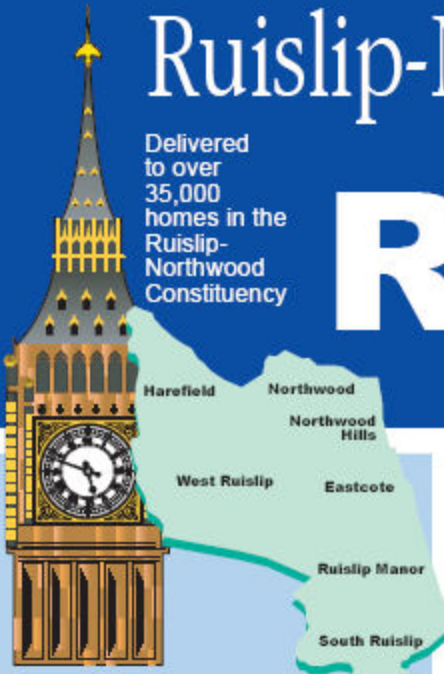


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WESTMINSTER Report

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Nick Hurd writes...

Dear Constituent

Welcome to the third edition of my Ruislip-Northwood Westminster Report. Inside, you will find out what I have been doing on your behalf as the local MP; from trying to save local health services from closure, to attempting to rejuvenate our high streets. I hope you will find it of interest.

If you would like me to take up an issue on your behalf, please do get in contact using the details on page 4.

Nick Hurd

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GIVE US A FAIR DEAL WHY SHOULD WE PAY?



Nick Hurd MP and John Randall MP (Uxbridge) outside the Home Office

RUISLIP-NORTHWOOD MP, Nick Hurd, is supporting Hillingdon Council in its campaign to get a fairer answer to the question of "Who pays for asylum seekers in Hillingdon?"

Hillingdon Council has been forced to raise council tax by 1% to fund the £1.2 million cost of supporting 152 asylum seekers, who have exhausted all appeals and legally have no right to be in the country.

Nick Hurd said, "Hillingdon Council is happy to fulfill its duty to support people in these unfortunate circumstances, but why should local residents pay for the failure of the Home office to do its job? I believe it is the responsibility of national government to meet these costs."

Actions so far:

- The three Hillingdon MPs have sent a joint letter to the Home Secretary, calling for the Council to be "reimbursed the full costs of providing such support".
- Nick has tabled a cross-party Early Day Motion on Supporting Failed Asylum Seekers. The EDM recognises that Local Authorities have a statutory obligation to provide support services for asylum seekers that have exhausted all appeals on their applications and states that the Home Office has failed to deport many of these individuals. It also points out that there is a particular pressure on Hillingdon due to its proximity to Heathrow Airport; and calls on the Government to remunerate councils fairly for the costs of supporting asylum seekers who have exhausted all appeals.
- Nick has worked closely with John Randall MP (Uxbridge) to raise the issue on the floor of the House, with the Shadow Immigration Minister Damien Green MP and the media.
- Nick has also highlighted the issue on BBC London News.