



NEWS FROM CARDIFF EAST

GREAT BRITISH SUMMER OF SAVINGS LAUNCHED

Families in Cardiff East can now enjoy discounted attractions and meals out, with the launch of the UK Labour Government's 'Great British Summer Savings' scheme.

We have temporarily slashed VAT on kids' menu meals, children's cinema and theatre tickets, and tickets for attractions like soft play, adventure centres, and theme parks to ensure every family has the opportunity to enjoy the summer.

This package will support families, while also supporting businesses through increased footfall. [Click here](#) to find participating businesses.



SCRAPPING VAT ON HOUSEHOLD ENERGY BILLS

Energy prices are a worry for many households. That is why the UK Labour Government is acting ahead of the Ofgem price cap announcement next month.

The new Prime Minister has announced the abolition of VAT on household energy bills from 1st October to give breathing space to households across Cardiff East.

Taking 5% VAT off domestic electricity bills will give everyone in Britain some help with their electricity bills, and is expected to knock £45 off the annual energy price cap.

Read more [here](#).

SCRAPPING VAT ON HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICITY BILLS



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

CALLING LAST ORDERS

ON HIGH BUSINESS RATES

Cardiff East's pubs, clubs and live music venues are the heart of our communities, but they are under pressure because of overheads, energy costs and the impact of the cost of living on customers.

I'm calling on the minority Plaid Cymru Welsh Government to follow the UK Labour Government and cut business rates for pubs, clubs and live music venues by 20%, so our local venues can thrive and keep serving our communities.

[Sign here](#) to add your name.



CUT BUSINESS
RATES FOR
**PUBS, CLUBS
& MUSIC
VENUES**

SIGN MY PETITION

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**ADDRESSING SAFETY ISSUES AT CO-OP,
COLCHESTER AVENUE**

Thank you to all the residents of Penylan who have raised issues with anti-social behaviour and shoplifting at Co-op's Colchester Avenue branch.

I have written to Co-op management demanding action to address safety issues at the Colchester Avenue branch.

Staff are regularly subjected to unacceptable abuse, violence and shoplifting.

Abuse and violence must never be part of the job yet this is the daily reality for far too many shopworkers.

Co-op must take urgent action now to protect its workforce at at their Colchester Avenue branch.

PENTWYN LEISURE CENTRE

POOL RE-OPENS

It was brilliant to visit Pentwyn Leisure Centre ahead of the opening of the new, state of the art 25m swimming pool and water slide. It is now open and welcoming visitors which will be welcomed by parents and children across Llanedeyrn, Pentwyn and wider Cardiff East.

As well as a new pool, the leisure centre has also seen a transformation of its gym facilities and a new space for Llanedeyrn and Pentwyn Apollos Boxing Club too.

Our Cardiff Labour Council promised to upgrade facilities at Pentwyn Leisure Centre and they've delivered a stunning facility that will be hugely popular with residents.



STRETCH OF NEWPORT ROAD TO RETURN TO 30MPH

Work is starting this week to change the speed limit on Newport Road (excluding outside St Illtyd's R.C. High School) back to 30mph from 20mph. This follows feedback from me, our Rumney and Llanrumney Labour Councillors and residents.

Cardiff Council highways teams will be on-site over the summer to update the roads. The changes will be completed by the end of August.

The work includes:

- Changing traffic signs
- Adjusting street lighting
- Replacing road markings

The speed limit changes will also apply to Western Avenue, Hadfield Road, and Ocean Way.



ADAMSDOWN PLACEMAKING PLAN

Cardiff Council has launched a new Placemaking Plan to improve our local streets, green spaces, and community life

To get this right, Cardiff Council are asking you to share your experiences.

What are your local priorities? What challenges do you face, and what are your ideas for the future?

Take part in the consultation [here](#). Cardiff Council are also holding drop-in sessions for residents, please find the details below:

- 28 Clifton Street: 5 August, 3pm–6pm
- Mercy, Clifton St: 5 August, 6pm–8pm

ST JOHN LLOYD R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

CELEBRATES ESTYN REPORT

Since my election as MP for Cardiff East, I've loved visiting St John Lloyd R.C. Primary School. The dedication of the staff and the pupils' sense of belonging and pride in their school can be felt as soon as you walk through the door.

It was no surprise to read what Estyn had to say in their recent inspection report, which rightly praised the school's welcoming, inclusive ethos. Huge congratulations to Headteacher Clare Hart, the staff, governors, parents, and pupils on this fantastic achievement.

Following my recent visit in May, I also welcomed 80 pupils to Parliament this month for a tour and a visit to the education centre. Despite the heat, they brought fantastic energy and grilled me with excellent questions.

Read more [here](#).



LOCAL RUGBY CLUBS CELEBRATE WRU PLATINIUM STATUS

It is brilliant to see the Welsh Rugby Union celebrate three of our local teams with a platinum club accreditation.

Huge congratulations to Rumney RFC, St Peters RFC, and Old Illtydians RFC from Cardiff East on their achievement and well done to all the other clubs across Cardiff who have achieved platinum status.

This highlights the hard work, dedication, and passion of the volunteers, coaches, players, and committee members who do so much to keep grassroots rugby available and thriving.



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GRASSROOTS VENUES FUND OPENS

Cardiff Council's Grassroots Venues Fund, which has already provided over £250,000 to music venues across Cardiff, has opened for its third round of applications.

The fund will support existing venues to invest to make themselves more financially or environmentally sustainable.

[Click here](#) for more information.

CARDIFF GRASSROOTS MUSIC VENUE FUND

APPLICATIONS NOW
OPEN

SUPPORTING
LIVE MUSIC IN
CARDIFF



ROATH PARK RECEIVES

GREEN HERITAGE SITE ACCREDITATION

Roath Park first opened in 1894 and now attracts more than 2 million visitors each year. It's Victorian charm, beautiful rose gardens and of course the lake, draws people from across the UK and around the world to visit.

I'm thrilled to hear that Roath Park has officially achieved Green Heritage Site Accreditation for the first time. Supported by Cadw, this special award celebrates how well the park protects its history.

Congratulations to the dedicated and skilled staff and volunteers for all they have done to protect and preserve our local heritage.

Read more [here](#).

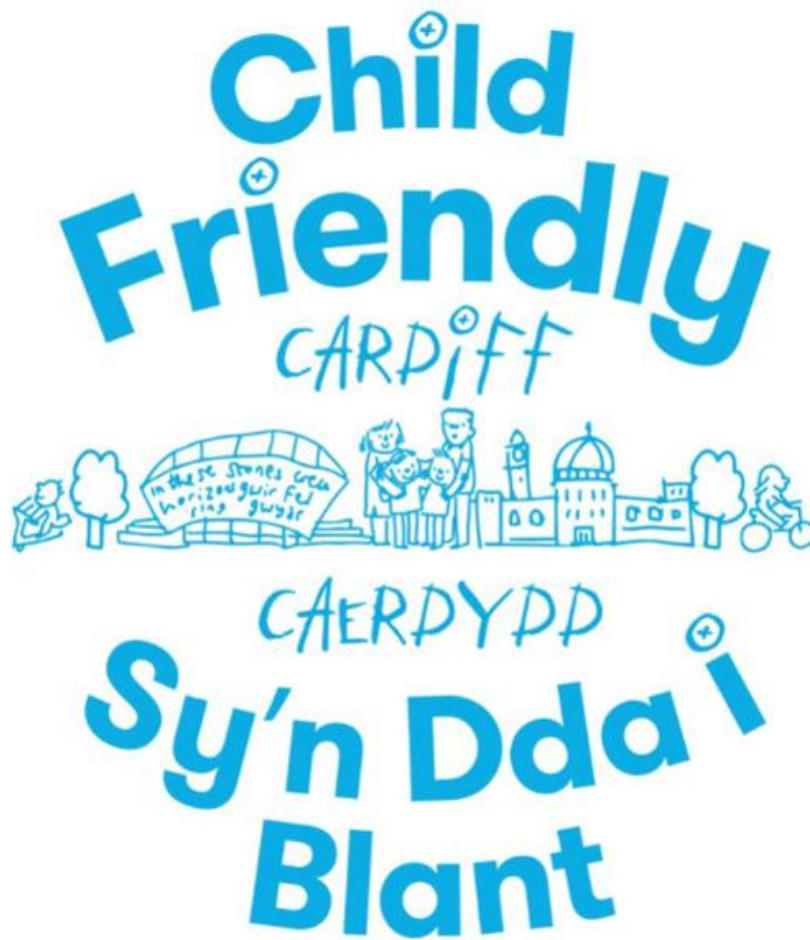


UK'S FIRST UNICEF CHILD FRIENDLY CITY

In 2023, Cardiff made history as the UK's first UNICEF Child Friendly City. Since this was secured, only Manchester and Liverpool have achieved this accreditation.

This recognises the sustained work of Cardiff Council and its local partners to prioritise children's rights across all public services.

Three years on, I'm proud that Cardiff has retained this status. I look forward to working with Cardiff Council to ensure that every child's voice is heard.



SUMMER WITH A 'DIFF-ERENCE'

Cardiff Youth Service has launched its Summer with a 'DIFF'ERENCE programme, offering a wide range of free activities across the city for young people aged 11–25.

The lineup includes outdoor adventures, sports, filmmaking, and creative workshops designed to ensure young people across Cardiff East make the most of the summer holidays.

Take a look at the events line-up [here](#).



READ TO THE BEAT

The Summer Reading Challenge is now in full swing.

This year's theme is 'Read to the Beat'. Pop down to your local Library from Saturday 4th July and explore an amazing new book collection packed with stories about music and following dreams.

Read more about the Summer Reading Challenge [here](#).



CHEWING GUM TASKFORCE

FUNDING SECURED

Cardiff Council has secured a £27,500 grant from the Chewing Gum Task Force to clean our streets.

The new funding will support the purchase of specialist spraying equipment and an innovative pavement sealant. This protective layer stops gum from sticking, making it much easier for crews to keep our communities clean.

Read more [here](#).

CIVIL SERVICE PENSION ISSUES

In recent months, I've heard from many residents in Cardiff East who are experiencing difficulties with Capita when accessing their Civil Service pensions.

If you're experiencing a problem, please get in touch with my office using the details below:

☎ 02921 329736

✉ jo.stevens.mp@parliament.uk

NEWS FROM ACROSS WALES

Serving as the Labour Party's first female Secretary of State for Wales for the last two years has been a privilege and an honour.

The essence of the Wales Office is collaboration. I am proud to have worked with colleagues across cabinet over the past two years to ensure the priorities of the people in my constituency of Cardiff East and throughout Wales have not just been heard but delivered.

As Welsh Secretary, my priorities were always to drive public and private investment into Wales, create jobs and opportunities and put real power in the hands of Welsh communities.

Wales has seen the biggest budget settlement for our public services in the history of devolution, our steel industry saved and transformed for the future, the largest public investment in Wales in history through new nuclear at Wylfa, a generational commitment of £14bn for our Welsh railways, the best local growth fund settlement of any of the UK nations and so much more.

These successes have been driven through the work of the Wales Office,

and I want to thank the entire team for their hard work and support in getting these and many more achievements over the line – the benefits to Wales will be felt for generations to come.

I am equally proud of what the whole UK Labour Government has achieved in these first two years. Together we have stabilised the economy, ended Tory austerity, lifted 550,000 children out of poverty, introduced the biggest uplift to workers' rights in a generation and created new jobs and opportunities in every corner of the country.

I wish the new Prime Minister and my successor the very best in their new roles and know that they will do a great job, alongside our new Welsh Labour leader Ken Skates, in delivering for the people of Wales.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to Keir Starmer. In just six years he has taken our party from comprehensive rejection by the country, through to the greatest general election victory in my lifetime and two years successfully leading our country through enormously challenging circumstances.

Keir leaves with the country in a much better place than he found it. A committed public servant, always putting the country first, who has led with courage and strength, restoring the UK's reputation and influence globally. I am proud to have served under him, and to call him my friend.

A RECORD OF DELIVERY UNDER THE UK LABOUR GOVERNMENT

DELIVERING FOR THE UK

ECONOMY

- **Living and minimum wages up**, a pay rise for millions of the lowest paid.
- **Wages rising faster than inflation in every month of this government.**
- **Interest rates cut six times**, easing mortgage costs for millions.
- **Economy stabilised after the chaos of the last government**, restoring investor confidence.
- **Six new trade deals struck**, including the US, India, and the EU, opening new markets for British business.
- **State pension up by up to £575 a year**, helping 700,000 pensioners in Wales.
- **Two-child benefit cap scrapped**, lifting children out of poverty, including 3,070 in Cardiff East.
- **Universal Credit up for the first time ever in real terms**, helping 320,000 Welsh households.
- **Tax breaks for private schools ended** with funds reinvested in state education.
- **National Wealth Fund created** to drive private investment into industry.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

- **Employment Rights Act introduced**: day-one rights, better sick pay, a ban on exploitative zero-hours contracts.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY & STANDARDS

- **House of Lords reform begun**, with hereditary peers removed.
- **Hillsborough Law passed**, setting a legal duty of candour on public officials so cover-ups can't happen again.

NATIONAL SECURITY

- **Net migration down over 80% from its peak**, with asylum hotels closing.
- **New Border Security Command** to tackle people-smuggling gangs.
- **Defence spending rising to 2.5% of GDP by 2027**, with a commitment to reaching 3% in the next Parliament.

SAFER STREETS

- **3,000 more neighbourhood police on our streets**, with a commitment to reaching 13,000.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP & CLEAN ENERGY

- **Great British Energy established**, the biggest ever investment in homegrown clean power.
- **Rail brought back into public ownership** as contracts expire.

PROTECTING CHILDREN ONLINE

- **Under-16s banned from social media**, giving children back their childhood.

DELIVERING FOR WALES

ECONOMY & WELSH GOVERNMENT FUNDING

- **Nearly £6.5bn additional spending power for the Welsh Government**, ending Tory austerity.
- **Fiscal Framework reformed**, boosting Welsh Government spending powers.
- **New Local Growth Fund**, worth over £500 million, with decision-making powers restored to the Welsh Government.

JOBS, CLEAN ENERGY & INVESTMENT

- **New nuclear at Wylfa**, with 3,000 direct jobs plus thousands more in the supply chain.
- **Two AI Growth Zones in North and South Wales**, creating up to 8,000 jobs.
- **£14bn plan for Welsh rail**, unlocking 12,000 jobs.
- **5,000 jobs from floating offshore wind** off the Welsh coast.
- **25,000 jobs in Welsh Freeports and Investment Zones.**
- **Over £600m for Port Talbot**, securing the future of Welsh steelmaking and 5,000 jobs.
- **£790m for City & Growth Deals**, creating 8,500 jobs so far and on track to create 40,000.
- **New employment support trailblazer schemes launched**, with employment support funding devolved to the Welsh Government to help get people back into work.

NATIONAL SECURITY

- **Defence Growth Deal worth over £50m, plus a pay rise for 3,000+ Welsh armed forces personnel and an expanded Valour programme for veterans.**

SAFER COMMUNITIES

- **£140m to keep coal tips safe**, after years of refusals by previous governments.



BUILDING A NEW ELECTRIC ARC FURNACE IN PORT TALBOT

Securing Welsh steel at Port Talbot was my top priority as Secretary of State for Wales. It was the place I visited more times than anywhere else in that role.

As chair of the Tata Steel Transition Board, I am proud we delivered over £120,000 to support steelworkers and the steelmaking community.

This month, I was back again to inspect progress on the new electric arc

furnace. This landmark project is part of a £1.5 billion green steel plan, jointly funded by Tata Steel and the UK Labour Government to safeguard jobs.

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

GE AEROSPACE

DELIVERING NEW WELSH JOB

A new £750 million agreement between the UK Labour Government and GE Aerospace in Nantgarw will bring a significant boost in airline engineering to Wales, securing highly skilled jobs and driving long-term economic growth in the region.

This milestone is a direct result of the incredible work done by my talented team at the Wales Office to develop and promote Brand Wales on the global stage.

I hope this work will continue to build momentum, delivering further investment and success for communities across Wales in the coming months and years.

Watch my video [here](#).

LOCAL NEWS FUND LAUNCHED

The UK Labour Government's Local News Fund has launched, offering grants of up to £125,000 to support local news outlets.

This critical funding aims to protect public interest journalism and combat the growth of "news deserts" in communities. Independent publishers can use these resources to innovate, safeguard community reporting, and ensure vital stories continue to be told.

Find out more [here](#).

NORTH WALES HOST OF EURO UNDER-19S

Hosting the UEFA Under-19 Euros has been absolutely brilliant for North Wales.

Over £1 million in funding has transformed grassroots grounds like the Oval and Central Park, creating top-tier sports facilities that will benefit local young people for generations to come.

Beyond the pitch, the tournament provided a vital economic boost for the local hospitality sector and small businesses.

COMMUNITY UNION CONFERENCE

It was an honour to speak at Community Union's biennial conference in Newport about how our UK Labour Government is backing our steel industry and specifically supporting Welsh steelworkers.

This important progress we are delivering would not be possible without our trades unions.

By working in partnership, we have successfully introduced the biggest upgrade in workers' rights and protections in a generation through the landmark Employment Rights Act.

Together, we are also securing our industrial future, backing communities through our UK Steel Strategy, the Port Talbot deal, and £122 million in Transition Board funding.

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT

NEW LABOUR PRIME MINISTER

On the steps of Downing Street, the new Prime Minister, Andy Burnham set out his vision to get our country believing in itself once again.

We have achieved so much in the first two years of a UK Labour

Government, but we know we must go further to deliver the change people voted for in July 2024.

We will build a fairer, new economy where we put life's essentials back under stronger public control and make them affordable again. Andy has also pledged to give people some breathing space right now, taking decisive action on the cost of living to put money back into people's pockets.

The next chapter of this UK Labour Government will focus on practical problem-solving to restore hope, build a fairer country, and ensure no community is left behind.



UK INFLATION FALLS AGAIN

Falling inflation is good news families across Cardiff East, but we know there is still more to do to give people the breathing space they need.

Our UK Labour Government remains relentlessly focused on easing the cost of living and putting more money in people's pockets.



UK INFLATION FALLS MORE THAN EXPECTED TO 2.6% IN JUNE



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HILLSBOROUGH LAW

The Hillsborough disaster is engrained in our national consciousness for the tragedy of 97 lives lost and the disgraceful injustice that followed.

This month, the Hillsborough Law passed through all of its stages in the House of Commons. The legislation will right the historic wrongs, changing the balance of power so the State must always act for the people it is supposed to serve.

It will:

- Create a new legal duty of candour and assistance for public authorities and officials at inquiries and investigations
- Kickstart the biggest expansion of legal aid in a decade
- Place a legal duty on public bodies to make sure their spend at inquiries is proportionate

The law is now progressing through the House of Lords. We will never give up the fight to secure justice for the victims of Hillsborough and other scandals and tragedies.

PRISONER EARLY RELEASE SCHEME PAUSED

Since 2023, prisons have routinely operated at 99% capacity. This is completely unsustainable. The Conservative government built just 500 prison spaces in 14 years.

Without our immediate action, the UK would have run out of prison places by November 2025.

Keeping the public safe will always be the top priority of our UK Labour Government. That is why we have set a target to build 14,000 new prison places by 2031, with 3,200 already open since we came into office.

The Justice Secretary has paused the early release of prisoners that was due to start in September. No prisoners will be let out under this policy until we have conducted an urgent review and done everything possible to minimise risk to the public. Where changes are needed, we will not hesitate to make them.

TRADE DEAL AGREED WITH SWITZERLAND

The UK and Switzerland have signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement, delivering Britain's most ambitious services-focused deal ever.

This agreement cuts red tape, making it easier for British firms to export expertise, securing investment, and supporting local jobs. British travellers will also enjoy fee-free mobile roaming in Switzerland and faster transit through Swiss airports.

This is the sixth major trade deal secured in two years by our UK Labour Government, boosting opportunities and growing our economy.

Read more [here](#).

BARNARDO'S' SUSTAINABLE SEWING CHALLENGE

It was a pleasure to host the Singer Sewing Machines UK and Barnardo's Sustainable Sewing Challenge in Parliament, alongside Bogod & Company, which has been based in St Mellons for over a century and is the UK's main distributor of Singer sewing machines.

Three winners were chosen from 143 fashion students UK-wide, who turned pre-loved items into something new.

The competition gave students a platform to showcase their talent while highlighting the importance of sustainability in fashion, with every piece made being auctioned off to raise funds for Barnardo's to continue supporting young people and families across the UK.

Congratulations to the three winners and everyone else who took part.



 Labour