



e-

UPDATE #113 - 12.10.2022

Welcome to this update.

I am acutely conscious of the cost-of-living concerns that many people in our community are grappling with. Notwithstanding the energy support support to Cheltenham (over £70m is coming to our town alone to reduce bills) serious pressures remain. I am doing everything in my power to assist, and those who wish to email me should not hesitate to do so.

This update focuses on specific Cheltenham-related issues. So, there is news on the positive outcome for Cheltenham regarding the **Air Balloon** scheme, which was named second in a list of 138 schemes expected to begin construction in 2023.

Do look out too for the latest on the campaign for a brand-new **Gloucestershire Cancer Institute at Cheltenham General Hospital**. Following on from the new multi-million pound hospital wing going up near the Lido, I'm determined to go further to strengthen health infrastructure in the town.

Remaining with health, I and the other Gloucestershire MPs have called for a meeting this Friday with the leadership of the Integrated Care Board to discuss the conclusions of the recent **CQC inspection** into Gloucestershire Royal and Cheltenham General hospitals. I have also been in contact with the ICB to seek reassurance about plans to surge resources at **Leckhampton Surgery**.

As well as detailed information about **energy support** there's a 'grot-spot' update of course (!) with progress made on tackling potholes in Warden Hill and on Campden Road. And if you've been affected by **Stagecoach reliability issues**, you can find out the latest below (although I expect a further announcement from Stagecoach shortly).

Finally, although it's a bit niche I realise, I gave a speech recently about **prison reform**. As a former Prisons Minister I am only too aware that we lock up more people per head than almost any other country in Europe, at a cost of around £40,000 per prisoner. We need to start looking at focusing on **imprisoning people we are scared of, not everyone we are cross with**. That's how we get value for money for the taxpayer, and drive real rehabilitation.

Thank you for reading.

Best wishes,

Alex

P.S. For a broader range of updates (including on the issue of water quality in the River Chelt) you can view below a pdf of the hard copy leaflet that was distributed in Cheltenham recently

Alex Chalk KC MP
Member of Parliament for Cheltenham

UPDATES



[Alex with a LINAC radiotherapy machines at CGH (historic pic)]

BACK THE BID FOR A NEW 'GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANCER INSTITUTE'!

Alex is campaigning for a **new three-storey Cancer Institute at Cheltenham General Hospital.**

He is supporting local clinicians have put together plans for a brand new three-storey hospital wing. This would provide **cutting-edge Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy and new consulting rooms** - as well as a pelvic resection centre and a robotic cancer resection centre.

A dedicated new wing would support **earlier screening, faster diagnosis and referral**, and improve treatment for people living with and beyond cancer.

This flagship investment would guarantee the long-term future of Cheltenham General Hospital as a Regional Cancer Centre.

With your help, Alex can show the new Prime Minister that **local people support this plan**. Please click [HERE](#) to pledge your support.





[Alex previously met with Ambassador Prystaiko in Parliament]

With Oksana (R) and other Ukrainian contributors at 'Ukraine Day' at Cheltenham Literature Festival on Tuesday.

Ukraine Day involves a series of specially co-curated events celebrating Ukrainian writers, poets, musicians and filmmakers. There are several free events, so do go along if you can.

Writing on Facebook, Alex said:

"The commitment of this team of Ukrainians to culture and freedom of speech, just as their cities are being shelled is extraordinary and deeply humbling. #SlavaUkraine 🇺🇦"



[Click above to watch Alex's intervention]

"THE UNACCEPTABLE FACE OF CAPITALISM"

Now on the back benches, Alex has wasted no time in speaking out, warning Severn Trent that unless they deliver on their "**cast-iron commitment**" to **clean up the River Chelt**, people would rightly conclude that they represent the "**unacceptable face of capitalism**".

After months of behind-the-scenes pressure, **Severn Trent pledged to Alex that they will reduce spills into the Chelt by 85%** by the end of 2024 - much faster than elsewhere in the country. A spokesperson for Severn Trent has said:

"We have had detailed discussions with Alex Chalk over recent weeks, and he has made his concerns very clear. Although the River Chelt has been getting cleaner over recent years, we now accept we need to go further and faster. So we are pleased to announce a cast-iron commitment to reduce overflows into the River Chelt by 85% by the end of 2024...we will do whatever it takes."

Severn Trent have now finished installing new technical equipment in the combined sewage overflow in Charlton Kings. Alex has been assured that **the final engineering solution will be deployed later this year.**



ALEX TAKES OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III

Alex attended a special session of Parliament to take the oath of allegiance to King Charles III.

Alex pledged: *"I swear by almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles, his heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God."*

To watch Alex take the oath of allegiance, please click [HERE](#)

To read Alex's e-Update containing tributes to HM Queen Elizabeth II, please click [HERE](#)



ALEX SWIMS A KILOMETRE TO BACK MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE FIGHT

Alex joined swimmers at the **Motor Neurone Disease Association** Sandford Lido swimathon to help raise vital funds for the MND Association.

The MND Association help to fund research, improve care and provide support for

people with MND, their families and carers. 26 swimmers participated and £7,000 was raised for the MND Association.

Writing on Facebook, Alex said:

"Amazing turnout at the Sanford Parks Lido on Sunday to fundraise for MND Association Sandford Lido swimathon. I managed a derisory one kilometre (20 lengths), but many congratulations to the swimmers who knocked off 2k (40 lengths).

"There is a 1 in 300 risk of getting Motor Neurone Disease across a lifetime, and many of us will know of someone affected by this cruel disease, including here in Cheltenham. But with £50m recently committed for UK research, there is hope for the future."



B

Infrastructure Projects

B.1 The list below sets out infrastructure projects which will be accelerated as fast as possible, aiming to get the vast majority starting construction by the end of 2023. These projects may benefit from acceleration through planning reform, regulatory reform, improved processes or other options to speed up their development and construction, including through development consent processes.

B.2 Presence on this list does not guarantee, where applicable, funding, planning consent or approval for other regulatory or permitting processes and the list is non-exhaustive of all projects which may benefit from acceleration.

B.3 Where local authorities or agencies are the delivery leads, it is the government's intent to support where possible in acceleration.

Transport

Roads

1. M27 Junction 8
2. A417 Air Balloon
3. M54-M6 Link Road
4. A164/Jock's Lodge Junction Improvement Scheme
5. Tyne Bridge and Central Motorway A167 (M)
6. A1237 York Outer Ring Road Dualling Phase 1
7. A140 Long Stratton Bypass
8. A34 MRN Cheadle – Handforth Improvement Plan Phase 1
9. A350 Chippenham Bypass Improvements – Phase 4 & 5
10. A382 Drumbridges to Newton Abbot
11. A4123 Birchley Island
12. A500 Dualling
13. A511 Growth Corridor
14. A59 Kex Gill
15. A595 Grizebeck Bypass
16. A614/A6097 Corridor Scheme
17. North Hykeham Relief Road
18. A38 Bromsgrove Route Enhancement Programme

SPADES IN THE GROUND EXPECTED IN 2023! MAJOR MILESTONE FOR A417 AIR BALLOON PROJECT

Alex has welcomed the Chancellor's announcement that the A417 Air Balloon Missing Link Project will be **"accelerated as fast as possible"** as part of the Growth Plan.

The announcement came as the Government pledged to cut barriers and restrictions for 130 major infrastructure projects, making it quicker to plan and build new roads, rail and energy infrastructure.

The A417 Air Balloon Missing Link Project is being funded by £435m of Government funding to build a new 3.4 mile dual carriageway linking the M4 and the M5.

Alex said: *"This announcement represents a major milestone in resolving the A417 bottleneck which has contributed to countless fatal accidents over the years. This project will save lives, cut pollution and boost Cheltenham's economy and I am increasingly confident that work will begin in the next twelve months."*



ALEX JOINS CHELTENHAM CYCLE STARS

Alex was delighted to join Cheltenham Cycle Stars for their regular session at Belmont School.

Cycle Stars provide development coaching sessions for young cyclists who wish to ride competitively. They meet every Saturday 2pm-3.30pm at Belmont School and new members are assured of a warm welcome.

Writing on Facebook, Alex said:

"Fantastic to join Cheltenham Cycle Stars at their session at Belmont School. Met some very impressive young cyclists who I'm hoping to see in a Team GB jersey at a future Olympics!"

For more information, please click [HERE](#).



[Click the image above to watch the discussion]

ALEX CHAIRS GLOUCESTERSHIRE DISCUSSION ON TACKLING FINANCIAL AND ORGANISED CRIME

Alex was invited by **Synalogik** (a Gloucestershire based intelligence company) to chair a discussion on the sharing of personal data between Government departments, law enforcement agencies and private companies when tackling financial and organised crime.

The discussion, which was also attended by leading academics and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire, considered the changing role of technology and the vital role that the exchange of personal data between Government departments, law enforcement agencies or regulated private companies plays in the fight against financial and organised crime.

To watch the webinar or to learn more about Synalogik, please click [HERE](#).



ALEX BACKS PLANS TO TACKLE HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND HEART DISEASE

Alex met with the **British Heart Foundation** at the Party Conference in Birmingham to support the BHF's research into heart and circulatory diseases.

Alex also reaffirmed his support for the NHS Long Term Plan which includes plans to prevent up to 150,000 heart attacks, strokes, and dementia cases over the next ten years.

Alex is also backing the Government's plan to improve survival from out of hospital

cardiac arrest by boosting defibrillator networks and increasing the number of community first responders.



ALEX HAILS THE 'EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTION' OF CHELTENHAM YMCA

As Vice-President of the Cheltenham YMCA, Alex was invited to address the AGM at the YMCA Sports Centre in Cheltenham.

Alex reflected on the **extraordinary contribution Cheltenham YMCA** continues to make to the town - through the supported housing in Vittoria Walk, but also accommodating the **homeless hub** which is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide a safe environment away from the street.

YMCA provides more than 1,750 bed nights per week in Gloucestershire, including supported accommodation for people affected by homelessness and those requiring a helping hand before living independently in the community.



CHARITY CRICKET MATCH TO SUPPORT PANCREATIC CANCER UK

Alex joined the family and friends of Bob Clifford for a charity cricket match to raise funds for Pancreatic Cancer UK in Bob's memory.

Pancreatic Cancer UK fund research and campaign to improve the lives of those living with pancreatic cancer. The charity cricket match, which was held at Charlton King's Cricket Club, raised £1,675 for Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Sadly for Alex, he was out for a duck!

For more information or to donate, please click [HERE](#).



[Alex has reported the building equipment which has been dumped on St George's Road]

GROT SPOT UPDATE

Since the last update, Alex has **reported a number of grot spots to CBC and GCC** including potholes, overgrown grass and graffiti.

Following Alex's reports since the last update, the Council have:

- Repaired potholes on **Alma Close** and **Campden Road**
- Cleared up the overgrowth at the **Honeybourne Way** roundabout near Waitrose
- Agreed to investigate potholes on **Church Street** and **Harp Hill**
- Instructed works on **Selkirk Street** and **Cromwell Road** to repair potholes
- Confirmed that some sections of **Tennyson Road** will be resurfaced in the 22/23 programme

Alex has also reported the following issues and is awaiting an update:

- A blocked drain in **Alstone Croft**
- Graffiti in **Arle Court Subway**
- The condition of the memorial gardens in the crematorium
- The condition of the road and footpath on **Westdown Gardens** and **Farmington Road**

- Rubble and remnants of building works piled up next to a tree on **St George's Road**
- Potholes on **Malvern Road, Cambray Place, Bayshill Road, College Bath Road, Back Montpellier Terrace, Rowanfield Road, Croft Street, Leckhampton Road, Pittville Circus, All Saints Road, Gloucester Road, Libertus Road, Sherborne Street** and **Winton Road**
- The condition of statues in **Montpellier**
- A broken slab on the **Prom**
- Graffiti on a utility box on **Lypiatt Road**

If you see any problem areas in the town, please send details to Alex (alex.chalk.mp@parliament.uk) and he will raise them with the Council.





Natasha Porter @NPorter83 · 3d

Now @AlexChalkChelt - "we need a system where we lock up people we are scared of, not all the people we are cross with"



1



1



2



Natasha Porter

@NPorter83

Love this from Alex Chalk: the most important people in prison are the band 3 officers - building relationships with prisoners, connecting prisoners with opportunities, finding the goodness that sits in the heart of mankind. YES!!!
[#cpc22](#)

ALEX CALLS FOR PRISON REFORM

Former Minister for Prisons and Probation, Alex attended the Howard League for Penal Reform panel event at the Conservative Party conference to discuss the UK's growing prison population (currently over 85,000 and rising).

Observing that the UK locks up over double the number of criminals than Germany, at a cost of over £40,000 per prisoner per year, Alex stated: ***"This is costing taxpayers a fortune. We need a system where we lock up people we are scared of, not all the people we are cross with."***

As Solicitor General, Alex successfully sought longer sentences for violent and sexual offenders. He support long sentences which keep the public safe from dangerous criminals, but wants to see a greater emphasis on robust unpaid work orders as an

alternative to custody in lower-level offences.

Alex added that it is very important to reduce the rate of "churn" of Band 3 wing officers in prisons. He noted that experience built up over years of service allows officers to best judge when they need to be robust and when to offer support to a prisoner who may be struggling.



ALEX RENEWS CALL FOR COMPENSATION FOR 1950'S WOMEN

As Cheltenham's MP, Alex has been **an active supporter of the Women Against State Pension Injustice (WASPI) pensions campaign.**

He was a founder member of the All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women and has spoken in several debates in Parliament. He also held a public meeting in Cheltenham for women affected by the changes to the state pension age for women born in the 1950s.

Alex has **renewed his call for compensation for the 5,600 1950s-born women** in Cheltenham by signing the WASPI campaign pledge for fair and fast compensation for

1950s-born women.

Hilary Simpson, national chair of WASPI and co-ordinator of the Cheltenham group, said: "Alex has been **a consistent WASPI supporter**. We are delighted that he has signed the pledge to highlight our campaign for fair and fast compensation."



BETTER VALUE TRAIN FARES FOR CHELTENHAM

Campaigning for improved **train services and more affordable tickets** has long been a key area of focus for Alex.

He has therefore welcomed Great Western Railway's introduction of a new **pay-as-you-go smartcard** to roll payments and tickets into one, ensuring customers get the **best value on the day of travel**.

The card will enable passengers to get **best value on walk-up fares for the day of travel, plus the capping of weekly season ticket prices**.

Alex said: "I welcome GWR's new Pay-As-You-Go scheme – a first for our region – which is being launched for Cheltenham. It's important that passengers can travel to places like Bristol or Gloucester and have confidence that they will be getting the best value fare. I'm pleased too that GWR have ensured the scheme works across other rail operators including CrossCountry and Transport for Wales."



[Alex addressed the crowd from the mainstage with Richard Graham MP]



ALEX ATTENDS GLOS PRIDE 2022

Alex backed Glos Pride 2022 and joined the celebration of Gloucestershire's LGBTQ+ community.

The event began with a parade through Gloucester City centre before ending at Gloucester Park.

Alex said: *"Glos Pride is not just about individuals showing confidence in who they are; it's about the community showing its pride in them too."*



GLOS COL GOES GREEN WITH GOVERNMENT HELP

Alex was delighted to be invited to see the results of the latest £3m Government investment into Gloucestershire College's Hesters Way campus.

The money has delivered a major engineering project to enable the college to become the first in the country to move to 100% renewable energy, slashing bills and emissions at the same time.

This project follows a separate £3m investment by the Government into Hesters Way's Advanced Digital Academy (ADA) at GlosCol. The ADA is a state-of-the-art facility. It is also the base for the UK's first-ever GCHQ/NCSC-accredited cyber skills course.

Alex said: *"I believe in a town where young people are able to walk around in our local community and see the bright lights of opportunity on our doorstep. GlosCol, working with Government and the cyber sector, can help provide that better future for all young people – including those who may not have had the easiest start in life, but are prepared to work hard to fulfil their potential."*



ALEX PLEDGES TO SUPPORT CARE LEAVERS

Alex met with young people supported by Barnardo's to understand the challenges that care leavers face.

Alex heard how children who grow up in care often do less well in school, have poorer mental health, less employment opportunities and are more likely to be homeless.

Alex is supporting the Government's bold and ambitious response to the publication of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care which includes:

- setting up a new National Implementation Board of sector experts and people with experience of leading transformational change and the care system;
- boosting efforts to recruit more foster carers;
- increased support for social workers including on leadership, recruitment and retention;
- the implementation of a new evidence-based framework for all the professionals working in children's social care



[Alex pictured at a previous meeting with the National Autistic Society]

JOBS BOOST FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Alex recently met with **Cheltenham Autistic Social Group** to understand the challenges they face with finding a job.

Following lobbying from Alex, the **Government has awarded Gloucestershire £210,000** to help adults with **learning disabilities and autism to move into work**.

The funding and support will include assigning job coaches who can carry out vocation profiling, engage employers and provide in-work support to help people to maintain that employment.

This is part of the Government's plan to help a million more disabled people in work by 2027.

Alex said: "We know that those with autism and learning disabilities can face particular barriers to employment so I am delighted that Cheltenham will benefit from £210,000 funding to break down those barriers and secure effective employment to help more people in Cheltenham reach their full potential."



FREE BUSINESS NETWORKING IN CHELTENHAM

Alex joined #CheltNetworking on one of their social visits to the Gardens Gallery in Montpellier Gardens.

#CheltNetworking are a free business networking group who meet every Thursday at 11am via Zoom to support fellow small business owners.

The group is run by Belinda Wilson from GlosJobs.

For more information about #CheltNetworking, please click [HERE](#).



PITTVILLE PARK RUN

Alex regularly joins joggers, runners and walkers at Pittville park run. Alex has taken part in eight park runs and has got his time down from 29 minutes to 23.30!

The run takes place every Saturday at 9am and is free to attend.

Writing on Facebook, Alex said:

"Pittville parkrun! Still got overtaken by the guy pushing a baby in a stroller, but 2.5 mins faster than a fortnight ago..."



ALEX ENCOURAGES THE GOVERNMENT TO FOCUS ON TACKLING DISINFORMATION

During a debate on the situation in Ukraine, Alex encouraged the Government and international community to continue to **tackle Putin's disinformation.**

Alex asked the Minister:

"As the Kremlin grows more desperate, the disinformation grows more dishonest. What more can we do to ensure that the false narrative the Kremlin is seeking to peddle—namely, the complete dishonesty and fallacy that there are NATO troops in Ukraine—is entirely exposed for the sham that it is?"

The Minister responded:

"I think we have been clear throughout that NATO is not an active participant in this conflict. Putin tries to claim daily on Russian television that it is, but in reality, all that NATO has done as an organisation since February is to reinforce its eastern flank to guard against contagion in the conflict. It is purely a false narrative peddled by President Putin to say anything otherwise."



ALEX BACKS PLANS FOR NEW MENTAL WELLBEING SERVICE FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alex is backing Gloucestershire County Council's plans to introduce a new service to support adult mental wellbeing.

GCC are introducing anonymous support on a drop-in basis for people experiencing anxiety, stress, or low mood; alongside support for self-harm.

Support will be available over the phone or via text/webchat; and will not require a referral from a professional.

Alex said: *"Mental health is something I feel very strongly about and I welcome the huge progress we have made in understanding mental health issues.*

"I fully support Gloucestershire County Council's plans for a new mental wellbeing service to ensure that people in Gloucestershire are able to access early specialist support when they need it."

For more information, please click [HERE](#).



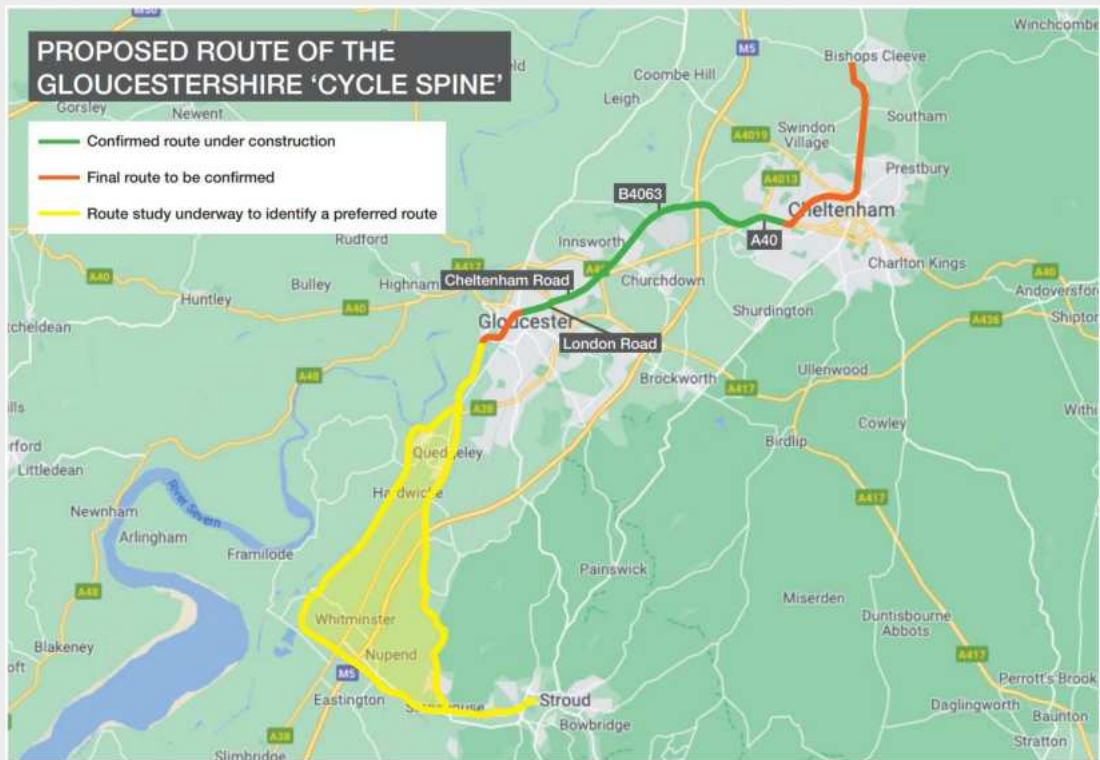
THREE NEW SPECIALIST FIRE SERVICE VEHICLES FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gloucestershire County Council has announced that it will invest £1.25 million in purchasing three new specialist fire service vehicles for Gloucestershire.

An Aerial Ladder Platform, Incident Command Unit and Crane Unit will be purchased to maintain an effective operational response to keep communities safe.

They are also more environmentally friendly than the old fleet as they use greener engines, so the amount of emissions they produce is reduced.

The vehicles will also help ensure the average availability of GFRS fire engines remains high. Currently the average availability is 91.8 per cent, higher than the average across England of 86.4 per cent.



B4063 CHELTENHAM TO GLOUCESTER CYCLE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME CONSULTATION

GCC have launched a further consultation on the plans for a new flagship cycle route on the B4063 between Cheltenham and Gloucester. You can submit your views on the plans [HERE](#).

Alex said: "I travel to the overwhelming majority of my appointments on my bike so I welcome the creation of the new Cheltenham-Gloucester cycle path. Plans to make cycling safer are essential if we are to encourage more people onto bikes."

"Investing in public transport, as well as walking and cycling are crucial to building a cleaner, greener, healthier future. With vision and common sense, an historic opportunity to improve transport in Cheltenham can be seized."

ENERGY SUPPORT THIS WINTER

ENERGY PRICE GUARANTEE

New support for
households and
businesses

ENERGY BILL RELIEF FOR CHELTENHAM

Alex has been lobbying Ministers for further Government support to help the people of Cheltenham with the rising cost of living.

He has therefore welcomed the Government's introduction of the **Energy Price Guarantee** which means a typical UK household **will now pay up to an average £2,500 a year** on their energy bill for the next two years.

This will **save the average household at least £1,000 a year** and is **in addition to the £400 energy bills discount** for all households.

Action is also being taken to **tackle the root cause of the issues** by boosting domestic energy supply, including new oil and gas, wind, solar, hydrogen, and nuclear technologies.

Alex said: *"The relief on energy bills is very welcome. I am very pleased that a typical Cheltenham household will save an average of £1,000 a year on their energy bills.*

"The action being taken will reduce the worrying burden in the short term and will invigorate the long-term reforms needed to tackle the underlying problems in the energy market so that we have affordable energy in future."

To find out more, please click [HERE](#).

ENERGY BILL RELIEF SCHEME

The new scheme will **cut energy prices** for businesses, charities and public sector organisations such as schools and hospitals.



ENERGY SUPPORT FOR CHELTENHAM'S BUSINESSES, CHARITIES, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS

Alex has been meeting with Cheltenham businesses so that he can better understand the challenges they are facing with energy costs and rising inflation.

He has used these meetings to provide 'frontline' examples of the pressures facing local businesses when lobbying Treasury Ministers for swift action to support Cheltenham's businesses.

Alex has therefore welcomed the introduction of the Government's **Energy Bill Relief Scheme** which will provide a **discount on wholesale gas and electricity prices** for all non-domestic customers (including all **businesses, charities, schools and hospitals**) whose current gas and electricity prices have been significantly inflated in light of global energy prices.

Alex said: *"I warmly welcome the decisive support on energy bills to support Cheltenham's businesses over the winter and to help protect jobs and livelihoods. Without it we would have seen a business bloodbath in Cheltenham this winter."*

CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE

Alex spent a day at the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham and met with a number of charities, campaign groups and organisations, including:

- The British **Heart** Foundation
- **Cancer** Research UK
- The Royal College of **Nursing**
- Dame Laura Lee, Chief Executive of **Maggie's**
- British Red Cross
- The Conservative Environment Network

Alex participated in the following panel events:

- The Howard League for Penal Reform panel event
- “Levelling up the law: How legal services support skills, jobs and good careers” panel event with the Law Society

Alex met with the following diplomats and foreign ministers:

- The **German Ambassador** to the UK
- **Guernsey** and **Jersey** Ministers
- The **Netherlands** Ambassador to the UK
- Members of the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly

Please see some photographs below:

Time to tackle high blood pressure



Today, 28% of adults in the UK – around 15 million people – have high blood pressure

High blood pressure contributes around half of heart attacks and strokes

of the
ort a
ing
urers
and
oods

 British Heart Foundation





[Alex met with Cancer Research UK]



[Alex met with British Red Cross]



[Alex spoke at the Howard League for Penal Reform panel event]



[Alex spoke at the 'Levelling up the law' panel event]

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

ALSO SINCE THE LAST UPDATE, ALEX HAS:

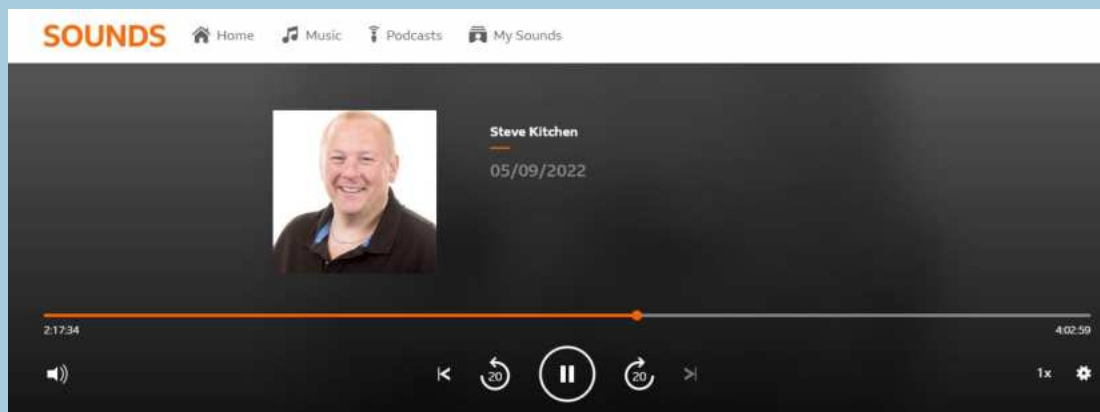
As Cheltenham's MP:

- Held talks with the Integrated Care Board (learn more about the ICB [here](#)) to discuss the latest communications from **Leckhampton Surgery**:
 - The practice is working with the ICB (primary care team) to bring in additional workforce, including clinical pharmacists, in the short-term whilst working to improve longer-term recruitment
- Held a **constituency surgery** to help constituents with casework including issues with HMRC, benefits and housing
- Met with **independent business support group** TURF to discuss the **pressures businesses are facing**
- Met with **Superintendent Roddy Gosden** for **Cheltenham update** (Alex welcome news that two alleged burglars have been recently arrested)
- Attended the **BBC Radio Glos Make a Difference awards**
- Attended the **Cheltenham YMCA AGM**
- Met with the **Gloucestershire Greener Practice Group** to discuss **sustainable healthcare in Gloucestershire**
- Attended the **one-year celebration of the Tivoli Cinema**
- Met with Gethin Evans to discuss the **Golden Valley Development**
- Attended the **Renters' Reform Coalition** parliamentary reception
- Met with GCC to discuss the problems with **the service being provided by Stagecoach**
- Visited the **Cheltenham Antique Market**
- Attended the **Holst Birthday Concert** at Pittville Pump Room
- Was the guest speaker at the **Public Legal Education and Pro Bono APPG/Law Works event**
- Attended the **Alternative Dispute Resolution** All-Party Parliamentary Group meeting on **increasing the use of mediation in the civil justice system**
- Met with the **Japanese ambassador**
- Met with **Professor Chris Bones**, Chief Executive of the **Chartered Institute of Legal Executives**, to discuss issues around **powers of attorney** and the provision of **criminal legal aid**

Received briefings from:

- NHS Gloucestershire **Clinical Commissioning Group**
- **Chancellor of the Exchequer** about the fiscal event
- **Health Secretary** about the Plan for Patients
- The **Business Secretary** about energy support for businesses
- The **Minister for Climate** on the Government's **Energy Announcement**
- **CyberUp** to learn more about its campaign to **reform the Computer Misuse Act**

IN THE MEDIA



[Click the image above to listen to Alex's interview on Radio Gloucestershire. The interview begins at 2.18.00]

SINCE THE LAST UPDATE:

Alex has:

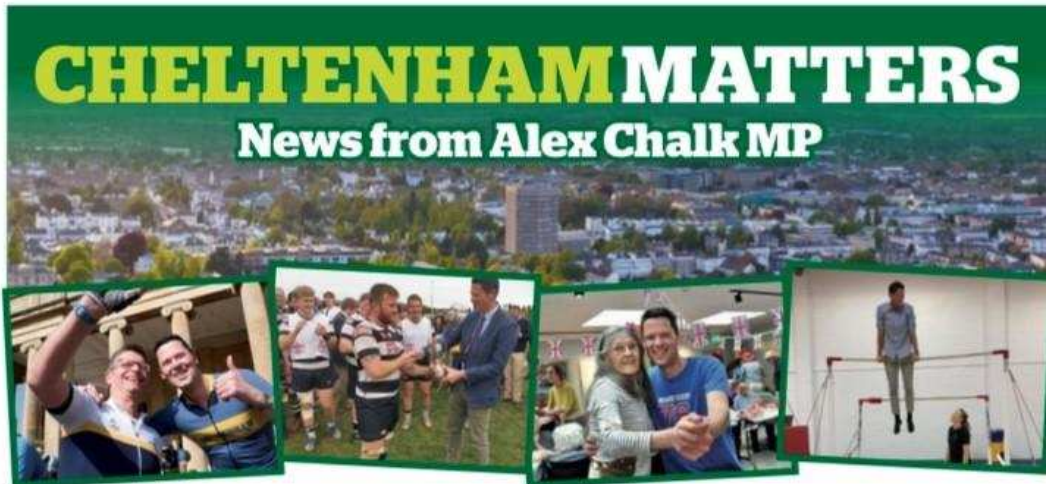
- appeared on Points West and Radio Gloucestershire to discuss energy support for Cheltenham businesses
- written four articles for the **Cheltenham Post**
- written four articles for the **Gloucestershire Echo**, in which he:

1. Urged the new Prime Minister to address the cost of living. Read [HERE](#)
2. Paid tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II. Read [HERE](#)

3. Urged the nation to uphold the values of our greatest Queen. Read [HERE](#)

4. Stated that it is crucial that we balance the books quickly. Read [HERE](#)

Alex has also delivered, free of charge and at no cost to the taxpayer, a newspaper update to homes in Cheltenham. You can find a copy below. You can also request a PDF version of the newspaper by emailing alex.chalk.mp@parliament.uk



NEW £40M CHELTENHAM HOSPITAL WING NEARS COMPLETION!

Local people will soon see the benefits of a state-of-the-art surgical facility following lobbying by local MP Alex Chalk



Alex outside the new wing with constructors and clinicians

A brand new £40m Surgical Unit is being built opposite the Lido, and will be opening its doors in just a few months.

Containing two new state-of-the-art operating theatres, the Chedworth Surgical Unit will treat an extra 3,000 patients a year.

The building will host a new purpose-built Day Surgery Unit, with surgeons performing operations on hips, knees and the abdomen.

It will also contain a brand-new Interventional Radiology room to carry

out a range of advanced procedures, shortening recovery time and improving patient outcomes.

The unit will open to patients in **January next year**, with the two new theatres entering service in **September 2023**.

Cancer Treatment

Cheltenham General's Radiology Department has received a major upgrade thanks to a **separate £6.5m Government grant**. The money has gone on purchasing the latest Siemens scanners – CT, X-Ray and MRI.

This equipment means smaller radiation doses, a bigger scan area, better image resolution, and improved infection control through sophisticated ventilation systems.

It also gives CGH the facilities for stroke patients to go straight to a CT scanner, speeding up treatment. Urology patients can also go straight to interventional radiology, improving outcomes.

The investment follows delivery of the LINAC cancer-busting machines in 2018.

Alex Chalk said:

"This investment shows Cheltenham General is on the up, with facilities improving year on year."

"Thank you to all those in our local NHS who helped me bang the drum!"

"Now, I want to go even further."

"Working with our brilliant oncology team, I am pressing to make Cheltenham a centre of excellence for cancer treatment with a brand new 3-storey hospital wing."

"I need your support to help make the case to the new Prime Minister. Please check out the back page to find out how you can back the campaign!"



Alex with the new scanner



alexchalkchelt



alexchalk.com

Printed and delivered at no cost to the taxpayer

Alex Chalk: A Record of Action for Cheltenham



CLEANING UP THE RIVER CHELT

Since Alex secured the historic commitment from Severn Trent to clean up the River Chelt, ST has begun installing new equipment in the combined sewage overflow in Charlton Kings. The final engineering solution to slash discharges will be rolled out later this year.



ALEX HOSTS TEA PARTY FOR UKRAINIAN GUESTS

Alex arranged a welcome tea party for Ukrainian guests and their sponsors. The event enabled families to meet each other and to help build friendships and support networks. Alex has already helped over 50 people secure visas to come to the UK.



£30M SCHOOL READY FOR STUDENTS

In 2015 Alex pledged to campaign for a new school for Cheltenham if elected. Seven years later, the brand new £30 million High School Leckhampton is receiving its first students! Warden Hill Primary is also benefiting from a £7.5 million carbon neutral school building with £5.3m also being invested in upgrades at Belmont Special School, Pittville and Leckhampton Primary.



GLOS COL GOES GREEN WITH GOVERNMENT HELP

Alex helped to secure £2.8m in Government funding to enable Gloucestershire College to replace gas boilers with emission-free heat pumps at the college's two campuses. This will support the college in reaching net zero. The Government has already awarded £3m to GlosCol to create the Advanced Digital Academy in Hesters Way.



TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR DURING RACE WEEK

Alex and his team have been working with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour during the Cheltenham Festival. An action plan has been drawn up including:

- more toilets and urinals
- better signage to highlight the nearest facilities
- more marshals along popular routes
- reviewing licencing agreements
- stronger deterrence to prevent anti-social behaviour.



STATE-OF-THE-ART HEALTH CENTRE OPENS

Alex has welcomed the opening of the Wilson Health Centre. The centre will treat 25,000 patients and deliver real improvements to GP services - by ensuring that patients are able to benefit from modern, spacious facilities that support staff to provide high quality care with doctors, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists and social prescribers all under one roof.



ROAD RESURFACING

After significant progress locally, Alex is urging Gloucestershire highways teams to go even further in resurfacing Cheltenham's roads. Following lobbying from Alex, the following roads have been resurfaced:

- St James' Square
- Tewkesbury Road



BLITZ ON GROTPOTS

Alex's 'grot-spot' campaign continues to hold the authorities to account for the state of the town. Whether or not you agree with the Civic Society that the town centre has become a "dump", Alex is calling on local authorities to do more to crack down on graffiti, weeds and grot-spots – and hand out fines to vandals. If you are plagued by a grotspot, please let Alex know.



£3,000 OF CHILDCARE SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Alex has backed the rollout of a Wraparound Childcare scheme for service families. The scheme will provide over 20,000 service children with free childcare. Alex said: "Armed Forces personnel sacrifice a great deal serving our country. Providing wraparound childcare will support the unique challenges they face as parents."



£70M COST OF LIVING SUPPORT FOR CHELTENHAM

Over the summer, a significant package of support was secured for Cheltenham to help with the rising cost of living. Residents will receive over £70m of Government support in total, with £40m coming in the form of cash payments or rebates. This is in addition to the £355m support to Cheltenham during Covid.



IVORY BAN COMES INTO FORCE

Alex's long campaign for an Ivory trade ban is now in force. The legislation took effect in June 2022 and outlaws dealing in Ivory items unless they meet one of five narrow exemptions. This means the UK now has one of the toughest Ivory bans in the world.



'SAFER STREETS' FUNDING

Following lobbying from Alex and the Police and Crime Commissioner Chris Nelson, Cheltenham has been awarded £194,514 from the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund. The cash will be used to tackle violence against women and girls and anti-social behaviour, with more CCTV, better street lights and a Street Drink Worker.



TRIPS TO PARLIAMENT!

Alex's trips to Parliament are back! Alex is organising coaches from Cheltenham every month and the trip includes a full tour of Parliament and a Q&A session with Alex. The tour is completely free of charge. All travel just £20 per person. To attend, please visit alexchalk.com/trips-parliament



- Evesham Road (pictured)
- St George's Place
- Oriel Road
- Tommy Taylor's Lane
- The Promenade
- Montpelier Terrace
- Montpelier Parade

Alex is collecting a list of further roads that require attention. Please send any roads to alex.chalk.mp@parliament.uk



105 NEW POLICE OFFICERS FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gloucestershire Police is ahead of schedule in recruiting more police officers and police staff. Since 2019, 105 new police officers have been recruited bringing the total number of officers to 1,266. This has coincided with a 38% reduction in house burglaries, street robbery, vehicle crime and criminal damage.

Contact Alex

- ☎ 01242 210473
- 🌐 alexchalk.com
- @ alex@alexchalk.com
- 📱 alexchalkchelt
- 📷 alexchalk99

To receive Alex's regular e-updates, please scan this QR code, or email:

alex@alexchalk.com



BACK ALEX'S CAMPAIGN FOR A NEW 'GLOUCESTERSHIRE CANCER INSTITUTE'

Alex is campaigning for a new three-storey Cancer Institute at Cheltenham General Hospital

Local clinicians have put together plans for a brand new three-storey hospital wing. This would provide cutting-edge Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy and new consulting rooms - as well as a pelvic resection centre and a robotic cancer resection centre. Out of 48 identified leading causes of death, the top cause in Gloucestershire is cancer. Gloucestershire Trust's cancer service already provides care for a population of over one million. A dedicated new wing would be a major step forward in

the treatment of this terrible disease. It would support earlier screening, faster diagnosis and referral, and improve treatment for people living with and beyond cancer. This flagship investment would guarantee the long-term future of Cheltenham General Hospital as a Regional Cancer Centre. Although the project is still in the early stages, a strategic outline case has been submitted. **Now Alex wants your help to make the case to the new Prime Minister.**



During his campaign to save Cheltenham's A&E, he collected over 20,000 signatures from local people. With your help, Alex can show that there is extensive local support for this major new facility.



I support Alex's campaign for a new Gloucestershire Cancer Institute at Cheltenham General Hospital

- 1 Scan the QR Code to visit alexchalk.com/form/gloscancer OR
- 2 Complete the form below and send a picture to alex@alexchalk.com OR
- 3 Complete and return this section to: Alex Chalk MP, Office 11, Sunningend Business Centre, Unit 22, Lansdown Industrial Estate, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham GL51 8PL



SCAN ME

Name

Postcode

Email

I consent to being kept updated by the office of Alex Chalk by email (You can opt out at any time)

Alex Chalk MP uses the information you provide for the purposes of democratic engagement. This covers a wide range of activities inside and outside election periods, including but not limited to: democratic representation; communicating with you; surveying and opinion gathering; campaigning activities; activities to increase voter turnout; supporting the work of elected representatives, prospective candidates and official candidates; and fundraising to support any of these activities.

For full terms of use and how to exercise your rights see our Privacy Notice at www.alexchalk.com/privacy. Your details are on the Register of Electors, provided to us for electoral purposes under the Representation of the People Act. You can request that we do not contact you in future or exercise your rights by visiting www.conservatives.com/contact and selecting Data Protection/Stop Mailings.

Printed by Dan Collins on behalf of Alex Chalk, both of Cheltenham Conservatives, Unit 72, Innesworth Industrial Estate, GL3 3DL. Printed by PPC, The Bank, 4th Man Rd, Corvse, Bristol BS40 4NZ.

Conservatives
 alexchalkchelt
 alexchalk.com

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



CHELTENHAM SURVEY LAUNCHED

An independent survey has been launched to gauge Cheltenham residents' satisfaction with Cheltenham as a place to live.

The survey, which is being carried out by Enventure Research on behalf of CBC will ask a representative sample of residents about a range of issues including what their priorities are for Cheltenham.

Topics include: **household recycling and waste collections, housing, job opportunities, tackling homelessness, promoting walking, cycling and the climate emergency.**

Face-to-face surveys with residents were carried out in the town centre throughout September, whilst some residents will be contacted by telephone.

There is also **an opportunity for everyone to respond online** by clicking [HERE](#).



UK PARLIAMENT WEEK: 14 - 20 NOVEMBER

UK Parliament Week is an annual event, spreading the word about what Parliament is, what it does and how you can get involved

UKPW is open to schools, youth groups and other community groups and is taking place on 14-20 November 2022.

UKPW helps to engage young people with Parliament by exploring its role and work and how young people can get involved on the issues they care about.

For more information and to register for your free kit, please click [HERE](#).



UK PARLIAMENT TEACHER AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

As part of the [UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador Programme](#) the Education and Engagement Service will be hosting the next residential **Teachers' Institute 23-25 January 2023**.

Teachers will experience Parliament first-hand, and then return to their schools to develop understanding of, and increase engagement with, UK Parliament.

Transport, accommodation and meal costs are covered, and applications are welcome from teachers from all phases, school/college leaders and teacher training providers working with young people aged 5-18.

The course includes:

- * Q&A sessions with the Speaker, Lord Speaker and Members of both Houses
- * Talks from subject specialists
- * Workshops devoted to key aspects of the work of UK Parliament
- * Opportunities to explore new and exciting teaching ideas
- * Tours of the Palace of Westminster and the Parliamentary Education Centre

Application forms are available by clicking [HERE](#).



CHARITY KAYAKING FOR CHELTENHAM ANIMAL SHELTER

Cheltenham Walking and Running Club spent the day kayaking on the River Wye to raise money for Cheltenham Animal Shelter.

CWRC kayaked 9 miles from Kerne Bridge to Symonds Yat and have raised £460 so far.

For more information and to donate to the fundraiser, please click [HERE](#).

USEFUL LOCAL CONTACTS

Gloucestershire County Council

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

01452 425000

Cheltenham Borough Council

www.cheltenham.gov.uk

01242 262626

Age UK Gloucestershire

www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire

01452 422660

Gloucestershire Abuse Support

01452 726570

Citizens Advice Gloucestershire

01452 527202

GRASAC (Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre)

www.glosrasac.org

01452 305421



Copyright © 2022 Alex Chalk MP, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you have subscribed to Alex Chalk KC MP's e-Update.

Our mailing address is:

Alex Chalk KC MP
Innsworth Hub Unit P2
Innsworth Technology Park
Innsworth Lane
GL3 1DL

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to lorraine.freeman@parliament.uk

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Alex Chalk MP · Unit 1143 Regent Court · The Square, Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth · Gloucester,
Gloucestershire GL3 4AD · United Kingdom