

NOVEMBER 2007

# Constituency REPORT

AN UPDATE FROM **HELEN GOODMAN MP** TO CONSTITUENTS

[www.helengoodman.co.uk](http://www.helengoodman.co.uk)



## WORKING HARD FOR ALL IN BISHOP AUCKLAND

This is my third constituency report since you elected me as your MP in 2005, and I hope this will give you a flavour of my work over what has been an extremely busy and exciting year!

At Westminster and across the constituency I've been working hard to tackle your concerns: whether it be defending local jobs, improving our schools and healthcare, campaigning for a green and sustainable environment, or promoting a more ambitious regional plan.



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In the past year I've also been appointed Deputy Leader of the House of Commons, and am working on the new Government's Programme for Constitutional Reform, which will modernise and renew our democratic institutions.

But in order to be work for you, I need to hear from you. That's why I hold regular drop-in surgeries across the constituency and encourage you to write, telephone or e-mail me about any issue that concerns you.

My contact details can be found on the back of this report, so I look forward to hearing from you.



Best wishes,

Helen Goodman MP  
Member of Parliament for Bishop Auckland

## PROMOTING ROAD SAFETY

Helen has been named **Parliamentarian of the Month** by Brake, the national road safety charity, in light of her long-running campaign to improve safety on the roads across the Bishop Auckland constituency.



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**HELEN AND THE MR. MEN PROMOTE READING FOR CHILDREN**

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# PROMOTING A **CONFIDENT,** **AMBITIOUS NORTH EAST**

Helen has been vocal in her support for additional economic development across County Durham in the North East Regional Plan (also known as the Regional Spatial Strategy).

The plan – which accounts for all regional development up to 2021 – has come under fire for its failure to adequately support economic growth across the North East.

Helen has spoken in the House of Commons on this matter, and has urged an increase in projected house building, improvements to local transport infrastructure, and the development of a number of so-called ‘prestige’ employment sites such as NetPark in County Durham.



NetPark in County Durham, just one of the employment sites Helen has championed in the North East Regional Plan.

# SUPPORTING **SURE START** IN **BISHOP AUCKLAND**



Helen meets children at the new Sure Start Centre in Victoria Lane, Coundon.

Helen was delighted to recently open a new early learning and family centre at Victoria Lane, Coundon.

Helen said: *“The Coundon Sure Start centre will be a great local facility for parents, children and the wider community. I worked on the Sure Start Programme prior to becoming an MP, and it’s wonderful to see it bear fruit in Bishop Auckland”.*

Children across Bishop Auckland have also been celebrating record exam results this year: 58% of pupils in Bishop Auckland now achieve at least 5 A\*-C grades at GCSE, and 88% get at least 5 A\*-G grades.

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# WORKING HARD FOR **REMPLOY**

Helen is delighted that that the threatened Remploy factory at Merrington Lane, Spennymoor, is to remain open.

Remploy Spennymoor had been identified as one of 32 factories to be closed as part of management modernisation plans.

Helen chaired a cross-party bank bench enquiry into the planned closures, which recommended that factories such as Remploy Spennymoor should remain open in order to provide fulfilling employment to a skilled and hard-working workforce.

Helen said: *"This is wonderful news for everyone who works at the Remploy factory in Spennymoor, and vindicates everything we have said about the value and quality of their work"*.



Helen meets Remploy workers and management at the threatened Spennymoor factory.



Helen attends the groundbreaking ceremony for Thorn Lighting's new purpose-built factory at Green Lane, Spennymoor.

# **BISHOP AUCKLAND'S WORKING**

Unemployment in Bishop Auckland has fallen by 9.8% since September 2006, and now stands at just 1,196.

Helen said: *"it's fantastic that we've had so much success in combating unemployment and that County Durham continues to attract new employment opportunities"*.

One such example is Thorn Lighting's new £28 million, 40,000 sq ft factory at Green Lane, Spennymoor.

Helen was delighted to be at the groundbreaking ceremony for Thorn's new state-of-the-art factory, which will secure more than 700 local jobs.



# COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Helen receives more letters and e-mails about climate change than any other issue, and she has continued to support energy efficiency, environmental awareness and tough climate change measures.

She was a member of the committee that drafted the Climate Change Bill, which will establish a clear pathway to achieve a 60% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.

Helen is also backing the Warm Front initiative, which makes homes in Bishop Auckland warmer, healthier and more energy efficient.



Helen with former Environment Minister, David Miliband.



Helen working alongside Wear Valley Council to tackle climate change.

## HELEN'S VOTING RECORD

Since becoming an MP in 2005, Helen has taken part in 90% of Commons' votes.



As well as fulfilling her ministerial duties as Deputy

Leader of the House, Helen has spoken in 39 parliamentary debates in the last year alone – on issues ranging from tax credits and incapacity benefit, to climate change, the Childcare Bill and House of Lords reform.

You can find out more about Helen's voting record by visiting [www.publicwhip.com](http://www.publicwhip.com) or [www.helengoodman.co.uk](http://www.helengoodman.co.uk).

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

**The most important aspect of an MP's work is listening to their constituents.**

I welcome every opportunity to hear your views, opinions and concerns, and I therefore encourage you to get in contact as often as possible. You can contact me in a number of ways:

### By writing to:

Helen Goodman MP  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 0AA

### By e-mail:

[goodmanh@parliament.uk](mailto:goodmanh@parliament.uk)

### By telephone:

**Westminster office:**  
02072 194 346

**Constituency office:**  
01388 777 175

### By Fax:

020 7219 0444

My website – [www.helengoodman.co.uk](http://www.helengoodman.co.uk) – is also packed with additional information about my work, the constituency, and news from Bishop Auckland. You can also raise issues and leave feedback on the site, so make sure you pay it a visit!

