

# New Lib Dem leader **VINCE CABLE**



will lead the fight to change the direction of Britain



**Vince Cable has set out his priorities for a better future for Britain as the new leader of the Liberal Democrats.**

Vince - widely respected for his experience and economic expertise - wants the Lib Dems to lead on Brexit, education, the economy and the NHS.

"I am ambitious for Britain, and I want the Liberal Democrats to represent the many millions of people who share our values," Vince said.

"The Conservatives are in disarray - more focused on infighting than leading the country.

"And Labour are backing the Conservatives all the way on Brexit. They support leaving the single market.

"With the economy approaching the Brexit iceberg, only the Liberal Democrats will make the case for taking the country in a new direction.

"And we must make sure Brexit does not mean we lose sight of other vital issues like securing fairer funding for the NHS, especially mental health and social care.

**"The Lib Dems would put 1p on income tax to raise an extra £6 billion a year for our NHS.**

"And with our schools under severe financial pressure, we will lead the fight for extra teachers and funding aimed at supporting those who need it most.

"The Liberal Democrats offer a compassionate, positive vision for the future. Investment in public services, support for businesses to create jobs and a fairer deal for young people.

**"For anyone who shares our values and our aims I ask you to join us and help make them a reality.**

**"With your help, we can affect real, positive change for Britain."**

**Join Vince Cable's Lib Dems: [www.LibDems.org.uk/join](http://www.LibDems.org.uk/join)**

## Tory County Councillors Vote themselves a 15% Pay Rise

On Thursday 13 July, County Councillors met to consider a report by their Independent Remuneration Panel on the level of the payments made to them as councillors. The IRP recommended a small rise of 1.5%. They pointed out that KCC pay levels were already high, and officers had found only two councils in the entire country paying more than KCC. They said that KCC staff and other workers in hospitals, police and so on, were being limited to low pay rises. They also said the majority of 30 councillors they interviewed said the pay was 'about right'.

However, Conservative Councillors proposed out of the blue that their pay rise should instead be 15%. The rise applies not just to the basic allowance of £13,000 that all councillors receive, but also to the Special Responsibility Allowances between £9k and £42k which Committee Chairmen, Cabinet Members and others receive. The IRP recommended that should not change at all.

### The total cost of the increase is £245,000

Only one Conservative Councillor voted against the proposal, saying he didn't think people outside county hall would understand such a high rise. Too true! The Lib Dem proposal to accept the IRP recommendation was voted down by Conservative and Labour councillors.

## Can the Lib Dem team help?

**CLlr George Koowaree, Ashford East**

[george.koowaree@kent.gov.uk](mailto:george.koowaree@kent.gov.uk)



**Adrian Gee-Turner, Ashford Central**

[adrian.geeturner@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian.geeturner@btinternet.com)



**James Galloway, Ashford South**

[jamesgallowaylibdem@gmail.com](mailto:jamesgallowaylibdem@gmail.com)



**Local Lib Dems -  
working hard all year round**

# Ashford's **FOCUS**

From the Local Liberal Democrat Focus Team  
[web.ashfordlibdems.org.uk](http://web.ashfordlibdems.org.uk)  
[jamesgallowaylibdem@gmail.com](mailto:jamesgallowaylibdem@gmail.com)

# Thank you!



**James Galloway and the local Lib Dems are saying a huge 'thank you' for the support they received in the recent elections.**

Despite the squeeze caused by the General Election campaign and what appears to be widespread tactical voting, James still managed to get a healthy share of the votes in the Borough Council by-election for Victoria Ward and is optimistic about the Borough Council election in 2019.

Until then there is plenty of campaigning to be done on the local issues important to people in the area and Ashford Liberal Democrats will continue to keep you informed with regular editions of FOCUS and online.

## Inside - Deal or No Deal Brexit Special

## Who stands where on Brexit?

	Tories 	Labour 	Lib Dems 
Remain member of Single Market	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Remain member of Customs Union	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Preserve Freedom of Movement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Remain member of Euratom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Referendum on final deal with option to Remain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Economic issues kill Brexit?

**It isn't general knowledge yet but Brexit is essentially dead in the water. Most of the people who understand economics are aware of it and it is only kept from the general public by a mostly rabid right-wing press and the die-hard Brexiteers from the extreme wings of the Labour and Conservative parties. All they have left is a cry of 'the democratic will of the people must be upheld' when referring to the advisory referendum of last year.**

By now, one would have anticipated that any advantages of leaving would have been propagated by its adherents but no: because there aren't any! Even the central plank of 'taking back control' and its intrinsic corollaries of law-making and freedom of movement have been shown to be illusory. We've always had control of our borders and our law-making, but unscrupulous leavers led the ill-informed to believe that the EU somehow took away our sovereignty in these matters.

And by Brexit I mean both the 'hard' or 'soft' varieties. Brexiteers have abandoned the former and on closer examination the latter is - as Professor A C Grayling points out in The New European this week 'a nonsense' - like being in a club while still paying the subscription and having no say in making the rules.

Leaving will result in a generation-long impoverishment of the British people. When politicians realise that the people are catching onto this disaster it will take more than May or Corbyn to stop the sensible majorities in their parties from forcing a rethink. As for us ordinary voters, we need to move the debate along and refuse to accept the narrative that Brexit is inevitable. It isn't: turkeys don't vote for Christmas and ordinary Brits don't want an economic slump either.

*Chris Grayling*

## Leavers looking for scapegoats to blame when Brexit fails

**Brexit was always doomed. Economics will always out. When it comes down to the pounds and pence it does not matter how ideological you want to be, you still have to pay the bills and the mortgage each month.**

That is why, Dr Liam Fox, the Minister for Foreign Trade was signposting the blame for a failed Brexit on the BBC. The split in the cabinet is showing. The Chancellor, Philip Hammond, is arguing jobs and economics and why we must stay in the EU and the Common Tariff Union; Dr Fox is saying no, we must leave the EU and the Common Tariff Union. Dr Fox's vision will take twenty years to make up the

trade we will lose with the EU in new deals with other countries.

People did not vote to be poorer. Once the negotiations start and the deal is revealed to be, 'all in, or all out,' it will be obvious to the markets that May cannot deliver a soft Brexit: it will become a cliff edge, no deal outcome. Sterling will further devalue by between 8 - 10% as any last hopes of avoiding a No Deal are extinguished. Retail sales and business confidence will fall and as public pay caps are removed inflation will leap up.

A look at the history of the DUP and their negotiations during the Good Friday Agreement will show that as soon as the first key milestone agreed in their deal is

missed, they will withdraw support for the Tory government. The coming Parliamentary recess from July 20th will be filled with plotting and dealing ready for a show down when the MPs return on the 5th September.

Vince Cable told Andrew Marr he can see Brexit never happening, due to the splits there are in the two main parties over leave and remain. As it becomes more and more evident how difficult leaving is, we need to have a mechanism to be able to say, "No one signed up for this." Except for Dr Liam Fox, of course. Oh, and by the way I used to work for Dr. Fox.

*Adrian Gee-Turner*

## Where will No Deal leave Ashford?

**No Deal on Brexit would mean Ashford would become a frontier town. We take a world tour looking at how the future may turn out for our town and region.**

*Calais?*

Currently Calais takes advantage of differences in tax on beer, wine and spirits by encouraging the booze cruise. Post-Brexit the differences would suddenly be on all goods and services, with cunning businesses seeking the best options one side of the channel or the other.

*Nijmegen?*

Nijmegen in the Netherlands, where the Dutch operate a Free Port Bonded warehouse system for freight coming into Rotterdam, has a landscape of miles and miles of warehouses and thousands of trucks covering the country side. Currently goods arriving in Dover, and through the tunnel, will have cleared customs on entering the EU and have a free pass through internal borders. No Deal will see those goods held up to clear customs inspections and pay duty when they enter the country. Kent will become the default warehouse for all goods coming into the UK via the tunnel and Dover.

*El Paso?*

On the USA/Mexico border El Paso sees huge daily migration of workers who live in one country and work in the other. David Davies has already said at the Welsh CBI conference last month the government will not cut off immigration to the detriment of British companies. It is likely some kind of visa or Green Card system will be introduced allowing people from the EU to remain as long as they are working. French companies wishing to take advantage of lower Corporation Tax will likely want to be just this side of the border in either Folkestone or Ashford.

*Japan?*

In Japan an aging population and a lack of freedom of movement has seen a limited supply of labour. The Japanese, rather than using immigration as a solution to their labour shortage turned to automation and robotics, and a shortage of labour post-Brexit would see businesses investing in automation here at an even greater rate. Robots are now coming out of the factories to work in shops, care homes, farms and warehouses. They will soon be driving trucks and taxis, all without needing pay or time off. Companies with capital to invest will seek to mechanise as No Deal sees the labour supply dry up in the UK with automation increasing pressure on workers to retrain and accept worse conditions at work.

*Adrian Gee-Turner*