

Subject: (HTML VERSION): My last news letter as Chair  
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From: Catherine Bearder - Chair South Central Liberal Democrats  
To:



# South Central Newsletter

November 24th 2024

Dear fellow Lib Dem ,

This is my last newsletter to you as your regional chair, and I want to thank you all for your support over the last 3 years. It's been quite a roller coaster, dealing with the upsets, the successes, the crises and the general weight of queries, but it's been tremendously rewarding! I've had the privilege of working on the regional executive with committed and hard working Liberal Democrats, with great members of staff and, in the local parties, so many members, activists and campaigners all working for the same thing - more Lib Dems elected at every level. What could be a better aim than that? And didn't we do well? Across the region we are currently **running 11 Councils** & have **452 Councillors** representing their communities and that wonderful number 12, yes **12 MPs**. So all in all it's been a good time to be a Lib Dem!

As I pass on to my successor, **Tahir Maher** I want to wish him and you all well in the future and I look forward to bumping into some of you at a by election or out on election delivery round somewhere.

Kind regards,

Catherine

## Regional conference report

At the Denefield school in Reading on 9th November we welcomed 3 of our new MPs, **Clive Jones**, **Joshua Reynolds** and **Alex Brewer** as well as our **Party Deputy Leader Daisy Cooper**. We had interesting discussions on a whole range of topics and heard from them how they coped with their new jobs and what they hope to achieve.

We also had a really good session on party policy. We members determine our policies so it's now, at the beginning of the Parliament, that we should take a fresh look at our priorities. Thank you to **Mohsin Kahn**, **Prue Bray** and **Laura Gordon** for leading this session.

Conference is also our AGM and where we chose our next executive. We had nominations to fill all the officer posts and the Returning Officer agreed to accept all the 14 nominations for ordinary members to form the new executive without having to go to ballot. [You can find the new executive here](#)

Thank you to Reading local party for hosting us and supplying the lunches and to all the members for attending and making it such a success.



## By election roundup

### Liberal Democrat GAIN from Labour

- ◆ LDM, Mike Baggailey: 31.3% (+24.6)
- CON: 29.7% (+9.0)
- LAB: 27.2% (-34.2)
- GRN: 11.8% (+0.5)

### Bradwell (Milton Keynes) Council By-Election Result:

#### Liberal Democrat HOLD

- ◆ LDM, Kerrie Bradburn: 56.1% (+2.3)
- LAB: 16.3% (-8.6)
- RFM: 11.3% (New)
- CON: 11.2% (-2.5)
- GRN: 5.0% (-2.5)

### Broughton (Milton Keynes) Council By-Election Result:

#### Liberal Democrat HOLD.

- ◆ LDM, Clare Tevlin: 51.5% (+5.6)
- CON: 23.8% (-2.2)
- LAB: 15.9% (-5.5)
- GRN: 6.1% (+1.2)
- HER: 2.7% (+0.9)

Really well done to the teams fighting the latest round of by elections. In Chipping Norton, thought to be a poor area for us we stormed it and won from the Labour Party, pushing them into 3rd place. In Milton Keynes, where a by election was caused by the sad death of our council leader Robin Bradburn. We were fighting two by elections, which was quite a stretch for the local teams, but they held them comfortably. **Great work all!**

...and finally



A warm welcome to our newest member of staff, **Mark Jeffries**, who is well known to the Portsmouth local party. Mark has been an activist in Portsmouth for many years and has worked for the party in Liverpool and elsewhere. This now brings our compliment of staff to 4, Andy Briggs and Mark as our Campaign Managers, working with the held and development seats, Charlie Wise as our Regional Development Officer, working with the smaller local parties to build capacity and campaigning experience and Simon Sansbury, our administrative assistant who keeps all the back room stuff in excellent order.

Welcome Mark, you join a great team!

So it just leaves me to wish you all a great festive season ahead, some good delivery and door knocking weather and a great round of elections in the spring and onwards.



Kind regards,

**Catherine Bearder**  
**Chair**  
**South Central Liberal Democrats**

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