

THE LOCAL ECONOMY

A MESSAGE FROM NIGEL JONES

Liberal Democrats Parliamentary Candidate for
Newcastle-under-Lyme, 8th June

The local economy is losing out compared with so many places around the country.

MORE SKILLS: We need more improvement in skills among our people. The best academic students are doing really well, but others need more help, guidance and opportunities.

MORE POLITICAL CLOUT: The local authorities and members of Parliament must work better together and set up a structure that will ensure the area has much more clout with government; we can then get more investment for innovation, support for small business and the necessary services and infrastructure that will grow the local economy.

AMONG THE FACTORS AFFECTING OUR ECONOMY ARE:

- Lack of skills (at all levels)
- More 21-35 year olds are leaving the area, including a decline in graduate retention (due to housing and lack of the right kind of culture and jobs)
- Lack of political influence to get support from government, especially for small businesses
- Lack of good quality medium-sized premises for offices, goods and manufacturing
- Poor infrastructure development (transport, broadband and housing)
- Decline in professional services (legal, insurance and financial)
- High energy prices and cybercrime
- Leaving the Single Market and Customs Union

The Liberal Democrats have a plan which includes:

More funding and other improvements for schools and colleges

Financial help for people starting up a business

More capital expenditure on transport, broadband and innovation (including a Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank)

A house-building programme and help for young people to buy or rent

Devolution of powers and resources to local areas

Ensure good public services and contacts with crime fighting agencies in Europe

Staying in the Single Market and Customs Union



Nigel Jones with local
business woman