

DARLINGTON CHAMPION

INSIDE:

More Police
on the beat

Extending free
childcare

Extra skills
investment

YOUR PRIORITIES ARE OUR PRIORITIES

SUMMER 2023



Peter is supporting a Northern By-Pass and working with Ministers to push for funding.

PETER GIBSON MP CONTINUING TO PUSH FOR NORTHERN BYPASS INVESTMENT

Peter Gibson MP is stepping up his campaign for a new Northern Bypass, which would see huge investment and more local jobs brought to Darlington.

The proposed £200 million project would see a new connection between J59 on the A1 and Great Burdon on the A66, relieving congestion and emissions in North Darlington, and boosting the Teesside and County Durham economy even further.

Improving connectivity, boosting local jobs, and making journeys easier and safer for

everyone in the community.

Peter has been working with local residents, the Government, and Ben Houchen, Tees Valley Mayor, to draw up plans for the bypass – a campaign that he will continue to press on with until the bypass becomes a reality.

The investment would mean that traffic, particularly HGVs, would no longer have to snake through residential parts of

North Darlington like Whinfield and Harrowgate Hill, making local roads cleaner and safer.

So far, thanks to the ongoing campaign, ministers have now committed to including the proposal for consideration in investment plans for future roads. Peter will continue to press the case for further feasibility studies and investment.

5,969 NEW DOCTORS AND 2,453 NEW NURSES FOR THE NORTH EAST AND YORKSHIRE.

Our NHS was badly hit by the pandemic. That's why one of the Government's top five priorities is to cut the backlog.

Across the North East and Yorkshire, the Government has delivered 5,969 new doctors and 2,453 new nurses – a big step towards cutting the backlog.

Ministers are also working with local Conservative MPs to help residents access healthcare closer to home, with a new Community Diagnostic Centre set to open in Stockton.

This centre will be able to carry out X-rays, CT scans, blood tests and more. So residents will have access to the best healthcare on their doorstep.



The Government is recruiting extra doctors and nurses for our local NHS



Above: The Prime Minister has made creating jobs and opportunities a central part of his five priorities

Local people to benefit from new skills training

One of the biggest concerns that local employers have is finding people with the right skills.

The Prime Minister has made jobs and economic growth a central part of his five priorities: to halve inflation, grow the economy, reduce debt, cut waiting lists and stop the boats.

That's why ministers have worked with local Conservative MPs and Mayor Ben Houchen to deliver new investment in skills training and jobs for Tees Valley.

The investment includes millions to support Skills Bootcamps for local

people. These will provide training in everything from clean energy and construction to digital skills and HGV driving.

Ministers also opened the UK's biggest freeport at Teesside, which is set to create 18,000 good jobs for local people and deliver billions of pounds for our region's economy.

This news comes alongside the latest apprenticeship figures, which show that 106,410 new apprenticeships have been created in Tees Valley since 2010. So more local young people are picking up the skills they need to get on in life.

239 EXTRA POLICE FOR DURHAM CONSTABULARY

Cutting crime is a top priority for local people. And it's a top priority for the Government too.

Ministers have worked with our local police force to deliver an extra 239 police for Durham Constabulary. These officers are already on patrol, making our streets safer for every resident in every community.

The Government is now working with our new officers to make sure they have the funds and resources they need to target antisocial behaviour hotspots and make Durham an even safer place to work and raise a family.



Above: Conservatives have delivered on their promise to recruit 20,000 extra police

Lifetime Skills Guarantee helps local people get free qualifications

Access to skills training is not only good for local people – it's good for our local economy too.

That's why the Government has worked with local businesses and training colleges to introduce a Lifetime Skills Guarantee.

The Lifetime Skills Guarantee offers local people the chance to gain a free qualification, with almost 400 options to choose from – everything from engineering to social care. So residents can secure better jobs with decent pay.

This is part of the Government's plan to level up their investment and make sure everyone, wherever they live, can get on in life.



Above: Conservatives are extending free childcare to children aged 9 months to 4 years

Government announces EXTRA free childcare

Every parent should be able to balance work and raising a family. That's why the Government is extending 30-hours free childcare to children aged between 9 months and 4 years.

With the global cost of living crisis hitting local people, this is huge news. It means more parents will be able to make the right decisions for their families.

This news comes alongside extra investment in family hubs across the UK, where new mothers can get extra support – including parenting programmes and mental health aid.



BIG BOOST FOR DRIVERS, CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS IN TEES VALLEY

Transport is vital to our local economy. The easier it is to get around, the more likely businesses are to set up in Tees Valley.

That's why the Government is working with Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen to level up its investment in Tees Valley's transport network.

This investment includes millions to redevelop Darlington and Middlesbrough stations, which will mean more platforms and more frequent train services.

It also includes funding for the Elwick bypass, a vital new road for

Hartlepool that will cut congestion for local people and businesses.

And it includes funding for new footpaths and cycle paths across the region, giving local people more options for greener travel.

This is part of the Government's plan to level up investment in communities across the country and help everyone, wherever they live, get on in life.

our plan DARLINGTON



1 INVESTMENT IN OUR NHS

In my last survey, residents said they needed more face to face GP appointments and better access to dentistry services. Since then I have visited hardworking GPs to voice concerns over NHS bureaucracy and issues over patients not turning up to appointments.

2 BACKING OUR TOWN CENTRE

We have successfully received £23.3million from the Towns Fund. This funding is being used in regeneration projects across Darlington. Initial improvements have already been made to Post House Wynd, Clark's, Buckton's and Mechanics' yards.

3 A NORTHERN BY-PASS TO END GRIDLOCK

A new northern by-pass will help cut congestion, so I'm campaigning for a link between the A66 and Junction 59 of the A1. A new road will put an end to the gridlock which is why I am working with Tees Valley Combined Authority so we can make this a reality.

4 DELIVERING HOMES IN THE RIGHT PLACES

We need new homes in the right places, with access to schools, roads and services. That means working with residents, on the plans for our Garden Villages. We must also utilise all available brownfield land.

5 BETTER SCHOOLS AND TRAINING QUALIFICATIONS

Working with the council, teachers and parents we can make sure schools get the facilities they need. T-Levels are coming to Darlington College, boosting earning and learning apprenticeships. I have also helped build 3 sustainable playgrounds with more on the way.

6 MORE POLICE TO CRACKDOWN ON CRIME

I will make the case for extra police resource in Darlington. Together with the community, we'll give the police the support they need to catch criminals. We have had 239 new officers recruited to Durham Constabulary since 2019, £5.1m of extra funding and over £1m invested into the Safer Streets Initiative.

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Action on dentistry in Darlington

Peter presses Ministers and Health Board to provide more dentists.

Peter met with Neil O'Brien MP, Minister for Primary Care and Public Health as well as representatives from the NHS who commission dentistry to discuss NHS dental provision. Following my meeting, I was assured that the NHS is commissioning additional capacity from Darlington providers and at a higher rate of pay.

So far there are 1,473 more NHS dentists across the UK since 2010, a 6.5% increase, however, I will continue to lobby Ministers at every available opportunity to improve access to dental services for the people of Darlington.



ABOVE: Peter Gibson is taking your concerns straight to the top over access to dentist services in Darlington.

DARLINGTON LEVELLING UP IN ACTION

Darlington is at the forefront of this Government's levelling up agenda. We are already seeing the benefits of the £23.3m Towns Fund Investments with

improvements to The Yards, to Victoria Road and Northgate. The £139m for Bank Top Station will help drive investment, rejuvenating our beloved town.



ABOVE: Peter is working with Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen to level up our town.