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**TRUDY HARRISON MP**

**Member of Parliament for Copeland**



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## News

### **Check eligibility for grants**

I would like to alert residents and businesses to a range of funding streams that you may be eligible for.

I have a [Grants and Funding](#) section on my website, which is updated with links and application details each time a new grant becomes available.

Recent additions have included the [Adding Value Grant](#), from Defra, which is available to growers or producers to add value to products once they have been harvested or reared; and the [Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund](#), to allow venues to improve displays, enhance collections and make exhibitions more accessible to visitors.

The webpage also includes grants for businesses, schools, libraries and music venues, in addition to a section for grants promoting energy-saving and sustainability, and I encourage everyone to consider visiting my website to investigate what you may be eligible for.

### **Food Strategy launched**

The Government's new [Food Strategy](#) is good news for farmers, food producers and consumers here in Copeland.

With plans to boost food production in key sectors, drive innovation and harness new technology, the Strategy will support domestic production, create jobs and grow our local economy.



It also sets out the importance of maintaining and boosting food security, including plans to strengthen the resilience of our supply chains and boost domestic production to help protect against future economic shocks and crises.

From spending on innovation, to releasing additional visas for seasonal workers and creating career pathways in the sector, the announcements will provide a real boost.

### **Community Ownership Fund opens for applications**



The second round of of the Government's Community Ownership Fund is now open.

Groups in Copeland can apply to the £150m fund to protect venues in their area that could otherwise be lost forever.

This Levelling Up funding allows groups to take control of - or redevelop - assets including historic buildings, community centres, pubs and sports facilities.

The deadline to submit an [expression of interest](#) is July 29, 2022.

### **Apply for Help to Build**

The Government's [Help to Build](#) scheme is now open for applications.

The scheme makes self- and custom-build an affordable option for home ownership and is one of many schemes by the Government to help people on to the housing ladder.

### **Broadband funding available**

Up to £2 million of additional funding from Cumbria County Council is now available to help homes and businesses in rural areas of Cumbria get access to much faster and more

reliable internet connections.

Vouchers from the Government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS) are currently available in Cumbria to subsidise the costs of bringing gigabit broadband to areas suffering with slow speeds.

For more information and to apply, visit [Cumbria County Council's website](#).

### **Pension Credit available**

I am supporting a campaign to encourage those eligible to apply for Pension Credit to help with the cost of living.

Pension Credit is a top-up for vulnerable pensioners, worth an average of £3,300, and while there are 1,698 claimants in Copeland, there remains 25 per cent of people entitled to this support who do not claim it.,

I am encouraging those who are eligible to access this support by visiting the [website](#). Alternatively, telephone the Freephone Pension Credit claim line on: 0800 99 1234

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## **In the community**

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What a treat it was to spend time at [Market Street Bedding Plants](#) in Millom as part of British Flowers Week.

It's clear that the venture is a labour of love for owners Graham and Jane Bradley, with Graham's sisters Diane Vernon and Wendy Craik working alongside them.

What began as a small plant-stall, started by Jane as a hobby back in 2014, has grown into a popular family business with a loyal customer-base who enjoy the personal service on offer. Their displays and hanging baskets can be found across Millom, including at schools, Lapstone House, and at the cenotaph.

- My website contains a [diary](#) of the Copeland-related visits and meetings I am involved in each month.

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## Consultations and events

- Copeland Borough Council has announced changes to its kerbside recycling collection service from October; with two bins replacing the current boxes/bag system. Further information is [available online](#).
- Cumbria County Council has announced a [programme of events](#) across the county over the summer holidays.
- The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has launched a consultation on the benefits and challenges presented by the rise in short-term and holiday lettings. View the consultation and [complete an online questionnaire](#) before the September 21 deadline.

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## Grants and support

My website has a page dedicated to the various streams of [grants and support](#) that are available within the Copeland constituency.

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## 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](mailto: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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