

Stirling Matters - March 2021 (18th Edition)

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

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Chancellor lets-down on UK Budget

Stirling MP Alyn Smith has expressed disappointment at the latest UK Budget news, as the Chancellor Rishi Sunak fails to deliver for Stirling's communities.

Whilst the extension to furlough and self-employed support is welcome, this is something the Scottish Government has repeatedly called for to give employees and employers greater certainty. The Chancellor refused to make the £20 uplift in Universal Credit permanent, and failed to reverse cuts to Scotland's capital budget.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/03/04/uk-budget-chancellor-misses-the-moment/>

Scottish Budget deal delivers for Stirling

The Scottish Government has secured support from the Scottish Green Party, to enable budget proposals to proceed in the Scottish Parliament.

Ambitious plans to tackle the impact of Covid-19, inequality and the climate emergency will build a firm foundation for Scotland's economic and social recovery.

Plans now include free bus travel for under 22's, which will benefit young people across Stirling in terms of employment and education.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/03/08/scottish-budget-deal-will-deliver-for-stirling/>

Short-Term Let support welcomed

Local MSP Bruce Crawford and local Councillor Evelyn Tweed have warmly welcomed an announcement from the First Minister, on fresh upcoming support for B&B and short-term lets.

During a question session in the Scottish Parliament, Mr Crawford emphasised to the First Minister the importance of tourism to Stirling's local economy, and enquired regarding specific sectoral support.

Details of the new support scheme will be announced in due course.

Read more here:

<http://www.brucecrawford.scot/stirling-politicians-welcome-support-for-short-term-lets/>

Stirling sees rise in unemployment support claims

Official figures from the House of Commons Library have shown a significant increase in the number of claimants of unemployment benefits

(Universal Credit and Jobseekers Allowance) in the Stirling area when January 2020 is compared with January 2021.

Alyn Smith MP has once again called on the UK Government to act.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/02/24/stirling-based-unemployment-claimants-increase-by-79-since-lockdown/>

Short-Term Let law rethink is welcome, says Stirling MP

Local Stirling MP Alyn Smith has backed a Scottish Government decision to withdraw proposed legislation aimed at regulating short-term lets, to allow further consultation.

News of the pause will be welcomed by rural businesses, particularly as focus turns to recovery from the pandemic.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/02/24/stirling-mp-welcomes-further-think-on-short-term-let-laws/>

Applications welcome to new food & drink fund

Stirling MP Alyn Smith and local councillor Evelyn Tweed have urged local Stirling businesses to consider applications to the new Regional Food Fund.

The scheme, run in collaboration with industry, aims to support Covid-19 recovery and support local businesses. Applications close 15th March 2021.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/02/24/stirling-projects-urged-to-apply-for-new-food-drink-fund/>

Stirling MP Backs Local Infrastructure Rethink

Stirling MP Alyn Smith has called for a rethink on local infrastructure projects and spending, following conversations with key stakeholders on the Viewforth Link Road project.

In a letter to Stirling Council Chief Executive Carol Beattie, Mr Smith emphasises that any future projects must take post-pandemic life into consideration.

Find out more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2021/03/02/stirling-mp-backs-local-infrastructure-rethink/>

Bruce delivers budget summary to Parliament

Stirling SNP MSP Bruce Crawford has delivered what could be his final speech as Convener of the Finance & Constitution Committee to the Scottish Parliament, bringing to a close his 5-year term in the dynamic role.

In his speech, Bruce underlined the challenges faced by the future Scottish Government, in recovery from the pandemic and tackling deeply-felt inequalities.

Watch it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/BruceCrawfordSNP/posts/1610129239178602>

For further help & support, visit:

NHS Inform: COVID-19

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

Scot Gov:Business Support

<https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/>

Stirling Council: Guidance

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/planning-building-the-environment/emergencies-emergency-planning/coronavirus/>