



Hull North crime concerns

In recent years, the issue most often raised with me by constituents from all over Hull North has been anti-social behaviour. This reflects the consequences of post-2010 Government cuts to police numbers and to services such as drug and alcohol treatment. Other decisions made by the Tory/ Lib Dem Coalition included the part-privatisation of probation services and the weakening of powers to combat anti-social offending. We now have the perfect storm in which crime has risen and our streets are less safe. In August, with Avenue Labour councillors I held a street stall in Princes Avenue on anti-social behaviour. My on-line survey, asking constituents about their experiences, has received the highest number of responses of any survey I have produced in the past 16 years. 95.3% of constituents responding said that they had experienced anti-social behaviour in the past six months. 89.8% felt that the problem had worsened in recent years. Since raising the issue in the Commons - [see here](#) - I have met the new Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to discuss a range of local crime concerns. I have written to both Hull City Council and Humberside Police about what more can be done to work together on these issues. I have also continued speaking in the Commons about the issue of 'low level' sex offending that can easily escalate into violent crimes against women - [see here](#).



Levelling up goes off the rails

With November marking five years since Tory Ministers blocked a privately-financed scheme for rail electrification between Selby and Hull, and no firm news on when Hull will see any 'levelling up' on rail investment, I have again raised the issue in the Commons - [see here](#). I also attacked the recent suggestion by the Transport Secretary that old Pacer trains should be used for school and health facilities in the North - [see here](#).



So much for 'Global Britain'

On 18 August, MPs were recalled from Summer Recess for a day after the shocking developments in Afghanistan and President Biden's decision to follow the Donald Trump plan to withdraw remaining forces and cease support for those resisting the Taliban. In my Commons speech, I pointed to the increased security threat to the UK from allowing the Taliban takeover, the effect on the already major global refugee crisis and the massive setback in human rights for women and many others in Afghanistan - [see here](#).



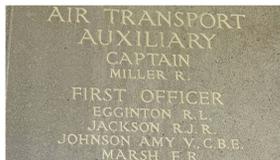
Cost of living crisis

Two years after claiming to have a worked-out scheme to fund social care reform, the Prime Minister this month finally published very limited plans that will not end the social care crisis for average working families. However, it will cost many low-paid workers over a £1,000 in extra National Insurance in order that relatively well-off children of property millionaires can inherit expensive homes. It is also expected to lead to yet more increases in the regressive Council Tax. This NI increase also comes alongside the ending of the £20 uplift in Universal Credit, the watering down of the pensions 'triple lock', rising inflation, real terms pay cuts for many and with energy bills looking set for major increases this coming Winter. I spoke in the House about the damaging effect on Hull of the Universal Credit cut - [see more](#)



A Bespoke new office

In early September, my excellent office team in Hull moved from the Avenue Centre, where renovation works are now due to commence, up to the Bespoke Centre at Zeals Garth in North Bransholme. I am pleased that after much work my new office is now up and running and my telephone contact details remain the same at the new office on 01482 319135. I felt especially at home at my new Hull North base when I came across the mural of Hull's headscarf revolutionaries outside.



War Graves tour

This month I also took part, as a member of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), in a Commissioners' tour of various CWGC sites in Southern England. We saw the extraordinary work that is done by the CWGC workforce and volunteers to maintain graves and memorials for those from throughout the Commonwealth who fell in both World Wars. It was especially moving to find the name of Hull's own Amy Johnson displayed on the wall at Runnymede Air Forces Memorial.



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