



## Simon Banks

### ACTION IN THE CAUSE

SLF Council is too big to be a cabinet, but joining it should be a serious commitment. Members should be active for the cause. When I was elected, I joined Publications group and more recently Events, as well as being a critical friend on Jon Alexander's citizenship project. I want to continue this.

I'm my local party's Chair of Campaigns and Membership Development Officer and Chair of Eastern Region's Development Committee. At these levels I've pressed for more strategic thinking and more locally-based political discussion to engage members. I was a

Waltham Forest councillor for 12 years (four years as group leader in balance of power) and stood for Parliament four times. I find I can clarify issues that get tangled in discussion and I'm experienced in chairing and editing.

### PRIORITY ISSUES

**Climate change** is the foremost issue. I also have a work background in equality and diversity. One shift I'd like to see in SLF is more attention to promoting **Liberalism in working-class areas**, where the Liberal Democrats have declined drastically: exceptions like Sunderland and Southwark get little attention. **The SLF should pursue diversity**, especially more young people.

I believe Social Liberals are defined by much more than our attitude to the state and capitalism. Liberalism is about challenging excessive power, but also active citizenship and the common good. For people to be active citizens, they need to have power over their own lives. Thus poverty, for example, is illiberal.

**I'm a writer, a Quaker, an environmentalist, but above all, a Liberal.**