



## Mansfield in Parliament!

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[Tackling illegal migration](#)

[New SEND School in Ravensdale](#)

[Success! Unlocking Sports Facilities](#)

[This week's Column](#)

Fab to have a little bit of Mansfield in Parliament on Monday, as a bus load of local residents came down for the tour, and to grab their iconic No10 selfie (as well as to see me, of course!!)

Hope everyone had a good time. Always pleased to be able to help people to come and see this place and learn about how it all works. I think Parliament is one of those places everyone should visit at some point in their lives.



### Next trip: 10th July.

Coach travel to and from London will cost £22 per person, with a 6am start on the day!

The trip will include a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament and an opportunity to meet and chat with Ben.

If you're a constituent, get in touch to book your place!

Contact: [ben.bradley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ben.bradley.mp@parliament.uk)

  
**Ben Bradley MP**  
serving Mansfield & Warsop

[Read more here!](#)



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## Ways to keep in touch

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If you're a constituent, join the private Facebook

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## Dealing with illegal migration.



**Illegal Channel crossings are a big concern for many of my constituents across Mansfield and Warsop - my inbox shows the huge strength of feeling on this issue and it's vital that we tackle it once and for all.**

**I've been doing everything in my power to ensure Government cracks down.**

**If you come to the UK illegally, new laws will ensure:**

1. Anyone crossing the Channel will be detained immediately and removed to a safe country within weeks
2. Asylum claims will only be heard in Rwanda, not the UK
3. Asylum seekers will no longer have an automatic right to make a claim under modern slavery rules
4. Asylum seekers will no longer be able to make late or spurious claims to delay being removed
5. Human rights claims will only be heard after asylum seekers have been removed

Join the campaign to Stop the Boats



**I've been lobbying the government to tackle illegal migration.**

Watch a video that summarises my efforts on this.



**On Monday, I met the Home Secretary to discuss announcements that happened this week, on stopping small boats.**

On paper the plans look good, preventing anyone who arrives here illegally from ever being able to stay.

Of course the big challenge, and the obvious response from residents, will be about how they operationalise this. Making sure we can get deportation flights off the ground, and that we can't be bogged down in judicial reviews and legal appeals processes.

If Judges and 'human rights' campaigners are able to block these kinds of steps, even if elected people write it in to law, then you'd have to ask yourself who really runs the country!?

The Home Sec is battling all these vested interests, just as Priti was before her, and for my part I will back any steps that tackle this problem; still the number one issues residents contact me about every day.

Bringing the Bill forward is a start, but we have to be able to implement it, and we MUST see outcomes in the form of falling numbers of illegal migrants and regular deportation flights.

Watch a clip of the Home Secretary bringing this bill to the House of Commons on Tuesday

**In response to her statement, I asked the Home Secretary**





**to stand by my hard-working constituents.**

Watch this on my YouTube channel by clicking here

**“I was horrified to hear from the benches opposite that the issue of stopping illegal migration and small boats is about xenophobia and racism, about dog whistle politics.**

**This is a simple matter of fairness for my constituents, who work hard and do the right thing, who then see other people arrive here illegally and get access to tax-payer funded housing and support that they themselves are struggling to access.**

**My constituents have been frustrated by delays and problems in implementing these measures. The government needs to do whatever is necessary to get the outcomes that my constituents deserve.”**



  
**Ben Bradley MP**  
serving Mansfield & Warsop

The PM is following through on his promise to ensure that nobody who arrives here illegally is ever able to stay.

The proof will be in the delivery of course, making sure that we can put this in to action once the law is changed.

However, on the face of it, and from the briefings I've had on this new Bill, the PM is sticking to his word to block small boat crossings, take on the ECHR, and make sure that the law is on our side.

**RISHI SUNAK: "I'm taking back control of UK borders once and for all, Labour has no plan to stop the boats & they don't want to either"**



[Read the full article](#)

**OUR PLAN IS CLEAR:**

IF YOU COME HERE  
**ILLEGALLY**  
YOU WILL BE  
**REMOVED**

Britain will act against people smuggling

The Home Secretary has made a video explaining our plan.

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**UNLOCKING 'HIDDEN' TAX-  
PAYER FUNDED SPORTS  
FACILITIES - SUCCESS!**

**A BIG CAMPAIGN WIN!**

**This week Government announced a fund of £57m to help get school sports facilities open to the public at evenings and weekends.**



I've been campaigning for more funding and long term security to support school sport and PE, so I'm delighted that today Government has announced an extended commitment to funding the School Sport Premium and School Games Organisers, as well as boosting plans for two hours of physical activity in the curriculum and equal access to sport for girls too.

All of this is really important for our young people, for school budgets and a bit of funding certainty for the next two years, and also good news for all the great benefits that sport and physical activity offers! Great to see a campaign pay off!

[Read about the announcement](#)



I've been raising this for several years and [recently held a debate in the Commons about it](#), so I'm chuffed that this fund has been announced alongside commitments to the School Sport Premium!

[Watch a YouTube 'short' on this announcement here!](#)







## **SEND School given go-ahead on former Ravensdale School site!!**

It was over a year ago that Councillor Camilleri first brought County Council officers to view a derelict site, and after lots of negotiating and determination, we have given the go-ahead for a brand new 160-pupil Special Needs School to be built on the old Ravensdale School site.

Our District, along with Ashfield, has the greatest need for this type of school as it is where over 40% of children with SEND live, so it really is terrific news for local children and parents.

This fantastic outcome has come about through the sterling efforts of local County Councillors, Rob Corden, Nigel Moxon, Andre Camilleri and Steve Garner, the County Council Officers etc all working together (and some good leadership there, of course!) A brilliant example of how teamwork and a determination can make a real difference in our community.

So, lots of details now to work up on plans and final costs etc, but positive news that thanks to some £25m+ Government funding to boost SEND school places, and some hard work from local Councillors and staff, the Old Ravensdale School will be put to good use!



## **Raising concerns about new sex education 'guidance'**

This is shocking. I raised concerns with the DfE back in 2019 about new sex education guidance, which explains the minimum expectation but doesn't give a 'ceiling' or explain what should not be acceptable for young children. I was concerned that ideological campaigners and 'charities' would force themselves in to this space, with teachers ending up caught between a rock (the Equality Act) and a hard place (a duty not to indoctrinate children).

I don't need to repeat all of the content of this article in the post, have a read for yourself, but needless to say some of the content being taught to primary age children in some schools is absolutely appalling, and the idea that some schools think they can not disclose this to parents is equally wrong. I will be supporting my colleague Miriam Cates MP who has pulled this dossier together, in calling for a proper inquiry in to what is going on.

You should know that you do have a right to know what your child is being taught in RSE lessons, and you do have a right to see the literature etc that is being used. I have to say that if some of what is in this article was happening in my kids school, my kids wouldn't be going there any more!

I was pleased to hear Rishi say during PMQs that he will look at this as a matter of urgency!

**I was on TalkTV with Vanessa Feltz talking about this, watch here**

**This was raised at PMQ's by Miriam Cates MP, read more**





THE  TIMES  
10 March 2023

# UK economy returns to growth in January

**OUR 5 PRIORITIES** | HALVE INFLATION | GROW THE ECONOMY  
REDUCE DEBT | CUT WAITING LISTS | STOP THE BOATS

## EAST MIDLANDS DEVOLUTION DEAL

- A 30 year investment of £1.14 billion that brings decision making on public services closer to the people of Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire.
- This means an extra £38 million per year to help level-up the region and further develop local services.
- The deal is the largest of its kind on offer, transferring decision making away from Whitehall and to the East Midlands.
- As a result of this deal, both counties and cities will become a 'combined authority' with an elected Mayor.

### What does this mean for us?

- We can set our own net zero targets.
- We can make bus, train or tram journeys go further for less, across both counties.
- We can combine council budgets, meaning better value for money for our public services.
- We can tailor adult education to the job market of the East Midlands, so re-training costs less and you can 'earn while you learn'.
- We can build new affordable homes based on local needs.
- We can build on our UK-leading green technologies industry, creating jobs and skills for the future.
- We will be able to better address social mobility, community safety and support for young people.

  
**Ben Bradley MP**  
serving Mansfield and Warsop

## Devolution Consultation Published!

On Friday we published outcomes from our devolution consultation,

where 4500 residents have told us that overall they agree with all the aims and ambitions of our new Combined Authority, around transport, skills, economic development, housing and more. That's really good news!

There were also concerns raised about the way decisions will be made - ie what a new Combined Authority looks like and who is involved - which we're taking on board and will adapt our proposal to ensure that we get things right for local people, as well as being clear about what this is, and what it is not. It's not a new Council, it's not merging Councils together, it's not replacing local decisions in your area with more remote ones (in fact it's the opposite, bringing remote London decisions closer to us) etc. Loads for us to look at and tackle.

In return for agreeing to a governance structure like the W Mids and G Manchester have, from May 2024 we'll get billions of pounds coming to our region that we can use to boost our skills and adult learning, to improve transport investment and public transport links, and to develop brownfield sites in to new positive uses as residential, retail and commercial spaces, like this one at the Island Quarter in Nottingham. Once we have the structure, we can also add more investment and powers to it over time.

We'll make final submissions to Government in the coming weeks, with approval from each of the City and County Councils across the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire areas.

**Some more thoughts on  
this...**



## Getting people back into work

This week in Work and Pensions questions I asked the Secretary of State to give our area more clout to decide on local plans to tackle economic inactivity and bring people back in to the workforce. We could work with business and training providers to tackle some of our specific needs and get people trained up for local jobs. Some things are just better done locally than from a desk in Whitehall!

When our East Midlands Combined Authority is in place next year, we'll be able to access some of this extra clout that places like the West Mids and Greater Manchester already have. Given that those places are 5+ years ahead of us on this curve, Mansfield and the East Mids area needs support to catch up!!

[Watch here](#)

[Read my article on this in the Times](#)



# ENERGY SUPPORT

Most households in England, Scotland and Wales get a £400 discount on their energy bills automatically, unless they:

- Pay for energy through a landlord, housing manager or site owner.
- Live in a park home, houseboat or off the electricity grid.



If you're unsure, or you've not yet received help from the government towards your energy bills, you could still be eligible for support...

[Click here to find out more](#)



## Education worth £8.6m coming to Mansfield!

Fantastic news and even more investment for Mansfield!

[Find out more](#)

## Warsop to receive more CCTV as part of successful £3m bid by Police Commissioner



[Read more](#)



## **Doctor, Doctor! I think I'm a cake!**

Dr: 'Well... yes, ok... you're a cake!'

Seems daft, but there's a serious point. I've had some stick for being forthright in my view on gender in the last week or so, but Mary Wakefield from the Spectator explains why this pressure to affirm children's pronouncements on this stuff is a bigger issue than rainbow campaigners would have you understand!

[Read more here](#)

## **And finally, this week's column! ↓**

*Click below to read...*

**'The right to free speech is essential to our country and democracy'**



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That's all for this week!

Thanks for reading and I hope you have a great weekend!

Ben

## Follow me on social media



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