Inaugural General Meeting of the local party covering the Constituencies of Bath and North East Somerset and Hanham.

Minutes of the Bath and North East Somerset IGM held on Friday 28th November 2025

Virtual meeting by Zoom with approximately 40 members attending

1. Introduction from the Chair

Manda Rigby took the Chair and welcomed all to the meeting. The new party will be known as Bath, North East Somerset and Hanham.

2. Formation of the new local party

The following motion to establish the new local party was presented to the meeting and passed following a vote:

That the Bath, North East Somerset and Hanham Liberal Democrats be established as a Local Party of the Liberal Democrats in accordance with the Party Constitution and as the successor within its area of Bath, Frome and Wansdyke Liberal Democrats and predecessors.

3. Adoption of the local party constitution

It was noted that the Constitution will be based on the model provided by HQ subject to these amendments.
• The area of the Local Party shall be the parliamentary constituencies of Bath,
and North East Somerset and Hanham.
Places on the Executive
The model constitution sets out the places on the executive which will include
• Two representatives from each of the parliamentary seats within the local party;
• Three representatives of the Local Party's members from Bath and North East
Somerset Council, elected by and from such members; and one representative of the Local Party's members from South Gloucestershire Council area, elected by and from such members.
The details of the proposed constitution were published before the meeting

The following motion to adopt the new local party constitution was passed following a vote:

That the Model Constitution for Local Parties (England) be adopted as the Constitution of the Local Party, with the amendments outlined are agreed by the meeting (all such amendments being conditional upon approval by the Regional Party).

4. Outline Budget for 2026

Steven Gourley outlined the anticipated budget for 2026 based on current Fund-Raising levels. He added that the finances were in a strong position for the future.

The outline budget was noted.

5. Elections of Officers and Executive members

The following Officers and members of the Executive have been elected following nominations

Officers

Chair: Mark Roper
Vice-Chair: Manda Rigby
Treasurer: Steven Gourley
Secretary: (vacancy)
Data Officer: Clive Dellard
Membership: Charlie Knight
Elections: Winston Duguid
Diversity: Alice Hovanessian

Ex officio and Appointed

MP and PPC
3 Council Group representatives
Campaign Team chair

Executive Committee

Nasser Hunt
Claire Jackson
Paul Strasburger
George Tomlin
Christine White
(1 x vacancy)
Bath Representatives
(2 x vacancies)
NESH Representatives
(2 x vacancies)

6. Guest Speakers

Wera Hobhouse MP

Wera reported on her activities for the year. She has spoken 160 time in Parliament
Attended 123 engagements
Dealt with 8,800 case work issues
She continues to campaign for better treatment of eating disorders and putting Europe firmly back on the LD agenda
She has also been working with the Council on Community Energy

Cllr Kevin Guy, Leader of B&NES Council
Kevin highlighted various important issues that have been priorities with the Council: these include:
• Bringing in a tourism levy – working with the WECA mayor
• Local Plan Options consultation
• Bringing adult social care back in house
• Tackling the climate and ecological emergencies and being one of the greenest authorities in the UK

Paul Strasburger House of Lords
Paul highlighted the dedicated work of the Lords to improve many Government bills. This included achieving a change in the employment rights bill due to concerns over its implications for hiring staff.

Mark Roper
Mark will take up his role as Chair of the new party in January 2026. He set out some priorities for the local party including to widen its base of volunteers and to focus on the local elections due in 2027.

The meeting was then concluded and members thanked for attending.