

**Welcome to conference!**

Main sessions and lunch take place on the ground floor. Training and breakout sessions take place on the ground and first floor accessible by stairs and the lift.

No password is required to use the WiFi network

Conference standing orders are available at [eastlibdems.org.uk/standing-orders](http://eastlibdems.org.uk/standing-orders)

## 0930 Doors open

The on-the-day registration charge is £38. You can pay online at [www.eastlibdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.eastlibdems.org.uk/conference) (select the Register now button).

## 1000 Welcome to conference

**Victor Scrivens (Chair of Conference Committee)**

**Cllr Paul de Koort (Leader St Albans City and District Council)**

The Liberal Democrats have majority control of St Albans City and District Council and two Liberal Democrat MPs representing parts of the district: Daisy Cooper (St Albans) and Victoria Collins (Harpenden).

*Training sessions run alongside the main programme from 1015–1130*

## Regional Officers' reports

**Lucy Nethsingha (Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats)**

**John Shreeve (Treasurer, East of England Liberal Democrats)**

Lucy Nethsingha will report to members on the activities of the regional party and regional executive. John Shreeve will report on financial affairs. Members will be asked to vote to receive these reports and the 2023 accounts.

# Regional Chair's report

## **Well what a year it's been!!**

This will be my last report as Chair of the East of England Region, as my term of office will come to an end in January, and I am so incredibly proud of the transformation in the party's fortunes from the year in which I started.

In 2021 the party was at a low point, still coming to terms with the double disasters of Brexit and the outcome of the 2019 election. The Conservatives were riding high with the public apparently willing to give them the benefit of the doubt over their handling of the vaccine.

What a difference two years have made!

We now have 7 MPs in the East of England, rather than 1. We have 72 (yes 72!!!) MPs in Westminster, our best result EVER, and, just as importantly to me, we are back in power in Local Government running many councils across the East of England and across the Country.

This is a fantastic achievement, and a huge amount of credit must go to both the local teams who have delivered these results on the ground, and also to those at national level, including our own wonderful Daisy Cooper, for picking a strong strategy and sticking to it, while also being responsive and flexible enough to capitalise on an extraordinary situation. Thank you SO much to everyone involved!

I am especially grateful to everyone in our region who travelled to help in a target constituency during the general election. Our willingness as members to travel to help support our most winnable seats was key to our success in the General Election. The national campaign was heavily driven by the data and information coming in from people knocking on doors across the country. Thank you to everyone who knocked on a door and gathered that data, without your hard work we would have achieved the results we did. Thank you!

Effective joint working between HQ and region, including joint staffing arrangements also helped deliver the results. We are building on the lessons of that to fund staff to support more local development and campaigning.

Looking forward to the coming year we have another set of key elections coming up in May. Across the majority of the East of England we have County Council elections. The County Councils have long been the heartland of the Conservative Party, and, to build on our success in the General Election, making sure we continue to make strong progress in the County elections in May will be key for the longer term.



County Councils are also crucial to so much of what people notice as they go about their daily lives. Running them well is incredibly important, and the Conservatives have left them in a dreadful state of underfunding and crisis. We must make sure the public understand this in May.

**So THANK YOU for every thing you have done to support the party over the past year! I'd also like to thank my fellow regional officers and committee members. However the work is not over! We must build on that success, not just because we want to grow our party, and hold the Conservatives to account for the mess they have made, but also because our residents across the East of England deserve better than either Conservative or Labour chaos!**

# Treasurer's report

**The region's accounts were submitted to the Liberal Democrat compliance department in March 2024 and approved in line with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).**

## **2023 FIGURES**

Income received by the region in 2023 was £65,120.96 compared with £70,387.99 a fall of some 7.5%. English Party RDO support grant received amounted to £5400

Membership rebate received was £48,600 compared with £50,247 in 2022 a fall of 3.3% reflecting the party's continued decreasing membership. Donations received by the region amounted to £1792 as compared to £2609 in 2022.

Our regional campaign staff continued to be 50% funded by the federal party amounting to a cost of £34,995. The interns project running in the first half of the year designed to assist local parties during the district council elections increased staff expenditure from £9,611 to £51,704 financed from our reserves resulting in their reduction from £86,181 at the close of the 2022 accounting period to £58,913 at the close of the 2023 accounting period.

The effect then on our balance and reserves was a net loss of (27,268.74) in 2023.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Income and expenditure account

	2023	2022
<b>Income</b>	£	£
Membership	51,051	50,247
Donations	1,792	2,609
Fundraising income	0	0
Investment income	231	37
Transfers in	850	4,200
Miscellaneous	11,197	13,332
	<b>65,121</b>	<b>70,388</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	£	£
Premises	0	0
Office costs	2,906	1,681
Staff costs	51,704	9,611
Transfers out	34,995	39,424
Campaigning	1,054	374
Fundraising	0	0
Financing	42	47
Miscellaneous	1,730	9,557
	<b>92,390</b>	<b>60,694</b>
<b>(Deficit) / Surplus</b>	<b>(27,269)</b>	<b>9,694</b>

### Balance sheet

	2023	2022
<b>Fixed assets</b>	£	£
	-	-
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash in hand and at bank	76,487	86,181
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>58,913</b>	<b>86,181</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	£	£
Creditors and accruals	-	-
	-	-
<b>Total (net) assets</b>	<b>58,913</b>	<b>86,181</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Accumulated fund at the start of the year	86,181	76,487
(Deficit) / Surplus	(27,269)	9,694
Accumulated fund at the end of the year	58,913	86,181
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>58,913</b>	<b>86,181</b>

### 2024

Our efforts in 2024 have been to provide cash flow support where either candidates deposits were regarded as at little risk and where to require campaign funds to be used for such a purpose would then reduce the ability of those campaigns to be effective or in the case of the Moving Forward Plus seats in the general election to provide loans for funds raised but where those funds wouldn't be available in time to be of use.

In the case of the PCC deposits these were paid directly to the election departments for each county involved with repayment made very swiftly and all loans made to the Moving Forward Plus seats have now been repaid.

The focus for 2022 has been to ensure that staff are funded from recurring revenues and that the reserves are invested in recruiting and training interns to support the campaign and development staff. A surplus in excess of



Outline budget

	<b>2025 budget</b>	<b>2024 YTD</b>	<b>2024 budget</b>
<b>Income</b>	£	£	£
Donations and appeals	2,000	542	4,000
Fundraising	500	0	500
Membership rebate	45,000	37,462	40,000
Newsletter	5,000	0	5,000
C3 staff support			
Essex	39,231		
Norfolk and Suffolk	19,629		
Regional conference	3,000	0	2000
Miscellaneous	1,500	1	2,000
English party	10,000	9,000	0
<b>INTEREST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>250</b>
	<b>70,584</b>	<b>83,453</b>	<b>61,600</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	£	£	
Development	4000	0	500
Campaigning	2000	374	500
Fundraising costs	0	0	0
Grants to local parties	0	4,000	10,000
Miscellaneous	1,000	32,892	0
Newsletter costs	17,000	7,484	10,000
Office and admin	500	1,039	1,200
Regional conference	3,500	2,000	2,000
Staff costs	2,700	1,674	32,775
Federal party staff cost sharing	42,521	24,578	40,000
Training costs	18,100	0	0
Contingency / loans to local parties	8,000	2,000	0
Financing costs	200	45	0
	<b>97,521</b>	<b>76,087</b>	<b>96,975</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(26,937)</b>	<b>7,365</b>	<b>(35,375)</b>

£10,000 is forecast for 2022 and this will be invested in 2023 to support the multiple local elections in May.

### 2025

Our efforts for 2025 are focused on the county elections with funds agreed to recruit staff to support our county co-ordinating committees leading up to the May elections with focus made especially on the areas that have benefited less in the past and where if sufficiently successful the additional revenue generated might will enable them to retain staff support in the longer run.

### FINALLY

Can I think all my treasurer colleagues across the region for their hard work. Keeping up with reports and asking colleagues to ensure that tithes are paid is a considerable task and we all couldn't function without your considerable efforts. Thank you.

### Conference is requested to

1. Receive the Treasurer's Report and 2023 accounts.
2. Approve the 2025 outline budget
3. Appoint an independent examiner



## CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

# 1030 Parliamentary Reports

*Chair: John Shreeve (Treasurer, East of England Liberal Democrats)*

**Marie Goldman MP (Shadow Leader of the House, MP for Chelmsford)**  
**Charlotte Cane MP (MP for Ely and East Cambridgeshire)**  
**Baroness (Julie) Smith)**

Parliamentarians will report back on Liberal Democrat activity in the House of Commons and House of Lords..

# 1110 Securing the environmental vote

**Pippa Heylings MP (Environment and Net Zero Spokesperson)**  
**Cllr Lorna Dupré (East Cambridgeshire Council)**

# 1135 BREAK

Please visit the stalls in the large hall

*Training and fringe sessions run alongside the main programme from 1200–1310*

# 1200 From 2024 to 2025

*Chair: Chris White (Vice- Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats)*

**Steff Aquarone MP (MP for North Norfolk)**  
**Victoria Collins MP (Science, Innovation and Technology Spokesperson, MP for Harpenden and Berkhamsted)**  
**Ian Sollom MP (Universities and Skills Spokesperson, MP for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire)**  
**Stephen Lambert (East of England Campaigns Manager)**

# 1300 LUNCH BREAK

*Lunch will be served in the large hall*

*Lunchtime fringe and training events take place from 1330-c1410*

*Training and fringe sessions run alongside the main programme from 1415–1525*



# 1415 Diversity in the Liberal Democrats

*Chair: Lori Flawn (Regional Candidates Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats)*

**Nicole Turner (Diversity and Inclusion Manager, Liberal Democrats)**

# 1435 What does a Liberal Democrat county look like?

**Cllr Stephen Robinson (Chair, East of England Liberal Democrat Campaign Committee)** chairs a discussion of messages and manifestos for May 2025

# 1515 What's the point of the Young Liberals: Who are we? what have we done?

*Chair: Lori Flawn (Regional Candidates Chair, East of England Liberal Democrats)*

**Tom Jordan (Chair, East of England Young Liberals)**

# 1530 Daisy Cooper MP

*Chair: Victor Scrivens (Chair, Conference Committee)*

# 1600 Close of Conference



**We have a massive set of local elections to support next year. Donate now at [www.eastlibdems.org.uk/donate](http://www.eastlibdems.org.uk/donate)**



# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Saturday 2 November 2024 at St Paul's Church, Blandford Road, St Albans AL1 4JP

- 1000 Welcome to Conference** Victor Scrivens Chair, Conference Committee  
Cllr Paul de Koort Leader, St Albans Council
- Regional Party reports** Lucy Nethsingha Regional Chair  
John Shreeve Regional Treasurer
- 1030 Parliamentary reports** Marie Goldman MP Shadow Leader of the House of Commons, Charlotte Cane MP and Baroness (Sal) Brinton House of Lords
- 1110 Securing the environmental vote** Pippa Heylings MP Energy Security and Net Zero Spokesperson  
Councillor Lorna Dupré

## 1135 BREAK

- 1200 From 2024 to 2025** Celebrating success and winning again next year  
Steff Aquarone MP, Victoria Collins MP, Ian Sollom MP and Stephen Lambert East of England Campaigns Manager

## 1300 LUNCH - served in the large hall

- 1415 Diversity in the Lib Dems** Nicole Turner Diversity and Inclusion Manager
- 1435 What does a Liberal Democrat county look like?** Cllr Stephen Robinson chairs a discussion of messages and manifestos for May 2025
- 1515 Young Liberals. What's the point** Tom Jordan Chair, East of England Young Liberals  
Who are we, what have we done?
- 1530 Daisy Cooper MP** Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats

## 1600 CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

### TRAINING SESSIONS & FRINGE EVENTS

- 1015 TRAINING Taking the fight to Labour now they are in Government** (Campaigns) *or*  
TRAINING **Fundraising to win** (ALDC) *or*  
TRAINING **Beating the Conservatives now Labour are in Government** (Campaigns)
- 1100 TRAINING ALDC Artworker demo** (Election Workshop)
- 1200 TRAINING / FRINGE The Joy of Neighbourhood Planning** *or*  
TRAINING **Councillors and time management** (ALDC) *or*  
FRINGE **Policy consultation**
- 1330 FRINGE Fighting Labour, what can we do to win in Labour areas** (Liberal Reform) *or*  
TRAINING **Winning young votes, and engaging young activists** (Young Liberals) *or*  
FRINGE **Friends of Hong Kong talk and Q&A** (Friends of Hong Kong)  
DISCUSSION **Getting members involved in a politically-live local party** (EoELD)
- 1415 TRAINING Grow the team** (Campaigns) *or*  
TRAINING **Tech tools overview** (HQ tech team) *or*  
TRAINING **Tackling the Green Party & Independents next May** (Campaigns)