

# FAISAL RASHID MP

## WARRINGTON SOUTH

Monthly Newsletter: January 2018



Working hard for all communities in Warrington South

**Our community is our strength – Together we are stronger**

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# IN WESTMINSTER

Welcome to my January e-newsletter with news of some of my work in Westminster and in the Warrington South Constituency as your Labour MP.

For all the latest news on my work locally and in Parliament you can also visit my website, follow me on Twitter or add me on Facebook.

With very best wishes,

*Faisal Rashid*

Labour Member of Parliament for Warrington South

## DISPARITY IN REGIONAL TRANSPORT FUNDING

Recently published new figures by IPPR North reveal that the North receives £2,555 less per person than London in transport investment. I was extremely disappointed to see that once again when it comes to Conservative Government transport spending, there remains a distinct north-south divide.

How can it be fair to expect Warrington South residents to spend £1,000 a year to cover the costs of new transport infrastructure, when the north receives £2,555 less per person than London in transport investment.

I am working to redress this imbalance, and improve transport investment in Warrington South.

## TACKLING WARRINGTON SOUTH'S HOUSING CONCERNS

I recently met Labour's Shadow Housing Minister, John Healey MP, to talk about housing concerns in Warrington South. During our meeting I raised concerns about the prevalence of unfair leasehold agreements in Warrington South. Labour has been pressing for the Government to tackle this issue for two years and highlighting where the Government is falling short.

I also spoke of the problems facing those Warrington South residents who claim benefits and are looking to rent private accommodation. Currently, private landlords are discouraged from letting to benefit recipients due to problems with Universal Credit and cuts to Local Housing Allowance, which are resulting in claimants being considered an unreliable source of money.

## CARILLION COLLAPSE

This month we witnessed the construction giant Carillion entering liquidation, risking thousands of jobs across the country. The outsourcing construction company had been awarded £2 billion worth of Government contracts at a time when Carillion had issued three profit warnings.

Carillion is involved in a number of major Government projects such as the HS2 high-speed rail line, as well as managing services for schools and prisons. It is the second biggest supplier of maintenance services to the company Network Rail, and it maintains 50,000 homes for the Ministry of Defence.

Myself and my Labour colleagues have expressed real concerns about the impact that this news could have on those local authorities which have contracts with the company. And we have made it clear that the Government must give support to councils to ensure that staff have some certainty over their future and that contingency measures are immediately put in place to ensure the seamless provision of services.



## TRADE BILL

I was selected to be a member of the Bill Committee which scrutinised the Trade Bill as it travelled through Parliament in January. I used this opportunity to speak out against the Government for the lack of Parliamentary and public scrutiny that has been included in the Trade Bill.

The Bill is designed to bring Trade Deals between the European Union and Third Countries' into UK Law, following our departure from the European Union, to allow the UK to continue to trade with these countries. However, the Bill contains no provision for any form of parliamentary or public scrutiny of these deals before they are enshrined into UK law.

Labour believe that the Bill gives the Government far too much un-checked and unnecessary power. By using sweeping 'Henry VIII' powers, the Government is proposing that it should be allowed to bring these new trade deals into law with no means of parliamentary scrutiny, no means of public consultation, no impact assessments, no debate, no way to amend the deals and crucially, no meaningful vote. This is not acceptable. Power should be given to the British people, as was promised during the referendum.

## LABOUR LEGISLATION TO PROTECT RENTERS FROM HOMES UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION

I recently backed a Bill being introduced by Labour MP Karen Buck giving renters a new legal right to ensure their home is 'fit for human habitation'. The new legislation, long campaigned for by Labour, could help renters in 162,000 dangerously unfit properties in the North West, the largest number in any region in England. Nationally, there are over one million rented properties containing the most serious 'category 1' hazards, including homes that have unsafe electrics, vermin infestations, or are not fire safe. The Labour Bill gives tenants new legal powers to enforce their right to a decent home by taking their landlord to court if the property they live in is not fit. This is particularly important for council tenants because it is councils who are notionally responsible for enforcing standards, but local authorities can't enforce against themselves.

This change in the law has been backed by Labour previously and was included in the Party's June manifesto but has been blocked by the Tories on two previous occasions. However, following a Labour campaign, the Government supported the legislation.

# IN WARRINGTON SOUTH

## FIRST STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MEETING ON WARRINGTON WESTERN LINK

I attended the first engagement meeting organised for representatives from community groups in areas that may be affected by proposals for the Warrington Western Link. This was the first of a series of bi-monthly meetings, which have been organised by Warrington Borough Council at my request.

Residents representing community groups from Hood Lane South, Lower Walton and Saxon Park attended the meeting. The aim of the engagement meetings is to provide residents in the areas, which may be affected, updates on the status of the Western Link proposals and to provide an opportunity for community and business representatives to ask any questions and discuss the next steps.

I have previously made it clear that any support from myself for the Western Link proposals would only be given if clear commitments were made by Warrington Borough Council on several key issues. One of those commitments was that Warrington Borough Council must hold regular engagement meetings, and that they continue for the duration of the project.

It was a positive first meeting. I believe it is crucial that moving forward my constituents are given every opportunity to raise concerns and to be kept informed of the Warrington Western

Link process. Every step of the process must be open and transparent and future consultation on the proposals must be communicated clearly and effectively. The Western Link is a Warrington Borough Council project and as MP for the area I am doing my best to mediate and help residents.

I will continue to work together with local residents and businesses on this issue.

## A VISIT TO ASSURA: CREATING THE PRIMARY CARE SPACES THE NHS NEEDS

I visited Assura to hear of their plans to create the primary care spaces the NHS needs. I am pleased to hear that Assura, in partnership with Life After Loss, Warrington Youth Club, Beating Eating Disorders (BEAT), Active Cheshire and The Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation, aims to support the Warrington South community by giving more resources to help parents cope with stillbirth, helping young people with disabilities use the gym and training new volunteers for a Warrington-based eating disorders helpline. I also learnt that other aims of Assura include helping older people get walking, supporting men with mental health issues through sport, and helping to prevent school holiday hunger for Warrington children, all which are vital issues.

# MY VISITS INCLUDE...

## A VISIT TO LYMM HIGH SCHOOL



I visited Lymm High School and during my visit I faced a series of well-thought out questions from the students on a range of issues, including the abolishment of University fees and lowering the voting age to 16. I also spoke of my recent experiences as a new MP and explained how I entered into a career in politics and talked about the current challenges being faced in my constituency. I also gave a detailed account of my average working week, and encouraged students to consider getting involved in politics. I was very impressed with how knowledgeable the students were, and how engaged they are in politics and current affairs. I am incredibly proud of the students in Warrington South, and I look forward to catching up with them again.

## A VISIT TO THELWALL JUNIORS



I visited Thelwall Junior School to speak to pupils about my work in Westminster and to hear about the school's work on the Connecting Classrooms programme. It was an enlightening opportunity to engage with our younger generation who will one day be the future leaders of this country. It was a pleasure to visit Thelwall Junior School to hear about the pupils' work on the Connecting Classrooms project. During the visit the pupils talked to me about collaborative projects they have been working on looking previously at 'Zero Hunger' and currently at 'Zero Waste'. I was also invited to take part in a question and answer session. I was asked a series of tough questions relating to the pupils' work – including proposals to reduce plastic packaging. I was impressed by the pupils' understanding on several hard-hitting global issues. Equipped with this knowledge and new skills, I am confident that the pupils will go on to make a positive impact within their local community.

## A VISIT TO WARRINGTON SPORTS CLUB AND STRETTON CRICKET CLUB

I visited Stretton Cricket Club and I was also given a tour of the Pavillion. It was an informing visit as I heard about the plans for the modernisation of the Pavillion. I am pleased to hear that plans hope to include a more appropriate facility for dance activities and a larger function room for use for community activities, events and functions. I believe that the facilities at the Pavillion make a considerable contribution to the well-being of many young people across Warrington South and I will continue to follow these developments closely.



## A MEETING WITH LOCAL PARISH COUNCILLORS

I hosted a meeting with South Warrington Parish Councillors. During the meeting we discussed a variety of issues which affect each Parish and I offered to help with these issues where I can. Issues which were discussed include litter, anti-social behaviour, the local plan, housing and flooding. Following the meeting a number of actions were highlighted and I have committed to working with each Parish Council to address these matters in our local area.

## ROVING SURGERIES

I have held roving surgeries this month in Latchford East, Latchford West and Great Sankey North. These opportunities for me to engage with local residents on issues which affect them on a daily basis.





As your local MP, if there are ever any issues I can help you with, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

I hold surgeries at my constituency office at 1 Wilson Patten Street every Friday. From 9.30am-11.30am I hold an open surgery, no appointment necessary, and then from 11.30am I hold surgeries by appointment.

To book an appointment:  
Email: [faisal.rashid.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:faisal.rashid.mp@parliament.uk)  
Call: 01925 657 600

I also hold roving and street surgeries every Saturday.  
For further information please call my office.

For up to date information about my work:  
Visit my Facebook page at [facebook.com/faisalrashidMP](https://facebook.com/faisalrashidMP)  
Or my website at [www.faisalrashid.com](http://www.faisalrashid.com)

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