

Helen Goodman MP

Working Hard in for all in the
Bishop Auckland Constituency



www.helengoodman.co.uk



NEW YEAR **ECONOMIC** REPORT

With the global economic downturn affecting households across the constituency, I know that the number one priority for the coming year is to provide help and support to constituents through this difficult economic period.

That is why I'm outlining in this economic report the measures being taken to help families, businesses and homeowners.

I would also like to hear your views on the local economy, so I have included a brief freepost survey below.

Best wishes,

Helen Goodman



Helen working hard for all in the Bishop Auckland constituency with Chancellor Alistair Darling.



Helen meets workers at the new Berco factory in Spennymoor

After years of falling unemployment, the global downturn is bringing job losses in both small and medium-sized businesses and long-standing local employers such as GlaxoSmithKline and Electrolux.

Helen said:

“I really sympathise with anyone who has been made unemployed in the past few months, and it is absolutely vital to do everything possible to help people gain new skills, training and employment.”

The Jobcentre Plus network and the Rapid Response Service have a good record of finding local employment opportunities, and they will be vital in the coming months. ”

LET **ME** KNOW WHAT **YOU** THINK

How concerned are you about Britain's economy? **VERY** **LITTLE** **NOT AT ALL**

Are you confident about the economy in 2009? **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

Do you support the action being taken to help the economy? **YES** **NO** **PARTLY**

Do you support more tax cuts? **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

Do you think those earning the most should pay more tax? **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

What other measures would you like to see to help the local economy?



Helen Goodman MP

Working Hard for all in the Bishop Auckland Constituency



While there are problems, there are also positive developments in the local economy.

Planning permission has now been approved for a £45 million multi-purpose leisure and retail park at Tindale Crescent, and South and East Durham will also receive £3.2 million this year to develop new housing schemes.



The new Thorns lighting factory in Spennymoor

POST OFFICE CARD ACCOUNT RENEWED

I know many of you were concerned about the Post Office Card Account (POCA), so I am sure there will be widespread relief that the POCA contact has now been renewed beyond 2010.

GOVERNMENT ACTION IN BISHOP AUCKLAND

The Government have announced a range of measures that I believe will:

i) Help the economy

- A 2.5% cut in VAT to stimulate consumer spending

ii) Help Businesses

- Up to £50,000 tax relief for struggling businesses
- Defer planned increases in small companies corporation tax
- £1 billion Small Business Guarantee Facility
- £10 million package to support North East companies

iii) Help those who need it most

- £60 payment for pensioners and above-inflation rises in the state pension and Pension Credit
- Increases in child benefit and Child Tax Credit
- £145 tax cut for basic-rate tax payers

iv) Help prevent unemployment

- An extra £1.3 billion for job centres to help people back to work
- Bring forward £3 billion of capital projects

CONSTITUENCY SURGERIES

Friday 6th February - Constituency Office, Bishop Auckland

Friday 6th March - Community Centre, Tudhoe

Friday 3rd April - People's Centre, Main Street, Shildon

Surgeries start at **17:00** and are open to all.



You can find out more about Helen's work in Bishop Auckland by visiting her website:

www.helengoodman.co.uk

Disclaimer: Printed by and on behalf of Helen Goodman MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A. Designed by Krafty Design - www.kraftydesign.co.uk. Printed locally by Stelro Print & Design Ltd, Unit 13, Nestfield Industrial Estate, Darlington, DL1 2NW. Paid for through the Parliamentary Communications Allowance.

Name:

Address:

**FREEPOST RSAC-KEEY-SRKH
Helen Goodman MP
1 Cockton Hill Road
Bishop Auckland
DL14 6EN**