

## CORBY AND EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BY-ELECTION POLL

Lord Ashcroft

August 2012

1,502 adults in the Corby and East Northamptonshire constituency were interviewed by telephone between 8 and 11 August 2012. Results have been weighted to be representative of all adults in the constituency.

1. As you may have heard, Louise Mensch, the MP for Corby and East Northamptonshire, is standing down and there will therefore have to be a by-election in the next few months to elect a new MP for the area. Which party will you vote for in the by-election?

[Change since 2010 general election in brackets]

Labour	52% [+13%]
Conservative	37% [-5%]
Liberal Democrat	7% [-8%]
Other	4% [-1%]

2. Are you fairly sure that is what you will do at the by-election, or do you think you may well change your mind between now and then?

	ALL	Lab	Con	Lib Dem
Fairly sure that is how I will vote	83%	85%	85%	56%
I may well change my mind	17%	15%	15%	44%

3. If you changed your mind, which party would you be most likely to switch to?

	ALL	Lab	Con	Lib Dem
Labour	22%	-	40%	47%
Conservative	19%	24%	-	41%
Liberal Democrat	25%	36%	27%	-
UKIP	4%	3%	8%	-
Green	3%	6%	1%	-
BNP	2%	4%	2%	-
Other	5%	2%	6%	-
Don't know	20%	26%	16%	12%

**4. Louise Mensch is standing down because she says being an MP puts an intolerable strain on her family life since she has three children and her husband lives in New York. How far do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?**

	AGREE		Neither	DISAGREE	
	Strongly	Somewhat		Somewhat	Strongly
<b>A.</b> She is perfectly entitled to put her desire for a better family life ahead of continuing as an MP	57%	25%	5%	5%	7%
<b>B.</b> She should have thought through the difficulties of balancing family life with the life of being an MP before she stood for election to parliament	42%	23%	12%	13%	10%
<b>C.</b> Her difficulties in reconciling her family and professional lives are nothing like the everyday pressures my family and I face	25%	21%	17%	18%	15%
<b>D.</b> Louise Mensch was a good local MP	14%	21%	25%	11%	18%

- Those who say they will vote Lib Dem were most likely to agree with statement A (96%), but Conservatives (88%) and Labour voters (82%) were also very likely to agree.
- Labour voters were the most likely to agree with statement B (72%), though majorities of Conservatives (61%) and Lib Dems (53%) also did so.
- Labour voters (52%) and DEs (53%) were the only group among whom a majority agreed with statement C.
- 63% of those who say they will vote Conservative, 36% of Lib Dems and 26% of Labour voters agreed that Louise Mensch was a good local MP.

**5. Which of the following statements do you most agree with?**

	ALL	Lab	Con	Lib Dem
I am satisfied with the job David Cameron is doing overall as Prime Minister	27%	12%	55%	28%
I am dissatisfied with the job that David Cameron is doing as Prime Minister BUT I would still prefer to have him as PM than Ed Miliband	30%	16%	39%	28%
I am dissatisfied with the job that David Cameron is doing as Prime Minister AND I would prefer to have Ed Miliband as PM instead	31%	67%	4%	29%

**6. Please say how well or badly you think the coalition government is doing so far overall.**

	ALL	Lab	Con	Lib Dem
Very well	1%	1%	2%	2%
Quite well	43%	24%	73%	54%
Quite badly	36%	44%	23%	35%
Very badly	20%	31%	2%	9%

**7. I am going to read out some words and phrases that have been used about the political parties. Regardless of which party you would vote for, please say in each case whether you think the word or phrase is true or not true of the Labour Party / the Conservative Party / the Liberal Democrats.**

	Labour	Conservatives	Lib Dems
Shares my values	<u>44%</u>	32%	31%
Clear about what they stand for	<u>49%</u>	45%	31%
Willing to take tough decisions for the long term	45%	<u>58%</u>	36%
Competent and capable	43%	<u>45%</u>	27%
Will do what they say	<u>34%</u>	32%	24%
On the side of ordinary people	<u>57%</u>	27%	40%

**8. Here are two arguments that have been made about the amount the UK government borrows and how quickly this should be reduced through spending cuts and tax rises. Please say which of them is closer to your own view.**

	ALL	Lab	Con	Lib Dem
The government's spending cuts are hurting the economy. It should cut taxes, and/or cut spending less fast, even if that means we go on borrowing more for longer, because given how much we already owe, borrowing an extra few billion pounds cannot do much more harm.	35%	50%	21%	18%
Borrowing more at a time when we already owe so much money will simply make matters worse, as the country will have to pay even more back in the longer term. We have to bring the debt and the deficit under control even if it has some painful effects for the economy in the short term.	65%	50%	79%	82%

**9. Thinking about Britain's economy, which of the following comes closest to your own view?**

	ALL	Lab	Con	Lib Dem
Although things are difficult now, the right decisions are being made and things will improve significantly over the next three or four years.	42%	25%	74%	59%
In three or four years' time, the economy will be no better, or even worse, than it is now.	58%	75%	26%	41%

- 10. With our economy facing challenges in the months ahead, whom do you most trust to manage the economy in the best interests of Britain – David Cameron, Nick Clegg and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, or Ed Miliband and the Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls?**

	ALL	Lab	Con	Lib Dem
Cameron, Clegg and Osborne	49%	18%	94%	67%
Miliband and Balls	33%	73%	4%	25%
Neither/Don't know	18%	9%	2%	8%

- 11. Regardless of which party you might vote for, which party do you think is most likely to win the by-election in Corby and East Northamptonshire?**

	ALL	Lab	Con	Lib Dem
Labour	71%	84%	65%	70%
Conservative	23%	13%	33%	24%
Lib Dems	3%	1%	1%	6%
Another party	2%	-	-	-