

Please Vote For

Andrew Haldane

AS YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR FPC

Political Experience

During over 40 years as a member I have served as a Councillor, Parliamentary Candidate and Local Party Chair (several times!). I have 8 years experience in my current role as NW Vice-Chair (Policy) and am my Local Party Vice-Chair

For many years, I have attended Conference regularly. I am an experienced platform speaker. I have served on Policy Working Groups, The Future of Work and, currently, Defending and Strengthening British Democracy.

Work Experience

In my early career, I was on the front line as t Thatcherism and Globalisation laid waste to UK manufacturing industry. I then spent most of the rest of my career on regeneration projects attempting to pick up the pieces.

This involved reskilling/up skilling initiatives, often with SMEs. I undertook pioneering work on in online learning and applications of the apprenticeship model at degree/postgraduate level, usually within more broadly based regeneration initiatives Working across Europe within Horizon, Erasmus+ (education-industry partnerships) and their predecessors provided opportunities to make comparisons (often unfavourable) to the UK.

Why Me?

Within the space available I wish to focus on some some issues that I feel strongly about and on which I have a strong, perhaps distinctive, viewpoint I hope that my passionate commitment to each our Party's policy priorities need not be spelled out chapter and verse here.

Key Challenges

We live in a persistently stagnant economy facing an uncertain global economic environment. A key determinant of whether we sink or swim is how soon we can "Break the Brexit Ball and Chain" which is dragging our economy under. Our effectiveness in harnessing AI and, importantly also robotics to improve productivity will also be decisive.

Chickens Home to Roost

For over half a century, we have failed adequately to address the festering wound.of economically disadvantaged areas. Their problems are now being exploited by malign

influences undermining social cohesion and even liberal democracy itself. and yet relatively small improvements in regional imbalances could transform the economy.

For Better or Worse?

To add to the challenge, peer-reviewed UK research from The Institute for the Future of Work suggests that, without intervention, benefits will, on balance, accrue to our most prosperous areas and regions while the dis-benefits will afflict those already 'left behind'. If we fail the combination of high tax burdens and poor public services will become unsustainable in those parts of the country where per capita GDP is lowest this imminent, disruptive change is superimposed upon existing regional and sub regional economic disadvantage. This also includes pockets of disadvantage within relatively prosperous parts of the country.

One Size Does Not Fit All

We are great at localism and have a national level policy process to be proud of. However, I believe new challenges require us to apply the principles of localism to establishing regional/sub-regional differentiation of relevant federal policies.

We, as a party, have always been adamant one size fits all national policies may well prove inadequate. Addressing regional disadvantage may require quite distinctive policy measures for different parts of the UK,. There is scope for FPC to lead an initiative with English Regional Parties to develop differentiated, but cohesive, policy solutions appropriate to their Region and Combined Authorities within it.

Wrong Model - Huge Opportunity-Huge Threat

Future elections held under the deeply flawed English Devolution Bill risk handing substantial powers to Reform mayors of doubtful competence, but proven malevolence. This would cause harm that could take years to remedy. We have sound policies covering all areas of mayoral competence. Differentiated versions, well planned and structured can help us win the war of ideas

In a potential six-way fight with supplementary vote the line between lost deposits and unexpected success is a fine one.

