

Hastings local Election Report

Part 1 – Overall Performance:

Party	Sum of Votes	% of the Vote	Average of % Gained
(Lab)	9,935	45.35%	+1.40%
(Con)	8,818	40.25%	+15.21%
(Lib Dem)	1,734	7.91%	+3.65%
(Green)	1,310	5.98%	+0.61%
(Ind)	112	0.51%	+4.20%
(UKIP)	0	0.00%	-21.40%
Grand Total	21,909	100.00%	N/A.

Here is the average table which lists the performance of each party. Labour did get the most votes, with being the largest share of the vote by 5.1%, but also had the biggest swing against it, outside UKIP who did not stand, of around 7%, 6.9% to be exact. The Conservatives gained the biggest increase of the vote, followed by Lib Dems, then Independents, with Labour next. The gains

in the vote came at the expense of UKIP, who lost 21.4% of the vote, so Labour gaining 1.4% of 21.4% of this vote was nothing spectacular, whilst the Tories gaining 15.2% of this was impressive and why they made big gains over Labour.

Ashdown and Conquest - 2013 Election Result			
Pragnell, Peter William	(Con)	1,061	40%
Murphy, Stuart	(Lab)	619	23.30%
Thorogood, Doug	(UKIP)	846	31.90%
Burton, Paul Anthony	(Lib Dem)	128	4.80%

Ashdown and Conquest - 2017 Election Result				2013 Change
Pragnell	(Con)	1,599	62.00%	+22.00%
Masters	(Lab)	720	27.90%	+4.60%
Wakeford	(Lib Dem)	190	7.40%	+2.60%
Carlyle	(Green)	71	2.70%	+2.70%
Did Not Stand	(UKIP)	0	0.00%	-31.90%

Baird and Ore - 2013 Election Result			
Wincott, Michael	(Lab)	872	39.20%
Atkins, Liam	(Con)	670	30.10%
Willard, Paul Christopher	(UKIP)	535	24.10%

Baird and Ore - 2017 Election Result				2013 Change
Loe	(Con)	1,182	47.20%	+17.10%
Forward	(Lab)	1,111	44.40%	+5.20%
Hunter-Burbridge	(Lib Dem)	112	4.50%	+1.40%

Davis, Will	(Green)	78	3.50%
Tudgay, Kate	(Lib Dem)	68	3.10%

Scott	(Green)	97	3.90%	+0.40%
Did Not Stand	(UKIP)	0	0.00%	-24.10%

Braybrooke and Castle - 2013 Election Result			
Daniel, Godfrey	(Lab)	1,396	56%
Lavender, Jay	(UKIP)	399	16.00%
Lock, Matthew Julian	(Con)	329	13%
Evans, Maya Anna	(Green)	255	10.20%
Rayment, Stewart Gregory	(Lib Dem)	113	4.50%

Braybrooke and Castle - 2017 Election Result				2013 Change
Daniel	(Lab)	1,848	58.60%	+2.60%
Cooke	(Con)	684	21.60%	+8.40%
Brooker	(Lib Dem)	371	11.70%	+7.20%
Needham	(Green)	252	8.00%	-2.20%
Did Not Stand	(UKIP)	0	0.00%	-16.00%

Central St Leonards and Gensing - 2013 Election Result			
Webb, Trevor Edward	(Lab)	1,020	47.20%
Mclver, Michael David	(UKIP)	452	20.90%
Waterfall, John Richard	(Con)	349	16.10%
Bossano, Maresa	(Green)	228	10.50%
Hopgood, Graham Paul	(Lib Dem)	113	5.20%

Central St Leonards and Gensing - 2017 Election Result				2013 Change
Webb	(Lab)	1,520	53.70%	+6.50%
Williams	(Con)	784	27.70%	+11.60%
Homer	(Green)	280	9.80%	-0.70%
Seymour	(Lib Dem)	247	8.70%	+3.50%
Did Not Stand	(UKIP)	0	0.00%	-20.90%

Hollington and Wishing Tree - 2013 Election Result			
Scott, Phil	(Lab)	1,152	53.10%
Pankhurst, Ken	(UKIP)	596	27.50%
Barry, Nigel William	(Con)	322	15%
Burton, Vanessa	(Lib Dem)	99	4.60%

Hollington and Wishing Tree - 2017 Election Result				2013 Change
Scott	(Lab)	1,287	56.10%	+3.00%
Rankin	(Con)	795	34.70%	+19.90%
Milton	(Lib Dem)	108	4.70%	+0.10%
Johns	(Green)	103	4.50%	+4.50%
Did Not Stand	(UKIP)	0	0.00%	-27.50%

Maze Hill and West St Leonards - 2013 Election Result			
Forward, Kim	(Lab)	861	35.60%
Lee, Rob	(Con)	796	32.90%

Maze Hill and West St Leonards - 2017 Election Result				2013 Change
Beaver	(Con)	1,391	51.70%	+18.80%
Thorpe	(Lab)	807	30.00%	-5.60%

Jary, Markham Laurance	(UKIP)	532	22%
Evans, Sarah Frances	(Green)	130	5.40%
Tait, Sue	(Lib Dem)	100	4.10%

Montgomery	(Lib Dem)	285	10.60%	+6.50%
Granger	(Ind)	112	4.20%	+4.20%
Skews	(Green)	94	3.50%	-1.90%
Did Not Stand	(UKIP)	0	0.00%	-22.00%

Old Hastings and Tressell - 2013 Election Result			
Charman, Tania	(Lab)	961	56.50%
Cooke, Robert	(Con)	368	21.60%
NORTON, Sebastian	(UKIP)	174	10.20%
NEEDHAM, Andrea Helen	(Green)	149	8.80%
Rayment, Stewart Gregory	(Lib Dem)	48	2.80%

Old Hastings and Tressell - 2017 Election Result				2013 Change
Charman	(Lab)	1,414	54.40%	-2.10%
Hamil	(Con)	740	28.50%	+6.90%
Hilton	(Green)	284	10.80%	+2.00%
Faulkner	(Lib Dem)	163	6.20%	+3.40%
Did Not Stand	(UKIP)	0	0.00%	-10.20%

St Helens and Silverhill -2013 Election Result			
Hodges, John Alan	(Lab)	1,206	40.80%
Lock, Matthew Richard	(Con)	990	33.50%
Willard, Kara	(UKIP)	550	18.60%
Phillips	(Green)	129	4.00%
Smith, Paul Roger	(Lib Dem)	103	3.50%

St Helens and Silverhill -2017 Election Result				2013 Change
Clarke	(Con)	1,643	50.50%	17.00%
Rogers	(Lab)	1,228	37.80%	-3.00%
Rayment	(Lib Dem)	258	8.00%	+4.50%
Phillips	(Green)	129	4.10%	+0.10%
Did Not Stand	(UKIP)	0	0.00%	-18.60%

The Hastings results are very similar of the National results for the Tories and Labour. The Tories made noticeable gains and Labour made noticeable losses, with the average swing being around 7% from Labour to the Conservatives. To try and understand the national picture we analyse the trends on the local Hastings election results, because it displayed average results for the nation, and because of this we can assume there is a possibility that these results in some way will represent the current state in English politics, at a council level, with possible implications at a national level.

Above are the individual results in each of the 8 wards from both the 2013 election, on the left, and the 2017 election on the right. It shows the key details of each ward, and the result, with the change of vote in each election on the final column, named 2013 change. Most interesting the tables show a hardening of attitudes in safe seats, with a more radical change of views in swing seats since the last election. Safe seats, in both Labour and Conservative safe areas, tended to experience less of a radical swing than Swing seat areas did. Safe seats had a 5.2% swing on

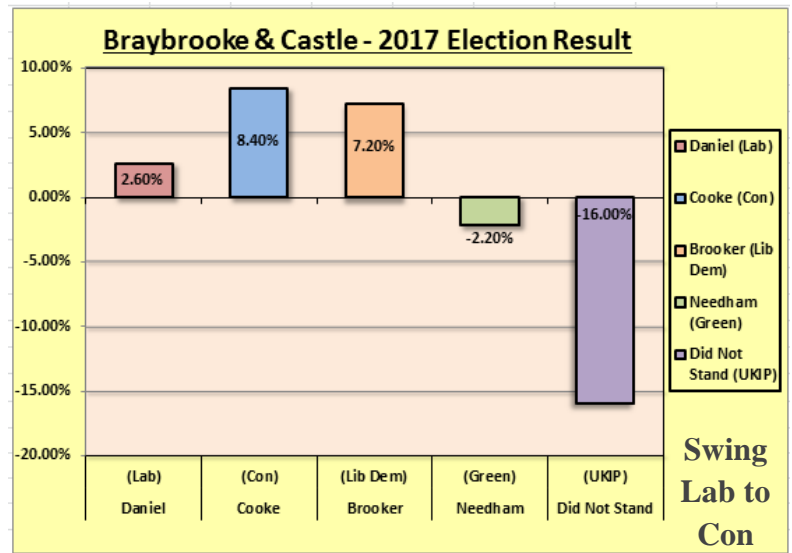
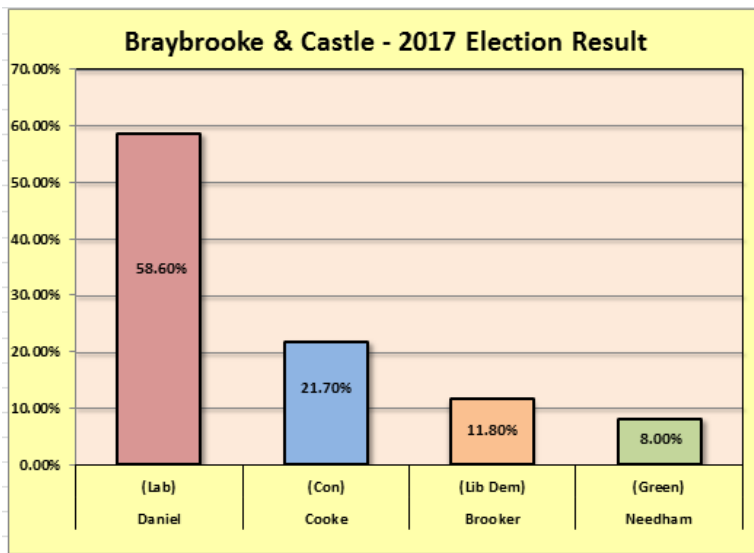
average, whilst swing seats have an average swing of 9.4%. This is important because this suggests that swing seats have moved massively away from Labour, and that in a key marginal seat Labour and Conservatives are now tied at 4 county council seats each, suggesting it is increasingly difficult for key marginal town to give a large change in the seat numbers within the county. Despite an average of a 7% swing against Labour they still kept a decent number of seats, which does not usually happen in key marginal areas. This suggests that even if Labour could get a large swing against the Conservatives they would still likely not retake seats they have lost, suggesting that the ability to rapidly gain a large number of seats, to overturn the current low majority and hung parliaments/ Council satiation we have may increasingly become difficult. This may have wider impacts, it could make the current election system increasingly more difficult to work in practise, resulting in scenarios where a large section of the electorate change their position, yet the country's representation will not change to reflect this. This could make an electorate increasingly frustrated, damage people's faith in the democratic process and possibly result in a more unworkable system. It may become more unworkable as parties that increasingly feel political opinion and voting has swung in their direction, but they are increasingly forced with a scenario where they have to compromise with opposition parties, within a majoritarian system they have become accustomed to. Resulting from this is a situation where parties who represent the smallest minority increasingly refuse to compromise, resulting in less getting done, giving an increasing feeling to all parties that no one is being much represented, possibly concluding in a feeling that British democracy can not represent most people, weakening its ability to appeal to its people and get backing to get things done in the future. The test of this theory will be the upcoming general election where if a Prime minister in her honeymoon period with the electorate, with an increasing fragmented opposition, can not win a big overall majority it would suggest that smaller majority or "hung councils/ parliaments" will increasingly become the norm. This will especially be the case if Labour ever make a comeback and narrow the polls.

Focusing now on Hastings swing seats we can arrive at this table.

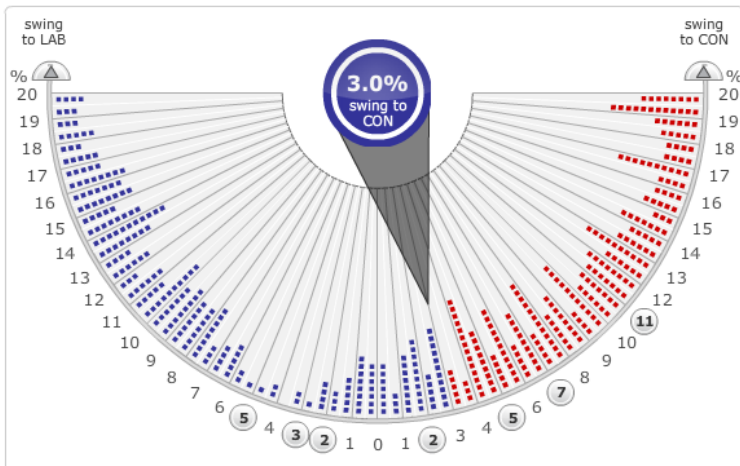
Party	Votes	% of Vote	Average of % Gained
(Con)	4,216	49.77%	17.63%
(Ind)	112	4.20%	4.20%
(Lib Dem)	655	7.67%	4.13%
(Lab)	3,146	37.37%	-1.13%
(Green)	320	3.80%	-0.47%
(UKIP)	0	0.00%	-21.40%
Grand Total	8,499	N/A	0.61%

For Labour the swing seat performance was particularly poor. This can be seen through that much more of the past UKIP vote went to the Conservatives than Labour, with also a higher swing away from Labour in these seats being present, indicating they lost a lot of past votes to other parties, mostly the Conservatives. This indicates that in the areas they will need to win, in order to have influence in the Country Council and also take back the parliamentary seat, they are further away from taking votes and gaining these peoples support than four years ago. In fact they lost all three of the marginal seats to Conservative gains, indicating that the coming general election could result in a violent and large swing away from Labour, indicating that in marginal areas Labour will do badly, where they will fall further behind marginal Conservative MPs and possibly lose marginal seats where they currently have sitting MPs, if Hastings is representative of England and Wales. The swing needed to retake these seats will be at least 5% on average, which is still quite a large swing, especially considering Labours national situation, suggesting that Labour will need a large change in the country to win in these seats. Resulting in an increased probability that Labour will take a longer time to regain these marginal areas, suggesting that a change in government, and therefore, policy could be a long way off. Therefore, British politics, councils and parliaments will develop along a Conservative party majority line for the foreseeable future, possibly another two general elections, if these local trends are representative of the country and future developing trends.

Part 2 – Natural Labour Seats:



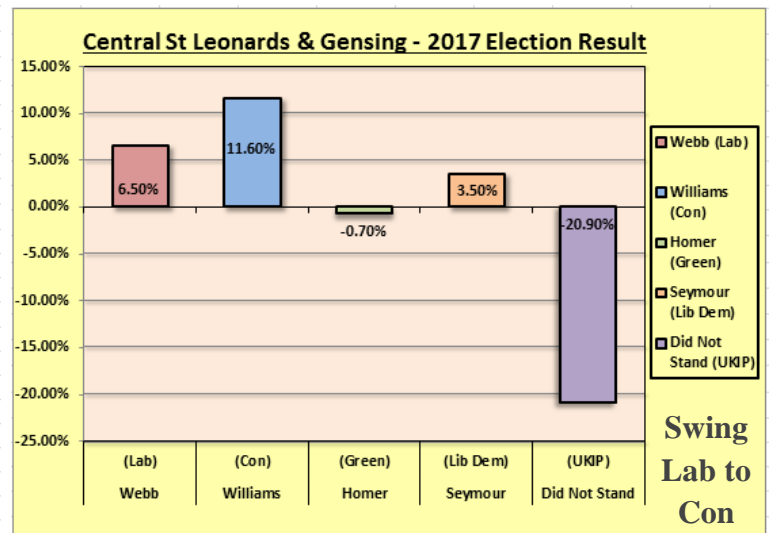
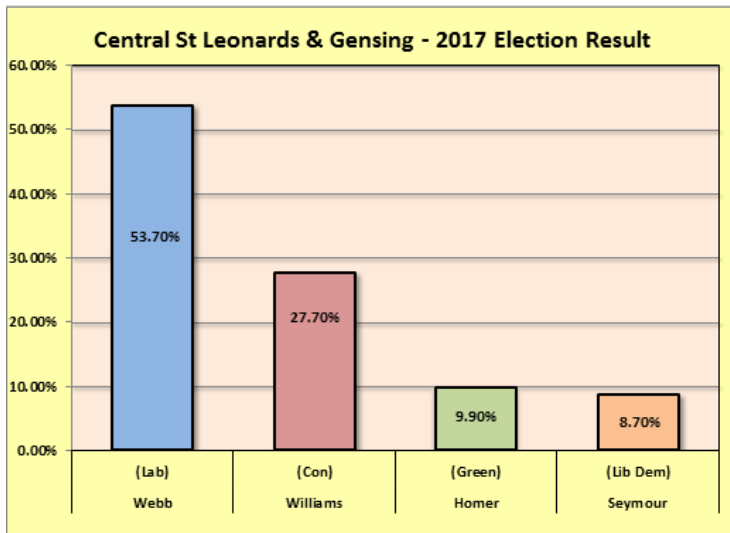
Swing
Lab to
Con
2.9%.



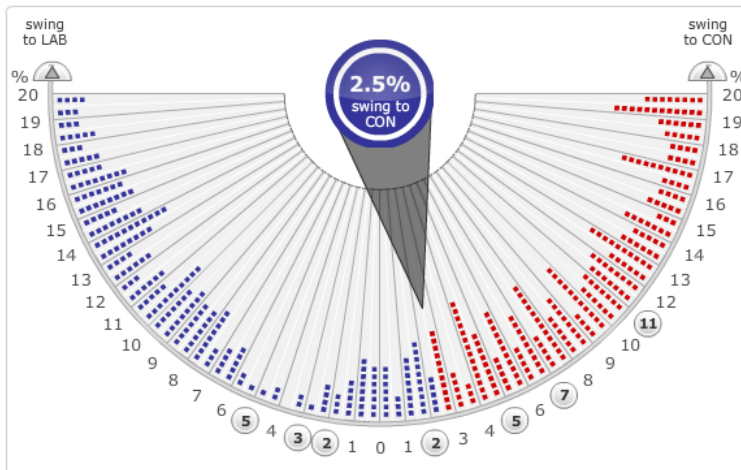
In the safer Labour seat of Braybrooke & Castle, which has been labour for a long time now, with the same councillor for a long time also, we can see a swing from Labour to the Conservatives of 2.9%. This swing is a lot smaller than the average of 7%, suggesting that current Labour areas will be very hard for the Conservatives to win, even on the large swing they had this time, suggesting

not much more ground can be made by the Conservatives, suggesting that a hung situation where both Labour and the Conservatives pick up a similar amount of votes and seats will remain the scenario, making majorities unlikely for the future in Hastings.

This result is quite representative of the mixed messages that can be taken away from both Labour and the Conservatives. Yes the Conservatives gained ground, later we shall see them making gains, but they could not make a big impact into traditional Labour areas, again suggesting a limited impact they can have locally. It also shows Labour losing ground to the Conservatives and not gaining much of the collapse in the past UKIP support. It shows at least two thirds of this support going to UKIP, suggesting Labour are not winning back past disillusioned Labour voters in their traditional areas. It appears that this vote went mostly towards the Conservative party, suggesting a strengthening of their position as the current majority party in the country. As we shall go onto see this also strengthens the Safer Conservative seats, and also gives the Conservative party enough of a boost for them to compete for swing seats. This makes for more safe seats, and less competitive swing seats, resulting in a greater likelihood of Labour and the Conservative winning a similar amount of seats, and as a result having a hung scenario in local government, with increased difficulty of Labour winning back the parliamentary seat, possibly making a past key marginal seats less marginal, resulting in smaller possible majorities for the Labour party, if they ever get back into government.

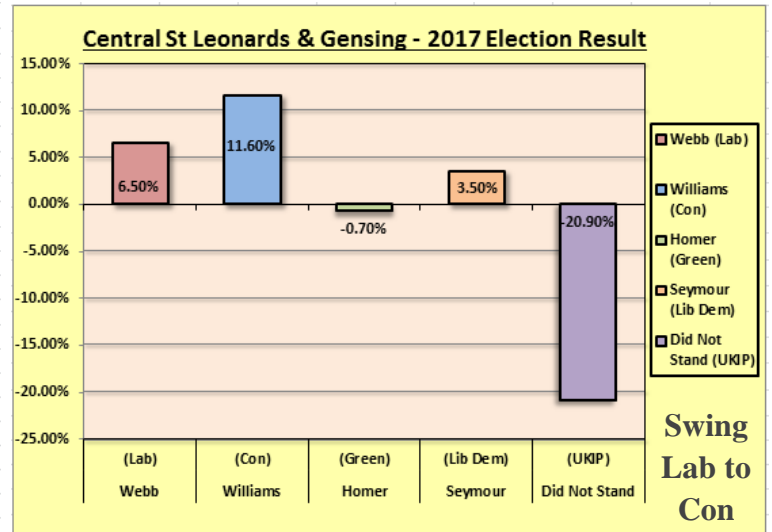
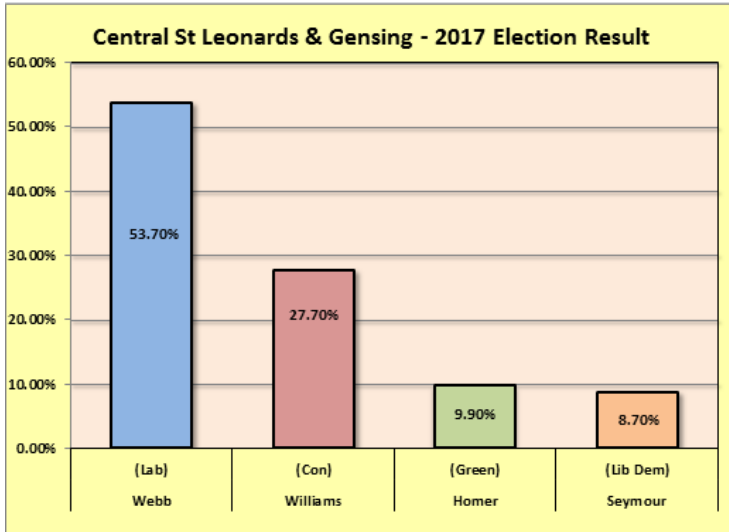


**Swing
Lab to
Con
2.55%.**

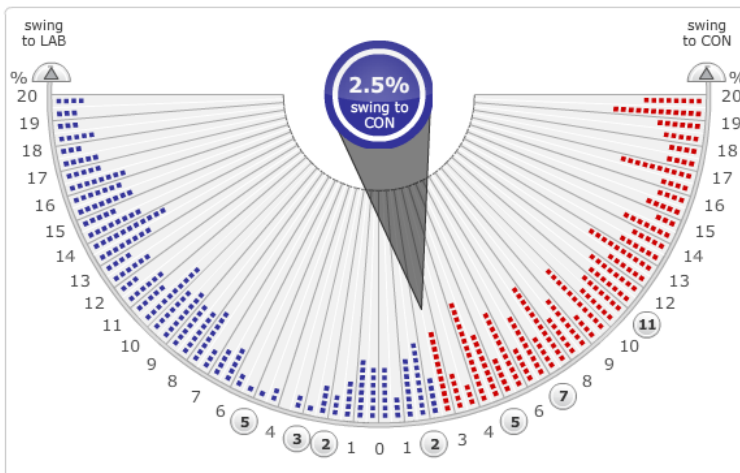


In the safer Labour seat of Central St. Leonards, which has been labour for over 20 years now, with the same councillor for 18 years, we can see a swing from Labour to the Conservatives of 2.5%. This swing is a lot smaller than the average of 7%, suggesting that current Labour

areas will be very hard for the Conservative to win, even on the large swing they had this time, suggesting not much more ground can be made by the Conservatives, suggesting that a hung situation where both Labour and the Conservatives pick up a similar amount of votes and seats will remain the scenario, making majorities unlikely for the future in Hastings.

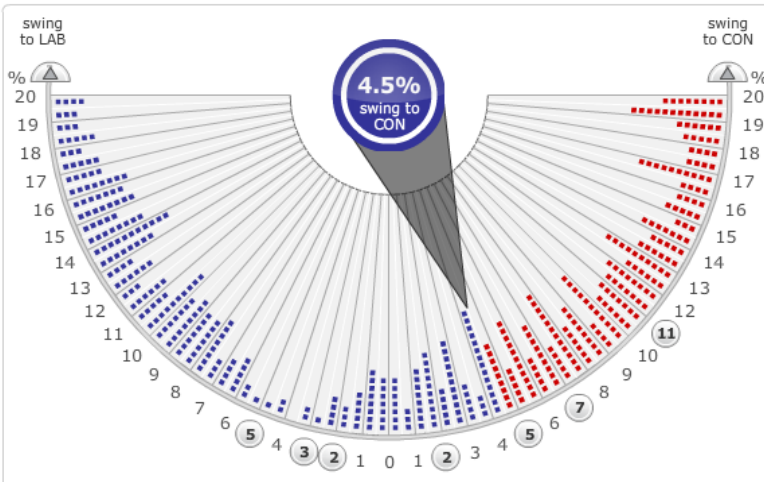
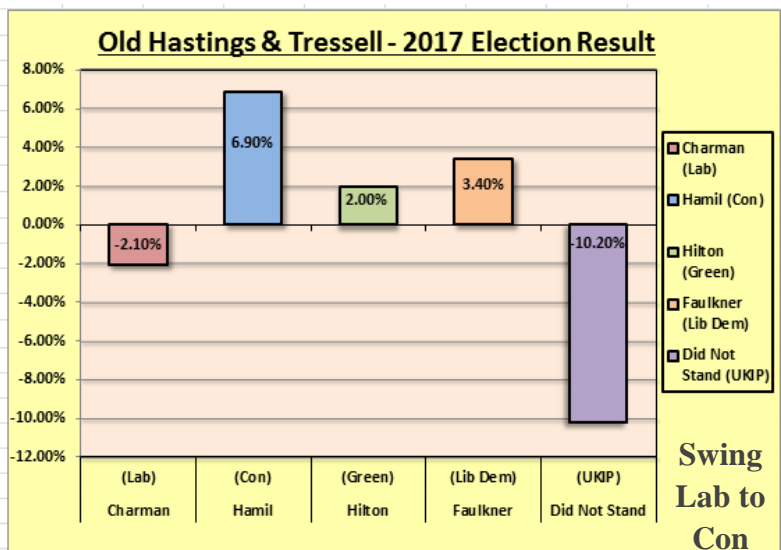
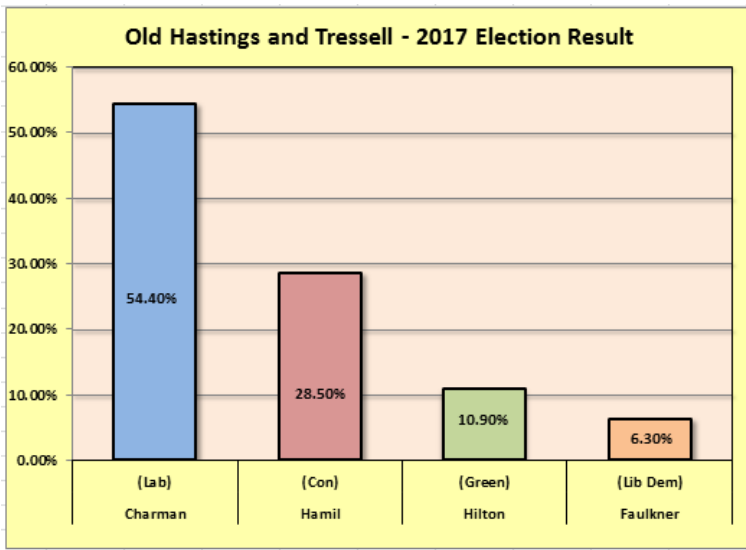


Swing
Lab to
Con
2.55%.



In the mostly safe Labour seat of Hollington & Wishing Tree, which has been labour for many years now, with the same councillor for well over a decade, we can see a swing from Labour to the Conservatives of 8.45%. This swing is slightly higher than the average of 7%, suggesting that this area bucked the national average, especially for a safer Labour area. UKIP had performed very well in recent past elections in Hollington, a more white less affluent area, suggesting that perhaps the UKIP

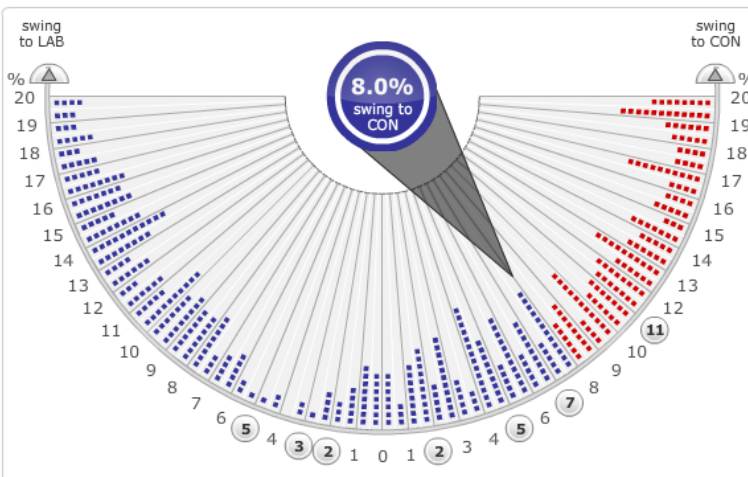
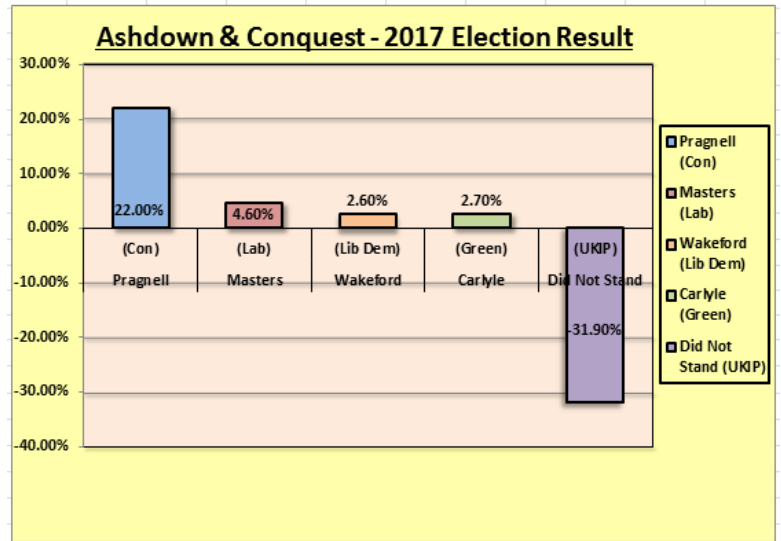
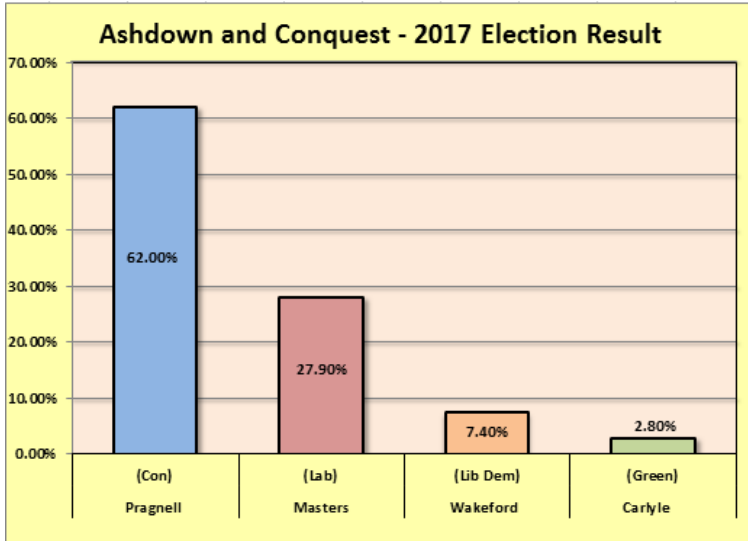
collapse went to the Conservatives, suggesting Labour may have a problem winning back UKIP votes in key marginal and traditional Labour areas, suggesting a tough comeback for Labour to be a party of government again.



In the safer Labour seat of Old Hastings & Tressell, this has been Labour for a considerable time now. We can see a swing from Labour to the Conservatives of 4.5%. This swing is a lot smaller than the average of 7%, suggesting that current Labour areas will be very hard for the Conservative to win, even on the large swing they had this time, suggesting not much more ground can be made by the Conservatives, suggesting that a hung situation where both Labour and the

Conservatives pick up a similar amount of votes and seats will remain the scenario, making majorities unlikely for the future in Hastings.

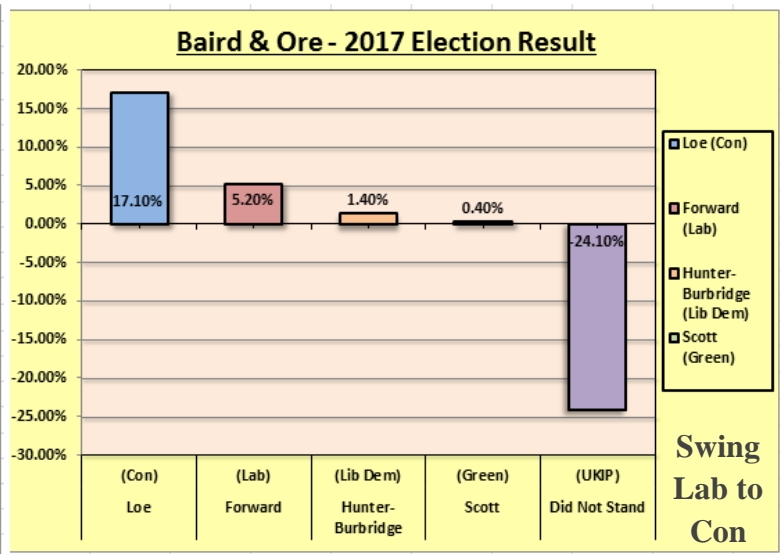
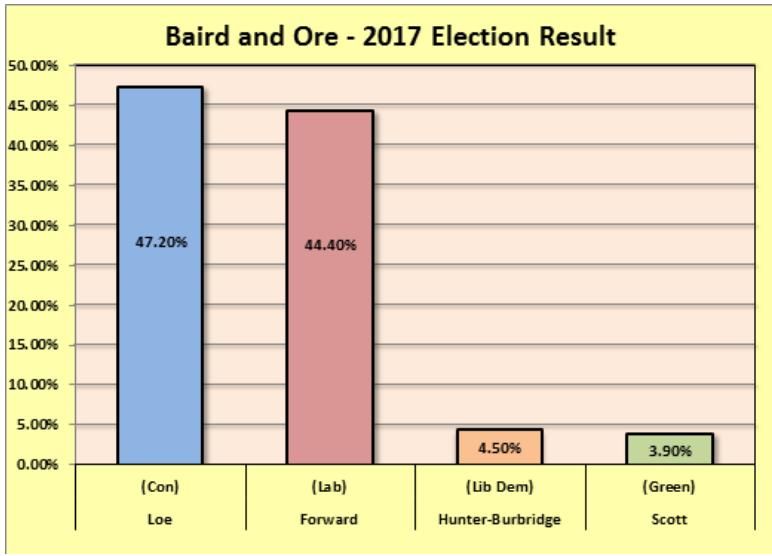
Part 3 – Natural Conservative Seats



In the safer Conservative seat of Ashdown & Conquest, this has been Conservative for some considerable time now we can see a swing from Labour to the Conservatives of 8.0%. This swing is slightly bigger than the average 7%, suggesting that current Conservative areas will be very hard for the Labour to make inroads into these areas, suggesting there is not much more ground that can be made by the Labour, suggesting that a hung situation where both

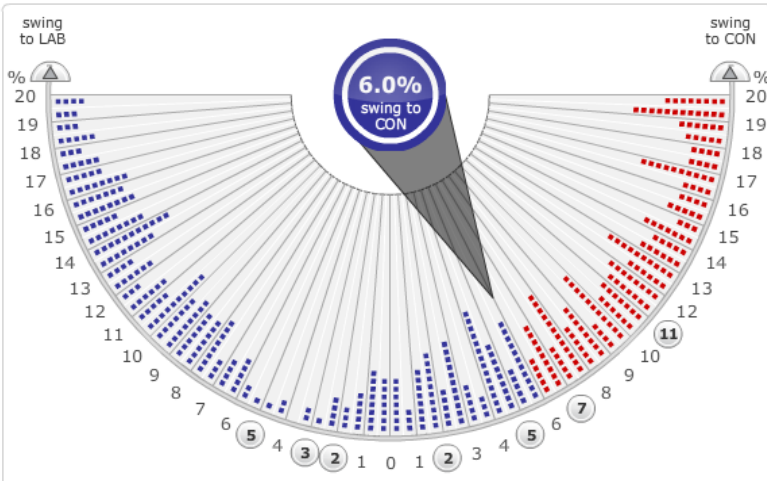
Labour and the Conservatives pick up a similar amount of votes and seats will remain the scenario, making majorities unlikely for the future in Hastings.

Part 4 – Swing Seats



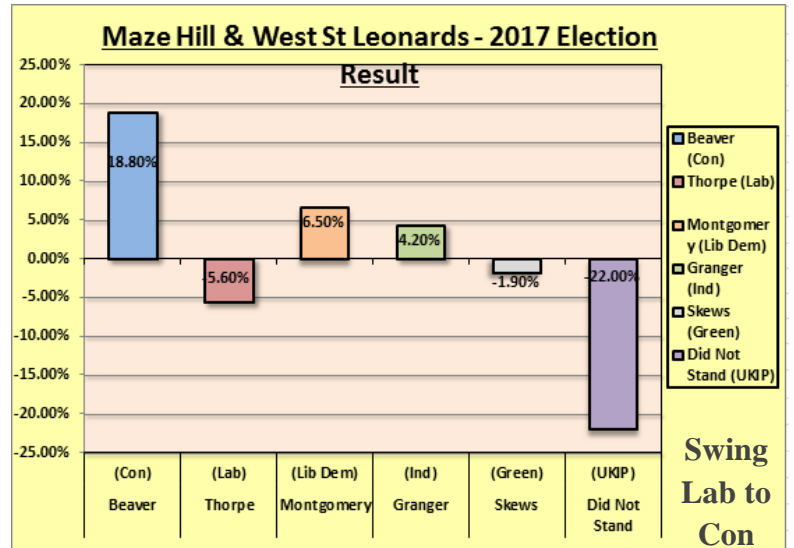
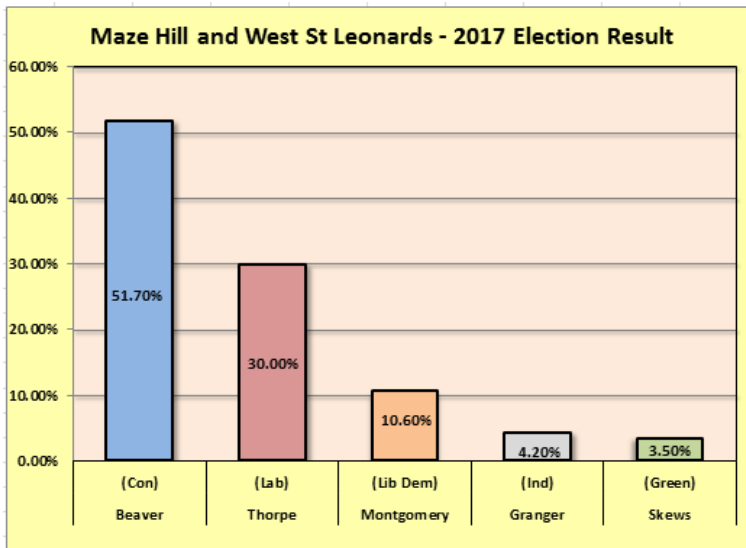
**Swing
Lab to
Con**

5.95%.

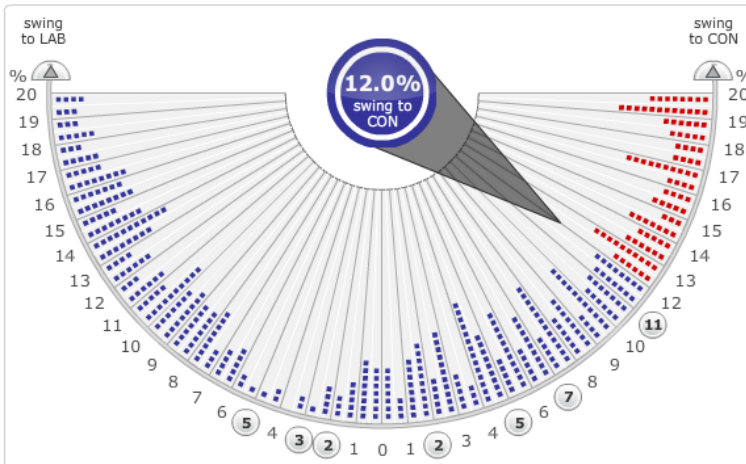


This is the key marginal seat of Baird and Ore, this has been Conservative and Labour, Labour took it of the Conservatives in 2013, and they gained it off Labour this election. We can see a swing from Labour to the Conservatives of 5.95%. This swing is slightly smaller than the average 7%, which shows that there are still some seats which requires a smaller swing to change the political landscape, but as we shall see this is the only swing seat where there was a

smaller swing than the national average. Labour losing this seat shows that the collapse of the UKIP vote again mainly went to the Conservatives.

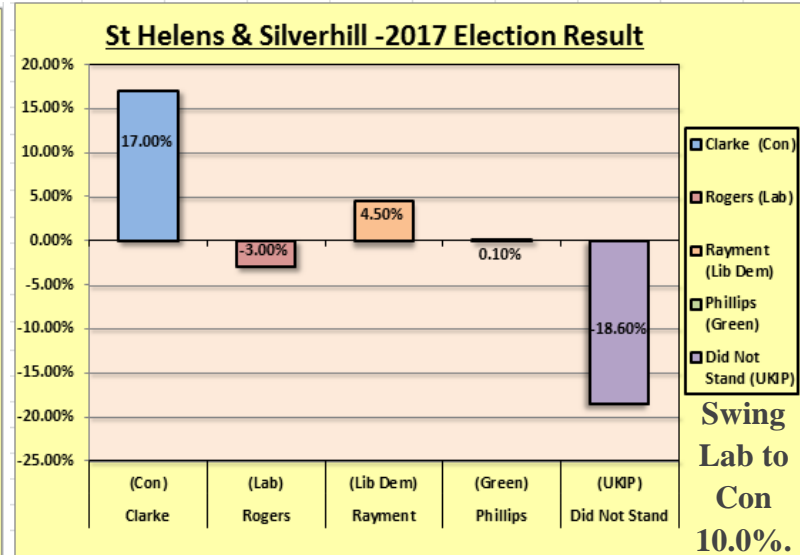
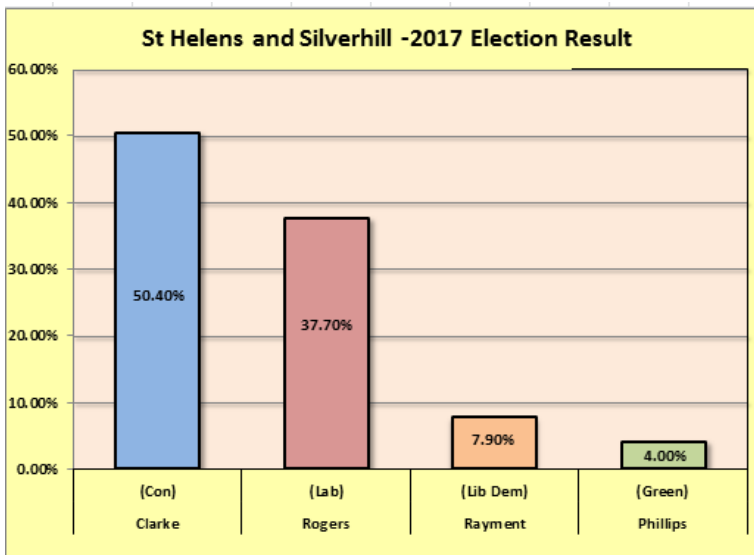


**Swing
Lab to
Con
12.2%.**

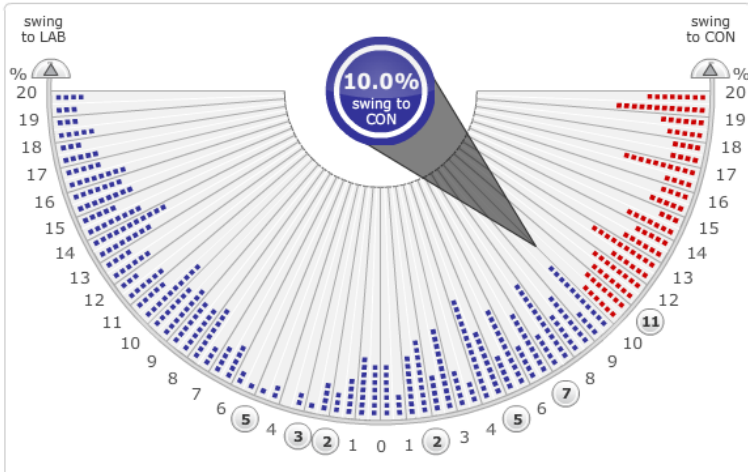


This is the key marginal seat of Maze Hill and West St Leonards, this has been Conservative and Labour, Labour took it of the Conservatives in 2013, and they gained it off Labour this election. We can see a swing from Labour to the Conservatives of 12.2%. This swing is a lot higher than the average 7%, which shows that the collapse of UKIP in more Conservative leaning swing seat areas has considerably benefited the Conservative party over the Labour party, causing there to be less swing seats and the Tories to gain.

Also as the swing was so large it would suggest they lost votes to the Tories as well, showing Labour's own problems in areas they need to win, as they are not keeping their own vote.



**Swing
Lab to
Con
10.0%.**



This is the key marginal seat of St Helens and Silverhill, this has been Conservative and Labour, Labour took it of the Conservatives in 2013, and they gained it off Labour this election. We can see a swing from Labour to the Conservatives of 10.0%. This swing a lot higher than the average 7%, which shows that the collapse of UKIP in more Conservative leaning swing seat areas has considerably benefited the Conservative party over the

Labour party, causing there to be less swing seats, and the Tories to gain. Also as the swing was so large it would suggest they lost votes to the Tories as well, showing Labours own problems in areas they need to win, resulting in a greater mountain to climb for Labour to win these areas back, suggesting more hung parliaments in the local situation, and more Conservative parliaments in the national political situation.

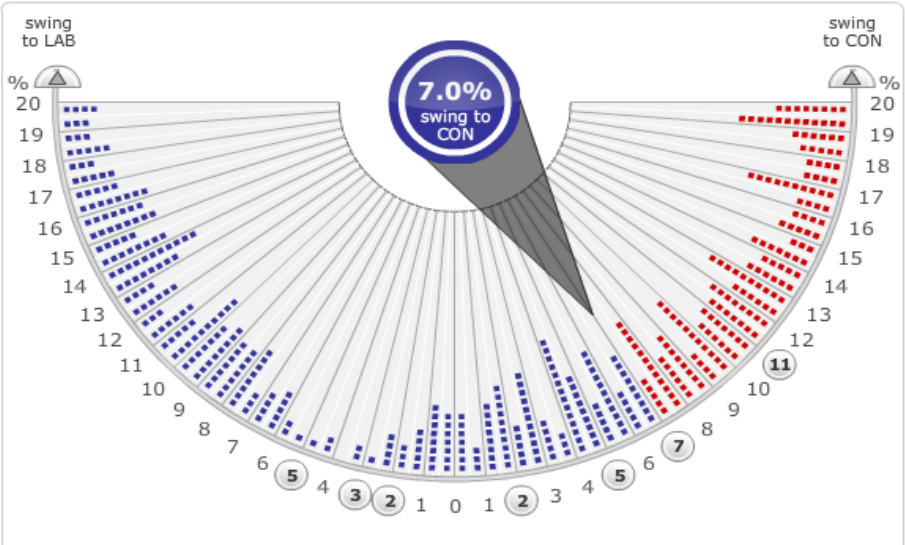
Party	Sum of Votes	% of Vote	Average of % Gained
(Lab)	9,935	45.45%	1.40%
<u>Daniel</u>	<u>1,848</u>	<u>58.60%</u>	<u>2.60%</u>
Scott	1,287	56.10%	3.00%
Charman	1,414	54.40%	-2.10%
Webb	1,520	53.70%	6.50%
Forward	1,111	44.40%	5.20%
Rogers	1,228	37.70%	-3.00%
Thorpe	807	30.00%	-5.60%
Masters	720	27.90%	4.60%
Grand Total	9,935	0	0

Party	Sum of Votes	% of Vote	Max of % Gained
(Lab)	9,935	45.45%	1.40%
<u>Thorpe</u>	<u>807</u>	<u>30.00%</u>	<u>-5.60%</u>
Rogers	1,228	37.70%	-3.00%
Charman	1,414	54.40%	-2.10%
<u>Daniel</u>	<u>1,848</u>	<u>58.60%</u>	<u>2.60%</u>
<u>Scott</u>	<u>1,287</u>	<u>56.10%</u>	<u>3.00%</u>
Masters	720	27.90%	4.60%
Forward	1,111	44.40%	5.20%
Webb	1,520	53.70%	6.50%
Grand Total	9,935	0	0

Party	Swing % From Lab to Con	Type of Seat
(Lab)	6.9%	N/A
Webb	2.55%	Safe Labour
Daniel	2.9%	Safe Labour
Charman	4.5%	Safe Labour
<u>Forward</u>	<u>5.95%</u>	Key marginal
<u>Masters</u>	<u>8.0%</u>	Safe Tory
Scott	8.45%	Safe Labour
<u>Rogers</u>	<u>10.0%</u>	Safe Labour
Thorpe	12.2%	Previous marginal
Grand Total	9,935	N/A

These are the summary tables which indicate where Labour performed best, and where Labour performed worse. The first summary table shows the seats which won the biggest share of the vote, in the Safe Labour seats Labour won 50% of the vote; the Conservatives did this in two seats, which means that one of the swings seats has now turned into a mostly safe Conservative seat, the seat of Maze Hill and West St Leonards. In the other two swing seats Labour got around an average of 35% of the vote, suggesting that these swing seats went strongly to the Conservatives, with 40%+ of the vote, suggesting that the ability to change these swing seats, or the ability for the Conservative to gain a majority of seats, is limited. This indicates less of an ability to win marginal areas, suggesting a strengthening of a hung situation, suggesting less ability to win big majorities and produce large political changes in marginal areas.

Table two shows the limited amount of votes gained, the most amount of votes gained was in a safe Labour seat, Central St Leonards, but only gaining 6.5% of 20% of the 2013 UKIP vote, suggesting a majority traditional disaffected Labour area voters did not go back to Labour. As the Conservative vote in this seat increased by much more we can say that this vote appears to have swung there way.



This would indicate that Labour will struggle to win a majority of support in the general election, where the boundaries suit them less, also indicating that past Key marginals will likely strengthen to a Conservative view point. This would suggest a huge electoral mountain for Labour overcome if it is to regain the majorities it enjoyed in 2005, let alone 1997 and 2001.

The last summary table shows the swing from Labour to the Conservatives. It tends to show that the biggest swing were in key marginal and safer Conservative seats.

The swing in one marginal was enough to make it into a mostly safer Conservative seat, making gains for Labour and change in political control less likely, resulting in less ability for marginal areas like this to produce large majorities. This is particularly tough news for Labour, considering the rest of East Sussex is mostly Conservative, which destroys their ability to have influence in the County Council completely. This therefore reduce Labours chances to make policy and win in areas they need to make gains in general election, again making the electoral mountain they have to climb even bigger. This is displayed by the swingometer, which shows a national average, and the Hastings average, of a 7% swing away from them. The chart shows Labour losing a lot of seats, which Hastings Labour did not escape from, which shows a noticeable seat loss in the upcoming general election, if these local and national local election trends follow into the coming general election. Finally, this shows Hastings Labour did not buck the National trend, and key marginals will continue to produce results which will be tough to change in the future, resulting in an increased chance of there being smaller majorities and it being increasingly unlikely Labour will be able to gain one.

Part 5 – Conclusions

Party	Sum of Votes	% of the Vote	Average of % Gained
(Lab)	9,935	45.35%	+1.40%
(Con)	8,818	40.25%	+15.21%
(Lib Dem)	1,734	7.91%	+3.65%
(Green)	1,310	5.98%	+0.61%
(Ind)	112	0.51%	+4.20%
(UKIP)	0	0.00%	-21.40%
Grand Total	21,909	100.00%	N/A.

- Hastings did not buck the national trend, it very much represented and followed it. Labour lost key marginal seats, like in many other places, and suffered a large swing against them, which mostly went to increasing the Conservative party share of the vote. Labours % of the vote lead was down by around 14% and the swing against them was around 7%, again mirroring national trends. This also means Labour in Hastings also did not buck the national trend.

- The Conservatives should be the only ones which will have mostly happy things to take away from this election. They gained a lot of ground to Labour, although they are still behind despite a large polling lead nationally, and they also gained some seats back, with one key marginal going to them for the first time in a while. Notably the fact that an austerity driven mid-term government,

which has been in government during a decline in living standards in towns like this, has produced this sort of positive result is quite remarkable.

- Labour needs to acknowledge how poor of a performance this was. Yes, Labour came first, with an increase vote share (which was only due to UKIP deciding not to contest any seats in this election), but their lead that they had over the Conservatives has been almost entirely eaten into. A party which is recognised in this area as the main opposition to the Conservatives, who should find it difficult to be popular over local issues (due to large local government cutbacks), gained a lot of support over a party who focused on defending public services against cuts. Furthermore this time in the last government cycle Labour was taking a lot of seats off the Conservatives. It is really unprecedented that in this scenario, which has been described above, a government can increase its seats and vote share by as much as the Conservatives did. Labour should have been the beneficiary of a swing vote, not the other way around, this indicates a lack of support in an area they need to win back for the general election, therefore they need to acknowledge this problem, if they are to overcome it and win back this key marginal parliamentary area. Finally, the lead local Labour councillor, Peter Chowney stated on BBC news that it was “unlucky that Labour’s share of the vote did not increase enough in the areas they lost”. However, this mode of thinking is dangerous for Labour, as it is no coincidence, or piece of bad luck, this occurred. They lost three seats as they lost the swing vote and suffered a large swing against them, resulting in a loss of the lead they had in the borough, meaning that in the area they won by a small margin last time, also known as their key marginals, was always vulnerable to this loss of support, or “swing”. Because Labour lost this vote, they lost these seats, the only reason they did not notice it in safe areas, for now, was because their lead is big enough not to notice the fact their majority was smaller than last time. Yes their vote went slightly up, due to UKIP not standing, but the lead over their nearest opponent went down, because of the average swing of 5% in safe areas they suffered. This in effect means these seats are less safe and less supportive than they once were, and shows bad signs for the coming General election, which would be foolish to ignore if they want to win back the parliamentary seat.

- The UKIP collapse, from them not even fielding one candidate, benefited the conservative party mostly, and much more over their nearest opponents, Labour.

- If this local trend is representative of the national picture it would suggest that key marginal areas are swinging away from Labour, making it more difficult for them to overturn their current problem of being an opposition far behind the government, suggesting it will be very hard for Labour to regain large majorities over the Conservatives, resulting in less likelihood of large majority governments.

- If this local trend is representative of the national picture the Conservatives will celebrate winning seats, but they may not take too much confidence in their ability to get into more traditional Labour areas, as we can see they struggled to gain that much support in more traditional Labour areas. In fact two of the 3 marginal seats they simply regained from the losses they experienced in 2013, picking up only one extra seat, resulting in limited gains, where they might have been expecting more. This suggests their ability to break through and secure large overall majorities, which is what they are campaigning for in one month's time, may be limited, reducing the possibility for the Conservatives achieving large working majorities.

- If this local trend is representative of the national picture it would suggest that British politics will find it increasingly difficult to produce the commanding majorities it has done in the past. This is largely because Labour will find it increasingly difficult to secure a large enough swing to pick up enough of the swing seats that have gone very Conservative, than compared to past times, suggesting the swing needed will be too large to get a large majority like Blair did. It may be increasingly difficult for them to get a majority in the foreseeable future. Furthermore, the Conservatives, as previously mentioned, can't make the large enough swing to make gains in traditional Labour areas to achieve the commanding majorities they did in the 1980s, and early 90s, suggesting a stalemate, where small working majorities will become the norm, due to the declining amount of winnable marginal areas for the two parties. This may have major impacts on our democracy leaving both the leading party, and opposition party, feeling increasingly frustrated and unrepresented as compromise in a majoritarian system can be hard, and become increasingly resented by majority parties, suggesting less may be able to be achieved, which is likely to frustrate the British electorate further.