

SPENDING REVIEW SUBMISSION 2021

INTRODUCTION:

Wolverhampton is a wonderful city with a proud history and a bright future. I am proud to be the Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton South West. I have seen first-hand our city's great community spirit and resilience in the response to COVID-19. I want to thank the Chancellor of the Exchequer for his commitment to our city, and for having taken the time to visit and see how the Plan for Jobs is delivering for local people¹. The Government has made significant investment in Wolverhampton since it was elected in 2019. Over £900 million has been secured for the city², and thousands of jobs have been protected through the job retention schemes³. Our city is the first to benefit from the Places for Growth programme, with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities setting up a dual headquarters here⁴.

As we build back better, I am determined to ensure that local people continue to be supported. In the run up to the Spending Review, I have undertaken a survey of local priorities⁵. Over 365 constituents responded to my survey, taking the time to tell me about their needs and aspirations for the future. The results affirm my five-point plan for a safer and cleaner Wolverhampton which champions the health and wellbeing of local people, protects our environment, and promotes opportunities that build a brighter future for young people⁶. We must deliver on these priorities so that we can secure our recovery from COVID-19 and unlock Britain's potential.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Anderson MP

35 Chapel Ash

Wolverhampton

WV3 0UF

01902 680 549

stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk

¹ www.stuartanderson.org.uk/news/stuart-anderson-mp-hosts-chancellor-rishi-sunak-wolverhampton

² www.stuartanderson.org.uk/investment-and-fundraising

³ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-statistics-9-september-2021

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/news/new-wolverhampton-housing-hq-unveiled

⁵ www.stuartanderson.org.uk/news/stuart-anderson-mp-launches-brighter-future-survey

⁶ www.stuartanderson.org.uk/myplan

Creating Economic Opportunities	1. Continue supporting people to get back into work while ensuring that help is available for the elderly and most vulnerable.
	2. Drive investment in key sectors of the economy to unlock more private sector investment.
	3. Level up opportunities for people in areas where it is most needed with key schemes such as the Levelling Up Fund.
	4. Deliver fiscal steps that enable high street retail as well as hospitality venues to flourish in the years ahead.
	5. Enable pubs to become the vital community hubs that they were before the restrictions necessitated by COVID-19.
Building a Safer and Cleaner Wolverhampton	1. Back the police with the resources that they need to keep our citizens safe and deliver on the Police Uplift Programme.
	2. Prioritise improve road safety and a more effective response to anti-social behaviour as part of the Safer Streets Fund.
	3. Communities and councils must be empowered to collaborate more closely on local issues and reinstate civic pride.
	4. The Lower Tier Services Grant could be extended for an additional year.
	5. A new community ideas fund to support locally developed schemes that combat issues such as litter and fly-tipping.
Championing Health and Wellbeing	1. Develop more joined-up, integrated care that is more responsive to the needs of local people.
	2. Extra investment in treating diseases like cancer, GP services, and emergency care services as well as more staff.
	3. Back measures to tackle homelessness, improve public health, and reform social care with the resources it requires.
	4. Double down on support for veterans, service personnel, and their loved ones.
	5. Support informal carers with the right support to help them carry out their caring roles.
Protecting Our Natural Environment	1. Reform the National Infrastructure Levy to deliver the infrastructure that local neighbourhoods need.
	2. A new fund for community garden initiatives, including pocket parks and allotments, to connect people with nature.
	3. Support as many homes as possible to be EPC Band C by 2035 with clear processes and incentives.
	4. Continue to invest in Winter Fuel Payments, Cold Weather Payments, and expand the Warm Home Discount.
	5. Invest in renewable energies and support start-ups to pioneer new technologies such as carbon capture.
Creating Better Opportunities for Young People	1. Recruit more providers in efforts to deliver more adult education and lifelong learning programmes.
	2. Expand the Condition Improvement Fund to ensure that all young people have access to good educational facilities.
	3. Incentivise more businesses to hire apprentices and help them to progress in their chosen fields.
	4. Release more funds via the Youth Investment Fund and launch a local artists development fund for the arts and culture.
	5. Invest in the infrastructure that young people will need to excel in life, including more affordable housing.

1. CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

The Government's Plan for Jobs has supported thousands of people across the constituency of Wolverhampton South West. 13,700 individuals have been supported through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme⁷. Over £25 million has been paid out via the Self-Employment Income Support grant scheme⁸. Local businesses have benefitted from over £84 million in government funding via the Business Interruption and Bounce Back Loan Schemes⁹. As we enter the next phase of our response to COVID-19, we must continue to support people to get back into work while ensuring that help is available for the elderly and most vulnerable. We must also continue driving investment in key sectors of the economy to unlock even more from the private sector.

80% of respondents to my survey said that it is 'very important' to secure extra investment in our city centre, help businesses, and support local jobs. We are already starting to see the impact of the £25 million Towns Fund, which sits in addition to £15 million from the Future High Streets Fund and is being used to transform infrastructure in the city centre including pedestrianisation, regenerate brownfield sites to meet future housing and employment needs and invest in skills and employment support for local people to enable them to excel in life¹⁰.

The Government must use the structural fund money that it has regained after leaving the European Union to deliver on its agenda to level up opportunities for people in areas where it is most needed. Key schemes such as the Levelling Up Fund should be delivered at pace to maximise the potential afforded by shovel ready projects for local people¹¹. 39% of respondents to my survey believe that supporting local shops and businesses ought to be prioritised in our recovery plan. The fundamental review of business rates¹² must build on the support made available via business grants and deliver fiscal steps that enable high street retail as well as hospitality venues to flourish. Fiscal steps must also be considered to enable pubs to become the vital community hubs that they were before the restrictions necessitated by COVID-19¹³.

2. BUILDING A SAFER AND CLEANER WOLVERHAMPTON

89% of respondents to my survey agreed that it is 'very important' to tackle neighbourhood crimes and anti-social behaviour. The type of crimes that people are most concerned about are road safety and speeding (54%); burglary and robbery (53%); and anti-social behaviour (38%). As a local MP, I want to ensure that Wolverhampton can become a safer and cleaner place for everyone. Outside of London, our region has received the largest number of recruits. An extra 740 police officers have been recruited in the West Midlands since 2019¹⁴. We must continue to back the police with the resources that they need to keep our citizens safe and to make our

⁷ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-statistics-9-september-2021

⁸ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/self-employment-income-support-scheme-statistics-september-2021

⁹ www.british-business-bank.co.uk/press-release/analysis-of-final-coronavirus-loan-scheme-data-shows-79-3bn-of-loans-to-1-67m-businesses-evenly-distributed-across-whole-of-the-uk/

¹⁰ www.expressandstar.com/entertainment/attractions/2021/05/18/funding-boost-for-grand-theatres-arts-park-wolverhamptons-markets-5g-rollout-and-learning-quarters-new-technical-centre/

¹¹ www.expressandstar.com/news/education/2021/07/17/mp-backing-20-million-bid-for-wolverhampton-learning-quarter/

¹² www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hm-treasury-fundamental-review-of-business-rates-call-for-evidence

¹³ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2020-06-16/debates/64FB7B06-F4C2-4E74-97B5-3868732BF311/details>

¹⁴ www.stuartanderson.org.uk/news/stuart-anderson-mp-backs-governments-crime-beating-plan

communities safer places¹⁵. We must continue to deliver on our commitments in the Police Uplift Programme. In June, Wolverhampton received £247,602 from the second round of the Safer Streets Fund to tackle acquisitive crimes such as burglary and theft in key hotspots¹⁶. Future iterations of the scheme ought to focus on interventions that improve road safety, strengthen social integration, and deliver a more effective response to anti-social behaviour.

Litter and fly-tipping is an issue which has consistently been raised by constituents. It continues to be a blight on communities and damages perceptions of the city. The Lower Tier Services Grant highlighted the importance of addressing local priorities such as homelessness, recycling and refuse collection, and leisure services¹⁷. 37% of respondents to my survey want to see council tax kept low and 35% want to see council waste and bureaucracy reduced. As plans are made for the Local Government Finance Settlement, it will be important to consider how councils can operate more efficiently while continuing to effectively address local concerns. Communities and councils must be empowered to collaborate more closely on local issues and reinstall civic pride. The Lower Tier Services Grant could be extended for an additional year, or a new community ideas fund could be developed to enable residents and councils to design and implement locally developed schemes that combat issues such as litter and fly-tipping.

3. CHAMPIONING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Almost nine in ten over-16-year-olds have received a first vaccine dose and data shows that vaccines have prevented over 123,000 deaths and almost 24 million cases¹⁸. 93% of respondents to my survey told me that they knew someone who had been vaccinated against COVID-19. 77% said that they knew someone who used a pharmacy or prescription services and 66% of 356 respondents to my survey told me that they had used a GP surgery or virtual appointment during the pandemic. Yet, 56% of respondents told me that they would prioritise improvements to GP services as the NHS recovery gets underway. In recent weeks, many constituents have contacted me about the difficulties that they have faced accessing face-to-face GP appointments. Many elderly constituents have told me that they have not been offered an in-person appointment where this would have been their preferred option. We have some great GP practices across our city, but people quite rightly want to see their GPs in person. I welcome the Government's commitment to invest an additional £4.5 billion a year in primary and community care by 2023/24¹⁹. We must use this opportunity to develop more joined-up, integrated care that is more responsive to the needs of local people. Better investment in local services will mean that we can further improve the quality of services and patient outcomes.

64% want more done to treat diseases like cancer; 56% want to see improved GP services; and 41% want to see more investment in emergency care services. Respondents would also like to see investment in better care for the elderly (31%); mental health services (34%); more staff (33%); and public health problems like obesity and diabetes (20%). We must back measures to

¹⁵ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-21/5267>

¹⁶ www.expressandstar.com/news/crime/2021/06/05/more-cctv-to-focus-on-crime-plagued-west-midlands-hotspots/

¹⁷ www.gov.uk/government/publications/lower-tier-services-grant-final-allocations-2021-to-2022

¹⁸ www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccine-surveillance-report-published

¹⁹ www.stuartanderson.org.uk/news/stuart-anderson-welcomes-long-term-plan-nhs

tackle homelessness and rough sleeping, improve public health services including in the areas of obesity and mental health, and reform social care with the resources that it requires.

I participated in the Dragon's Back Race – the world's toughest mountain challenge²⁰ – to raise vital funds for two charities: the Wolverhampton Wanderer's Foundation which does so much to help local people lead more active lifestyles and the Elysium Memorial Foundation that is seeking to set up a permanent memorial to remember those who lost their lives to suicide after serving in the Armed Forces. This includes some of my closest friends who I was honoured to serve with. I welcome the extension of the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, with a focus on mental health²¹. We must double down on our support for veterans, service personnel, and their loved ones. I look forward to the publication of the Armed Forces Families Strategy²². We must also support informal carers with the right support to help them carry out their caring roles²³.

4. PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

77% of respondents to my survey consider it 'very important' to protect our greenbelt and bring derelict brownfield sites back into use. I am thrilled that the University of Wolverhampton is the location of the National Brownfield Institute, which I recently visit and has received support from the Getting Building Fund²⁴. As a constituency in which 87% of land is built on, many constituents rightly want to see more done to protect green spaces from development and to improve the condition of local parks. It is well-documented that access to green spaces can foster health, well-being, integration, and social engagement²⁵. The Government must seize on opportunities presented by its housing reforms to build more inclusive communities. In particular, it should reform the National Infrastructure Levy to deliver the infrastructure that local neighbourhoods need, including more access to green spaces and specialist playgrounds for children with sensory needs²⁶. The Government should set up a new fund for community garden initiatives, including pocket parks and allotments, to help connect more people with nature²⁷. An extension of the Lower Tier Services Grant could assist with the upkeep of parks and respond more swiftly to arboricultural issues that are raised by constituents in rural areas.

Homes in the UK represent around 15 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions²⁸. It is important that individuals are helped to make important home energy upgrades. In particular, the Government must support as many homes as possible to be Energy Performance Certificate Band C by 2035. Processes must be made clear and there must be adequate incentives to encourage take-up of new measures. The Government should continue to invest in Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Weather Payments. The Government's intention to expand the Warm Home Discount and reach over 750,000 more households is welcome. We must double down

²⁰ www.stuartanderson.org.uk/news/stuart-anderson-mp-completes-worlds-toughest-mountain-race

²¹ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/860>

²² <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2021-09-20/debates/8780723D-A556-4258-BB4C-997ECDA43DF6/details>

²³ <https://www.stuartanderson.org.uk/news/stuart-anderson-mp-backs-carers-week>

²⁴ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-16/16959>

²⁵ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-20/4702/>

²⁶ www.stuartanderson.org.uk/news/stuart-anderson-mp-campaigns-more-sensory-play-facilities

²⁷ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-20/4702/>

²⁸ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2019-06-27/270246>

on investment in renewable energies and support start-ups to pioneer new technologies such as carbon capture to decarbonise the economy and maximise economic opportunities for the UK²⁹.

5. CREATING BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Children, young people, and communities must be put at the heart of the Spending Review. 80% of respondents to my survey believe that it is ‘very important’ to create better education and training opportunities. As a parent, I want to ensure that all children have a great start in life, with good schools, training opportunities, and personalised careers support. In our city, a new school will be built, a well-established one will be rebuilt so that it can offer enhanced facilities, and all schools in the state sector will see an increased budget³⁰. We must recruit more providers in efforts to deliver more adult education and lifelong learning programmes³¹. We must also expand the Condition Improvement Fund to ensure that all young people have access to good educational facilities and providers can make upgrades where they are needed³².

Since 2015, more than 3,000 people have started apprenticeships across Wolverhampton South West³³. Many respondents expressed support for the Plan for Jobs, including the Lifetime Skills Guarantee (64%); Kickstart Scheme (65%); and action to provide tailored support for those out of work (67%). 82% support Government efforts to get even more young people into apprenticeships so that they can earn and learn at the same time. Steps should be taken to incentivise more businesses to hire apprentices and help them to progress in their chosen fields.

Young people have been adversely affected by COVID-19, and so it is important for their needs and aspirations to be taken seriously and be delivered on. The Government must release more funds via the Youth Investment Fund to enable communities to strengthen its offer to young people and provide positive activities to do outside school³⁴. I am delighted that our city has benefitted from over £2 million in grant funding from the Culture Recovery Fund³⁵. COVID-19 has reminded us of the value that arts and culture have in the lives of so many individuals. We must find new, more meaningful ways to engage young people and whole communities in arts and culture. Consideration may be paid to developing a new, local artists development fund to unlock careers and build infrastructure in the sector³⁶. The Government must also continue investing in infrastructure that young people need to excel in life, including more affordable housing. Over a quarter of respondents want to see more homes local people can afford to buy.

²⁹ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42133>

³⁰ www.stuartanderson.org.uk/news/mps-update-august-2021

³¹ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-06/43667>

³² www.gov.uk/guidance/condition-improvement-fund

³³ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06113/>

³⁴ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/29138>

³⁵ www.stuartanderson.org.uk/news/stuart-anderson-mp-hosts-culture-secretary-wolverhampton-launch-latest-round-culture-recovery

³⁶ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-07-07/debates/FD4667EC-2BEF-4596-850A-01B325B61647/ArtsCultureAndHeritageSupportPackage#contribution-22BA8384-EE7B-4CB6-A7F7-342A44B60967>

Brighter Future Survey (363 responses)				
How important do you consider the following measures to helping our community recover from the pandemic?				
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Total
Extra investment in our city centre, helping businesses, and supporting local jobs.	280 (80%)	58 (17%)	12 (3%)	350
Tackling neighbourhood crimes and anti-social behaviour.	313 (89%)	33 (9%)	4 (1%)	350
Protecting our greenbelt and bringing derelict brownfield sites back into use.	268 (77%)	74 (21%)	5 (1%)	347
Creating better education and training opportunities for everyone.	272 (80%)	61 (18%)	9 (3%)	342
As we build back better from the pandemic, which THREE of these local issues do you think should be prioritised in our recovery plan? (355)				
More homes that local people can afford to buy	93 (26%)	Supporting local shops & businesses	140 (39%)	
Improving air quality	41 (12%)	Leisure, libraries, and culture	59 (17%)	
Keeping Council Tax low	128 (36%)	Improving green spaces and maintenance of parks	71 (20%)	
Parking	24 (7%)	Recycling and rubbish collection	43 (12%)	
More support for renters	15 (4%)	Reducing Council waste & bureaucracy	123 (35%)	
Road and pothole repairs	92 (%)	Caring for the elderly and vulnerable	88 (25%)	
School place provision	7 (2%)	Protecting green spaces from development	79 (22%)	
Improving access to transport	15 (4%)	Tackling congestion	18 (5%)	
Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour	131 (37%)			
Have you or a member of your family used any of the Government's job support and retention schemes, such as furlough or self-employed grants? (355)				
I have	35 (10%)	A family member has	54 (15%)	No
				266 (75%)
How important do you consider the following measures to support jobs and help people into work:				
	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Total
Providing tailored, personalised support for people who are out of work to help find a job	238 (67%)	106 (30%)	9 (3%)	353
Getting more young people into apprenticeships so they can earn and learn	286 (82%)	57 (16%)	7 (2%)	350

Creating a Lifetime Skills Guarantee, helping adults get the skills they need for the jobs they want	227 (64%)	112 (32%)	12 (3%)	352
A jobs Kickstart scheme, subsidising employment for 16–24-year-olds at risk of long-term unemployment	228 (65%)	104 (30%)	17 (5%)	349
Has anyone you know used any of the following NHS services during the pandemic? (356)				
Coronavirus vaccination	330 (93%)	Local or Nightingale Hospital	60 (17%)	NHS 111 hotline 74 (21%)
GP surgery or virtual appointment	235 (66%)	Pharmacies or prescription services	274 (77%)	Drop-in clinics 33 (9%)
NHS social care or health visitor	32 (9%)	Coronavirus testing at home	179 (50%)	Coronavirus testing at walk-in or drive through site 147 (41%)
Other	14 (4%)	No, I have not used any NHS facilities	6 (2%)	
As we build back better from the pandemic, which THREE would describe your priorities for our NHS? (354)				
Treating the elderly	110 (31%)	Treating diseases like cancer	227 (64%)	Public health problems like obesity and diabetes 70 (20%)
Maternity care	11 (3%)	Improving GP services	198 (56%)	Emergency care services 146 (41%)
More staff	118 (33%)	Mental health services	121 (34%)	Measures to tackle Coronavirus 51 (14%)
Have you witnessed or experienced any crime or antisocial behaviour? (343)				
Yes	146 (43%)	No	197 (57%)	
How safe do you feel walking around your local area? On a scale of 0-10, where 0 is extremely unsafe and 10 is extremely safe.				
0	7 (2%)	1	3 (1%)	3 20 (6%)
2	18 (6%)	4	16 (5%)	5 40 (12%)
6	24 (7%)	7	61 (19%)	8 93 (29%)
9	38 (12%)	10	24 (7%)	
Which TWO of the following are you most concerned about in your local neighbourhood? (351)				
Anti-social behaviour	133 (38%)	Knife crime	52 (15%)	Burglary & robbery 186 (53%)
Road safety and speeding	190 (54%)	Domestic Violence	5 (1%)	Drug-related crime 102 (29%)
Other please state	27 (8%)			