

PUTTING MORE POLICE OFFICERS OUT ON THE BEAT

The Prime Minister promised to put 20,000 more police officers out on the beat, and that is exactly what we are doing. I was delighted to recently attend the opening of the new Police Training Centre for Northamptonshire, where our new recruits are learning their skills and it is great to see people of all different backgrounds from across Corby & East Northamptonshire coming forward to sign-up and serve. Through both the national scheme, and the local one launched by our excellent Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, Stephen Mold, we are putting more police officers out on the beat, catching criminals, deterring crime and keeping our streets safer – all helped by putting a policing base back in Corby town centre, which I actively campaigned for. ●



BREXIT: DELIVERED IN FULL WITH A VERY GOOD DEAL!



We promised no more dither and delay and that we would leave the European Union on the 31st January 2020 - a promise we kept following the decisive General Election result, and one I was proud to play a key part in keeping. Whilst I accept that the original decision to leave was not universally supported, now that we have left, it is essential that we make this work and seize the opportunities that Brexit undoubtedly provides.

Throughout, I've been ensuring local feedback has been heard by Ministers,

in order to help get our departure right and to inform the negotiations relating to our future relationship with the EU. I wholly support forging new free trade deals with countries around the world, which will help to boost our business with existing and emerging markets, whilst protecting our food and farming standards, and of course, our precious NHS, which will not be included in any future agreements. We also have a new, common sense, skills-based immigration system instead of EU free-movement - this means that, going forward, our immigration system will provide better control, but also be much fairer, treating people equally, regardless of where they come from in the world. We also struck a very good comprehensive free trade agreement with the EU in December – ensuring a smooth and orderly departure and one that delivers on the commitments we made in full. Promises made, promises kept! ●

SECURING MORE FUNDING FOR LOCAL SERVICES

Northamptonshire has benefitted from significant funding boosts for our local schools, NHS services, councils and the police during the last year, which I pressed hard for in Westminster. This means more money is available locally to provide better and expanded local services and is crucial in the context of the local housing growth we are seeing and the need for our local infrastructure to keep pace with the new homes that are being built. ●



IMPROVING LOCAL NHS SERVICES



Following the successful local campaign to keep Corby Urgent Care Centre open, which I was proud to play my part in supporting, I have continued to keep the pressure up for more improvements to our local NHS services, with real success - more GP appointments are being made available across Corby & East Northamptonshire and a new Kettering General Hospital is to be built to meet growing demand and provide better care for people in our area. ●

COVID-19: PROTECTING LIFE & ENSURING SWIFT RECOVERY - THERE IS NOW LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

The terrible loss of life we have seen throughout the global Coronavirus pandemic has been hugely distressing for us all and as a community, I know our thoughts are with all those who have lost loved ones, or who are battling with the disease at present. The last year has been exceptionally difficult for everyone and Ministers have consistently focused on the importance of protecting life and ensuring that people and businesses are able to get through this hugely difficult time, with an unprecedented package of financial support made available to help deliver on that objective.

The inescapable truth is that there have been no easy answers and all of the emergency response has been a very difficult balancing act, with freedoms maintained in one area requiring difficult decisions to be taken in others, and that inevitably has led to disruption and the curtailment of freedoms in some parts of day-to-day life – something we all

hate. But there is now meaningful light at the end of the tunnel, with the vaccine breakthroughs of recent months and the roll-out is now well underway, meaning the end is now in sight.

In the meantime, as your local MP, I will continue to actively inform this work, as I have to date, by reflecting local needs and concerns to the very highest levels of Government, and to help shape the local response to this emergency. I know the Government will continue to be responsive to the changing circumstances ahead. COVID-19 has also reminded us all of the amazing work done by our brilliant NHS and social care workers, day in, day out, and I know I speak for everyone locally in saying a huge 'thank you' to all those who have worked so tirelessly and selflessly on behalf of us all as part of the emergency response – they are without doubt the very best of us all. ●

MAKING SURE CORBY GETS A BIG 'TOWN DEALS' BOOST

As part of the Government's new 'Town Deals' initiative, where communities with industrial heritage can access grants of up to £25 million for regeneration projects, I fought hard to secure Corby's inclusion. Now we have been successful, our bid has been drawn up and submitted, including plans for a new sixth form college in the town centre, a new community, youth and arts space, retirement flats and cycling and walking infrastructure improvements. I hope our bid will succeed and come to fruition, having incorporated local feedback and suggestions from residents. This is a great opportunity to bring forward the next chapter in Corby's regeneration story - something I am extremely excited about and we also recently secured an extra £750,000 to get various smaller projects underway immediately. ●



A SNAPSHOT OF OTHER KEY CAMPAIGNS

- 1** I successfully campaigned for the funding for the repairs to the North Bridge in Oundle, which are now complete.
- 2** I believe we can all do our bit to help improve our local, national and international environment and have been pressing both locally and nationally for more robust action on the blight that is litter and fly-tipping.
- 3** I have supported many local planning objections across Corby & East Northamptonshire, fighting against unwanted overdevelopment and maintaining that where homes are built, they should command community support and that the character of our rural towns and villages must be preserved.

- 4** I believe that when people buy new homes, the quality of them should be second to none and I am supporting residents on a case-by-case basis to ensure their dream new home is exactly that.
- 5** I continue to actively support local people in opposing unwanted waste plant proposals in Corby.
- 6** I always have, and always will, work cross-party to champion UK steel production, of which we are rightly enormously proud here in Corby. The industry is strategically vital and I work closely with its leaders, the unions and relevant ministers to keep its future strong and secure.

- 7** I am delighted the Chowns Mill Roundabout works are now underway, and the works to rebuild the Leyland Bridge near Irthlingborough are now completed, both of which I pressed hard to make happen.
- 8** I actively supported the building of the new first-class Enterprise Centre in Raunds, which is an important boost for local jobs and the growth of many small businesses.
- 9** I held our first Apprenticeships Fair, which was well attended and showcased the wealth of opportunities for our young people. It's an initiative I am keen to extend and I have exciting plans for the coming year. I was also delighted to hold a very successful lifestyle event for the over 50s.

- 10** I am continuing to make the case for a safe crossing over the A43 between Priors Hall and Weldon.
- 11** I have been campaigning for improved rail services to and from Corby, both north and southbound, with real success. Work on the electrification is now finished and services to and from London are going from hourly to half-hourly from May – a big investment and improvement.
- 12** I held my weekly advice surgeries in both Corby and across East Northamptonshire during the year, and over the telephone during periods of tighter restrictions. I have helped with thousands of individual cases and concerns every month and I am always keen to do my bit to help, so please get in touch at any time if I can be of assistance!