



**EAST MIDLANDS
SPRING CONFERENCE
2025**

CONFERENCE PACK

HINCKLEY

Welcome to the East Midlands Spring Conference 2025!

As we head towards the local elections in May 2025, we have a real opportunity to do well and increase the number of Liberal Democrat councillors across the board. This Conference is focused on helping candidates and their local teams achieve the best result they can as well as a chance for people across the Region to connect and network so I hope everyone takes something useful away.

Car Park

Main car park - Hinckley Hub, Rugby Road, Hinckley, LE10 0FR.

The entrance to the car park is just off Hawley Road opposite The Gym Group building.

Overflow car park – Willowbank Road Car Park, Willowbank Road, Hinckley, LE10 0GS.

The entrance to the car park is just off Rugby Road. Please note that it is a short walk from this car park to the Hinckley Hub, therefore if you require assistance then please use the Main car park.

Refreshments

Tea, coffee and a selection of biscuits will be provided on the day. There are a range of options available for lunch near to the Hub, please see the map on the next page for more information.

Post Conference Drinks

The Railway, Station Rd, Hinckley, Leicester, LE10 1AP from 16:30 onwards.

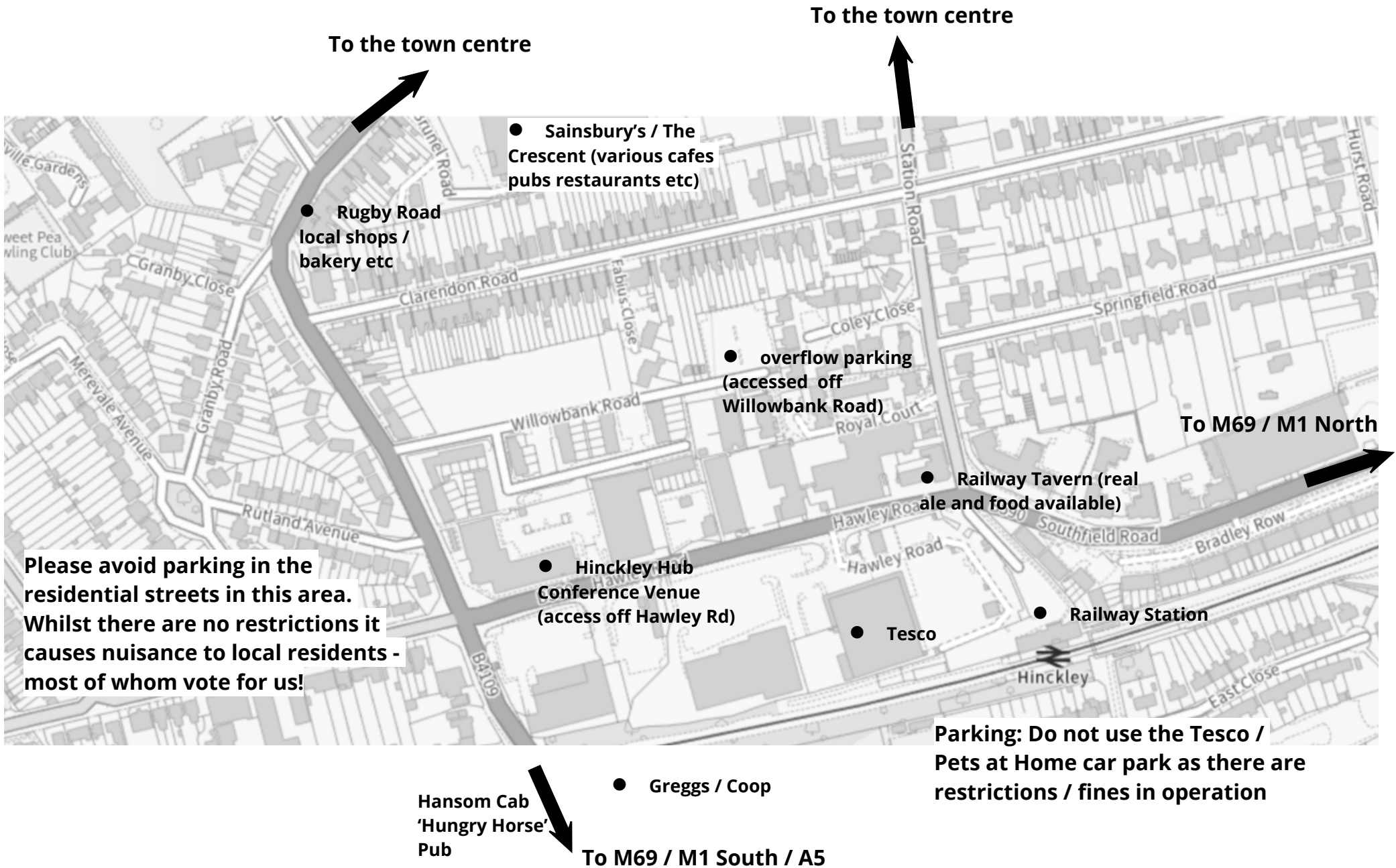
Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to my Regional Conference Committee and staff members. Without their tireless efforts in a very short time frame, this Conference would not have been possible.



David Edwards

Regional Chair

East Midlands Liberal Democrats



To the town centre

To the town centre

● Sainsbury's / The Crescent (various cafes pubs restaurants etc)

● Rugby Road local shops / bakery etc

● overflow parking (accessed off Willowbank Road)

● Railway Tavern (real ale and food available)

● Hinckley Hub Conference Venue (access off Hawley Rd)

● Tesco

● Railway Station

To M69 / M1 North

● Greggs / Coop

Hansom Cab 'Hungry Horse' Pub

To M69 / M1 South / A5

Please avoid parking in the residential streets in this area. Whilst there are no restrictions it causes nuisance to local residents - most of whom vote for us!

Parking: Do not use the Tesco / Pets at Home car park as there are restrictions / fines in operation

East Midlands Liberal Democrats Spring Regional Conference Programme

Saturday 22nd February 2025

MAIN HALL

10:00 – 10:15	Opening & welcome to Conference
10:15 – 10:30	Business Motion – reports & accounts for 2023
10:30 – 10:45	Constitutional amendment
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Making a difference: Lib Dem Leaders in Local Government</p> <p>Panel – Cllr. Stuart Bray (Leader of the Council & Lib Dems, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council); Cllr. Gale Waller (Leader of the Council & Lib Dems, Rutland County Council); Cllr. Jane Carr (Leader of the Opposition & Lib Dems, Milton Keynes City Council); Cllr. Trevor Young (Leader of the Council & Lib Dems, West Lindsey District Council)</p>
12:00 – 13:00	Policy Motion - Non-Devolution in the East Midlands
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch & Network session
14:00 – 14:45	Olly Glover, MP for Didcot & Wantage speech & Q&A
14:45 – 15:00	Break
15:00 – 15:30	Policy Motion – Buses in the East Midlands
15:30 – 16:15	<p>East Midlands Regional Panel</p> <p>Panel – David Edwards (Regional Chair); Cllr. Lesley Rollings (Regional President); Cllr. Michael Mullaney (Regional Vice Chair)</p>
16:15 – 16:30	Close of Conference

Training Sessions

<u>Times</u>	<u>Training Room 1</u>	<u>Training Room 2</u>
10:00 - 10:45	Speeches in the Main Hall	
10:45 - 11:00	Break	
11:00 - 12:00	Coffee & Chat – come and speak to our Regional Exec members	‘Ask the Experts’ – all your Lighthouse, Connect, Fleet, etc questions answered here!
12:00 - 13:00	ALDC session – ‘Build your team’	‘Winning a ward from scratch: Lessons from Lincolnshire’ – Darryl Smalley
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch & Network session	
14:00 - 14:45	Speeches in the Main Hall	
14:45 - 15:00	Break	
15:00 - 16:15	ALDC session – ‘Campaigning in the Counties’	‘Ask the Experts’ – all your Lighthouse, Connect, Fleet, etc questions answered here!
16:15 - 16:30	Speeches in the Main Hall	

SC25-01 – Reports & accounts for 2023

Business motion

Submitted by:	David Edwards
Proposer:	David Edwards
Seconder:	

Conference resolves to approve the following as presented at the Annual General Meeting –

- Regional Chair's report for 2024;
- Regional Treasurer's report for 2023 (also includes commentary on 2024 and a budget for 2025);
- Regional accounts for 2023;
- Independent examiner's report on the accounts for 2023.

Appendix 1 – Regional Chair’s Report

Good morning, everyone.

However much the circumstances are not what we’d all wished, it’s lovely to see so many of you here this morning and be able to talk with you.

Since our previous AGM, we’ve of course had elections. We’ve had the local elections in the Spring, which coincided with the large single seat elections across a number of different categories. They are never easy for us as a party, and this year was no exception, but I am very grateful to those who were involved for the efforts that they put in.

We are also of course aware that in July we had the General Election, not at the time we were expecting, but for the Party as a whole we had an excellent election. As a region we did not achieve as much as we might have hoped, but I am delighted at just how many seats parties in the East Midlands were able to support for our neighbouring regions and neighbouring local parties, and by their support were able to elect MPs. This is a great foundation for this Party’s future success. I am delighted to see that and very hopeful that it will to good progress for the Liberal Democrats in future.

It has been noted that we have not together at an in-person Conference in too long. This is not anything which I relish even slightly, and due to people pulling out at times that were extremely unhelpful on multiple fronts, it has been a real challenge for us as a region to organise conferences over the last few years.

There is a discussion in place at the moment already to replace this Autumn’s unfortunately cancelled Conference with an event early in the new year. Given that I am the outgoing Chair myself I cannot commit the Executive to organising that event, but I am ensuring that discussions are forwarded and communicated so that the relevant parties can work together to ensure an event at the earliest date, and to get everyone together. That will, I hope, be an excellent launchpad for our County Council elections in the spring, where I have significant hopes that we will be able to achieve excellent results across the region once again.

Thank you to everyone for your support during my time as Chair, and I trust that you will give the same support to my successor David Edwards.

Greg McAllister-Webb

East Midlands Regional Chair

Appendix 2 – Regional Treasurer’s Report

East Midlands Members, this is my third report to you as Regional Treasurer, the first in 2022 at Hinckley was one of year of turbulence, last year was one of comfort, this year one of stability. I would first like to thank the staff for their work in assisting the Regional Team and Local Parties in the elections taken place this year, plus all agents and candidates. I’d also like to thank Chris Stanbra for his assistance and also Klaus Belcher for stepping in late in the day to audit the accounts for 2023 which were sent off in time to HQ in March. I would also like to thank the local party Treasurers for their work.

Under normal in person AGM circumstances you would have been issued with a copy of the accounts for 2023 the Draft Income and Expenditure and Balance sheet for 2024, which is correct up to and including 28/11/2024.

2023

The final end of year figures for 2023 ended with a small loss in comparison to 2022 of £281.70; this being partly down to staff retirement and one resignation not being replaced immediately.

2023 Income

For 2023 completed year end our Income was up on the previous year. There was an increase in service fees from HQ, Interest on our savings however, donations and staff support from the English Party were down. The English Party supports 3 payments of £2700 each which we received but occasionally they do support a 4th payment which we were not party to in 2023. Mansfield and Ashfield became under regional control and they sent £1209.70.

2023 Expenditure

The largest drop in expenditure was office costs and staffing costs in 2023. Across the region most local parties and the Regional Party have had success or even only assistance from the team but whilst on paper it comes across as cold as a cost; contrary, the staff have been invaluable asset for our Region with the successes of 2023 at local authority level.

Louth and Horncastle at the beginning of 2023 became their own party without Regional leadership and they had £305.43 transferred to them.

Mansfield and Ashfield did have local elections and a small float was issued in 2023 to their agent to support the two wards they had candidates.

We did issue refunds to last years Conference bookers, something I expect to happen again this year.

We closed the year on £51927.46, owing HQ £9.26 in staff costs carried over into 2024.

2024

When I sat for last years AGM Treasurer Report my words were “one would suspect and expect we will be in much a similar position to 2022 in terms of having a loss making year...”

I don't think I would ever qualify as a clairvoyant!

The years financial picture has been far busier than when I took on the reigns in 2022, with the General Election, other local parties under regional control unexpectedly and further the East Midlands Combined Mayor.

2024 Income

Membership fees at present are at £16463.30 against £16660.29 for last year. We still have December to expect a payment .

Donations are up on last year, from just £430 to £12230. This is in part due to the General Election, partly due to combined payments for Derbyshire's share of the Mayoral Election coming together by one collator and also one to partly support staffing costs, of which I am very grateful. Within these donation are several which were made specifically for the Bassetlaw Constituency at the General Election.

Interest rates again helped bring almost the double the interest in comparison to 2023, with £523.31 coming into the pot.

English Party support as individual payments increased from £2700 per time to £3000 and in line with last year at present we have had 3 support payments totalling £9000 and we also had £4.08 credit from London.

Local party transfers included £2195.23 from the transfer of funds from Bassetlaw and £500 from Newark temporarily during the General Election campaign.

TOTAL INCOME - £40,915.92

2024 Expenditure

Office costs are still down on last year at this stage, this includes Fleet, anything the staffing team have purchased and we have been billed for from HQ and other admin costs, including Zoom. This is currently at £2895.20 from £3758.29 a full calendar 2023.

Staff costs have increased from £22520.85 last year, to £25255.28 this year. You will notice in the member of staff column it reads as 1 and a half. Its worded this way due to staff movements in that year. Stephen left half way through 2023 and Darryl joined half way through this year.

There were £1000 transferred to other local parties. £500 to North Northamptonshire to support the by-election and £500 temporarily issued to Newark which was subsequently paid back.

Campaigning costs were up on last year, this was partly due to the local parties under Region Control being supported at the General Election; Bassetlaw, Ashfield, Mansfield and Sherwood and Newark. These deposits were unfortunately lost and the monies held within the Region upon re-constitution will reflect this. Bassetlaw's Agent was given campaigning money due to the activities and circumstances in the local area plus a number of donations into the region was specific for their campaign.

There was a bank charge of £4.74; this is the deduction for the donations which went through the local or Regional Party websites.

Mansfield and Ashfield have their local website and their bills paid accordingly for £142 which is for two years. Again on reconstituting this will be taken into consideration.

The East Midlands Combined Mayor took £5000 out of the Region – this was lost unfortunately, half of which has been covered by Derbyshire. Nottinghamshire local parties will be contacted in the near future to set out some plan to recover the rest. Am conscious immediately afterwards we had the General Election but this does need to be addressed.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE – £38,107.20

CURRENT RESERVES – £54,726.92

Of which £1153.45 is Bassetlaw's. Mansfield and Ashfield with the loss of deposits at the moment stands at 0.

2025 BUDGET

Looking into 2025 forecasting is going to be a different landscape. The General Election is over and out of the way so this is taken into factor. To be cautious I would repeat last years 2024 predictions as the amount of donations we have had this year I would probably not expect to have again in the coming year, plus I wouldn't expect more local parties falling into the un-constituted category. Planning in advance do take their risks and room for lea-way would be appreciated.

We have been extremely lucky this year the income was almost double I forecast through the generosity of individuals. Expenditure is at present over what I predicted.

Last year I forecast a "bread and butter income of" £21700 so far, we have almost reached £41000. Expenditure I predicted in the region of £37000 we are currently just over £38000.

To predict spending and any income gains this far ahead without a full end of year 2024 comparison is difficult but I would expect to have the three increments again from the English Party to cover HQ staff totalling £3000 each.

Membership subscriptions one would expect to be in line again with 2023's figure of £13000 approximately. We did have an increase this year but lets remain cautious.

Depending on Freepost costs and reimbursement especially going into an election year I would suspect would increase significantly even with the rise in postage costs recently.

I would expect we keep the Zoom and its current licenses. If this cost increases next year this will be in the region of £470.

I would expect if the basic donations remain at £25 a month a total of £300 minimum to be brought into the Regional account

I would therefore expect as Treasurer to have a bread and butter income of approximately £22300 during the year of 2024.

I have not included Conference sales for 2025 as the numbers this year and pricing policy hasn't been agreed.

For expenditure in 2024 the bulk costs will be on staff which we have a proven record of success. Dependant on the final route taken if via HQ or ALDC based on the 2022 staff I would estimate we would be spending between 24 and 30k based on one 2 staff from Regional funds. This is already a shortfall from income and would be spending on reserves like 2022.

Office costs I would estimate £4000 based on the reduction in costs for 2024 even though we had the election.

If we have an in person Conference dependant on venue I would expect this to be around £1000 for hire. Hopefully not to this higher extent and would urge the cheapest venue.

Any unexpected expenditure non election campaigning related I would expect £2000 to be put aside.

With an income of £22300 and outgoings suggested of approximately £37000 this would be a deficit of £14700. Any fresh ideas to raise money would be most welcome as usual and for those who did in 2024 my sincerest thanks.

Admittedly there are a couple of outstanding pieces, contact with Nottinghamshire Teams for the Mayoral cash and the local parties reimbursement of Freepost during the year.

I've said previously I only put my name forward each year to keep the Region constitutional and that still stands from when I started in 2022. Moving forward its important for local parties if they have an issue to send an email or pick up the phone. My own personal circumstances might not be an immediate response but I will get back to you. I would urge all local parties to use Lighthouse and if local Treasurers are struggling again am here to help you. Please don't let it be London coming to me and the Chair of the Region then having to chase things when we could have sorted things earlier in the day!

Best of luck to you all for 2025.

Scott Kennedy-Lount.

East Midlands Regional Treasurer.



**East Midlands Liberal Democrats
Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

Registered Address: 1 Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PN

Elected Representatives

0 Councillors on Council

Responsible Officers

For the purposes of the Political Parties Elections Referendums Act 2000, the responsible officers are:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Position</u>
Greg Webb	Chair
Scott Kennedy-Lount	Treasurer

Branches

There are no branches

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Accounting Notes

This statement of accounts uses accruals accounting method.

East Midlands Liberal Democrats
Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Income Overview

Membership Subscriptions increased during 2023, donations fell. Interest rate rises brought in a sharp increase in income during 2023

Expenditure Overview

Staffing costs are the highest expenditure, during the first half of the year one member vacated his role due to promotion and not replaced in the second half.

Balance Sheet Overview

The year ended only short of breaking even on the 2022 close. Office costs were less than in 2022 as were staffing costs.

Overview of Political Activities

The Region continues to support local parties within the East Midlands Region.

East Midlands Liberal Democrats
Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Income and Expenditure Account

	Note	2023	2022
<u>Income</u>			
Membership	1	£16,660.29	£13,294.00
Affiliations	2	£0.00	£0.00
Donations	3	£430.00	£990.85
Branch income	4	£0.00	£0.00
Fundraising income	5	£0.00	£0.00
Investment income	6	£286.34	£38.41
Transfers in	7	£9,309.70	£10,800.00
Property & rental income / Office services	8	£0.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous	9	£80.34	£613.45
Total income		<u>£26,766.67</u>	<u>£25,736.71</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Premises	-	£0.00	£0.00
Office & admin costs	-	£3,758.29	£6,127.89
Branch expenditure	4	£0.00	£0.00
Staff costs	10	£22,520.25	£53,563.72
Transfers out	7	£305.43	£0.00
Campaigning costs	-	£199.32	£0.00
Fundraising costs	5	£0.00	£0.00
Financing charges and Taxation	11	£1.08	£8.29
Depreciation	12	£0.00	£0.00
(Profit) / loss on sale of assets	15	£0.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous	9	£264.00	£809.60
Total expenditure		<u>£27,048.37</u>	<u>£60,509.50</u>
(Deficit) / surplus		<u>£(281.70)</u>	<u>£(34,772.79)</u>

East Midlands Liberal Democrats
Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Balance Sheet

	Note	2023	2022
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Property	12	£0.00	£0.00
Fixtures and fittings	12	£0.00	£0.00
Office equipment	12	£0.00	£0.00
Investments	6	£0.00	£0.00
Total fixed assets		£0.00	£0.00
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash in hand and at bank	6	£51,927.46	£52,199.90
Stock	13	£0.00	£0.00
Debtors and Prepayments	14	£0.00	£0.00
Total current assets		£51,927.46	£52,199.90
<u>Liabilities</u>			
Creditors and Accruals	-	£9.26	£0.00
Loans outstanding	15	£0.00	£0.00
Total liabilities		£9.26	£0.00
<u>Total Net Assets / (Liabilities)</u>		£51,918.20	£52,199.90
<u>Reserves</u>			
Accumulated fund at the start of the year		£52,199.90	£86,972.69
Transfers between accumulated fund and other funds		£0.00	£0.00
Deficit / surplus		£(281.70)	£(34,772.79)
Accumulated fund at the end of the year		£51,918.20	£52,199.90
Asset Revaluation Reserve		£0.00	£0.00
Other funds		£0.00	£0.00
Total reserves		£51,918.20	£52,199.90

Note 9: Miscellaneous Income / Expenditure

	2023		2022	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
freepost local party invoices	£77.38		£31.50	
conference day sales			£54.00	
event income			£527.95	
Mansfield and Ashfield Local Election	£2.96			
regional conference				£696.00
boundary commission expenses team				£113.60
Mansfield and Ashfield Website		£156.00		
Conference refunds		£108.00		
	<u>£80.34</u>	<u>£264.00</u>	<u>£613.45</u>	<u>£809.60</u>

Note 10: Salary Costs

	2023	2022
Salary costs	£20,067.34	£47,564.95
Employer's National Insurance and Pension costs	£2,452.91	£5,998.77
Training costs	£0.00	£0.00
	<u>£22,520.25</u>	<u>£53,563.72</u>
Number of staff	1 1/2	1

Note 11: Financing Charges and Taxation

	2023	2022
Bank charges	£1.08	£8.29
Interest charged	£0.00	£0.00
Taxation charged	£0.00	£0.00
	<u>£1.08</u>	<u>£8.29</u>

Note 12: Fixed Assets

	Property	Fixtures & Fittings	Equipment	Total
Value at start of year	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Additions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Disposals	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Revaluations	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Depreciation	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Value at end of year	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>

Note 13: Stock

	2023	2022
Opening balance	£0.00	£0.00
Movements: Increase	£0.00	£0.00
Movements: Decrease	£0.00	£0.00
Closing balance	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>

Note 14: Debtors and Prepayments

	2023	2022
Prepayments	£0.00	£0.00
Debtors	£0.00	£0.00
	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>

Note 15: Loans

	2023	2022
Outstanding at start of year	£0.00	£0.00
Capital repayments	£0.00	£0.00
New loans	£0.00	£0.00
	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>

Note 16: Profit / (Loss) on Disposal of Assets

	Book value at disposal	Sale Proceeds	Profit / (Loss) on Disposal
No assets were disposed of during the year	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

East Midlands Liberal Democrats
Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Declaration

I confirm that the above statement of accounts has been prepared in accordance with guidance issued by the Electoral Commission and is correct to my knowledge.

In addition I confirm that these accounts have been approved by the executive committee of East Midlands Liberal Democrats.

Signature:

Name: Scott Kennedy-Lount

Position: Treasurer

Date:

Signature:

Name: Greg Webb

Position: Chair

Date:

East Midlands Liberal Democrats
Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Independent Examiner's Report

I have examined the Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2023 together with the underlying accounting records and confirm that the accounts are in accordance therewith.

I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that the accounting records were not kept as required; the accounts are in accordance with the accounting records; the accounts comply with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

Signature:

Name:

Position: Independent Examiner

Date:

Independent Examiner's Report

East Midlands Liberal Democrats – Financial Year 2023

At request of the Treasurer of the East Midlands Liberal Democrats Regional Party Group on behalf of its Executive Committee, I was appointed as Independent Examiner of the annual accounts that were prepared by the Treasurer for the Financial Year 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 on accruals basis as approved by the Committee on 14 March 2024.

During the year 2023, I was not involved in the East Midlands Regional Party's operations, administration or decision-making processes in any way. I am not aware of any matters or potential matters that would reasonably give rise to a perception of my status of independence that would affect my ability to carry out the examination with regard to time up to the end of the reporting period in a wholly objective manner.

I am professionally qualified as a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute (formerly known as Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators).

Independent inspection of annual accounts of the party accounting unit is a constitutional requirement, although not a legal prerequisite. Its accounting and reporting practice is regulated by the party's rules for compliance with the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ("PPERA") as amended.

The examination plan was based on the Liberal Democrats' accounting requirements in accordance with PERA and the "Guide for Independent Inspection of Year-End Accounts" (dated December 2023) issued by the Federal Party's Compliance Team. It was further informed by the detailed guidance for the conduct of independent examinations published by Charity Commission for England and Wales in its document CC32, bearing in mind that this guidance document as such is not directly applicable to the given case.

Independent examination is not an audit. It does not involve forming an opinion as to whether the accounts are "true and fair". I determined the limited scope of this independent examination in proportion to the size and complexity of the organisation in the light of the relatively simple structure of financial transactions, the moderate value of transactions and the absence of expenses that could be considered as unusual for an organisation of its kind.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have examined the Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2023 together with the underlying accounting records and confirm that the accounts are in accordance therewith.

I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that the accounting records were not kept as required; the accounts are in accordance with the accounting records; the accounts comply with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

The format of the prepared accounts is proper and compliant with the applicable template that is provided for this purpose by the Liberal Democrats to the party's accounting units.

In the course of performing the Independent Examination, nothing has come to my attention which would lead me to conclude that requirements have not been met. I did not identify any significant concerns.

I shall retain a detailed record of the examination as required.

Submitted to the Treasurer on 14 March 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Klaus Becher', written in a cursive style.

Klaus Becher FCG
3 Wesley House, Guildhall Street, Newark NG24 1UP

Signed on 14 March 2024

SC25-02 – Definition of area of the Region

Constitutional amendment

Submitted by:	David Edwards
Proposer:	David Edwards
Seconder:	

Conference resolves to amend the wording of Article 1.2 of the Regional Party constitution from –

1.2 The area of the Region shall be that covered by the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils and Rutland, Leicester, Nottingham and Derby Unitary Authorities.

to –

1.2 The area of the Region shall be that covered by the ceremonial counties¹ of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland.

¹defined by the Lieutenancy Act 1997 as amended

SC25-03 – Non-devolution in the East Midlands

Policy motion

Submitted by:	Leon Duveen
Proposer:	Ed Fordham
Summator:	Michael Mullaney

Conference condemns:

The Labour Government's attempts to force the abolition of District & Borough Councils without proper consultations with the public.

Conference affirms that:

- I. Local Councils that are accountable & responsive to local people is central to good Government.
- II. While Unitary Councils of 300,000 or larger may work in urban areas, such large Councils for rural areas or smaller towns will mean that for many such a Council will be remote, unaccountable and not give local people a say in matters that affect them
- III. Political decisions should be devolved down to the lowest practicable level of Government.

Conference recognises that:

- a. In the over 50 years since the last wholesale drawing of Principal Local Government boundaries in England, population changes mean that it is time to review them and, where necessary, redraw them.
- b. In those 50 years, communication, economics & demographics have change considerably so the powers & responsibilities of Local Government need to be updated to match.
- c. Over those 50 years, successive Government have meddled with Local Government structures & powers to such an extent that many are no longer aware what each different layer does.
- d. Often, Local Councils (especially large Countywide Unitary bodies) are remote from local people and are not responsive to their needs.
- e. Central Government has exercise tight financial control over Local Government while burdening them with more & more responsibilities they cannot raise the money to meet.

- f. The antiquated and anti-democratic “First Past The Post” electoral system has meant that many now feel that there is little point engaging with local elections.

Conference resolves:

1. That any consultation to change existing arrangements should be open and carry a commitment to respect the wishes of how communities wish to arrange their own local governance.
2. That structure should be responsive to local needs and preferences - this might mean retained two tier local government, or enabling smaller, more community led Unitaries of 100,000 or more.
3. That all English local government should be elected with fair votes as is the case in Scotland.
4. To scrap the pointless roles of Police and Crime Commissioners and the directly elected Mayor of the East Midlands and to oppose all future mayoral creations.
5. To change the funding arrangements for Local Government, to replace Council Tax with Local Income Tax and to end the centralisation of business rates.
6. Where changes are required to create new Unitary Councils, the costs of the associated 18 months transition should be met by Central Government to enable local councils to focus on improving service provision.
7. Central Government commits to the full funding of any new responsibilities imposed on Local Government for the first 24 months to allow Councils to make sensible budgetary provision for any financial obligations.

SC25-04 – Policy Making in the East Midlands

Policy motion

Submitted by:	Leon Duveen
Proposer:	Leon Duveen
Summator:	

Conference notes:

The creation of Regional Mayors and welcomes this Conference as a place to discuss policy issues.

Conference identifies:

- I. That there are many key issues facing residents, business and the environment across the East Midlands on which we should develop policy including, but not exclusively:
- II. The poor response timings of the East Midlands Ambulance Service
- III. The shocking under investment in local bus services and the need for a resurgence in public transport options across the region
- IV. The debate on National Parks and the Party Policy on this which included a coastal national park for Lincolnshire, from the Wash to the Humber
- V. The challenges facing farming and food sustainability across the Region

Conference resolves:

1. To establish an open dialogue for members and local parties to put forward policy ideas for debate and discussion,
2. To establish frequent on-line forums to discuss bespoke and specific policy issues pertinent to the East Midlands,
3. That the Regional Policy Officer be empowered by this Conference to develop these ideas and bring forward proposals for future discussion and debate.

East Midland Liberal Democrats Conference – Speakers Card

Name _____

Local Party _____

Debate _____

I will be speaking for against the Motion Amendment (delete as appropriate)

Outline of speech:

Length of speeches: Proposer - 5 mins / Summator - 4 mins / All other speakers (including proposing amendments) - 3 mins.