

**North Yorkshire Council**  
**Selby and Ainsty Area Committee**

**19 March 2026**

**Updates from the Area Committee's MPs**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To provide updates on the work of the Area Committee's MPs.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 Members have requested updates from the Area Committee's MPs at meetings where possible.

**3.0 KEIR MATHER MP**

3.1 Keir Mather MP was unable to attend the meeting and so a written update is attached at Appendix A.

**4.0 SIR ALEC SHELBROOKE MP**

4.1 Sir Alec Shelbrooke MP was unable to attend the meeting and so a written update is attached at Appendix B.

**5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

a) That Members note the updates and raise any queries related to them.

**APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Written update from Keir Mather MP.

Appendix B – Written update from Sir Alec Shelbrooke MP.

Report Author – David Smith, Senior Democratic Services Officer

10 March 2026

**Keir Mather MP**

Member of Parliament for Selby and Kippax  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SW1A 0AA

**Selby & Ainsty Area Constituency Committee**

18th March 2026

Dear Colleagues,

I hope the Committee has had a positive start to the new year, I'm grateful for the opportunity to provide this written update for your first meeting on my work here and in Westminster.

At the last meeting, I shared that ground would be broken on the Selby SEN school soon. I'm very pleased to report that the groundbreaking ceremony took place last month. When I was first elected as Selby's MP in 2023, I said that my number one priority would be getting this school built. I would like to pay tribute to hundreds of local SEND families who have fought so hard for their children's needs and campaigned tirelessly for this school.

I know that this school won't solve every issue with local SEND provision, and the attention of parents will have turned to the Government's Schools White Paper, which sets out reforms to the SEND system. I'll be making a submission to the consultation on this White Paper, and I'd encourage any parent who wants to have their say on it to get in touch with me.

I know that many colleagues on this Committee will have been concerned about the impact of rising SEND needs on North Yorkshire Council's budget. I'm pleased that the Government has committed to writing off 90% of councils' historic SEND deficits, which is the largest ever intervention on SEND deficits. Alongside the White Paper, the Government will be setting out how the SEND system will be funded sustainably in due course, which will protect councils' ability to support children, alongside delivering wider services.

Since the last committee meeting, several of our villages have been hit with repeated power cuts. With the support of residents, I've been holding Northern Powergrid to account for the issues across our area. I wrote to Northern Powergrid's CEO to detail residents' concerns. I welcome that, following my letter, Northern Powergrid took steps to improve power supply, with a plan to manage overgrown vegetation, as well as setting up a dedicated team to tackle the issues across our area.

I also hosted a meeting between Northern Powergrid and several local Parish Councils, to move towards a joined-up approach to tackling these issues. In the next few months, I'll be continuing to engage with our area's dedicated team, holding them to account on the improvements they have pledged. As I hope I've made clear, I clearly cannot promise that we won't see any more power cuts in our area, but I am promising to hold NPG to account until we see improvements.

Turning to the work the Government is doing to help families across the Selby area, I was very pleased to see that Selby Community Primary and Barwic Parade have joined up to the Government's Free Breakfast Clubs scheme, helping over 550 families in the town. Over the next couple of years, most of our local schools should have clubs set up and I look forward to no child having to start their day at school hungry.

The Government has also published the Road Safety Strategy, which will target a 65% reduction in deaths and serious injuries by 2035. In our area, we know all too well that safer roads can be the difference between life and death. I've been working with local groups the length and breadth of our

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area to improve road safety, so I particularly welcomed the part of the strategy that focuses on rural road safety, recognising the dangers associated with driving in rural areas like ours.

As always, my team and I continue to provide direct support to local people, including surgeries with my casework team in every corner of the constituency. I encourage anyone who needs my support to get in contact with me.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keir Mather". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Keir Mather MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Selby and Kippax**

The Rt Hon. Sir Alec Shelbrooke, K.B.E., M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

**Selby & Ainsty Area Constituency Committee**

**North Yorkshire Council**

*Appleton Roebuck & Church Fenton, Ouseburn,  
Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale & Tockwith and Tadcaster divisions.*

*Dear colleagues,*

**Re: Wetherby & Easingwold MP Update – March 2026**

I'm really pleased to be able to tell you that my updated Dementia Directory has now been delivered to every household across Wetherby & Easingwold.

The directory includes dementia-related activities and events that take place in and around the villages in our area, as well as advice for those living with and caring for people with dementia. An online version is available here: [www.wetherbyandeasingwold.co.uk/dementia](http://www.wetherbyandeasingwold.co.uk/dementia)

1.4 million people will be living with dementia in the UK by 2040 and I have been working locally with volunteers in our community to bring about one simple goal: to make our area the UK's first dementia-friendly constituency.

The directory supports this goal by bringing together details of local organisations, events and services, and ensuring those living and caring for those with dementia know how and where to access first-class services locally.

Thirty-eight years ago, when my own grandmother was diagnosed with dementia, there was little support information available for carers. I wish she could have received an earlier diagnosis so we could have found more help and advice sooner. Thankfully, the outlook for families is much better today.

Here in our area, there are some inspiring organisations that make me optimistic that dementia can be dealt with more effectively and compassionately. I have seen first-hand that this kind of support, delivered well and early on in a person's dementia journey, can lead to better outcomes.

It remains my goal to secure better services for our constituents in a dementia-friendly constituency, and I thank you for your work to help me deliver this.

*Yours ever,  
Alec*