

POLITICAL REPORT

Analysis of National Results

Conservatives	306	+	97 seats	(2005)
Labour	258	-	91 seats	(2005)
Liberal Democrats	57	-	5 seats	(2005)
DUP	8	-	1 seat	(2005)
SNP	6	-	No change	(2005)
Others	14	-	No change	(2005)

Share of the Vote

Conservatives	36.1 %	
Labour	29 %	Swing from Labour to Conservative
Liberal	23 %	= 5.2%
Others	11.9 %	

The National picture is obviously poor for the Labour Party. The consequences being a Hung Parliament.

This, after days of horse trading led to a coalition of the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats. As for the Labour Party, the results have led to the resignation of Gordon Brown as Prime Minister and leader of the Labour Party.

We must now consider the implications of the election results and look to the future.

1. The results have left the Labour Party out of power for the first time since 1997.
2. On the face of it the Tory-Lib Dem Coalition looks stable but hard decisions have to be made.
3. The economic position of the country is extremely difficult. The scale of the deficit is almost impossible to envisage, 150 to 187 billion pounds depending on which source you believe.

4. The new Tory Liberal Democrat Government have made it clear that they expect the savings to be made in Public Service cuts in performance to tax rises. However, there is a probability that VAT will rise to 20%.
5. The clear implication to Public Service workers is very disturbing. It is almost certainly going to lead to massive job losses. Figures of 1 in 10 and 1 in 15 Public Service jobs to go are not unrealistic.
6. The facts are that these decisions will not be popular with our members and the electorate as a whole. The massive reduction in jobs could lead to a worsening of the recession with the knock on effect that many more related jobs in local communities will go. Statistically it is calculated that 62 pence in every pound is spent locally. For examples of this phenomenon we need look no further from when many of the coal mines were closed. The affect being that all the local businesses were affected with many closing, starved of money with no one earning in the area. Many local economies went into meltdown taking 20 years to recover.
7. The political consequences for the coalition are potentially very damaging. The effects of the austerity programme will probably lead to a loss of public support. The anger of the public will most likely be directed by the Liberal Democrats. This could lead to electoral wipe-out at a local level. Needless to say many Liberal Democrat MP's will be under extreme pressure from their local parties and activists.
8. The pressure will mount and as the potential to create major difficulties between Mr Clegg and Mr Cameron, Liberal Democrat MP's fearing electoral defeat will most likely demand changes in Government Policy, this of course will be resisted by the Conservatives. The ideological differences between the right of a Tory party and the Liberal Left of the Liberal Democrat party may prove to be the fault lines that fracture the coalition.
9. The Labour Party must quickly elect a new leader. The new leader must be acceptable to the grass roots of the party. New policies must be radical to accept that everything we did in Government worked is wrong.

The country is going to be sick and tired of central control, more power must be given to local councils and communities.

The party must get over the idea that everything in public ownership is bad and that the Private Sector has all the answers. In many areas a partnership between the public and private sectors could be the way forward.

The country will need investment in many areas, both nationally and locally. Nationally the need for substantial sources of energy will be required. The party should commit to clean coal power and carbon capture. We still have massive reserves of coal beneath our feet and the intellectual and engineering skills to lead the world in this technology.

Locally many local and community programmes based on green manufacturing and locally produced goods and services could be funded by local authorities allowing individuals to take control of their communities.

10. The Labour Party must embrace the future clearly giving the public a genuine different alternative to the Tory Lib Dem Coalition.

The Tories did not win the election and more importantly the Labour Party was not mortally wounded, we live to fight for our beliefs.

It is clear and will become crystal clear in time that the Lib Dems sold their souls to climb in to bed with the Tories, this will be their undoing . There is an old saying that "if you lie down with the dogs you will get fleas".

The Labour Party is the true party of the centre left and the future will be ours.

Finally

Congratulations to Mike Wood and Linda Riordan who with GMB help held on to their seats. Commiserations to James Lewis who fought a great campaign but he was ultimately defeated by boundary changes. The inclusion of Harwood Ward in

the constituency proved too much. The Conservative local candidate polled 6900 votes compared to Labour with 2000. With the other ward, Rothwell giving the Lib Dems a majority of 182. The rest of the constituency stayed loyal to James but unfortunately this mountain was too high to climb.

Local Elections - Councils up for election this round

Analysis of Local Council Control and Seats

Party	Councils		Councillors	
	Total	Net + or -	Total	Net + or -
Conservative	66	-3	3447	-119
Labour	37	+15	2945	+412
Lib Dem	14	-3	1714	-129
Others	0	0	286	0
Resident Associations	0	0	36	0
Green	0	0	35	-9
BNP	0	0	19	-27

Note Results are based on 164 Councils

On the figures shown above Labour ironically did well, the main reason being the increase in the vote from 39% to 63% due to the General Election.

Results in our Region

Labour is within touching distance of power in Leeds with 48 seats, 2 short of an absolute majority. The two Green Councillors are unlikely to vote with the Tory Lib Dem alliance and it is expected Keith Wakefield and Labour will take power.

The facts are that the refuse strike did not have an adverse affect on Labour, infact many people supported the party in key areas affected by the strike. In the Ward of the then Liberal Leader Councillor Richard Brett, GMB member Ron Graham beat the Liberals into second place taking the seat with a majority of 770. Javed Akhtar won GMB member Hyde Park and Mick Taylor's ward from the Liberals with a majority of 222.

Finally, it is important that we continue to work hard and fund Labour, but we must maintain our drive to recruit new members from the GMB into the Labour Party. Attendance at party meetings is dwindling and GMB members could be partial in the selection of new candidates.

