More powers to Yorkshire?

Following the referendum in Scotland there has been a lot more talk about devolving power from Westminster to regions in England.

The Liberal Democrats believe that for power to be legitimate it should be as close to people as possible so we welcome the chance to argue for more local decision-making. In recent years the Tories have created Leeds City Region, and Labour a West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Although they spend millions of pounds of tax payers money neither of those organisations have any directly elected representatives on them and are artificial constructs ordinary people don’t recognise.

Lib Dem Leader on Bradford Council Jeanette Sunderland said “We would like to see power devolved to Yorkshire. It has important historical and cultural roots which people recognise. I’m sure that people would vote to elect a First Minister for Yorkshire. It just makes sense. Labour says it is too big and will not work. We say there are about as many people living in Yorkshire as in Scotland so we should have the same powers.”

Almost 20,000 New Members since May 8th and still rising!

Join the Lib Dem fight back today

Since May thousands of people across the country have joined the Liberal Democrats.

In Bradford, Membership is at a record high but we still have room for more.

Being a Liberal Democrat is different - you have the power to change things.

Unlike other parties, our members vote on our policies, elect our leaders and give their communities a voice.
**Election Round Up**

**Key Results**

**Bradford East (Parliamentary)**
- Labour: 19,312
- David Ward (Lib Dem): 12,228
- Conservatives: 4,682
- UKIP: 4,103
- Greens: 871
- British Democrats: 210

Labour gain from Lib Dems

**Eccleshill Ward (Local)**
- Nicola Pollard (Lib Dem): 2,137
- Labour: 2,003
- UKIP: 1,437
- Conservatives: 911
- Greens: 200

Lib Dem gain from Labour

**Bolton & Undercliffe Ward (Local)**
- Michael Stelling (Lib Dem): 2,457
- Labour: 2,164
- UKIP: 1,075
- Conservatives: 708
- Greens: 251

Lib Dem hold

**Idle & Thackley Ward (Local)**
- Jeanette Sunderland (Lib Dem): 3,922
- Labour: 1,536
- UKIP: 1,189
- Conservatives: 1,049
- Greens: 280

Lib Dem hold

**Bradford Moor Ward (Local)**
- Labour: 3,956
- Riaz Ahmed (Lib Dem): 2,864
- Conservatives: 378
- UKIP: 198
- Greens: 132

Labour hold

A sad night as David Ward loses out in the General Election. However, local election results saw wins in Idle, Bolton and a gain from Labour in Eccleshill.

You would have to work hard to convince anyone that the General Election was a good night for the Lib Dems. In Bradford we were not spared the pain as David Ward lost out in his bid to be re-elected as the Bradford East Member of Parliament.

David Ward said: “I was blown away by the support the team and I received and I was proud to serve as your Lib Dem MP for the past 5 years. I am greatly disappointed that our hard work was not rewarded with a better result. I will continue to work with the Lib Dem team to make sure that we challenge Labour in Bradford and stand up for a more Liberal Britain.

Things were more cheerful when the counting started for the Local Elections as we were able to defend our Council seats in Bolton and Idle as well as make a gain from Labour in Eccleshill.

In Idle and Thackley, Jeanette was re-elected to the Council with 3922 votes. Jeanette said: “I am really grateful so many people came out to support me and the Lib Dem team. We could not do the work we do for local people if it wasn’t for the help of our fantastic team of local volunteers.

In Bolton and Undercliffe, Michael Stelling was elected to the Council with 2457 votes. It was a close result with Labour just 293 votes behind in second place.

Michael said: “I would like to give a special thank you to the dozens of people who helped with my campaign. As a first time candidate I would have been lost without the help, support and advice I got from members and supporters.”

The best result of the night was the last, as we gained a seat from Labour in Eccleshill. Nicola Pollard was elected to the Council with 2137 votes. It was a very close result just 134 votes ahead of Labour.

Nicola said: “It was great to take the seat from Labour as the whole team worked so hard to make sure we won.”

Finally a special mention to our Bradford Moor candidate Riaz Ahmed who polled 2,864 votes (enough to win any of the seats mentioned above) to come a close second to Labour.

Once again a massive thank you to the hundreds of people who help during the election campaign. Especially those who stood as candidates across Bradford. These results would not have been possible without all your help.

Lib Dems take Chair of Bradford East Area Committee

Following our gain in the Council Elections the Lib Dems have taken control of the Bradford East Area committee from Labour. It will be chaired by Cllr Rachel Sunderland (picture above) over the next year. The Area Committee makes decisions about some local services and scrutinises the work of the Council’s Executive in Bradford East.
City of Bradford Lib Dems welcome the news that Tim Farron, MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale, has been elected as the new leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Tim Farron said that under his leadership, the party would oppose the cuts to tax credits and other benefits in the Conservative’s budget and push for greater spending on infrastructure such as transport and broadband.

Tim added, “If you care about human rights join us. If you think you shouldn’t have your emails snooped on join us. If you think everyone deserves a decent home join us.”

These principles are at the heart of what drives the Liberal Democrats, our members and activists.

Almost 20,000 people have joined the party since the General Election. Locally we have been joined by dozens of new activists and members this year.

After 19 years serving as a Councillor for Bolton and Undercliffe, Howard Middleton retired in May for a well earned rest.

During his time on the Council Howard had an impeccable record with local residents and was appointed to be the Council Groups Whip.

In 2008 he was given the honour of becoming the Lord Mayor of Bradford.

Bradford Lib Dem Group Leader Jeanette Sunderland said, “Howard will be a great loss to the Council Group. He can be rightly proud of his contribution to the local community, the Lib Dems and Bradford”.

In 2008 Howard Middleton was made Lord Mayor of Bradford. He made the district’s branch of the Alzheimer’s Society his chosen charity for the year.

Cllr Nicola Pollard
Speaking up for vulnerable in her maiden speech at City Hall

Just a few weeks after her victory in the local elections. Eccleshill’s newest Councillor was already speaking up for vulnerable people at City Hall.

The July meeting of the Council was Nicola’s first opportunity to speak up for residents and she put forward a motion to the Council seeking improved support for Mental Health services across Bradford.

“It was a bit scary having to stand up in front of the full Council for the first time but I got elected to make a difference for our community and speak up for local people. I was pleased that it caused a great debate too”.

The Council voted to accept Nicola’s motion.

“1 in 5 people suffer from mental health problems making sure that they get early care and help is in the best interests of us all”.

Howard Middleton - 19 years serving Bolton & Undercliffe

In 2008 he was given the honour of becoming the Lord Mayor of Bradford.

Bradford Lib Dem Group Leader Jeanette Sunderland said, “Howard will be a great loss to the Council Group. He can be rightly proud of his contribution to the local community, the Lib Dems and Bradford”.

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Upcoming events

August

Wednesday 12th August - “Could you be a Liberal Democrat Councillor” A training event for people people wanting to be Councillors or just to find out more. Everyone welcome.

Sunday 23rd - Bradford Treasure Hunt (with cars) Starting at 1pm outside the bottom gates to Idle Recreation Ground, Cross Road entrance. Don’t worry if you haven’t a car - we have spare seats!

Monday 24th August - Advertisement for candidates for the May 2016 District Council elections posted

September

Monday 2nd - Debate night 7pm @ Bradford Lib Dem Office (458 Killinghall Road, Undercliffe, BD2 4SL). Is there still a place for the Lib Dems in British politics after the 2015 General Election?

Friday 11th - Crown Green Bowling @ Bowling Green, Idle Recreation Ground, 5pm for Practice 6pm Competition Starts

September contd.

Wednesday 16th - Members Evening 7pm @ Bradford Lib Dem Office (458 Killinghall Road, Undercliffe, BD2 4SL). Come and meet the team and find out more about what we do and how you can get more involved. Also discussion on policy for the Bournemouth Conference.

19th - 23rd - Lib Dem Conference in Bournemouth - you can watch it on TV!

October

Thursday 1st - Lib Dem Quiz Night Thakley Cricket Club, Ainsbury Avenue (Opposite Thackley Methodist Church). 7pm for 7.30pm start

Tuesday 6th - Hustings Event for 2016 District Council Election Candidates

Wednesday 14th - Candidates Training “Your winning campaign” - Campaign briefing and training for team 2016

Executive Committee Contact Details
Chair; Riaz Ahmed 07971 602245
Secretary; Geoff Reid 07751 596579
Organiser; Brendan Stubbs 07473 845763

Social, Fundraising, Training, Campaigning

What would you like to see from the Lib Dem team in Bradford.

Use this space to let us know your ideas please

Name

Address

Telephone

Mobile

E-mail

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