



News from Westminster

PBR Special November 2008 Phil Hope MP

Real help through tough times



This week at Westminster saw the Pre Budget Report (PBR) - where public spending and tax plans were set out by Labour's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling.

As ever on these big Parliamentary occasions there was an electric atmosphere in the Chamber. The PBR is always an important day but with the credit crunch and tough times we are going through in Corby and East Northamptonshire I wanted to hear what was going to happen.

What's clear to me is that these are exceptional times and they require exceptional measures. What families and businesses need is real help now. And the Chancellor Alistair Darling delivered this real help.

The 2008 PBR set out action to help families and businesses through the tough times caused by the global credit crunch.

We will do this by helping people and putting money into the economy now, so we come out of this sooner and stronger. And once the economy is growing again we will tackle the public finance problems caused by the credit crunch in a way that is fair to all.

Our Labour Government is taking action to help families and businesses through the tough times caused by the global credit crunch. I especially welcome the special payment to all pensioners in Corby and East Northamptonshire of £60 on top of the Christmas bonus of £10. Families of disabled children will also receive this extra cash boost.

All families in my constituency will benefit from the increase in Child Benefit which will start straight after Christmas.

And the huge cut in VAT will provide a welcome boost to the economy. In the 80's and 90's the Tory answer to a downturn was to turn their backs on families and businesses.

It is the Labour Government that is taking action now and offering real help through the tough times.

Real help for Pensioners



Pensioners tell me they are feeling worried, with all the news about bank failures, global financial crisis and troubled stock markets across the world. The action Labour has taken this week is real help for pensioners in these tough times.

- ✓ From April 09 - the **state pension will rise** (in line with prices) by £4.55 from £90.70 a week to £95.25. For those women whose entitlement is based on their husbands pension the full couples rate increases to £152.30.
- ✓ From April 09 - the **pension credit will rise** by £5.95 from £124.05 a week to £130 for single pensioners and by £9.10 a week to £198.45p for couples; the biggest rise since 2003 - benefiting 3.3 million pensioners.
- ✓ A **special payment** to all pensioners of £60 on top of the Christmas bonus of £10.

Real help for families

At this time of economic uncertainty, families can be certain of one thing. Gordon Brown and this Labour Government will provide real help for families in tough times. Our priority must be to help British families get through this downturn fairly.



- ✓ 11,600 families will benefit from a **£75 rise in the Child Tax Credit**
- ✓ 23,530 children in 13,425 families will gain from **the rise in Child Benefit** (now rising to £20 a week for the 1st child, and to £13.20 a week for other children) - an increase the Government is bringing forward from April to January 2009.

The Government refuses to abandon people in these tough times.

We will act to provide real help now for families and businesses to come through the downturn sooner and stronger.

Real Help for Small Business

The 2008 PBR set out action to support to small businesses in Corby and East Northamptonshire

The huge **cut in VAT** will provide a welcome boost to the Corby and East Northamptonshire economy.

Deferring the planned increases in small companies **corporation tax** because this is not the right time to increase the tax burden on businesses.

A **£1bn Small Business Guarantee Facility** to enable new Government supported lending by banks for sums between £1,000 and £1m, at cheaper rates and for longer periods.

A **£1bn Export Credit Guarantee** scheme with the banks to support smaller exporters with short-term working capital and trade finance.

More generous **temporary tax relief for businesses suffering losses** - with up to £50,000 of new losses set against taxable profits from the last three years.

A new HMRC **Business Payment Support** service to help with temporary difficulty in paying bills. Paying VAT, corporation tax, income tax and NICs on a timetable you can afford.

A transition fund, brokered by (The East Midlands Regional Development Agency) to secure private sector funding for viable businesses with short term funding issues. Also, a national £50m capital fund targeted on highly leveraged but viable small businesses.

From April empty **commercial properties with a rateable value below £15,000 will be exempt from business rate**, covering 70% of all empty properties.

For full details of Business Support visit the Treasury or HMRC websites at - www.hm-treasury.gov.uk and www.hmrc.gov.uk