



News from **Westminster**

24th April 2009 Phil Hope MP

A Budget for building Britain's future



I was in the House of Commons Chamber on Wednesday to hear the Chancellor, Alistair Darling, deliver the Budget.

This is always one of the great Parliamentary occasions. But I'm more interested in what it means for people in Corby and East Northamptonshire.

And I was pleased that this Budget is delivering real help now to get people,

especially young people, quickly back into work, and support businesses and homeowners facing problems.

The Budget also supports investment in the growth industries of the future on which Britain's success will be built.

We know that if we don't act now, it will cost us all more in the long run.

I welcome this Budget with its focus on jobs now and jobs in the future.

Building on the support already coming through - which includes an income tax and VAT cut - the measures in the Budget will help us deal with the economic difficulties and support jobs, families, businesses and the environment.

This Budget shows the Labour Government have the confidence to invest in the recovery - and not talk Britain down.

Budget '09 - what's in it?

Support for employment

Including for Jobcentre Plus and the Flexible New Deal, and the offer of a guaranteed job, training or work placement for all 18-24 year olds who reach 12 months unemployed.

Support for savers

Tax-free ISAs: increasing the total annual limits to £10,200, of which £5,100 can be saved in cash. This new limit will be introduced this year for those aged 50 or over, and will come in next year for everyone else.

Support for pensioners

Pension Credit: increasing the capital disregard on the level of savings that are not taken into account when calculating entitlement, from November 2009, from £6,000 to £10,000.

Winter Fuel Allowance: to help pensioners through this downturn, the Winter Fuel Allowance will be maintained at the higher

level for another year - worth £250 for over 60s and £400 for over 80s.

Support for homeowners and homebuyers

Including with a £600 million funding package of measures to build more homes, and an extension of the stamp duty holiday for all houses costing up to £175,000 until the end of the year

Support for the environment

Including setting the world's first carbon budgets and measures to encourage energy efficiency and low-carbon growth.

Support for grandparents

And for the first time, ensure that caring responsibilities for **grandparents** of working age will count towards their entitlement for the basic state pension.

If you would like any more information about any of this extra support, please do contact me.

Budget '09 - Real help for businesses

Further supporting hard pressed businesses: allowing loss making companies to reclaim taxes on profits made in the last three years. This will allow loss-making businesses to claim repayments of £4,000 each year, on average, and will now be available for two more years until November 2010.

Top-up trade credit insurance: further targeted support for companies' cash flow through a 'top-up' trade credit insurance scheme. This will match private sector trade credit insurance if insurers reduce their cover to any business operating in the UK, and will help businesses maintain their finances in the current climate.

Support for greening business: Low-carbon industries will be part of Britain's future prosperity with £405m of new funding for green manufacturing. This will help with new technology and investment in small-scale projects. Small business can also access low cost loans to help with insulation and delivery of energy efficiency measures - helping them prepare for the recovery.

Doubling of capital allowance rate to 40% for one year: Businesses already benefit from an annual £50,000 investment allowance, and this Budget goes further, allowing businesses to offset 40% of investment over £50,000 immediately - providing incentives for further investment.

New Support for Homeowners in Corby and East Northamptonshire



This week I joined forces with Labour's Housing Minister Margaret Beckett to highlight the help available to keep people in their own homes if they fall on difficult times.

The Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) will enable eligible borrowers who suffer a temporary loss of income to cut their mortgage interest payments for up to two years to help them get back on track with their finances.

This excellent scheme will ensure repossession is always a last resort.

I want everyone in Corby and East Northamptonshire to be aware of what help is available.

The Labour Government is committed to helping people through these difficult times.

Losing your home is one of the most devastating things that can happen but Labour is determined that hard working people, who are facing difficulties such as temporary unemployment, are not left to fend for themselves.

This stands in contrast to the Tory plan to slash £810 million from the communities' budget - a cut which could have a devastating impact on many people.

Labour's Housing Minister Margaret Beckett welcomes support from Phil Hope MP:

"We know that many families are worried about how to pay the mortgage right now, and we're determined to ensure there is real help available for them.

"This news is a result of excellent co-operation between Government, lenders, and money advice services.

"On top of the range of measures we've already put in place, this new support will help borrowers who just need a bit more time to get themselves back on their feet. This is in stark contrast to the early 1990s when there was nothing.

"The clear message to borrowers is to contact your lender straight away if you're concerned about how to pay the mortgage as often a solution can be found."