



Community & Parliamentary Summer Report 2022

Delivering for St Helens North

It has been yet another busy time for me and my team. As chaos reigns in Government, I have continued to stand up for local residents, business and groups; ensuring our community has the strong voice it deserves. As we face up to this cruel cost of living crisis, this matters more than ever. I will continue to support people through this difficult, uncertain time and beyond.



I am so proud to represent our community, which is ambitious about where we're going. With Labour-run St Helens council, led by David Baines, and Liverpool City Region, led by Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram, we're delivering regeneration for our towns, villages and borough. We're breathing fresh life into our industrial places which made and shaped us, proving they aren't simply monuments to history. Making St Helens the best place to live, work and visit in our region remains a top priority for me, and I will keep working to deliver this.



I continue to support the bold steps to make our public transport cheaper, dependable and greener. We're unlocking the potential St Helens has, as a

bridge between two dynamic city regions. Across our borough, we're working to transform our bus network to bring buses back into public hands, with a franchising model that finally puts people before profits. I'm also keeping up the fight for better access at our rail stations at Garswood, Rainford and Earlestown, as well as regular, fast and reliable services for commuters.

My close work with Merseyside Police in St Helens continues to promote stronger, safer communities. Together, we're tackling crime, anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and rural crime to make our communities safer. I recently voiced my full support for our local officers, led by our Chief Constable Serena Kennedy, in the House of Commons.



As ever, I continue to support our incredible voluntary groups, who working under the #StHelensTogether banner encapsulate the kindness of our community. I am always working closely with our vibrant local businesses and enterprise groups too, including St Helens Chamber, to ensure our people can thrive in work and training.

Our strong record of delivery was endorsed yet again in May, when St Helens Labour won this year's key all-out local elections with an increased share of the vote and a strong mandate to continue our work. So too was I delighted to be unanimously reselected by members in our local Labour party branches, affiliated trade unions and socialist societies in St Helens North to fight the next General Election as the party candidate.



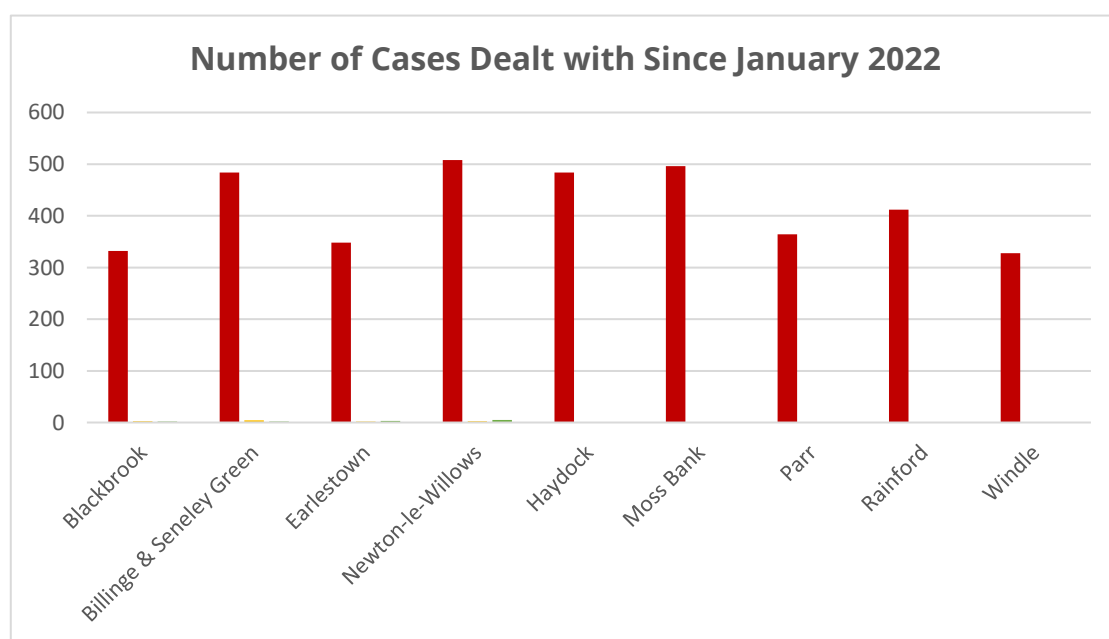
St Helens North is a community in which I deeply believe, and one I know has bright future ahead of it. With the backing of our people, I'll continue to work tirelessly to deliver that.

Helping our People

A vital part of my role and one I'm always proud to do is to support people across St Helens North. With my dedicated team, I work all-year round to offer advice, guidance, support and representation for all my constituents who need it. Since becoming your MP, I have taken up some **25,000** cases and counting for local people.

Since January, I've helped some **3,000** constituents. This includes nearly **1,300** on issues related to housing, work and benefits; vital matters, especially as people find their feet after the pandemic. I have supported **700** local people regarding health issues, such as care waiting times and problems with accessing NHS dentistry for patients and resources for practitioners.

I've also helped over **500** people on law-and-order matters, including tackling crime and dealing with the Home Office in recent weeks. I also supported over **60** residents with passport enquiries following the shambolic



2022 SNAPSHOT



Assisted 60 residents with enquiries and concerns with the passport office.



Supported 486 constituents with housing issues, ranging from ASB, changing banding and repairs.



Made representations to health providers to assist 700 people with their health concerns.



I supported 20 constituents who needed help with the Homes for Ukraine scheme.



Contacted the DWP on behalf of 523 constituents who needed help with their benefits or child maintenance.

Government backlog, which shamefully deprived hard-working local families of well-earned holidays. I have also helped **20** constituents to chase Ministers on behalf of Ukrainian refugees hoping to settle in our welcoming borough.

Personal and private by nature, casework is always treated by my team in the strictest of confidences, and dealt with both sensitively and speedily. We are here to help.

Often, local cases reveal deeper, structural problems and national injustices, which drive my work and campaigning in Parliament. This includes unjustifiable cuts to benefits and Universal Credit, support for unpaid carers, NHS staff pay, pensions justice – including for WASPI women and our retired mineworkers – plastic waste, pollution in our waterways, flooding, access to childcare for families, and ensuring top-class vocational skills and apprenticeships are available for young people.

Since being elected, I have spoken up for St Helens North over **200** times in Parliament. I have voted over **800** times on many vital issues. I have also tabled over **500** written questions to Ministers, and raised these issues with my colleagues in Labour's Shadow Cabinet and directly with Government.

St Helens North will always be my priority and I am on hand to help anyone who makes their lives and living here. If you need support today on an issue, please get in touch.

Tackling the Cost of Living Crisis

With the cost of living sharply rising for everyone, tackling this cruel crisis is an urgent priority of mine, and I am doing what I can with St Helens Council, local groups and charities, as well as Labour colleagues in Parliament – including Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves – to help get people through it.



With the cost of household bills, the weekly shop and a tank of fuel rapidly rising, it is a really worrying time. Inflation stands at nearly 10%. Our economy is at a standstill, and we have the slowest growth in the G7. Yet, Government is in chaos and has no answers. They've unfairly put taxes up on working people to their highest threshold in 70 years. Mired in scandal and sleaze, they have been too slow to act – for example taking months to implement Labour's idea of a windfall tax on oil and gas producers while utility bills soared for families and pensioners. And they wasted time and energy: first, on defending a law-breaking Prime Minister, and now on indulging in a vanity leadership contest, instead of sorting their mess.



In Parliament, I have called on the Government to do more to help. For example, I raised specific support for our unpaid carers after exposing that Ministers had not even discussed the topic. I also raised the need to help families put food on the table. Nearly 60% more children in St Helens need free school meals now than just six years ago, which is a shameful record for the Government and stands in stark contrast to our council's commitment to tackling holiday hunger.

Locally, I am also working closely with Citizens Advice St Helens and its Chief Executive David Reynolds to highlight support. I'm also working with St Helens & Halton VCA members across our voluntary community on this. We recently held a special roundtable to discuss the best ways forward, and how I can help. Unlike Government, our community is yet again stepping up, and I will keep working to get our people through this crisis.



Driving Jobs, Investment and Regeneration to St Helens

Under a new generation of leadership in St Helens, we're getting on with the job of regenerating our borough so that our public places and common spaces are fit for our people today and for the future. A strong sense of place is ingrained in the fabric of who we are in St Helens North; we're not taking second place to anywhere else.



That's why we are making huge leaps forward with our plans to revitalise Earlestown and St Helens town centres. I am proud to have played a role in securing the once-in-a-generation partnership, worth some £200m, with the English Cities Fund, as well as our successful Town Deal bid worth £25m, which is helping push our plans forward. I also fully back our exciting £40m bid to revitalise the historic Earlestown Town Hall and the Gamble Building, which I call on central Government to support.

My work also continues on our St Helens Town Deal Board, which is ably chaired by local businessman John Tabern. Together, political and community leaders, with our partners in industry, are driving investment and economic growth across the borough. As well as bringing highly skilled jobs, I am working with our businesses to help us meet our climate goals, which outmatch those of Government.

Transforming the former colliery at Parkside is integral to those plans and work to regenerate the site and construct the crucial Link Road is already delivering skills, apprenticeships and jobs. It was good to welcome Liverpool City Region Freeport chair, Tom O'Brien to see the site's good progress for himself.



St Helens has always been a world-leader, sitting proudly at the cutting edge of industry and technology. That is true today more than ever. I met Neil Syder, the new Managing Director of Pilkington UK, a key part of our St Helens story, to discuss their work and progress.

Our plans to bring the exciting Glass Futures initiative is also progressing at pace. It was good to meet Glass Futures representatives and other industry leaders in Parliament as we celebrated the International Year of Glass. I also met Haydock-based Brownlow Utilities to discuss their work helping residents and businesses with energy costs and sustainability goals.



St Helens is, and always will be, at the heart of glass. I was delighted to lead a debate in the House of Commons on the ever-evolving, innovating British glass industry. Worth some £1.3 billion to the UK economy and critical to jobs and our history locally, I will always fight its corner.

Active in our Community & Region

Our community matters, and I take massive pride in living here, representing it and being out and about in it as much as I can.

In April, I was honoured to take part in our own St Helens event to mark Workers' Memorial Day. I also joined local leaders and heritage campaigners to unveil two special Transport Trust Red Wheels at the Sankey Viaduct, recognising the site's historic importance. I lend my full backing to the campaign to make the Nine Arches a UNESCO Heritage site.



For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, as well as attending so many fantastic events across St Helens Borough, I joined the Bishop of Warrington and our Mayor for the Civic Service of Thanksgiving. Revd Rachel, the brass band and everyone at the Parish church made it such a lovely, special event, which did the town and borough proud.



In Rainford, I have continued to support local businesses, group and churches. The campaign with Rainford Heritage Society to create a visitor centre remains on course. In Blackbrook, I also helped St Augustine's School to secure their new top-class AstroTurf pitch, and visited the school to see the fantastic new facility. Alongside local councillors, so too did I help secure £7.7m of investment to improve Ashurst School. I recently brought Government Ministers into the area as well, to see the important work we have carried out at Stanley Bank to tackle flooding.



It's always a real pleasure to visit the vibrant schools we have across our constituency. Recent examples include Outwood Academy Haydock, St Mary's Birchley Primary School in Billinge and Lyme Community Primary School in Newton-le-Willows, where I spoke to pupils about my role as their local MP. A huge thanks also goes to Holy Spirit Primary School in Parr for inviting me to plant a tree for the Queen's Green Canopy.

In Moss Bank, my work supporting Park Farm Community Centre continues and I was pleased, as always, to recently visit. I have also worked with Torus and local councillors to restore the shops at Wythburn Crescent and Bassenthwaite Avenue, to ensure the sites can be quickly returned to serve residents again. In Windle, I have kept up my work with the Environment Agency and the council to alleviate flooding around The Brook.



In Newton-le-Willows, I continue to lobby for better bus and train services after cuts from Government. I was also proud to also host Queen's Award-winning NECG in Parliament in May. In Earlestown, I was delighted to recently open its own St Helens Ways to Work hub. This is providing opportunities to help people thrive in work. I'm proud too that one of my local offices is located in Earlestown, where I live.



Sport, music and culture make up such a huge part of our identity in St Helens North and I'm so proud to support our local scene. In Haydock, my work has continued as Honourable President of Haydock Brass Band, and as a member of the Committee of Haydock Park Racecourse. I recently visited The Book Stop, our community book shop which is run by and for people in St Helens. Since opening in 2021, it has only gone from strength to strength.

The work we're doing to transform King George V playing fields, to ensure a secure, modern space for our local clubs has also made good progress. Across Merseyside, I amplified the chorus for a Hillsborough Law, to deliver justice and support for families. I'm proud to sponsor Maria Eagle MP's Public Advocate Bill, a key part of that call.



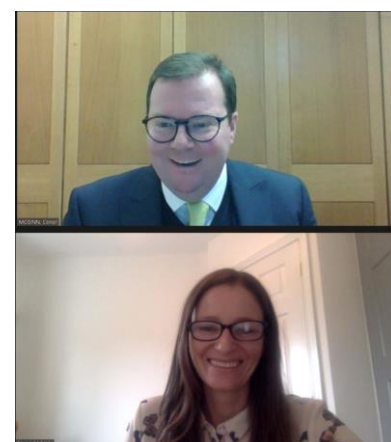
In Parr, I am working closely with the community to tackle crime and fly-tipping, and I also supported the artists behind the fantastic murals seen throughout the ward. It was also good to recently visit Sexton Avenue Community Allotments. This has been made a real community asset by all the dedicated volunteers there.



In Billinge & Seneley Green, I'm proud to continue working with the farming community on tackling rural issues and crime. I have also recently campaigned against bus service cuts proposed by private operators, and I am fighting to improve accessibility at Garswood Station. I am also working hard so that local residents can access GPs, dentists and NHS services. Indeed, I was proud to nominate The Surgical Cancer Hub Team at St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals for a NHS parliamentary excellence award, which they deservedly won. After securing Helen's Law, I continue to work with Marie McCourt – whose dignity and tenacity is inspirational – to ensure victims and their families can access justice and support.

I was proud to secure the first Commons debate in over a decade on Tourette's syndrome, to help my constituent Emma McNally.

Emma's son was diagnosed with Tourette's aged 9. Yet, with no wider Tourette's provision available, the retirement of a specialist at Liverpool Alder Hey left Emma's son and others like him with no one able to care for them locally. It shamefully means that North West families are forced to travel as far as London to receive essential treatment, which we are fighting hard to change.



Emma's journey – from Parr mum to national campaigner – has done so much to highlight these issues and the need for better, more localised services. I hope my debate and the wider campaigning I am doing in Parliament marks a step towards that.

Leading from Labour's Shadow Cabinet

As Shadow Minister without Portfolio and attending Shadow Cabinet under the leadership of Keir Starmer, I'm proud to fly the flag for St Helens North and give our communities a strong voice at the highest levels of the Labour movement – as it deserves. The road to a future Labour government will always run through St Helens and the North West, and I'm proud of that.



As Labour's Deputy National Campaign Coordinator, working with our party's National Campaign Coordinator, Birmingham Ladywood MP Shabana Mahmood, I am also helping to facilitate and run Labour's campaigns and election strategy. My hard work continues to get Labour fighting fit to win the next General Election.

And finally...

Thank you for reading my latest summer report. I hope you enjoyed it.

If you would like to keep right up to date with my activities throughout the year, in Parliament and St Helens North, you can follow me on Facebook, Twitter and through my website.

Get in touch with me
My constituency team are here to help & can be contacted on:

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You can also keep up to date at:

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📘 www.facebook.com/ConorMcGinnMP

 **Conor McGinn MP**
A strong voice for St Helens North 



To receive regular updates on my work as your MP, you can also subscribe to my fortnightly newsletter. Just drop me an email requesting this with your full details to conor.mcginn.mp@parliament.uk

Have an excellent summer and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes,

Conor McGinn MP

Labour Member of Parliament for St Helens North