

East Midlands Liberal Democrats Regional Conference



**Long Buckby Community Centre
41 Station Road
Long Buckby
Northamptonshire
NN6 7QB**

**Saturday November 3rd 2018
8:30am to 5pm**



Eastmidslibdems



@eastmidslid

www.eastmidslibdems.org

#Eastmidslibdemconference2018



Welcome to the East Midlands Liberal Democrats Conference 2018!

This year we have deliberately focused on preparing for next year's local elections.

Our most successful candidates follow an established campaigning strategy which has its' foundation in working and listening to the communities that we serve.

All of the contributors to this years' conference have achieved success though a great deal of hard work and commitment to a strategy that they know works, when applied and followed.

Thank you to all the speakers and trainers who are supporting the event this year.

Your inspiring contribution is very much appreciated.



Travel by train to Long Buckby station. Community centre is a short 800m walk from the station. If you require assistance getting from the station to the venue, please ring David Lawrence on 07858 043456.

Volunteers from the local party have kindly offered to assist with transport and will be at the station.

Travel by car Best parking is at the station. 800m walk to venue. There are a few car parking spaces in front of the Community centre which we intend to reserve for disability parking.

If you would like to reserve one of these spots, please ring David Lawrence on 07858 043456. Other than that parking is on the roadside.

Food

This years' simple buffet lunch is created by Zena's Top Nosh from Lincolnshire – all home-made – please let us know on the booking page if you have any special requirements.

Zena is also providing home-made flapjacks and biscuits on your arrival to have with coffee whilst you relax into the day, listening to Keith Melton's opening talk about why the Lib Dems are the best on Green issues.

After the event please join us at the Pytchley Inn, in the next village – West Haddon to end the day with a few drinks and some nice pub food. Nothing too formal! Please come along! Please try and book in so we have rough idea of numbers.



**A.G.M of the East Midlands Liberal Democrats
Saturday 3rd November 2018 - 8.30am to 5pm
Long Buckby Community Centre
41 Station Road, Long Buckby,
Northants, NN6 7QB**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of AGM 2017
3. Regional Chairs' Report
4. Regional Accounts 2017 Section 2.3(a) of the Regional Constitution - "Consider and, if thought fit, approve the accounts of the Regional Party for the previous financial year together with an independent report on those accounts."
5. Regional Finances 2018 & Outline Budget 2019 Section 2.3(b) of the Regional Constitution "Receive a report from the Treasurer on the financial affairs of the Regional Party for the year to date together with an outline budget for the following year"
6. Independent Examiner of Regional Accounts 2019 Section 2.3.(c) of the Regional Constitution "Appoint for the current financial year a person or persons to produce an independent report on the accounts for the next Annual General Meeting"
7. Any Other Business

Elections.

The following positions will be elected:

(* = officer position)

- President*
- Chair of the Regional Party*
- Vice-Chair of the Regional Party*
- Chair Regional Candidates Committee*
- Regional Policy Officer*
- Chair Regional Conference Committee*
- Regional Secretary*
- Regional Treasurer*
- Ordinary Members (18 places)
- Liberal Youth Representatives (2 places)
- Regional Candidates Committee (5 places - should include an approved candidate, a returning officer and an assessor).
- Regional Conference Committee (2 places)
- English Council Member (7 places - tbc)

The following positions will be elected at the first regional executive meeting of 2019:

- Member of the Local Parties Committee (6 places)

Only members of the Liberal Democrats in the East Midlands are entitled to stand for office and to vote. If an election is not contested the nominee shall be appointed. If an election is contested there shall be a ballot in which all eligible members will be asked to take part. The election shall be by Single Transferable Vote.





POLICY: Unitary Authorities

Proposed by: Michael Mullaney

Summated by: To be confirmed

Conference notes that:

1. Controversial plans for a single unitary authority for both Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire are currently being pushed by Conservative County Council leaders.
2. Plans have been agreed by council leaders for two unitary authorities for Northamptonshire, rejecting proposals for a single unitary authority proposed by the Conservative County Council.
3. Many counties in our region have been given a poor funding deal by the Conservative government leaving them in a crisis situation where essential services are experiencing cuts.
4. Poor financial decisions by Conservative County Council leaders have exacerbated this crisis, such as those taken in Northamptonshire which led to the imposition of commissioners.

Conference believes that:

1. Both Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire have large and diverse populations, as do most other counties within our region, and a single unitary form of government is unlikely to be the best form of government for an entire county.
2. Proposals for reform can help cash-strapped local authorities maintain services should be considered, but that multiple unitarities based on local communities are more likely to be the best form of government.

Conference resolves that:

1. Councillors and residents in areas which are considering unitary authorities should be free to examine options that could potentially save money for frontline services, without being forced into unwieldy county-wide unitary authorities.
2. Conservative MPs in our region should make more effort to persuade their Government to deliver East Midlands residents the fair funding from Government that they deserve.





POLICY: Bursaries to financially assist selected PPCs

Proposed by: Suzanna Austin

Summated by: Helen Tambllyn Saville

Conference notes that:

1. The MPs currently representing the Liberal Democrat party are predominantly white, middle-class, heterosexual men who do not have a disability, and that in many areas Parliament is still not representative of wider society.
2. The cost of standing as a PPC, particularly in a target or moving forward seat, is often prohibitive and can put people off from standing.
3. There is clear statistical evidence that if you are female, from a lower social class, BaME or have a disability you are more likely to have a lower income than an able-bodied white male, making income both a common denominator and the largest barrier to becoming an MP.
4. Statistically if you are; female, from a lower social class, BaME or have a disability you are more likely to have a lower income than an able-bodied middle class white male therefore income seems to be both the common denominator and the largest barrier to becoming an MP.
5. Should there not be substantial financial cost for being selected as a PPC we would expect to receive better polling results, as PPCs would be better able to afford to campaign, which would substantially increase the amount of 'Short money' that the Party's MPs would receive as well as increasing the party's entitlement to fair media coverage.

Conference further notes that:

1. Women currently make up 34% of the MPs but 51% of the population.
2. Since the 1950s the percentage of MPs who were manual workers or held semi-skilled jobs has decreased from 35% to just 4% in 2017.
3. Only 7% of MP are BaME compared to roughly 13% of the population.
4. Only 4% of MPs have a declared disability compared to 17% of the population.
5. Although 7% of MPs are openly LGBT+, compared to 8% of the population, lesbians and bisexuals are underrepresented and no MP is openly transgender.
6. The Liberal Democrats currently have 4 female MPs (33%), 1 BAME MP (8%), 1 disabled MP (8%) and 0 LGBT MPs (0%).

Conference believes that:

1. Equality of opportunity is a core Liberal Democrat belief and we should be actively supporting policy which enables more people from more backgrounds to stand as MPs.
2. Being able to stand as a candidate for the Liberal Democrats should be based on the ability of the candidate and not the wealth of the candidate.

Conference calls for:

1. A tiered bursary scheme to be introduced for selected candidates who would otherwise not have the financial ability to actively campaign in an effective manner.
2. Anyone in receipt of a bursary will be required to meet a set of obligations which will form a PPC compact between them and the party in addition to keeping a log of what they are doing as a PPC.
3. The bursary would be available to candidates either in receipt of benefits including working families tax credit, on low income or currently unemployed or have dependants which fall into one of the above groups. Any bursary given would be in conjunction with the disabled person access grant for political candidates and should be made tax exempt.
4. Bursary levels should reflect tier of seat standing in and whether the seat is a metropolitan or rural seat. Thus top tier seats should have a bursary for eligible candidates of £8,000 per annum with lower tier seats of £2000-£3750 per annum depending on the applicable travel costs and the geographical size of the constituency.





POLICY: Increasing Competition in the Water Industry

Proposer: Ross Shipman (North Derbyshire)

Summator: David Hancock (North Derbyshire)

Conference notes:

- A. Unlike other privatised utilities, the provision of water and sewerage services remains uncompetitive to the domestic user.
- B. The Liberal Democrats believe that freedom of choice and a competitive market remains the best way to maintain low prices for the consumer
- C. Protections need to be maintained to ensure adequate provision and development of future infrastructure.

Conference calls for:

1. The development of a cross party 50-year strategic plan for a strong infrastructure project (a water "national grid").
2. Based on the findings of the strategic plan, water wholesalers be compelled to invest a percentage of their annual profit into maintaining and (more importantly) upgrading infrastructure.
3. The existing water companies (subject to a competitive market) would operate as water wholesalers.
4. The creation of water retailers to allow people to provide users with a competitive market place (in the same way as they do with gas/electric/phones).
5. That there should be no restrictions on public sector organisations bidding as part of a competitive market to become either a wholesaler or supplier; however, public money **MUST** not be used to make them artificially more competitive.





East Midlands Lib Dem Conference Long Buckby 2018 Programme

	Main Hall	Room 1 Lawrence Room	Room 2 Mounts Room	Room 3 Newcastle Room
8.30 – 10.15	Registration			
9.00 – 9.45	Keith Melton Green Liberal Democrats. Why are the Liberal Democrats the leading party when it comes to Green issues?			
9.45 -9.55	Opening address Andrew Simpson Chair Daventry Lib Dems			
10.00 – 11.00	AGM Chair Stuart Bray			
11.00 –11.15	Networking Break	Networking Break	Networking Break	Networking Break
11.15 – 12.00	Opening keynote speech Mark Pack			
12.00 -12.40	Policy Motion 1 Unitary Authorities Proposer M Mullaney Policy Motion 2 Increasing competition in the water industry Proposer R Shipman	Training session 1 Tadeusz Jones The work of returning officers	Training session 2 Neil Fawcett ALDC	Training Session 3 Paul Holmes Low cost campaigning for beginners
12.40 -1.35	Lunch Jubilee Room	Lunch Jubilee Room	Lunch Jubilee Room	Lunch Jubilee Room
1.35 – 2.15	Policy Motion 2 Bursaries to financially assist selected PPCs Proposer Suzanna Austin	Training session 4 Mark Pack Social media as a campaigning tool	Training session 5 Your Liberal Britain You can stop Brexit Maria Geftar	Training session 6 Michael Mullaney Canvassing and data collection
2.15 -2.45	Networking break	Networking Break	Networking Break	Networking Break
2.45 – 3.35	Policy debate “Demand Better” priorities Chris Nelson	Training Session 7 Community campaigning Ed Fordham	Training session 8 Your Liberal Britain You can stop Brexit Maria Geftar	Training session 9 Phil Smith Getting started with Connect
3.35 – 3.45	Networking break	Networking Break	Networking Break	Networking Break
3.45 – 4.30	Closing keynote speech Sir Edward Davey MP			
4:30	Rally Closing address and raffle President Cllr Tony Rodgers			
5.30	Meet for post conference drinks at the Pytchley Inn, Long Haddon followed by pub meal with address from Sal Brinton			