

Theresa May: Speech in Harrow 8th May

(Check against delivery)

“Thank you very much everybody. It’s great to be here in Harrow today and it’s great to be with you all this morning. As we move into the next phase of this vitally important general election campaign the local elections are now behind us and we must now focus on the critical general election and we cannot take a single thing for granted. Now we’ve certainly not taken anything for granted as regards our team because we’ve brought together a fantastic team of local candidates for London and the South East, and my message to people in London and the South East is that I need this team behind me, to be in a strong position to ensure we get the best deal for Britain from Europe. And this is the team that will be going out on the streets and taking out on those streets our positive message, which is a message of strong and stable leadership in the national interest. Of strengthening the UK’s hand in the Brexit negotiations, of building a better future.

Now

yesterday, a new French President was elected. He was elected with a strong mandate which he can take as a strong position in the negotiations. The UK, we need to ensure we’ve got an equally strong mandate and an equally strong negotiating position. And if we vote for me and my team it will strengthen my hand in those Brexit negotiations. And the alternative is to risk making Jeremy Corbyn Prime Minister and just imagine try and picture him sitting at that negotiating table with the collective might of the European Commission and 27 other European countries against him. And we know as Patrick [McLoughlin] said, other parties are lining up to prop him up in a coalition of chaos. The Liberal Democrats, the Scottish nationalists and others. A vote for any other party is a vote to be a step closer to Jeremy Corbyn sitting at that Brexit negotiating table. We must not let that happen and we must in not letting that happen we can do that by winning support here in London and the south east. And we must also make sure that we point out the nonsensical policies that Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour party are putting forward, they simply don’t add up because they would wreck the economy and render all their promises totally undeliverable.

Now

by contrast we’re putting together credible and deliverable policies.

Policies

that are in the national interests, policies like protecting workers pensions against irresponsible bosses, like capping energy prices to support working families, bringing in new mental health laws to end injustice. Those are the positive messages that you will be taking out on the streets over the next few

weeks. And when I say taken out on the streets I mean taking them out on the streets. As I said, we must take absolutely nothing for granted and it is only

by working flat out between now and the 8th of June that we can gain the trust of the British people and gain the support of the British people.

And

we must go out there, leave no stone unturned, no street un-walked down, no door un-knocked on as you go out there, because every vote counts, every vote counts, because every person counts and every community counts.

And

I've been a Member of Parliament for 20 years now, had the privilege to be an MP for 20 years. And I've learned how important it is to get out there to speak

directly to voters and to listen to their concerns. And that's my instruction to candidates at this election is to go out there and to earn the support of the British people. I've also learnt over the years that you can't predict election

results, the polls got it wrong in the 2015 general election, they got it wrong

in the EU referendum and Jeremy Corbyn was a 200/1 outside chance to win the Labour leadership. So take nothing for granted, as I say go out there take our

positive message to people, earn the support of the British people, show that they can trust you, that they can trust me and my team in taking those Brexit negotiations forward and getting the best deal for them. That is the positive message that we must take out on the streets in the coming weeks. And if we do

that, and if we win their support, if we show that every vote for me and my team is a vote for strong and stable leadership in the national interest, that

every vote for me and my team is a vote for strengthening our hand in these Brexit negotiations, for getting the best possible deal for Britain from Europe, that every vote for me and my team to lock in economic security for a better future across the whole of the United Kingdom. If we do that and win the

support of the British public then together we can strive for Britain, together

we will fight for Britain and together we will deliver for Britain. Thank you."

ENDS