

# RICHARD BURDEN MP

## 2010-2015 Mid-Term Report to the People of Birmingham Northfield



### Richard Burden MP

Your Labour MP for Birmingham Northfield

Dear Resident,

I am very pleased to send you my mid-term constituency report. Over half way through the 2010-2015 Parliament I'm delighted to share with you what I have been doing to fight for **A FAIR DEAL** for Northfield - my pledge for the 2010 General Election - and to let you know about my campaign for the area's **CLIMB TO THE FUTURE**.

As your MP for over 20 years, I am enormously proud to know and represent the thousands of people, shops, schools, businesses and inspiring community groups in the area. From supporting jobs for local people, to fighting for the area's schools and standing up for ordinary people facing a huge squeeze on living standards, I have been working hard to put Northfield first. Since 2010 I have been proud to fight against damaging cuts to local services, campaign on issues from food banks to the future of the BBC in Birmingham, and back major new redevelopments in our community.

I know there is still a lot more to do to secure **A FAIR FUTURE** for our area. Like Britain as a whole, Birmingham can do better than this. As ever, I look forward to hearing your views on this report, as well as your concerns on local priorities - so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard Burden'.

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labour.org.uk

**"We will never forget all the hard work you put in to help us - thank you"**

Paul & Debbie McGovern, West Heath

### INSIDE:

- + Local campaigns
- + Representing you in Parliament
- + Out & about in Northfield
- + Your views

Campaigning for a Fair Future for Frankley, Kings Norton, Longbridge, Northfield, Shenley, Rednal, Rubery, Weoley and West Heath

# LOCAL CAMPAIGNS

## Putting Northfield First

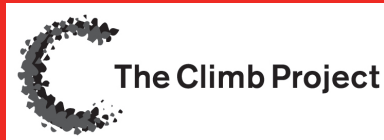
### A Fair Deal for Birmingham Northfield



The Conservative-led Government's cuts are having a damaging impact in Birmingham. In 2011, the City suffered its biggest ever budget cut - over £200 million. This amounted to £140 more per person than in leafy Berkshire. As the previous Tory-Lib Dem City Council failed to support local people in coping with the cuts, Richard worked with local Labour MPs and Councillors to campaign for a Fair Deal for Birmingham. After winning back the Council in 2012, Labour are working hard to deliver fairness in tough times. Richard also chaired a watchdog committee of West Midlands MPs who outlined practical recommendations

for supporting local businesses and creating jobs in the region, before it was abolished by the Tory-led Government in 2010. Richard continues to put Birmingham and the region on the national stage, including meeting with the Prime Minister to call for more investment in the West Midlands.

### Action on Jobs & Unemployment



Local people will certainly know that this is the slowest economic recovery for 100 years. Out of 650 constituencies in the country, Northfield has the 48th highest number of unemployed people - and the

number of young people out of work long-term has sky-rocketed since 2010. In addition to campaigning against cuts to Educational Maintenance Allowance and increases in tuition fees, Richard has been developing local solutions for jobs and growth. He launched the "Climb Project" in July 2013 to bring local businesses and the community together to ensure South West Birmingham can **CLIMB TO THE FUTURE**. Richard is also supporting Labour to develop new local policies to tackle unemployment and create jobs.

### A Strong & Safe Community



Local people tell Richard that keeping the community secure is their priority, so he works hard to make Northfield a safe place to live. As well as working closely with the local police all year round, Richard held a local consultation on the Government's 20% cut to the West Midlands Police Force. After listening to local people's concerns, Richard continues

to campaign strongly against the budget reduction. The Tory-led Government's cuts led to a loss of over 1000 police officers in the region.

### Regenerating the Local Area

Regenerating the local area has also been a priority for Richard. A strong believer that people need a stake in where they live, he ensures local people's voices are heard on community issues. Since 2010 he has worked to:

- + Support schools facing Government pressure to become academies
- + Improve Northfield & Longbridge Railway Stations, ensure New St delivers for local people, and develop Labour policies for community control of public transport
- + Address traffic, road and accessibility issues with local community groups
- + Improve sustainability with new options for low carbon travel & support for the Northfield EcoCentre - who run a community garden and urban harvests

# Out & about in Northfield...

**“Birmingham City Council cut £212 million from its budget, hitting care for the elderly and disabled, and youth services. Does the Prime Minister agree that Birmingham is going too far, too fast?”**  
Richard's Question to the Prime Minister  
March 2011



Securing funding for **Bournville College** with the previous **Labour Government** & supporting the College to provide jobs & skills for young people



Campaigning for ex **MG Rover workers** to get the payments they were promised by Phoenix.

Supporting the new **MG Motor and Longbridge redevelopment**.

### Health & Welfare



Huge changes to health and welfare are a major concern for local people. Richard strongly opposed the Conservative-led Government's top-down reorganisation of the NHS in 2012.

He campaigns to put patients first, supporting Labour's bold new proposals to integrate health & social services in 'whole person care.'

Richard supports vulnerable people affected by the Conservative-led Government's welfare reforms, such as the Bedroom Tax. As well as pressing Ministers for change, Richard is taking practical action - such as helping at food drives for Northfield's Food Bank, who provide vital support for those affected.

Richard also works hard to ensure everyone has access to affordable and healthy food - calling on the Tory-led Government to address rising food costs, supporting local schools in learning about nutrition, and scrutinising global food issues in Parliament.



Richard visiting new local homes, for which he campaigned to secure funding, with **Leader of the Labour Party Ed Miliband MP** and Shadow Housing Minister **Jack Dromey MP**

Launching the **Climb Project** to build a new future for the area & working with the Council to tackle unemployment in Weoley

Supporting **Northfield's Town Centre Partnership & Business Improvement District** in bringing new life to the High Street - including Northfield's very own beach!



### Working for you with the Local Labour Team

Councillors Steve Bedser, Peter Griffiths, Val Seabright, Andy Cartwright, Ian Cruise, Jess Phillips, Brett O'Reilly & Carole Griffiths and Steve Booton in Kings Norton, Longbridge, Northfield and Weoley



# WESTMINSTER

As your representative in Parliament, Richard ensures the views of the community are heard in Westminster and Whitehall, and supports causes local people care about. Since 2010, Richard has responded to over 3700 policy issues raised by constituents - mainly on health, work and pensions, the environment, economic issues and international affairs. Richard has raised local people's concerns in over 350 parliamentary questions, speeches and debates during the past three years.

## Supporting Automotive

Richard is the **Chair of the All Party Motor Group (APMG)** in Parliament. With Longbridge on the doorstep, the motor trade is as an important issue locally as it is across the UK – the industry produces a million cars every year and supports over 700,000 jobs.

Richard and the group make annual recommendations to the Government. The APMG recently called for action on skills development and improving the quality and quantity of apprenticeships – now central to the Government's motor strategy.



**“1,260 young people are currently without a job in Northfield (...) we need to boost apprenticeships and tackle youth unemployment.”**  
Debate on Apprenticeships, March 2013

## Arts & the BBC



Richard has been campaigning for fair investment in the arts and the BBC in the city. People in the Midlands provide the BBC with over 25% of the overall licence fee revenue, but only 2.5% of the BBC's budget is spent in the region. Alongside other Labour MP's, Richard has been urging the BBC to produce more TV and radio in the area. This will create jobs in Birmingham and ensure local people are better represented in the media.

Richard is also helping local creative industries provide new jobs and opportunities - supporting the Northfield Arts Forum, Birmingham Youth Arts Summit, Custard Factory, and 'After the Event' and Fourth Wall theatre productions which are involving local young people in the arts.

**“No other nation or region receives as little BBC programme making. Where are the Midlands voices and characters on our TV screens?”**  
Parliamentary Debate on the Arts, June 2013

## International

Richard is also a member of the **International Development Committee**, who scrutinise how the Government address global poverty issues. The Committee have recently made recommendations on issues from violence against women to financial crime. As **Chair of the All Party Groups on Palestine and Jordan**, Richard also takes an active role in promoting peace in the Middle East at Westminster. Since 2010, Richard has led trips to the region and campaigned for the rights of Palestinian child prisoners and Syrian refugees fleeing conflict.

## Richard attacks rip-off phone rates



After being contacted by concerned constituents, Richard has been campaigning to end the "rip-off" phone lines that can cost callers up to 40p a minute. Richard asked scores of questions to Government departments about their use of 0800, 084 and 087 numbers, and held a Parliamentary debate on the issue. It has now been revealed that calling Government phone lines cost the public £56 million last year alone. Richard has pressed Ministers to end the use of these numbers for services used by vulnerable people, particularly for tax, jobseekers and pensions helplines, and he's got a result - the Government are now reforming the system.

# GET IN TOUCH WITH RICHARD BURDEN MP

**PHONE:** 0121 477 7746  
**WRITE:** House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
**EMAIL:** Richard.Burden.MP@parliament.uk  
**MEET:** Richard at one of his advice surgeries. Call 0121 477 7746 for an appointment

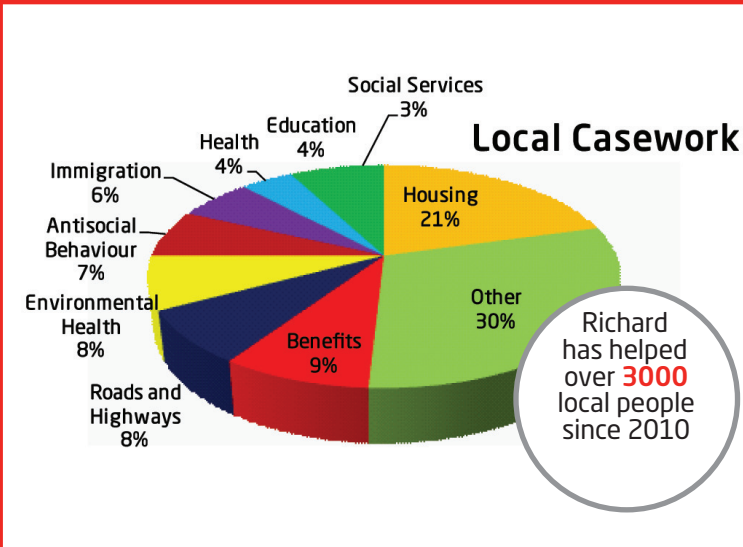
**ONLINE:** www.richardburden.com  
**TWITTER:** @RichardBurdenMP  
**FACEBOOK:** RichardBurden4Northfield

## Did you know?

Since 2010 - with the help of his staff in Birmingham - Richard has held over 100 advice surgeries across the constituency and taken up over 3000 new cases on behalf of local people. That's an average of over 131 new cases every month. These are the local cases that Richard has been contacted about most frequently over the past three years...

## What local people say...

- “ Thank you for everything - your support and backing were very much appreciated  
*Mrs Dunne, Longbridge*
- “ My heartfelt appreciation for all your help in these stressful times  
*Ms Haddon, Kings Norton*



## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

## LET ME KNOW YOUR VIEWS...

### What should be my priorities for a fair future for Northfield?

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs & Unemployment       | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing               | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Living Costs  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime & Policing          | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment           | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Regeneration  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welfare Changes           | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Transport       | <input type="checkbox"/> NHS and Health      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Business            | <input type="checkbox"/> International Affairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools & Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please write here) | .....  |  |

### Any other issues you would like to raise with me as your MP?

- Yes** **WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY OF MY E-NEWSLETTER?**  
 I send out updates to constituents - including a monthly Parliamentary Newsletter by email
- Yes** **CAN YOU HELP?** Campaign with your local Labour MP and Councillors for Northfield's Future.

Richard Burden and the Labour Party may contact you using the data you have provided. If you do not wish to be contacted please let us know by emailing Richard.Burden.MP@parliament.uk or writing to Richard Burden MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Promoted by and on behalf of Richard Burden MP House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Printed by Lion FPG Ltd, Oldbury Road, West Bromwich, Birmingham, B70 9DQ.

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