# Dame Andrea Jenkyns sparks backlash with accent jibe in Lincolnshire mayoral victory speech



A recent political event in Lincolnshire has ignited controversy following the mayoral victory speech of Dame Andrea Jenkyns, the newly elected leader. Celebrating her win at Grimsby Town Hall, Jenkyns made a pointed remark about Councillor Marianne Overton's accent, after Overton, an Independent candidate, finished fourth in the race. Overton, a long-time local councillor, expressed disappointment at Jenkyns' comments, emphasising that personal attacks have no place in political discourse, especially during a victory celebration.

Dame Andrea secured a notable electoral triumph, amassing 104,133 votes and winning in nearly every area of Lincolnshire except one. This victory positions her as a significant force in local politics, raising alarms within the Labour Party. With Starmer at the helm, it seems the party is scrambling to manage a rising challenge that they didn't anticipate, given their recent power shift.

During her address, Jenkyns referenced Overton’s criticism about being "parachuted in" to Lincolnshire while derisively mimicking Overton's South African accent. “The campaign was filled with irony. As one candidate said I was parachuted in – she said it in her South African accent,” Jenkyns quipped, receiving a mixed reaction from the audience.

Overton, who has shaped Lincolnshire politics for over 30 years, voiced her surprise, remarking, “It’s disappointing. We expect more from the mayor – a statesmanlike approach that brings parties together.” However, Jenkyns' comments signal a shift towards a more divisive approach, undermining the unity that is crucial for effective governance.

Following Jenkyns' remarks, Overton, along with other candidates, walked off the stage, contending that such comments were inappropriate during a moment intended to celebrate collaboration. She reiterated her belief that political interactions should centre on unity, not petty point-scoring. Moreover, Overton challenged Jenkyns' controversial proposal to house migrants in tents instead of hotels, which reflects a troubling trend of rhetoric that does not promote constructive dialogue.

Dame Andrea, a figure often associated with bold, sometimes polarising, stances and linked to well-known names in the right-wing political sphere, has embarked on her new role with a clear agenda. Committed to serving Lincolnshire, she has already stirred contention with her remarks, advocating for strict immigration policies and dismissing claims of being an outsider.

As Lincolnshire's political landscape begins to alter, potential clashes between Jenkyns and established leaders like Overton seem inevitable. This outcome presents serious challenges for governance in the region, highlighting the urgent need for leaders to engage meaningfully with all constituents rather than sowing division. The very future of effective representation in Lincolnshire hangs in the balance as mayors bolster their grip on power amidst the shifting tides of public sentiment.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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