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UKIP: The Way Forward

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UKIP now faces the greatest challenge in our twenty-five-year history. UKIP brought about and won the Referendum; however, real Brexit is now little closer than it was the day after the Referendum. UKIP needs to survive and thrive to fight for Brexit and for a host of other reasons.

We currently have a Leader that few want but who refuses to resign. It is unprecedented for a UKIP leader to lose the total support of the NEC. There is every reason to think he will be removed by the membership at the planned EGM by the end of February.

I have offered my services to the NEC as **Interim Leader**. I believe that my standing in the Party would allow me unite it at this most difficult time. An Interim Leader has *“all the powers of the Party Leader”* under the UKIP Constitution, *“as if he had been elected to that post”*.

The summary policies laid out below are the immediate actions I would take, and my vision of the way forward.

1. **Immediate actions:** To appoint a new Party Chairman, and review other senior officer appointments. To cancel the new ‘Lenny the Lion’ logo, and return to the £ sign logo and ‘UKIP’, an invaluable brand established over two decades.
2. **Brexit:** To vigorously promote a complete and unencumbered exit from the European Union: No Article 50, no more billions paid to the EU, no ‘Transition Period’, no continued open borders, and full restoration of our territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone. **Brexit must mean Exit!**
3. **Immigration:** To call for the end to the age of mass uncontrolled immigration once and for all, and for a strictly controlled and limited immigration policy that is in the national interest, and for policies that put the interests of our own citizens first in regard to public housing, benefits and the NHS etc.
4. **NHS:** To continue UKIP’s commitment to support the NHS. Providing adequate funding and to refocus the allocation of resources prioritising clinical staff above managerial staff; and proving a ‘national’ health service rather than an international health service.
5. **Economy and Jobs:** To reject the extremes of Marxist socialism and crony-capitalism. To promote economic policies that make ordinary working people feel that the economy works for them, not against them; their living standards having been reduced in the interests of enriching a global elite. We need policies to address a re-industrialisation of Britain providing jobs with a living wage for ordinary working people.

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6. **Housing:** The lack of available and affordable housing is a major problem, exacerbated by mass immigration. We need to decrease demand by drastically cutting immigration and providing new housing; and restricting the purchase of new builds by foreign nationals for speculative purposes in our major cities is a priority.
7. **Armed Forces:** Our armed forces are being deliberately run down so that they can be absorbed into the EU's planned armed forces. We need sufficient spending to restore our forces to adequate levels. They should only operate overseas where it is strictly in the national interest. We must honour the Armed Forces Covenant to properly look after ex-service men and women.
8. **Law and Order:** Policies that adequately punish criminals, protect the victims of crime, and support underpaid, under-resourced and overworked police and prison service officers.
9. **Islam:** To face up to the threat posed to our way of life by literalist and radical Islam. This means a policy of no more mass immigration from Islamic countries and policies to neutralise the influence of Islam; e.g. no more overseas funding of mosques and imams from extremist regimes such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.
10. **Party Membership:** To increase our membership by adopting policies appealing to those who feel disenfranchised and unrepresented by our current political establishment; for example: the police, the military, the prison service, the ordinary law-abiding citizens, small business owners, and the victims of crime.
11. **Social media:** We need to use social media to recruit new members and to spread our messages far and wide.
12. **Party Reform:** The current criticism of the NEC is a red-herring. However, in the longer term it would benefit from being reformed into an 'National Activists Council' whose primary responsibilities are the recruitment of members, the raising of funds, and the fighting of elections.

Some of these things we already do, but we need to do more. In March 2019 UKIP will lose its Members of the European Parliament, and most importantly the platform it provides for our elected representatives. UKIP must transform itself quickly or we may wither away.

UKIP came into being to fill a political vacuum: to represent those people from all walks of life and backgrounds that want to live in an independent, democratic Britain. If we can mobilise those people to join us, and recruit candidates from their ranks, we can continue to serve them by winning elections in Councils, Assemblies and Parliament.

The current crisis presents an opportunity for the future.

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