**South of Scotland Regional Constituency Profile**

The South of Scotland region is made up of the entire local authority area of Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Midlothian and South Lanarkshire (Clydesdale and East Kilbride). This large region, extending from the west coast to the east coast of Scotland, has a diverse economy that includes farming, fishing, light industry, and tourism. Promoting the tourism industry by extending the Borders Railway to Carlisle will help enhance tourism in the area. This makes it a diverse political landscape.

**Scottish Liberal Democrats Representatives in the South of Scotland**

The Scottish Liberal Democrats have a long-standing tradition of community activism within the South of Scotland, with local parties working hard to make their presence felt. While the party does not currently hold a Scottish Parliamentary seat in the region now, there are active local parties with a growing base of support.

**The Local Parties in the Region Are**

A breakdown of the membership is as follows

* Midlothian and Scottish Borders. 143
* Dumfriesshire 35
* Galloway 46
* South Lanarkshire (Clydesdale and East Kilbride) 40
* Total 264

**Electoral Context**

In recent elections it has been a difficult region for the Scottish Liberal Democrats due the dominance of the other parties mainly the Scottish Conservatives, and SNP. In the last Scottish Parliament, the South of Scotland Liberal Democrat were place 5th behind the Greens with 12,422 votes which is 3.4% of the population vote. Recent council elections included candidates from the 150-rising project.

**The Local Issues relevant to Holyrood/Westminster**

* Cost of living issues especially in areas of rural and urban deprivation
* Challenges of providing and sustaining services to an ageing and dispersed population with increasing numbers of incoming retirees
* Low wages and lack of range of employment and higher and further education facilities
* Labour shortages in tourism, agricultural and care sectors exacerbated by Brexit; recruitment of professionals especially to west of region
* Transport links, externally and internally
* Infrastructure (roads and bridges)
* Education and Community Services
* Environmental and Land Use
* Uncertainty of future Scottish budget allocation and impact on agricultural support
* Maintenance in communities