



## Agriculture

Our countryside is one of our great assets and farmers do a huge amount to look after it.

I have regular meetings with the local branch of the National Farmers' Union.

I also took my colleague, who is Shadow Agriculture spokesman, to meet some of our fantastic local food producers: Kelly Turkeys, Missing Gate Vineyard and Maldon Oysters.

## Foreign Affairs

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have held the Government to account over its efforts to counter Russian disinformation, its policy on the Middle East, and the appointment of Peter Mandelson as Ambassador to Washington.

I am Vice Chair of the All-Party Group for Ukraine and have regularly raised the need to increase support for Ukraine in Parliament. I am also a Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, which has members from 56 countries.



WATCH: JOHN QUESTION SIR OLLY ROBBINS ON VETTING FAILURES



## Policing

I have regular meetings with the Essex Police District Commander for Maldon and Chelmsford, Chief Inspector Aaron Homatopolous, to discuss local policing issues as well as the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst.

I am continuing to press the Government for fairer funding for Essex Police and have raised in Parliament my concern that the possible merger of Essex Police into a much larger regional force will weaken the strong links between local communities and officers and make the force less accountable.



WATCH: JOHN QUESTION THE MINISTER ABOUT THE PROPOSAL FOR ESSEX POLICE



## High Streets

Our high street businesses are facing huge pressure from increased business rates, higher employer National Insurance contributions and the rise in energy prices. Recently, I arranged for 20 local pubs, bars, hotels and restaurants to discuss these challenges

with the Chair of UKHospitality. I am also meeting other High Street businesses, and I will urge the Government to give more help in the Budget.

I also know that in recent years High Street bank branches have closed, making it hard for businesses and customers to access banking services. Given this, I called for the creation of a Banking Hub in Maldon and was pleased that a Temporary Banking Hub opened in the District Council offices in March. While this was very welcome news, I am continuing to press for a permanent high street location.



This communication is funded by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) for the purpose of assisting the MP in the performance of their parliamentary duties.

# Sir John Whittingdale MP

## WESTMINSTER REPORT

INSIDE WORKING HARD FOR MALDON CONSTITUENCY



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## Dear Resident

It is a privilege to serve as your Member of Parliament. I have always sought to put the interests of my constituents first, currently as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and also during my time in the last government as a member of the Cabinet and Minister.

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful area, but there are still big challenges as a result of the rising cost of living, the pressures on businesses, and the increasing strain on our transport infrastructure, health services and schools caused by the amount of housing development.

In this Report, I set out what I have done to ensure that the voice of my constituents is heard, both in Parliament and by Government. In addition, I am always happy to hear from anyone who feels that I can help and would encourage you to contact me by email: [john.whittingdale.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:john.whittingdale.mp@parliament.uk) or by coming to one of my regular advice sessions.

*John Whittingdale*

**Sir John Whittingdale MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Maldon**

**SINCE JULY 2024**

NUMBER OF SURGERY  
APPOINTMENTS

272



NUMBER OF  
VOTES IN  
PARLIAMENT

259



**SIGN UP FOR  
MY EMAIL  
NEWSLETTER.  
SCAN THE QR CODE**

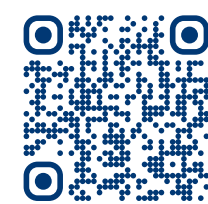
CONTRIBUTIONS IN  
DEBATES

154



NUMBER OF CASES DEALT  
WITH BY ME AND MY TEAM

11348



# Working for you

**I am focused on the issues that matter most to you and your family. From securing better healthcare outcomes to ensuring the Government hears residents' concerns about local infrastructure, to championing the interests of local businesses, I am committed to representing Maldon.**

## Health Services

**The decision of our local Integrated Care Board to close St Peter's Hospital, Maldon, was reversed following the public meeting that I organised in the town and the campaign mounted by Save Maldon Medical Services.**

I am now working closely with the new ICB and am pleased that essential maintenance work is taking place to allow outpatient services to continue in the existing building. I am also pleased that the ICB has made their bid for a new

Neighbourhood Health Centre, at St Peter's, its top priority for Essex. I have made the case for this in Parliament and in private meetings with Ministers. At the same time, I strongly support the turnaround strategy for Broomfield Hospital and plans to improve primary care with a new Health Centre in Heybridge, the relocation of the Blackwater Medical Practice and expanded facilities in the Dengie Peninsula.



## Housing development

**I recognise the need for new houses, but I am very concerned about the amount**

**of development being proposed.**

We already have around 3,000 houses being built in Maldon and Heybridge and plans for 1,000 more in South Woodham Ferrers. However, in 2024 the Government increased the housing requirements for Chelmsford City and Maldon District areas by over 50 per cent and almost 100 per cent respectively.



As a result, both Councils are having to identify new sites for development. This is made more difficult by the Government's decision to scrap the A12 widening scheme. I will continue to oppose large-scale development without the necessary infrastructure improvement and have written to the Planning Inspector to oppose plans for more houses in Althorne, Southminster and Maldon Hall Farm.

## Local Government Reform

The Government has proposed the creation of a new Mayor for Essex and the amalgamation of the County Council, District Councils and Borough Councils into five new unitary authorities, one of which will cover both Maldon and Chelmsford, as well as Brentwood.

This is likely to take a lot of time and resources and will mean that decisions are taken more remotely in the future. The election for a new Mayor has already been postponed from this year to 2028 and there is still uncertainty about whether elections for the new authorities will actually happen next May. I have repeatedly raised this with Ministers and in Parliament, sharing my concerns that

the upheaval created will add both disruption and cost, whilst giving little benefit to my constituents.



## Schools

**I regularly visit schools in the constituency and meet groups of pupils in Westminster.**

Recently, I was delighted to present certificates to the children from schools in South Woodham Ferrers who won the Children's Parliament elections set up in memory of my colleague, Sir David Amess.

I am particularly conscious of the growing demand for specialist schools to provide the right teaching environment for children with SEND requirements and am pleased that a new facility, Wolsey Park Woodham School for 100 pupils aged 11 to 16, is being created.

