

# **Yorkshire and Humber Liberal Democrats Annual General Meeting 16 November 2024**

## **Chair's Report**

2024 has been a highly successful year for the party nationally. We did very well in the May local elections gaining many council seats and the control of some councils. We did even better in the general election, a total of 72 MPs is almost certainly more than we expected.

That success has not however been achieved without a political cost. As a party that claims to be a national party, our representation is very concentrated in the south of England. We do now have four MPs in the north, an improvement, but only one is in Yorkshire and the Humber, congratulations to Tom.

As a region, we have made some progress, both locally and nationally, but as a mainly Labour-facing region, we could not match the national success. We did find candidates for all our parliamentary seats, congratulations to Penny, but it was difficult, and we had to "borrow" a few candidates from other regions. We need more approved candidates in the region and if anyone would like the chance to be an MP or a candidate, please apply for approval. It is not too difficult, and most applicants are approved. The region was also able to provide some very limited assistance with general election deposits but did not have the financial resources to offer any general help. I am aware of the financial implications that lost deposits have for local parties.

The region has been able to provide our local parties with a limited amount of non-financial support. This has been through our campaigns committee chair, Hannah Kitchen, our regional campaigns manager, Rob Jacques and, in the early part of the year, our regional development officer. Unfortunately, we lost our RDO just before the general election and with her the partial head office funding that goes with the role. Despite the head office support, the executive has not felt able to fund a replacement. The position is under review and if anyone can help I, and the regional treasurer would be very grateful.

Finally, I would like to thank Brendan Stubbs who is not the chair of the regional conference committee, we do not have one, but who took on the considerable task of organising this conference. I would also like to thank the many members of the regional executive that I have not been able to mention individually for their efforts and continuing support during the year.

Alan Luckraft  
Regional Chair