



Hopeful: Outgoing MP Michael Howard, centre, with Damian Collins, left and Charlie Elphicke

Kent 'set to turn blue' at next election

A LEADING election prediction service is pointing to a clean sweep in south Kent for the Conservatives.

Electoral Calculus reckons all four members will be Tories after next spring with three new names.

Dover's Labour MP Gwyn Prosser and party colleague Steve Ladyman in Thanet South will lose their seats to Charlie Elphicke and Laura Sandys respectively, according to the prediction.

In Folkestone and Hythe, Damian Collins will replace the outgoing MP Michael Howard with a massive 18,500 majority while sitting member for Ashford Damian Green will romp in with a lead of almost 21,000, Electoral Calculus believes.

Mr Elphicke, who is contesting Labour's safest seat in Kent with a majority of 5,000 and arguably the hardest to win, is predicted to get a majority of 3,500 while Miss Sandys might expect around 9,000, it is forecast.

The Electoral Calculus predictions are based on all polling trends and analysis and does not take into account local factors which might otherwise skew a particular result.

Most Kent Tory candidates dare not publicly make predictions about how they believe they will fare at the election next year.

One Tory MP said: "Most of us are taking nothing for granted. Unlike New Labour in 1997, we are coming from a long, long way back and absolutely anything could happen between now and the election and probably will."



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