

This week's news from Ben Bradley MP

Billions of investment for our region!



Positive news at the Full Council on Thursday at Nottinghamshire, where we've agreed to accept Government's offer of over £4bn of additional investment in our area over the coming years, through a new Combined Authority.

What does this mean for Mansfield residents? It means a huge amount of extra funding for bringing in new business investment and good jobs, improving our roads and public transport, and also ensuring we get better quality homes built in the right places, with the right infrastructure.

Along with powers and funds for skills, retrofitting homes, broadband and more, this is really positive news for Mansfield.

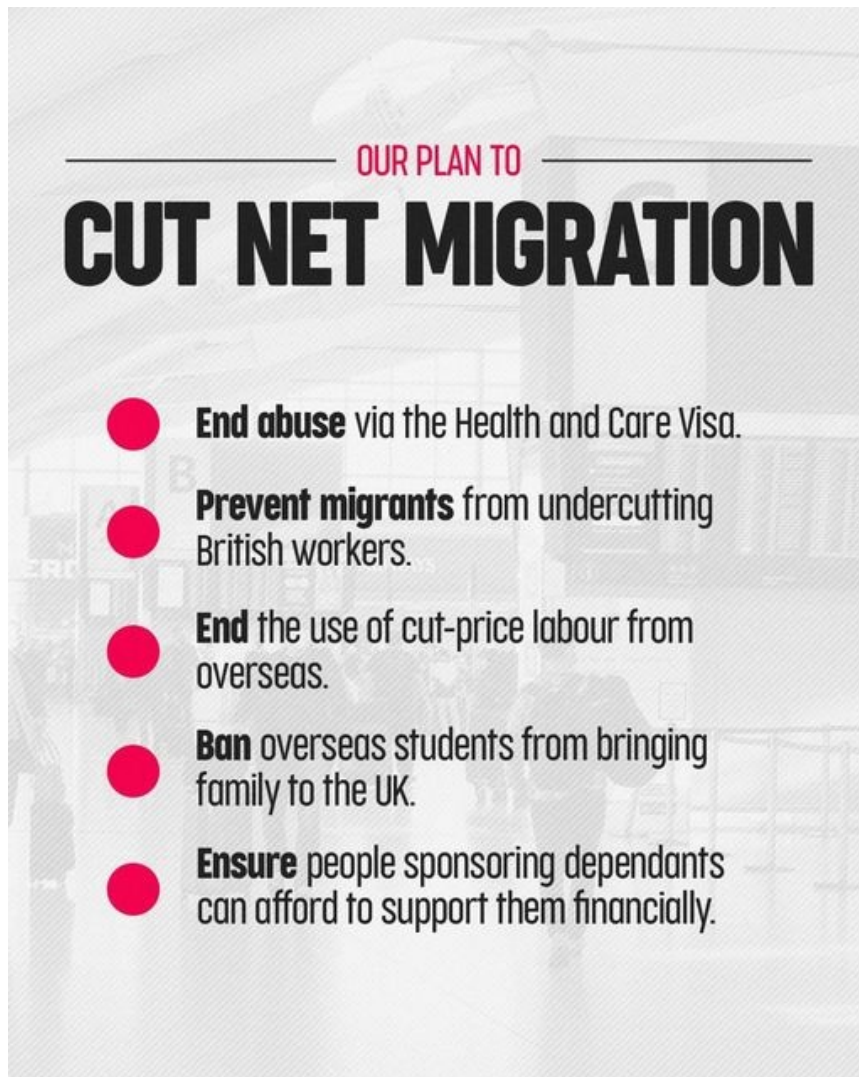
This will all now proceed in the coming months, with the Combined Authority coming in to being in May 2024!

[Find out more about my plan...](#)

Keep in touch!



Join my constituents only Facebook group here!



Bringing down net migration...

Really pleased to see Government recognising that 600k+ a year net migration figures are neither acceptable nor sustainable, and coming up with a plan to significantly reduce those numbers.

Britain is a welcoming place and our Visa system should aim to attract people where we need particular expertise, but just importing cheap labour from abroad makes our situation at home worse, not better.

This economic assumption that mass migration brings workers is true to an extent, but it also brings demand on services, and it is a disincentive for us to train our own people and to make our economy more productive.

Immigration to fill a skills need = yes, at manageable levels.

Immigration at a scale that equates to a new major city of people every year = absolutely not viable!

TOUGHEST ILLEGAL MIGRATION LAWS EVER

which will

- **Conclusively deem Rwanda a safe country** notwithstanding UK and international law.
- **End the merry-go-round** of illegal migration delay tactics.
- **Give ministers the power to stop foreign courts** blocking removals.
- **Reaffirm** UK Parliament's sovereignty.

Needless to say, whilst I welcome the intent and the tough lines on this earlier in the week, I will be all over this new legislation in the coming days and going through the detail to ensure that it will genuinely deliver what's needed to stop the boats. Good news that the commitment remains to tackle it, but this legislation simply **MUST** deliver.



Council funding across the country

County Council Leaders around the country - through the County Councils Network - have written to Government Ministers including the PM and Chancellor to lay out the pressures on Council finances.

County Councils deliver services to the most vulnerable, through adults and children's social care, and special educational needs for example. We also run Youth Centres, Children's Centres, Libraries and Highways.

Though budgets have gone up in recent years, the cost of inflation and minimum wage rises have gone up by more, and so the pressure on those budgets is increasing. That's why we're writing to Government now, ahead of this year's Local Government Financial Settlement in a few weeks, to lay out what we need and why these services are so important.

I also need to say that Nottinghamshire County Council is relatively in a decent position. We're not going to go bust like the City has, because we've made good decisions over the years that have both protected services and managed our finances. Unlike the City, who blew their reserves on some really bad projects, we've been well run and financially stable.

For Nottinghamshire then this isn't a case of us not being able to balance the books, it's a case of wanting to do that in a way that continues to protect services and supports our drive for long term change, supports the work we're doing to be more sustainable, rather than needing to just cut stuff that is important to people.

That's personally why I continue to make the case to Ministers, just as I have done consistently and did in the Commons Chamber just this week, for more flexibility around local priorities and the freedom to spend money more wisely rather than having everything ring-fenced by the Centre., as well as the financial support. We have to make this system work better, as a whole.

[I spoke to Sarah Julian on BBC Radio Nottingham about this at length this week...](#)

I also put the question of council funding to the Minister, watch here



See more here

Ravensdale SEND School on the way

This is fantastic news and I'm dead proud to be delivering this new investment in Mansfield to support children with SEND. Over 100 new special school places will be delivered for local children.



Increasing the volume of road repairs...

Sadly the weather is ripping chunks out of the roads again, but to offer some reassurance we continue to deliver an increased volume of resurfacing projects, including this very recent one on Kingston Road. The volume has increased, and the quality has increased, though I obviously 100% recognise that there's a hell of a lot more needs doing.

You can look at <http://nottshighways.co.uk> for information about resurfacing works, and we intend to add the future work programme on there too soon so you can see what's coming up.

We've secured some extra cash from Government to try and help us get more done, with £4.6m more coming our 3ay for the next 18 months.

In positive highways news, yesterday Councils approved plans to bring an additional £1.5bn transport fund to our area, and one of the potential uses of that could be investing in roads. I've said before that the biggest highways problem is the budget - we have some £20m to spend on a £1bn problem - and this is one way to ensure we can get some serious new investment. This new funding will be overseen by a new regional Mayor, and if I'm elected I'll put major investment in to the roads.

[I talk more about this here](#)



Visiting BeeNoticed!

Enjoyed meeting Matthew and Louis from BeeNoticed.co.uk, a local business delivering top spec branded marquees and clothing. Great to see a local business doing really well, and particularly to hear about Louis' story as a young man who's taken on a stake in the business and become a Director, and is working really hard to grow it even further. A bit of graft goes a long way, I find.

Anyway, if you need a marquee or other branded items for your business, sports club or anything else. These guys are top of the range.

Matthew also runs Lighting Project Solutions, with Dale, which is another growing local business. We spoke about some of the challenges and the opportunities ahead.

Thanks for the invite guys, and good luck!

[Check them out here!](#)



Visiting DEA Aviation at Gamston

I've been to visit DEA Aviation Limited along with colleagues to find about more about what they do in North Notts. Absolutely fascinating work flying all around the world from Gamston Airfield on intelligence gathering and mapping missions. Incredible engineering, data and technology on our doorstep.

Hopefully lots of future synergy with projects like the new Aviation College that's coming as part of Levelling Up funding too.

Always so interesting to discover amazing businesses doing innovative things, often quietly from an industrial estate somewhere (or hangar in this case) and to see some of the amazing expertise we have in our part of the world. Big thanks for having us!

[Find out more about them here!](#)



Catching up with the team at Glenair

I'm often out and about talking to local businesses and business leaders, and on Friday I've been to Glenair for a catch up. They make electrical components and connectors, and are of Mansfield's largest employers.

Fantastic news that they continue to grow, both in terms of investment and staff. A really good news story for our part of the world.



We're cutting waiting lists!

Work progresses on £35 million scheme set to benefit thousands of patients in Nottinghamshire.

Over 4,700 additional patients each year in Nottinghamshire will receive their planned operations and procedures sooner, thanks to a two-phase £35million initiative at Nottingham University Hospital's NHS Trust (NUH).

An elective 'hub', which will include a day-case facility, three operating theatres and additional 24 in-patient beds, is being developed at NUH's City Hospital site, adjacent to the main theatres.

This comes on top of Mansfield's new Community Diagnostic Centre, offering thousands of new appointments for tests and scans to

reduce waiting lists and speed up diagnoses. Work on the Mansfield CDC will also kick off in 2024.

Funded by the Government's Targeted Investment Fund (TIF), the first phase of the 'hub' will provide 24 ring-fenced elective inpatient beds and will be in operation this winter.

Planning for the next stage - the day-case facility and three operating theatres - is in progress, with the scheme expected to be completed by winter 2024.

Free information sessions for parents about children who require a reception school place for September 2024.

Will your child be 5 years old

between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025?

You can apply between **6 November 2023** and **Monday 15 January 2024**

Remember:

- apply on time
- use all four preferences
- ensure that at least one of your preferences is for a school where your child will have higher priority in the admission oversubscription criteria.

These events will cover key aspects of the admissions process (not specific schools) and will help you make best use of available information such as the Admissions to schools guide for parents and school information.

Tuesday 12 December 2023
5:30-6:30pm
County Hall, Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP.

Wednesday 13 December 2023
4:00-5:00pm
Worksop Library, Memorial Avenue, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 2BP.

Thursday 14 December 2023
4:00-5:00pm
Mansfield Library, Four Seasons Centre, West Gate, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 1NH.

Places are limited. Register now by emailing admissions.prac@nottscc.gov.uk



Primary School admissions are open!

Primary school admissions time is here, and it's really important that everyone please takes this advice! Please use all of your four preferences!!

There's a Mansfield Admissions Advice event at the Mansfield Library on Thursday the 14th if you have questions or need help with your application.

Last year 99% of people got in to a school that they wanted and most had used all four of their preferences, whilst 93% of those who didn't get any preferred school had only put down one preference!

Putting just one school down doesn't guarantee you will get it. It just means that if you don't get it, the Admissions Team will have no idea where to put you as a second preference, and you could end up with something you don't want.

I'm sorry if it seems like we at Notts County Council bang on about this point, and you may be sat thinking 'stop telling me what to do', but every single year when admissions close I get the emails from angry parents to say they have the 'wrong' school, and every single year it turns out that the vast majority of them didn't follow the advice, so please do use all four options and save yourself (and me) the grief!

Small Business Saturday!

10 WAYS →

Conservatives are helping **small business**

- ✓ **Freezing business rates** for small businesses, saving the average business £1,650.
- ✓ **Extending** the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure relief, helping businesses most commonly found on the high street.
- ✓ **Ending the scourge of late payments**, helping businesses with their tax flow.
- ✓ **Securing £900 million in Start Up Loans**, helping entrepreneurs secure the finance they need.
- ✓ **Extending the number of small, young businesses** that can apply for government backed loans, helping them grow.
- ✓ **Cutting tax for businesses** when they employ new staff, ensuring businesses can offer new local jobs.
- ✓ **Introducing new investment zones** on top of the existing 12 across the country.
- ✓ **Cutting regulation** by increasing the SME threshold.
- ✓ **Protecting small businesses** from large tax bills through the Small Profit Rate.
- ✓ **Freezing alcohol duty** to support the hospitality sector.




Meeting constituents in Parliament!

A pleasure to meet Mansfield constituent Andy Tyler down in Parliament this week, and his guest Erika who is over here from the States.

I really enjoyed some comparisons with how things work over there, and apparently even the tiles on the floor in the House of Representatives are the same as Central Lobby here in Parliament. We've exported our system of democracy all over the world, in more ways than one apparently. Andy and Erika, great to see you both!

Take a look at Jack's first novel!

I've been contacted by Jack, a young guy from Mansfield who has just released his first novel! What a fantastic achievement! It's been launched on Amazon just this week... Any dinosaur fans in need of Christmas presents?



★★★★★ 15

Well done Jack. Brilliant stuff!

[Take a look here!](#)

Your feedback matters!



Every so often I like to ask Mansfield constituents to share a general sense of their thoughts and priorities, both in terms of local and national issues, and also on the politics of it all.

It only take two minutes to tell me what you think, and it helps me to make sure I'm on the right track.

Please take my survey here, and help me to do the best job that I can.

[Fill in the survey here](#)



A ULEZ Zone coming to Nottingham City?

A few weeks ago the Labour Leader of Nottingham City Council said that he would readily consider Nottingham ULEZ charges, following on from Labour's Deputy Leader Angela Rayner having said recently that these Clean Air charges are 'coming to towns and cities all across the UK'.

We can't let Labour destroy our city and town centres, and we can't let Labour whack further charges on people just for going about their business. Sign our petition today and send a clear message that we do not want to see Labour's ULEZ schemes in Nottingham or in Mansfield!!

[Sign my petition to make that loud and clear!](#)

I'm really pleased that after raising this issue and highlighting the statements Labour have made recently on ULEZ has led to a rethink in Nottingham.

Following the launch of my petition, within 24 hours Labour have had to publicly come out against a Nottingham ULEZ scheme for the first time.

Sounds like a pretty effect campaign, in my book. Job done!

That said, let's make the point loud and clear! I will never introduce a ULEZ scheme. We don't want one. It's bad for business and our economy. Sign the petition!

[Read the full story here](#)

And finally... This week's column



"Historically we have done a good job of protecting our local services in Notts"

Thank-you for reading my latest update, I hope you have a great weekend!

Warmest regards,

**Ben Bradley MP,
for Mansfield & Warsop**



Keep up to date with my work



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