

Kieron Franks for East of England Chair

*About Me - Originally from Doncaster, I joined the Liberal Democrats in 2019 and in this time, I have become the secretary for the local party in Colchester and president of the University of Essex YL branch. However, campaigning experience goes back further, having worked on issues such as accessible transport and life skills in schools.*

*Collaboration - There is some amazing work being done within the region by Young Liberals but there is little co-ordination. This is largely due to the lack of the long-proposed regional YL executive that has never really gotten off the ground. At least in the short-term, I would bring together the executives of the existing YL groups to discuss their plans for campaigns and membership engagement instead of creating a completely new executive and then work with the party's Regional Executive to found additional YL groups to engage with the majority of the region's YL members not affiliated to a society.*

*Inclusivity - The party clearly struggles to connect with working-class people, and the East of England is no exception. To fix this, there needs to be substantial change on both a Federal and Regional level. Building on the work of my predecessors, using regional YL events to engage more working class YL members and the additional funding secured by previous region YL chairs for young candidates has the potential to engage young voters who feel disengaged from their traditional parties and give them a liberal voice.*

*Action - One of the largest sets of local elections in 5 decades is just around the corner and we need to be as active as ever. As Chair, I would encourage Young Liberal candidates in the region to ask for our help and*

*organise support for them in not only getting elected but also whilst they are in post.*

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