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TRUDY HARRISON MP
Member of Parliament for Copeland



News

Join me for National Apprenticeship Week session



Next week is [National Apprenticeship Week](#) and I am delighted to be supporting this important annual week of celebration by championing apprenticeships here in Copeland.

On Thursday, February 10, I am thrilled to welcome Alex Burghart MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills, to an [online session](#) where we will speak with apprentices and providers from across Copeland to share their experiences and to provide first-hand information and advice on the opportunities apprenticeships provide.

Joining us for the discussion will be apprentices and providers from a range of sectors, including nuclear, utilities, health, leisure and tourism. The session will be broadcast on [Facebook Live](#) at 9am and will remain on my feed to be viewed afterwards.

Please get involved by submitting your apprenticeship-related questions to me and the panel in advance (to Trudy.harrison.mp@parliament.uk before 5pm on Monday, February 7) and if there are any questions we don't have time to answer during the session, we will send a direct response via email.

COVID-19 business grants available

The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant and the Additional Restrictions Grant (for business affected by the Omicron variant) are currently available from both Copeland Borough Council and Allerdale Borough Council.

For more information on eligibility criteria and to apply, visit [Copeland's website](#) and [Allerdale's website](#).

Progress for nuclear financing changes

I am pleased that the Nuclear Energy (Financing) Bill was passed by the House of Commons.

The Bill will facilitate investment in new nuclear using the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) model, in which consumers will contribute to the cost of new nuclear power projects during the construction phase. This will encourage a greater diversity of private investment and, ultimately, lower the cost of financing new nuclear and reducing the cost to consumers.

The Bill has now had its third and final reading in the House of Commons (passing by 458 votes to 53) and it will now be considered by the House of Lords. If they have any amendments or recommendations, it will return to the Commons for consideration, otherwise it will go for Royal Assent.

I [wrote to Greg Hands MP](#), Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth, to offer my support for the Bill in November.

Support to help your business grow

The Help to Grow scheme, funded by the Government, is a fantastic initiative that can help business owners or managers take their organisations to the next level.

It is split into two strands:

- [Help To Grow: Management Course](#) supports senior managers of small and medium sized businesses to boost performance, resilience and long-term growth. Run over 12 weeks in a combination of in-person and online learning,

the course is accredited by the Small Business Charter and is funded 90 per cent by the Government.

- [Help To Grow: Digital](#) offers eligible businesses discounts of up to £5,000 off approved digital accounting software. Businesses can also access free specialised advice on how to choose the right digital technologies to boost their growth and productivity.

Farming funding now available

Grants of up to £500,000 are now available for farmers, growers and agricultural contractors to invest in robotics and technology to boost farm and horticulture productivity.

Under Defra's £27m Farming Investment Fund, the Improving Farming Productivity Grant will pay up to 40 per cent of the cost of initiatives that increase productivity and protect the environment. This can range from slurry treatment equipment, to robotic weeding and harvesting, to ventilation control systems for buildings.

[Applications are now open](#) and the window closes on March 16. Further themed grants through the Farming Investment Fund will open later this year.

Applications open for community funding

The Community Partnerships of [Mid-Copeland](#), [South Copeland](#) and [Allerdale](#) each have £1m of grant funding available annually as the areas participate in the siting process for a geological disposal facility (GDF). Further information and application details are available on the partnerships' respective websites.

Resources for mental health support

A [new website](#) has been launched by the West Cumbria Mental Health Partnership to help offer mental health support to residents in Copeland and Allerdale.

Stunning footage now available



Some stunning footage of our towns and villages has been released by Copeland Borough Council as part of the Government's 'Welcome Back' scheme.

The council is making the videos available to businesses, employers and tourism organisations to promote our area.

View the videos at the below links, and more information on the project is available [from the council](#).

- [Welcome Back to Copeland](#)
- [Welcome Back to Millom](#)
- [Welcome Back to Whitehaven](#)
- [Welcome Back to Egremont](#)
- [Welcome Back to Cleator Moor](#)
- [Welcome Back to Copeland's Rural Villages](#)

In the community



It's been a pleasure to attend a number of visits and events in the community over the past month. This has included question-and-answer sessions with the pupils at [Keswick School](#) and St Herbert's School, and meeting the team and touring the headquarters of [Keswick Mountain Rescue Team](#).

Consultations and events

- Copeland Borough Council is inviting feedback on the draft of its Local Plan, which will shape how the borough is developed in the future. Read further details and complete an [online survey](#) before the February 21 deadline.
- Cumbria County Council is inviting Keswick residents to give their feedback on a parking management scheme proposed for the 'back streets' area. Read further details and complete an [online survey](#) before the March 6 deadline.
- A [new website](#) has been launched providing more information on the local government reorganisation process in Cumbria, which is replacing the current structure with two unitary councils.
- The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is holding a public consultation into proposals to phase out single-use plastics. Read further details and complete an [online survey](#) before the February 12 deadline.
- The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is holding a public consultation into proposals to access to nature and safeguarding England's protected landscapes for future generations to enjoy. Read further details and complete an [online survey](#) before the April 9 deadline.

Grants and support

My website has a page dedicated to the various streams of [grants and support](#) that are available within the Copeland constituency. This includes grants for businesses, museums, music venues and community groups.

Newsletters

I also offer two other newsletters - covering the nuclear and tourism sectors - that contain a wealth of news and information from myself and the industry.

Please view the [nuclear](#) and [tourism](#) newsletters and I hope you find them interesting. To receive them directly, please email me on trudy.harrison.mp@parliament.uk

Additionally, I write a column in *The Mail* every week and in *The Whitehaven News* every four weeks, both of which are also available at [my website](#).



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