

David Chalmers

Your No 1 Choice for Torridge and West Devon



Stop Brexit



Be a Full Time MP



Give Voice to our Community



David CHALMERS



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Dear Member,

To most of you I should be a familiar face as I was the Party's candidate at the Snap General Election in 2017, when, despite not being selected until two weeks into the campaign, we managed to secure one of the best results for the Liberal Democrats in the whole country. We won more than 10,500 votes, increasing our vote share by 4.5%.

Only coming into politics four years ago, I am not your usual politician. I have had a successful international business career and have been a long term human rights campaigner, co-founding the Kaleidoscope Trust 8 years ago which is, today, recognised as one of the leading organisations fighting for international LGBT rights.

I believe passionately that the UK and the British people are better off in the EU. I have fought tirelessly against Brexit for the past four years. In an area that voted heavily to Leave I have never shied away from arguing the case for the EU. But it is not enough to be **tough on Brexit** we also have to be **tough on the causes of Brexit**. Austerity and poverty of opportunity have left many people feeling left behind.

I love Devon. It's my home. I understand the pressures and isolation felt by rural communities. We need a voice in Parliament and someone who the people can trust to stand up for them, to fight for fairer funding for our schools and colleges, to save our hospital services, upgrade our road and rail links, attract investment and highly skilled jobs, build homes that our young people can afford, face the challenge of climate change and protect our natural environment. I am that person.

Right now, we are not designated as a target seat, but I believe that we could cause a real upset here by ousting Geoffrey Cox, and that I stand the best chance of winning this seat back for the Liberal Democrats. That is why I ask you to make me your No 1 Choice for Torridge and West Devon.

About David

- Lives in Appledore.
- Born in Aylesbury, read **German with European Institutions** at Edinburgh University. Currently writing a book on his year spent studying at the Karl Marx University in Leipzig East Germany in 1983/84.
- Speaks **five** languages – two fluently.
- **Ran the marathon** at the Gay Games in Sydney in 2002 in **3 hours 52 seconds** in temperatures reaching over 35C.
- Loves travelling – has visited over **80 countries** – including expeditions up the Amazon, cycling across Vietnam and trips to the remotest parts of China.
- Most weekends, when not campaigning, can be found in Devon walking along its beaches or in its beautiful countryside **with his dog Archie**.

Get in touch on 01237 422 625, I hope to speak with you in the next few weeks



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DAVID CHALMERS:

For Torridge & West Devon 2019

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 <https://www.davidchalmerstwd.org.uk>

Local

I love where I live and am committed to making it a better place for all.

My family have lived in North Devon for over thirty years, I have been a Parish Councillor in Fremington for 4 years and **was elected in May to represent Appledore** on Northam Town Council. I have also been re-elected as Vice Chair of the Larger Councils on DALC (Devon Association of Local Councils).

For the last two years I have been **Parliamentary Spokesperson** for Torridge & West Devon.

I am a **Governor of Petroc College** and **Chair of the Charity North Devon Sunrise**, which hosts North Devon's Annual Diversity Festival.

For four years I have sat on our Party's Regional Executive for Devon & Cornwall as **Regional Diversity Champion**. I am proud of the advances our Party has made to be more inclusive, representative and understanding of the needs of all our community. I have **campaigning to save Appledore Shipyard**, to Stop Brexit and to raise issues that are important to local people.



Experienced



My professional background is in international business. I started my career in **HM Treasury** and I went on to run the commercial operations of **the Economist Group** across Asia Pacific for over ten years. My team won the **Queen's Award for Enterprise** in 2002 for our work in China. I am a leading member of Lib Dems in Business, helping to form policies which will support our small and medium sized enterprises, such as reducing VAT on tourism-related services which would be a huge boost to our local tourist industry.

As **Chair of the Liberal Democrat European Group**, I have a seat on the body that shapes our Party's foreign policy and advises on international development. **I am one of the key people developing our strategy on Brexit**, which includes responsibility for building and maintaining our relationship with our sister parties across Europe, often representing our Party at international events. I am a regular speaker at **regional and national party conferences** and am frequently invited to deliver public lectures. I am experienced at dealing with both TV and print media.

Campaigner

I know what it takes to put together a winning team that can bring this seat back to us.

Having personally fought several election campaigns, where we significantly increased our vote share - most recently as a candidate on the South West List in the European Elections - and worked on several successful by-elections. **I know what it will take to win us back this seat**. We need to **put together a winning team**, to develop our membership, to coordinate our activities, put together **a clear message** and convey that effectively to voters **and inspire hope** that things can change for the better. **Our country needs us now to be bold, liberal and stronger than ever**.

Please give me the opportunity to do what I do best. I will lead and bring the two parts of our Constituency together, raise the funds needed to create an effective campaign that will not only **return us the next MP** but will help us to win seats at County, District, Town and Parish levels. Together we will **return liberal values to Torridge & West Devon**.



David CHALMERS

Liberal Democrats 

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