

# East Midlands' Liberal Democrats

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE AGENDA

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East Midlands Liberal Democrats Regional Executive  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2016, Derby Lib Dem HQ, Great North Road, Derby  
9:45 for 10:00 Start.

### 1. APOLOGIES & ATTENDANCE

Name	
Tony Rogers	Present
Stuart Bray	Present
Phil Knowles	Apologies
Jonathan Sneade	Present
Chris Stanbra	Present
Alison Rouse	Present
Pat Wildgoose	Apologies
Barbara Pearce	Present
Michael Mullaney	Present
Phil Smith	Apologies
Barry Holliday	Apologies
Paul Holmes	Present
George Smid	Present
Leon Duveen	Apologies
Becky Thomas	Present
Alan Fox	Apologies
Ross Pepper	Apologies
Tim Hallam	Present
Anita Prabakar	Present
Dan Jones	Apologies
David Walker	Present
Peter Thompson	Apologies
Guy Grainger	Apologies
Tom Snowden	Apologies
Peter Coley	Apologies
Daryll Smalley	
<a href="#">Jack Hughes</a>	Apologies
Adam Wain	Present
Jennie Coggles	Present
Kate Godfrey	Observer

## **2. EUROPEAN REFERENDUM & STRONGERIN BRIEFING –**

STRONGER IN – Presentation from Katie Godfrey and surrounding discussions:

Kate Godfrey gave an update on the StrongerIn campaign to the Executive members. Delivering 75000 leaflets per week. Hope to have 12000 volunteers on the ground in the last week of the campaign. Asked that the region put support of the EU referendum at the heart of its campaign planning. East Midlands key swing region:

CS asked whether the Leave campaign appears to be to depress turnout? KG felt that there were issues with official In and Out campaigns. Conservatives are campaigning much more strongly for in that we thought through loyalty to the Prime Minister and the party.

BP asked how active Labour were being in the campaign as they haven't been to Nottingham events. KG felt that Labour is getting involved but that the StrongerIn strategy is wider than any one party.

MM raised the issue of business in his local area wanting to stay in the EU. In terms of people campaigning, are they creating knock up lists. KG says that they have an issue that they are not a political party. SI are taking advice on this at the moment. The current thinking is that local parties will need to organise GOTV themselves.

TR had experienced that the mood of the electorate seems to be 'better the devil you know' and that doubters appear to be leaning towards us. KG agreed and talked about the demographic challenges faced.

TH asked whether Organisers per constituencies would be useful? KG said they were working on a constituency organising model using 'SuperVolunteers'. These people can't 'wear a party rosette'. KG asked if anyone was happy to get involved to get in touch.

BT asked as this hasn't happened before, how do we know what works and what doesn't work? KG said that we tend to take our methodologies from successful referendum campaigns around the world, and then test it here. Talked about successful conservative campaigns.

DW asked whether the rotary club should hold a meeting on this, given that many members are for 'OUT'. KG discussed what the Out campaign was currently doing and how their model of operation appears to be working on the ground. Felt it might be a waste of DW's time. KG said that she was trying to make voting IN feel safe and feel good.

GS talked about his attendance at predominantly OUT debates and campaign events, and how he was becoming familiar to OUT campaigners. KG said that the Melton Mowbray advertiser won't change many opinions, while the Daily Mail will.

PH talked about the practicalities of campaigning. Discussed the AV referendums bad approach. Talked about the need to be better organised. KG doesn't have an answer to what the maximum number of leaflets is but says that the budget is generous for this,

JS – data / coordinating. Integrated campaigns.n Knocking up on polling day. Are we allowed to man polling stations and campaign ourselves.

AP stated that she hadn't yet seen any StrongerIn activity in Newark. KG discussed this.

AR discussed talking to people who are already in and those who are out. How worrying are the not voters that take it for granted that we will stay in?

SB invited KG to come to the 23<sup>rd</sup> April meeting.

## **3. Matters Arising & Action Updates**

SB moved that minutes were adopted. CS seconded. Passed unanimously.

## 4. Regional Conference Update

AR ran through the pre-circulated conference report. Specifically noted the change of venue at late notice. One key learning was that the new venue was unable to support a breakout area which featured heavily in the feedback. About 80 attendees experienced the Spring conference. Talked about some of the successful advertising efforts, and also what didn't work.

BT stated that equalities training will be provided at the next conference, and some unconscious bias training will also be done.

Exec agreed that Lorraine Johnson should receive free entry at the next conference as she was unable to attend due to supporting an ill member at hospital in Kettering all day.

SB felt we could ask attendees for their suggestions for next conference that they can tear off on the chairs.

## 5. REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE & INVESTMENT

Stuart introduced this report and explained the principle. As regards investments, CS would like some guidance from the Executive as to how to invest, where to invest, and what the parameters around this would be. Please contact CS between now and the next meeting at [stanbra@btinternet.com](mailto:stanbra@btinternet.com)

SB believes that funds invested should be flexibly invested – does not feel we need 'instant' access but need to be able to get at the funds to respond to situations as appropriate.

SB outlined the key principles of the proposals

- i) Investment of £50,000 for the long-term financial stability of the region.
- ii) Seek to employ a Regional Infrastructure Building Officer (RIBO), with £30,000 allocated
- iii) Investment in training (£3000) to enhance skills and expertise across the region
- iv) Creation of a £2000 by-election fund
- v) £15000 available unspent for future sensible proposals, including equipment, which the admin group would look seriously at.

SBs summary of comments was that having the on-the-ground resource to make this happen was essential. SB has spoken to the Donor and she felt it was incredibly well thought out and sensible.

SB then took comments from the Executive:

- JS agreed with the principles and the plan and received clarity that only suitable candidates would be appointed, and if no candidates were found, then the Exec would reconsider the plan.
- BP stressed that this was a great plan, but required sustainable fundraising efforts outside of this plan to sustain us into the future. SB confirmed that this was absolutely the case. SB wants to re-establish and kick off the fundraising group.
- PH very keen to stress that this is an on the ground job, revitalising campaigns across the Region. The main role though isn't to have meetings to draw up unimplemented plans – that would be a waste of money. We need something concrete at the end of the year. Bespoke training and assistance to kick off campaigns is needed. Conference whets activists' appetite, but a resource to drive it home and take that interest forward afterwards is needed. PH believes that money should be given to Parish and Town Council by-elections as part of a by-elections and keen to see this reinstated. However, there should be very strict terms on how you distribute the money. Need tight criteria as to what a party would need to commit to and deliver in order to receive the funding.

- BT feels that the salary is low, and only just hits graduate level funding. SB confirmed that it is the going rate but sympathises. BT stated that you do get what you pay for and we might not be getting the best candidate with this salary. SB thinks that this should be advertised.
- SB had spoken to Hillary Stevenson, and HS was broadly supportive of this effort, and HS was constructive about our efforts. Suggested that other Regions are following this model.
- BP felt that we need to be clear about the performance criteria for the individual appointed. What are we expecting? What do we expect 'good' performance to look like? BP offered her services to draft performance criteria.
- CS absolutely supported this, and supports PH, JS and BP comments. CS doesn't believe we should appoint someone to tell us what to do, needs to be someone that enables us to do it. Need to be specific about the things that this person is and isn't supposed to be doing. Also need to be clear of the costs that we are getting ourselves into. £18-20K salary, plus NI contributions, expenses of up to £5k, equipment costs plus pension costs.
- PH asked what do we do if we don't find someone given the length of contract. One option is to look at skilled people in the region, draw up a list and pay piece-rate for a specific piece of work. Could have a list of approved people.
- AR discussed training for trainers and everyone agreed there is a need for this. Training for trainers doesn't teach the core skills of campaigning; it teaches individuals as to how to train.
- AW felt we should leverage individuals who are already trainers, and just need to be given the knowledge. SB felt this was very valid, but London won't hand over training courses unless the individuals leading have been through the parties training program.
- BT talked about Lucile Kamar and considering a Diversity Group.

The discussions culminated in the following motions, all of which were carried without opposition.

Mot#	Motion	Proposer	Seconder	Status
2016-02/01	To accept the recommendations (in bold italics) covering the principles below from the donations proposal report: i) Investment of £50,000 for the long-term financial stability of the region. ii) Seek to employ a Regional Infrastructure Building Officer (RIBO), with £30,000 allocated iii) Investment in training (£3000) to enhance skills and expertise across the region iv) Creation of a £2000 by-election fund v) £15000 available unspent for future sensible proposals, including equipment, which the admin group would look seriously at.	SB	BP	Unanimously Carried (except 1 abstention)
2016-02/02	To appoint a small group to undertake the recruitment : process and to allow them to proceed. Post would be line managed by Regional Chair, and therefore SB would not be on the recruitment panel. This panel is authorised to go ahead and make an appointment on behalf of the Region as quickly as possible: 1. Barbara Pearce 2. Chris Stanbra 3. Paul Holmes *	TR	GS	Unanimously Carried
2016-02/03	SB to draft job description for above post in consultation with the Recruitment Panel appointed above.	TR	GS	Unanimously Carried

SB confirmed that in terms of investing the money, we get proposals brought back next time for discussions. GS felt we need to define what 'liquidity' is.

## 6. Confirming Regional Budget 2016

CS circulated reports.

Calculated on our share of service free, donations into Eurofund and income from conferences.

2 options for expenditure: Either no budgeted expenditure so Exec decide or based on spending last year.

BT added that social media isn't on there. SB asked for views.

Discussions occurred around how much do we want to spend on Regional Social Media. PH felt that we should be investing in target seats, as we are only 4 years out from an Election. SB – regions contributions have been very helpful, although it isn't usually the difference between a target parliamentary seat winning and losing. PH felt that the balance of money going into different types of elections should be considered as there are different prospects for winning – need to consider having priority seat funding.

SB said that we need to make an assessment closer to the Euro-elections as to what funding we give a campaign, as this type of election is heavily based on our national polling rating.

CS agreed with PH, but said that this was more difficult as there are currently no national or regional priority parliamentary seats that have been designated.

SB will be designating any regional expenditure relating to the Bosworth Constituency to the Vice-Chair/Treasurer.

Mot#	Motion	Proposer	Seconder	Status
2016-02/04	Accept the Proposed Budget 1 (Appendix A), with the amendment of Campaigns to Campaigns & Social Media. SB to authorise this. Accept the document as living to be amended by future Executives	SB	CS	Carried unanimously.

## 7. Receiving Officer Reports

### a. Regional Chair's Report

SB submitted his written report, and added his congratulations to Rutland & Melton for their retention of a council seat.

### b. Vice-Chair's & Campaigns & Communications Working Group Report

JS read this out to the meeting, see below:

My apologies for lateness of this report but as Stuart will confirm my Mom is seriously ill and I am currently in the West Midlands. . I would very much appreciate if these points could be passed on to the meeting today.

We are encouraging all members to look to promote events in their own counties in support of us remaining in the EU. If members feel uneasy at arranging such events I am encouraging them to support Stronger IN events in their local areas. Kate has provided all the links for us to place onto our Web so members can easily track these IN events. Stronger IN are delighted with the cooperation and active support that they are receiving from the Lib Dems in the East Midlands. I have spoken with Kate From Stronger IN and we will be doing everything possible to encourage even greater increased cooperation.

Though Lib Dems in some counties in the East Midlands are very active some are doing very little in respect of the Pro EU Campaign. Everything possible will be done to encourage increased activity. I will be contacting each Constituency Chair and, where available, Council Group Leader to ask that they head up this.

All media outlets have been notified that we have our approved Spokespersons . They have been advised that if they need a spokesperson they should contact us and we will pass on the names and details of our Spokespersons in their area.

Updates and information in regard to the EU Referendum are being circulated to members at every opportunity. Thanks to the Campaign Working Group along with Adam and Becky for their hard work and support.

I am advised that the output from London and Brussels will be stepped up over the next couple of weeks. I will have more detail of this on Tuesday evening and will email information to the Executive. We all want to see more activity from London and Brussels and I am taking every opportunity to press for this.

Thanks for all the help and support with the EU items and debates at Conference. They were extremely successful . Thank you to Alison and the Team for organising such a good day.

In meantime apologies for not being at today's meeting and lateness of this report. Any questions or additional information please telephone me.

**c. Secretary's Report**

Discussed and accepted that Officers should submit by reports by Monday before Executive to allow people try to print and absorb reports before the meeting.

**d. Admin Group Report**

SB to move onto the Admin group to lead it. Prop JS Sec AR passed unanimously.

**e. Treasurer's & Finance, Management & Fundraising Working Group Report**

Updated that Alliance & Leicester name changed to Santander in reports as requested.

Santander Bank Accounts. Three current signatories are Peter Morris, Guy Grainger and Fiona Martin. These need changing. Proposed that PM and FM taken off and SB and CS added so all signatories are members of the Exec.

Confirmed that Premium Bonds cannot be held by the Region.

Exec approved bank signatories. Prop CS Sec AR agreed.

Mot#	Motion	Proposer	Seconde r	Status
2016-02/05	Update the Santander Bank Account signatories to: 1. Chris Stanbra 2. Guy Grainger 3. Stuart Bray	CS	AR	Carried unanimously.

**f. President's Report**

Took a carload of activists and volunteers down to Broxtowe. Thanked Tim Hallam for his huge efforts in Broxtowe.

**g. Chair of Candidates Committee's Report**

Report noted.

SB – Leicestershire and Derbyshire have raised the PCC procedures. Procedure for licensing people is absolutely terrible, and this isn't acceptable. Will go back to PW and ask her to take that back.

**h. Chair of Conference Committee's Report**

Dealt with earlier.

**i. Policy Officer's Report**

BP introduced this report and explained the issues outlined within it. This included a report back on the policies taken to and passed by our Spring Regional Conference in Kettering. This report was noted by the Executive.

DW discussed the issues around moving conference. AR responded that Autumn Conference is earlier this year than last year.

**j. Local Parties Committee Activity Report**

Noted with correction to 3 constituted local parties changed to 3 unconstituted local parties. PH asked how were the members of the local parties committee were trained and what guidance and support they get from London in relation to their role. How is the Constitution explained to them?

SB would pass this Leon for action.

**8. Receiving Papers from Additional Roles [5 Minutes]**

**a. Training Officer**

Received by Executive.

**b. Equalities & Diversity Champion**

BT discussed an amendment to the RC motion on Diversity. SB said submit on behalf of the Region AND to get 10 signatories.

BT also talked about unconscious bias training and encouraging and inspiring all members to get involved.

Raised about her Shadowing programme. Wants to do engagement surveys.

**9. AOB**

CS raised fundraising. SB – fundraising should be prominent on every Agenda item. Put this on the Agenda for the next time 'Future of Fundraising'.

Mot #	Motion	Proposer	Seconder	Status	
2016-02/06	Expand Finance, Fundraising & Management group to include new members, and ask group to make <b>recommendations for way forward</b> by next meeting:	SB	CS	Carried unanimously.	
	Amber Valley				Tom Snowdon
	Bassetlaw and Sherwood				Peter Thompson
	Ashfield & Mansfield				Phil Smith
	City of Nottingham				Alison Rouse
	City of Nottingham				Barbara Pearce
	Regional Treasurer (Ex Officio)				Chris Stanbra

*Next meeting is the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 in Derby starting at 10:00.*