



NEWS FROM CARDIFF EAST

NEW LEADER OF CARDIFF COUNCIL

Congratulations to Cathays Councillor Chris Weaver on being elected as the new Leader of Cardiff Council.

Chris has served as the Cabinet Member for Finance for nearly a decade, protecting our city from the worst of Tory austerity, fighting for our public services and carefully investing in our future.

I've worked closely with Chris throughout my time as MP for Cardiff Central and subsequently, Cardiff East. I know firsthand his absolute dedication to the people of Cardiff and I'm confident that under his leadership, Cardiff will be even stronger, fairer and greener.



NEW LORD MAYOR AND DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

Huge congratulations to Trowbridge and St Mellons Councillor Michael Michael on his appointment as Lord Mayor, and Plasnewydd/Roath Councillor Sue Lent on her appointment as Deputy Lord Mayor.

Both will serve Cardiff brilliantly in their roles. I am also pleased that Councillor Michael has chosen City Hospice as his charity for his term, a cause that has provided essential support to many families across Cardiff East.



CONGRATULATIONS SHAV TAJ MS

Following the Senedd election on 7th May, I was so pleased to welcome Shav Taj to her new role as Labour Member of the Senedd for Caerdydd Ffynnon Taf (Cardiff East and Cardiff North combined).

Shav has spent over 20 years representing workers in Wales, most recently as General Secretary of TUC Cymru and before that, as Regional Secretary of the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS).

Shav and I will work closely, together with our team of Cardiff East Labour councillors, on your behalf. We are all here for you.



**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
RUMNEY BRITISH LEGION BRANCH**

I spent a wonderful afternoon celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Rumney Legion alongside Branch Secretary John Wall and the then Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Michael Michael.

The highlight was presenting John with letters of thanks from UK Defence Secretary John Healey and I recognising John's decades of volunteering and his incredible work for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal every year. Just last year he led local volunteers in raising £24,000. It was a real privilege to see John's dedication get the recognition he deserves.

A huge thank you to John and the 650+ local Legion members for everything they do to support our armed forces community and veterans.



SUMMER OF SAVINGS

Our UK Labour Government has announced the "Great British Summer Savings" scheme to help families in Cardiff East enjoy the summer holidays together without added financial pressures.

Key support measures running from 25th June to 1st September include:

- VAT cut to 5% on children's menu meals.
- VAT cut to 5% on children's cinema, theatre, and concert tickets.
- Reduced entry costs for amusement parks, wildlife parks, museums, and soft play centres.

These targeted discounts ensure that tight budgets do not get in the way of making summer family memories.

This package of support for families is made possible by a UK Labour Government focused on delivering economic stability, supporting working households, and keeping inflation down.



ST JOHN LLOYD R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL VISIT

I had such a fantastic time visiting the pupils and staff at St John Lloyd R.C. Primary School in Trowbridge recently.

The children gave me a very warm welcome, singing "be the best you can be" a heartfelt song based on their school motto.

I was so impressed by the Year 6 pupils, who put me on the spot with some excellent questions. They really got stuck in, taking a keen interest in the role of an MP, how policy and laws are made and how politics is part of our everyday lives. It was obvious they care very deeply about their local community.



COED CAERDYDD MILESTONE

More than 37,000 new trees were planted across Cardiff between October 2025 and April 2026, bringing the total to 155,500 since 2021.

Last year, I joined volunteers at Bute Park to plant the Gabalfa apple tree variety. Made famous by Andrew Pettigrew, this variety had been lost for more than 100 years.

As these new trees grow across the city, they will help cool our neighbourhoods, improve air quality, support local biodiversity, and enhance community wellbeing.

Learn more about how you can get involved [here](#).



CRACKDOWN ON MONEY LAUNDERING

Criminal gangs exploit our local shopping areas to launder their dirty money and undercut honest local businesses.

I know from conversations across Cardiff East that this is a major concern for residents and I raise these issues regularly with our local police teams.

I'm really pleased that a £30 million nationwide crackdown has been announced by the UK Labour Government targeting dodgy barber shops, vape stores, mini-marts and sweet shops involved in money laundering.

These shops will face raids, closure orders and cash seizures as part of a new drive to clean up our local shopping areas. New measures will include:

- A High Street Organised Crime Unit which will coordinate with the National Crime Agency, Police, Trading Standards, HMRC and Immigration Enforcement.
- Additional officers will strengthen enforcement activity in hotspots.
- Trading Standards will receive more money to increase raids, inspections and enforcement action.

This builds on Operation Machinize, which has already resulted in hundreds of arrests, thousands of premises visited and millions of pounds in criminal assets seized.

I'll continue to work closely with local residents, police teams, and enforcement agencies to tackle crime and restore our local shopping areas to places that are legitimate, safe and crime-free.



ACTION ON THE COST OF FUEL

We didn't cause the war in the Middle East, but our UK Labour Government is supporting our country through its impact on our lives. We've taken a number of decisions to help people and businesses with those impacts.

- Keeping the 5p fuel duty cut to the end of the year. Fuel duty is as low now as it has been at any point for over 16 years and is substantially lower in real terms. By the end of this year the cut will have saved the average driver £120 compared to the plans we inherited from the Tories.

- The conflict has also pushed up costs for hauliers who keep the UK's shelves stocked and our economy moving. So we're giving them a 12-month road tax holiday - meaning hauliers will pay £1 at renewal, saving £600 for a typical heavy lorry and £912 for the biggest vehicles on the road.
- Farmers, rail freight, and other red diesel users will also see their fuel duty cut by over a third until the end of the year. This is the lowest rate in over 20 years, helping to keep the cost of doing business down. These measures will ensure that households aren't hit with higher costs for goods in supermarkets.
- And we have also announced a 10p per mile increase in tax free mileage rates from 45p to 55p per mile, backdated to April 2026, which will benefit those who need to drive as part of their work, from care workers to plumbers and many more.

This UK Labour Government is taking steps that build our resilience and prepare the country for the future, to ensure that households and businesses are insulated from the cost of international shocks and crises.



BREAKING NEWS

**5P CUT ON FUEL DUTY
EXTENDED FOR THE
REST OF THE YEAR**

DELIVERING FOR BRITAIN

SUPPORTING LEARNER DRIVERS

I know how stressful and expensive it is to learn to drive. Its a huge milestone, so that's why I was so frustrated to hear from so many local families about bots swallowing all the driving test slots.

It's totally unfair that learner drivers are being squeezed out, left with limited options, or forced to pay ridiculous prices just to get a test date.

New measures introduced by the UK Labour Government have banned the bots to make sure that only learner drivers can book driving test slots. This change brings fairness back to the system, protecting learner drivers in Cardiff East and across the country, from being exploited.



NEW RULES TO FREE UP MORE DRIVING TESTS FOR LEARNERS

Now only learner drivers can book tests, with new rules stopping slots being snapped up and resold for profit to make the system fairer for everyone.

Promoted by Ian Bounds on behalf of Jo Stevens for Cardiff East, both at 116 Albany Road, Cardiff, CF24 3RU.

DELIVERING HOMEGROWN, CLEAN POWER

In 2025, solar installations in Britain reached a record high of over 269,000, marking a 37% increase from the previous year.

As part of this shift, many households in Cardiff East have joined Cardiff Council's 'Switch Together' scheme. This initiative coordinates community group-buying to make solar panels and battery storage more affordable. The scheme aims to help residents reduce their energy costs, lower their reliance on volatile gas and oil prices, and access vetted, accredited solar installers.

The current application window for the scheme closes on 5 June 2026. Find out more [here](#).



NEWS FROM ACROSS WALES

THANK YOU ELUNED MORGAN

Eluned Morgan has been a feature of Welsh politics for over thirty years. The Senedd election result in Ceredigion Penfro is a great loss for Wales.

As the first woman to be First Minister, she is an inspiration to so many and will continue to be, in whatever she decides to do next.

Thank you, Eluned.



WELCOMING THE NEW FIRST MINISTER

Congratulations to the new First Minister Rhun ap Iwan and to all ninety-six Senedd Members elected on May 7th.

The Welsh public expect to see both their governments working together to tackle the cost of living, improve public services, create jobs and drive economic growth.

As Secretary of State for Wales, I will work constructively with the new Welsh Government to deliver in the interests of everyone across Wales.

FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND IN PORT TALBOT

The UK Labour Government has backed the next generation of jobs in Wales with a £64 million investment at the Port of Port Talbot to develop floating offshore wind in the Celtic Sea.

It was great to join apprentices and young people from ABP Ports to hear what this investment means for the local area and for their future careers.

Read more about the project [here](#) or watch a video from my visit [here](#).

SUPPORTING WELSH VETERANS

I recently visited Bulldogs Boxing and Community Activities in Baglan, Neath Port Talbot, to see first-hand the frontline services they and other local veterans' organisations provide for our Armed Forces veterans. It was a privilege to meet veterans from right across South Wales, listen to their experiences, and see how they are benefiting from these vital services.

The UK Labour Government has launched the VALOUR network, a £50 million initiative designed to streamline access to housing, employment, and healthcare support. Grants of up to £1 million are now open for local organisations, charities, and councils to join the network and expand this essential in-person support services.

Learn more about the network [here](#).



NEW NUCLEAR AT WYLFA

New nuclear and thousands of jobs are coming to Anglesey with a £2.5bn UK Labour Government investment to deliver the UK's first small modular nuclear reactors at Wylfa.

This is one of the biggest public investments in Welsh history and will power 3 million homes, help deliver energy security and drive jobs and growth for North Wales.

Watch my video from my recent visit [here](#).

NEW THRILLER FILMED IN WALES

Our booming creative industries here in Wales are really special. Something to be very proud of. Sky's new thriller, Prisoner, is another great example of the wealth of talent and fantastic locations on offer in Wales to production companies from across the world.

From world-class crews to breathtaking scenery, Wales has it all. I can't wait to see what our vibrant creative sector produces next. Read more [here](#).

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT

KINGS SPEECH

At the State Opening of Parliament, King Charles delivered the King's Speech, unveiling the UK Labour Government's legislative agenda for the year ahead. Our focus is straightforward. We are boosting the economy, cutting your bills, and making communities safer across Wales and the UK.

Better trains: We are investing £14 billion into Welsh rail. The Welsh Government will help run the network in Wales. This will connect towns and create 12,000 jobs.

Resetting Our Relationship with Europe: We are building closer ties with Europe. This will boost business and give young people more chances to live and learn abroad.

Lower bills: We are switching to clean energy. This will protect our planet and cut your household energy costs. It will also make our country energy independent.

Safer streets: We're cutting red tape, removing the role of Police and Crime Commissioners and using those funds on frontline policing

instead. Funding will be spent where it's needed; more police officers out on your local streets and more resources to keep our streets safe.

Stronger security: We're increasing defence spending to ensure we are strong abroad and safe at home. And we're backing our Armed Forces, with an above inflation pay rise, the third pay rise since we came into government.

This plan is about creating more jobs, easing the cost of living and delivering a stronger, fairer country for everyone. Read more about the King's Speech [here](#).

SECURING OUR ECONOMY

Our UK Labour Government was elected on a promise to secure our economy and deliver for working people. This month's economic figures shows that our plan is working.

After years of economic chaos under the Tories, we've made huge progress.

- Inflation is down.
- Interest rates are falling.
- Wages are rising faster than inflation and pensions are up again this year.

All this means more money in people's pockets and welcome news for households across Cardiff East.

The UK economy is expanding well above previous forecasts. We have the fastest growing economy amongst European competitor countries.



BREAKING NEWS

**THE BRITISH ECONOMY
IS ABOVE FORECASTS.**

**OUR ECONOMY
IS IN A STRONGER
POSITION.**

DELIVERING FOR BRITAIN

SOCIAL MEDIA CONSULTATION

The consultation on children's social media use has officially closed, and I want to thank the hundreds of parents, young people, and charities who shared their views. Your insights are invaluable.

The question isn't whether we are going to act, we are going to. The consultation explored a broad range of features and platforms to address the impact of social media on children and young people. Whether we implement app curfews, target high-risk features like infinite scroll, or introduce an outright ban for under-16s, our priority is clear, we have got to get this right, and we have got to make it last.

Even if big tech companies push back, nothing will stop us from doing what is right. The UK Labour Government will publish its full response soon and we intend that new measures will be in effect by the end of 2026.

We promised to ensure that our measures were led by those affected by them. Thank you again to everyone who took part in this consultation, your responses will help us build a safer digital future for generations to come.

Promoted by Ian Bounds on behalf of Jo Stevens for Cardiff East, both at 116 Albany Road, Cardiff, CF24 3RU.

THANK YOU
FOR SHARING
YOUR VIEWS
**KEEPING
CHILDREN
SAFE ONLINE**



PUBLICLY OWNED RAILWAYS

Last month, four major rail franchises came back into back in public hands.

After years of broken privatisation, with private companies keeping the profits and taxpayers shouldering the liabilities, this UK Labour Government is putting passengers first.

Nationalisation of our railways will mean services are run in the interests of passengers.

Great Western Railway will join them on 13 December 2026, delivering the change Cardiff East and South Wales rail passengers deserve.



LBC News



UK's biggest train operator's services nationalised as minister hails 'defining moment'



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