

What an extraordinary two weeks to have returned to work from maternity leave! Given how quickly British politics has changed in the past two weeks, both in for the Conservative and Labour Party, I am genuinely nervous that things will have changed in the time lapse between submitting this column and it being printed.

Last week in Parliament Conservative MPs had whittled down leadership candidates to two, Theresa May and Andrea Leadsom, meaning whatever the outcome our next Prime Minister would be a woman. I, along with other Kent and Medway MPs, were thinking about the hustings and responding to constituents who were kind enough to let us know their views on the candidates. By the time I had responded to several emails on Monday morning explaining why I was supporting Theresa a rumour began to circulate Westminster that Andrea was going to resign her candidacy, meaning of course that the leadership contest would cease and Mrs May would become the Prime Minister months sooner than expected.

By the time this column is printed, Mrs May will have moved into Downing Street and appointed her cabinet. The speed of change has been surprising for everyone but I think that this was a positive outcome and will create stability, particularly in the financial markets who crave a sense of political control, a factor that has been absent since the referendum result.

Now that we do have a new Prime Minister we need to stop naval gazing in Westminster and get on with delivering the outcome of the referendum. We need to establish our areas of negotiation and make sure that they create a positive outlook for individuals, families, businesses and communities locally and nationally. The people spoke here and across the nation and so now without further distraction we can get on with the challenge ahead of us.