

# Working For South Shields

NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH are top priorities in South Shields. We have some great businesses in the town. Since the 1997 General Election, unemployment has fallen by more than 2000 in South Tyneside.

The job of Government is to ensure that inflation and interest rates stay low, and that we support businesses so that they have the skills and resources to create wealth. Last year, my Annual Report featured Circatex, the company that has grown out of the ashes of Viasystems.



This year I feature a 90 year old South Shields company, Ford Components. Chairman Geoff Ford has helped the company through tough times - now he wants to expand.

Ford Components views the future with a mixture of quiet optimism and great determination.

Geoff Ford, the company's third generation Chairman says "We have succeeded in developing several niche opportunities for our two divisions, Aerospace and Commercial, which will serve us well over future years. We have a first class workforce, most of whom are from South Tyneside, who share the company's values and aspirations. Our ongoing commitment to continually developing our people using our own in-house courses, in addition to support from South Tyneside College, Business Link and other organizations such as South Tyneside Council are crucial to our success".

Ford's commitment to using local labour and materials continues to pay dividends while a new arrangement with Westland Helicopters could result in new jobs for local people.

**Last years Annual Report was widely welcomed by people in South Shields. It is my chance to report back to you on what I have been doing, and give you important information. I hope you find it useful. If you would like to get in touch with me, my contact details are on the back page.**

# David Miliband MP - Wo

## BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

RESPECT forms the basis of civilised society. Respect between races, respect between generations, and respect between neighbours.

The vast majority of people living in South Shields are law-abiding citizens, and should not have to put up with nuisance from a small but disruptive minority. I have spent time on the beat with Community Police Officers, and have seen at first hand the excellent work that our 'Bobbies on the Beat' do. Thanks to increased Government funding, every ward in South Shields will have a designated local police officer.

Call 0191 454 7555 to find out who your local constable is.

We send out a clear message that anti-social behaviour on any scale will not be tolerated in South Shields. More visible police presence in our communities, swifter action by the courts, and the threat of eviction for council tenants who disrupt our streets and estates is the right way to build a peaceful society.

If you are concerned about noisy or anti-social neighbours, contact the Council's Neighbourhood Services Department on 0191 427 1717.



David on the beat with PC Craig Rowlings, Community Beat Manager for Horsley Hill

## REVITALISING OUR RIVER

WE NEED to regenerate our riverside and the town centre through new investment and development to make them vibrant places to live and work.

Now, the announcement of huge orders for new aircraft carriers to be built on the Tyne offers us the chance to capitalise on this asset.

David says, 'This is our chance to build a thriving riverside, with a mix of industry, leisure and housing. Workers in the North East are the best in Britain. Now they have the chance to show what they are capable of. The South Tyneside Transformation Plan gives us a vision of the future - now we must work to make that vision a reality'.

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Lord David Puttnam addressing the second Annual South Shields Lecture

## HOLLYWOOD COMES TO SOUTH SHIELDS

IT MAY sound improbable but it's true - a Hollywood great has made his presence felt in South Shields.

Oscar-winning film director Lord David Puttnam was the star speaker at the second South Shields Annual Lecture, held at the Town Hall. Lord Puttnam addressed an audience of over 150, setting out his vision of how to revive the North East - and he also gave a few tips to budding film stars!

Who would you like to see deliver a future South Shields lecture? Contact my office on 0191 456 8910 to let me know what you think.

## PUTTING OUR HEALTH SERVICE FIRST

I AM PROUD of the National Health Service. The doctors, nurses and other staff in our hospitals and surgeries do a fantastic job. Despite media criticism, the truth remains - our National Health Service provides a high standard of care, often under difficult circumstances.

That is why I was pleased to invite the Health Secretary Alan Milburn to South Shields Town Hall to meet staff from across the Health Service. I am delighted that South Tyneside Hospital is recruiting more doctors and is modernising its maternity services.

The key to building a better Health Service is to enable people to be treated more quickly. The way to achieve this is to increase the numbers of nurses and doctors, to ensure that all patients can be treated more rapidly. This is why the Government is investing extra money into key areas of the service.

I am pleased to say that in our community, waiting lists continue to fall. The NHS is a great British institution, and its staff are our unsung heroes - we should praise their dedication and support their continuous improvement.



# Working to Deliver

## HELPING OLDER PEOPLE

There are nearly 20,000 older people in South Shields. They have served the town and the country for generations. Now they are getting some extra help from the Government.

For example, every pensioner household in South Shields receives the Winter Fuel payment of £200. In addition, an extra £100 can be paid to persons over 80 years old.

The Government has also underlined its commitment to pensioners and those on a low income through the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (Warm Front).

This scheme offers help with home insulation and heating for the main living areas. To find out if you are eligible, call freephone 0800 952 0600.



David visits Mrs. Gaskill's home during Warm Homes Week

## *Meet David*

Hear him give his Annual Report, and give him your views at the Central Library Lecture Theatre, Prince Georg Square, South Shields on Saturday 14th June at 11.00am

## *5 ways to contact David*

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