming while helping manage water.

Schools and local services

I have pursued the Department for Education over rural schools and falling pupil numbers, including how catchment areas and school transport influence decisions. I have supported the case for a new primary school in Holt. My work on special educational needs and disabilities has focused on whether Norfolk has enough suitable local provision and the resources to support children properly. Local services and the public spaces people rely on also remain part of my work. Issues pursued this year in partnership with local councillors include the future of Hoveton Riverside Park and its facilities, road safety and access, and Post Office provision around Saxthorpe and Corpusty – and much more. At HMP Bure, my engagement has focused on education, meaningful activity and rehabilitation. These are different issues, but each requires persistent attention to the people affected and the organisations able to act.

Parliamentary leadership and reform

As Chair of the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Party for the year ending August, I worked with colleagues to make better use of the experience our MPs bring to Parliament. I helped lead four sessions on effective opposition, a coherent liberal voice, building a political movement and becoming a modern parliamentary force. The skills audit and work bringing together MPs' and peers' capabilities provide a basis for more effective collaboration. I am also contributing a chapter on Rewiring Westminster to a book being developed with parliamentary colleagues. It examines how Parliament's processes and institutional culture can make good performance unnecessarily difficult, and what needs to change. Through my podcast, Politics Unchained, I have continued opening up wider conversations about politics and how decisions are made

.

Priorities for the rest of 2026

My priorities are to pursue concrete commitments on mobile coverage and rural transport, press for accessible local health services, and keep challenging the gaps in support for coastal communities. Within the office, the focus remains on managing demand and following cases through. I am grateful to the residents, community groups and volunteers who share their experience and help turn local concerns into sustained action.

AGENDA

	Main auditorium (room 2.2)	*Training sessions and fringe*
10:00	**Welcome to Conference** **Introductory Speech** Marie Goldman MP	
10:20	**What do Liberal Democrats stand for?** The ideas behind our policies	*10:20–11:05 (45 minutes)* 1. Local party officer training 2. A Discussion in International Relations *Federal International Relations Committee*
11:05	**BREAK**	
11:30	**Regional reports** Chris White (Chair) Jakub Makowski (Treasurer)	
11:45	**Constitutional amendments** Proposer: Jacqui Morley Seconder: Chris White	
12:00	**Is Net Zero too toxic to deliver? The Lib Dem response** Pippa Heylings MP	
12:30	**AI and the future of employment** Victoria Collins MP + panel	*12:30–13:15 (45 minutes)* 1. Beating Reform in the East of England *Stephen Lambert, East of England Campaigns Manager* 2. ALDC training session *Richard Cole, Head of Development ALDC*
13:15	**LUNCH –** *served in the foyer*	
13.30	***Lunchtime Fringes*** Talk diversity with our Vice-President *Victoria Collins MP* ALDC Fringe *Richard Cole, Head of Development ALDC*	
14:15	**Speech** Peter Taylor (Mayor of Watford)	*14:15–15:00 (45 minutes)* Taking better photos *Stephen Lambert, East of England Campaigns Manager*
14:30	**Parliamentary report** Steff Aquarone MP, Charlotte Cane MP, Pippa Heylings MP	
14:50	**Young Liberals Update** Mackenzie Gregory	
15:00	**How are we doing** Richard Cole (ALDC)	*15:00–16:00 (60 minutes)* Youth-proof your local party (Young Liberals)
15:20	**2027 and beyond** Sam Oliver (Campaigns)	
16:00	**CLOSE OF CONFERENCE**	



ASK THE EXPERTS

There will be opportunities to speak to the Regional Officers, Chairs of Regional Committees, as well as the Regional and Federal Campaigns Staff.

LUNCHTIME FRINGES - 1.30PM TO 2.15PM

During lunch, there will be a number of fringes hosted by some of our guests so that you can take the opportunity to discuss elements of their work or learn more about what they do.

Sessions will be hosted by:

- **Victoria Collins**
- **Richard Cole**

We ask that you don't take food into these sessions to help keep the venue tidy.

TRAINING

A variety of training is on offer, including:

- Youth Proof Your Local Party **with the Young Liberals**
- Beating Reform in the East of England **with the Campaigns Department**
- Local Party Officer Training
- A Selection of ALDC Training **with Richard Cole**
- Taking Better Photos **with Stephen Lambert**

Further details can be found in the supplement.

EXHIBITION

Just off the main foyer, you will find the exhibition where you can take some time to find out more about the work of some of our associated organisations



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2025-27 UPDATE

CORE OBJECTIVES

The plan's core objectives are to:

- grow membership by 10% on 2025 figures by December 2026
- raise member retention to 95%
- refresh the strategic co-ordinating committees for the new electoral landscape
- give each committee, and the Bedfordshire parties, targets for membership recruitment for 2026–27
- have candidates in all Advanced and Moving Forward seats by the end of 2026

WHERE WE ARE

Parliamentary selections are on an ambitious programme agreed with the Federal Party, with some considerable progress, especially in key seats.

Membership and retention are due to be checked at the end of the year but it is still clear that most local parties make no contact with members or supporters in any one year, even those who have indicated on the Federal Party's website that they wish to be candidates.

Co-ordinating Committees in areas where local government reorganisation has been announced have been contacted, and issues in HC3 are being resolved. Further issues still need addressing in Suffolk and mayoral work is on hold since those elections were deferred.

A new online forum for chairs and treasurers of local parties has been launched

There still needs to be

- a campaign conference on taking on the Greens and Reform, building in the training delivered at Federal Conference
- a votes-at-16 plan from the Young Liberals.



Welcome to the Historic City of Colchester



Named Britain's first city or 'Colonia' by order of the Roman Emperor Claudius, and before that the capital of the Iron Age Trinovantes Tribe, Colchester's rich history stretches back more than 2000 years.

Today the historic city centre is ripe for exploring, with nationally important heritage from every era and so much more to discover. Visitors will find a lively destination where the ancient merges seamlessly with the modern; offering family friendly visitor attractions, cutting edge contemporary culture, and great places to eat, drink and shop.

Beyond the city's Roman Walls the wider Colchester area boasts some of England's most iconic landscapes; from the Dedham Vale immortalised by Constable to the salt marshes and mud flats of Mersea Island, where Colchester Native Oysters have been cultivated and consumed since Roman times.

Under an hour from London yet perfectly poised at the gateway to East Anglia, with picturesque villages on its doorstep and only minutes from idyllic coast and countryside, Colchester is the perfect destination for a well-deserved short break, day trip or family holiday

We look forward to welcoming you to Colchester - Britain's First City.

VISIT COLCHESTER
Britain's First City

www.visitcolchester.com

HELP US KEEP WINNING!



Reform UK and their multi-millionare donors are a huge threat, spending on a level we've never seen before so they can break our democracy and turn the UK into Trump's America.

WE CAN BEAT THEM - BUT ONLY WITH YOUR HELP

DONATE TO OUR BY-ELECTION FIGHTING FUND SO OUR TEAMS CAN BE READY TO FIGHT AND WIN ACROSS THE EAST OF ENGLAND.

Just £10 could help pay for a starter pack of materials to get a local byelection going

WWW.EASTLIBDEMS.ORG.UK/DONATE/BEFF

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