

# Michelle Thomson MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Falkirk East Constituency



## January 2024 Newsletter



### MY MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

- Asked Parliamentary Questions regarding the future of Petrolneos
- Finance & Public Administration Committee - Budget Scrutiny
- Education, Children & Young People Committee - Education Reform, Children (Care & Justice) Bill
- Spoke in debates around the IT Horizon scandal, Women's safety, and Green Economy.
- Met with the Scottish MSP - German MP Friendship group



A very Happy New Year to all residents of Falkirk East and welcome to my first newsletter of 2024. It's certainly been a busy start to the year both in parliament & the constituency.

Despite the cold weather I've enjoyed visiting schools, business and local groups and meeting dedicated volunteers that make such a difference in our communities.

With the shambles of the Conservative Government's mismanagement of the UK economy, local households and businesses continue to be hit hard. The knock on effect of the Tory's financial ineptitude also impacts the Scottish Government's Budget and I will be working hard through the Finance & Public Administration Committee to ensure the best settlement possible can be achieved for local people and the wider economy.

My team in the constituency office continue to assist me in helping local residents with a wide variety of casework enquiries. Please see the details at the end of this newsletter if you require my assistance.

*Michelle R. Thomson*

### Michael Gove MP in the Scottish Parliament

This month, the Finance & Public Administration Committee, of which I am a member, met with Michael Gove, the UK Government Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Firstly, I pointed out to Michael Gove that UK debt is currently 98% of economic output, and the UK pays £318million in debt interest every day. Whilst Gove blamed Covid and wars in Afghanistan and Ukraine, it remains the fact that UK GDP per capita dropped from being similar to advanced economies in 1980 to falling behind to the present day.

I also asked him about Green Freeports. Forth Green Freeport, which includes Grangemouth, was awarded Green Freeport status last year. There are a number of Freeports elsewhere in the UK and it is vital that they are effectively regulated. As such, I asked Michael Gove what discussions he had with Audit Scotland regarding the regulation of Freeports in Scotland. It was disappointing to hear he had not been in touch with them, however has agreed on record to liaise with them.



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## Visits around the constituency

This month I visited

- Calachem
- Cycling without age
- Whitecross Primary School

Outwith the constituency, in my role as an MSP and Convenor of the CPG on Music, I visited

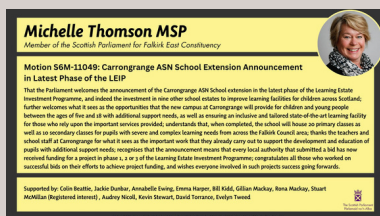
- Scottish Opera
- Glasgow University Union Show Debate



## RECOGNISING LOCAL SUCCESS

In January, I submitted 7 motions celebrating successes:

- Falkirk East's Candle Shack is an International Success
- Celtic Connections 2024
- New MSYPs Elected for Falkirk East
- NHS Forth Valley Opens New Long Covid Recovery Support Service
- The National Lottery Community Fund Supports Falkirk East Communities
- Falkirk Distillery Celebrates Release of Single Malt Whisky
- Stenhousemuir's Kandy Kid, Aaron Clark, Donates to Community Food Bank

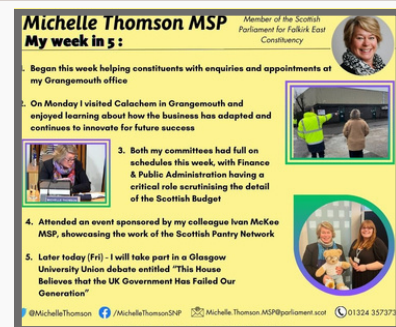


You can view these motions in full at

<https://www.parliament.scot/msps/current-and-previous-msps/michelle-thomson>

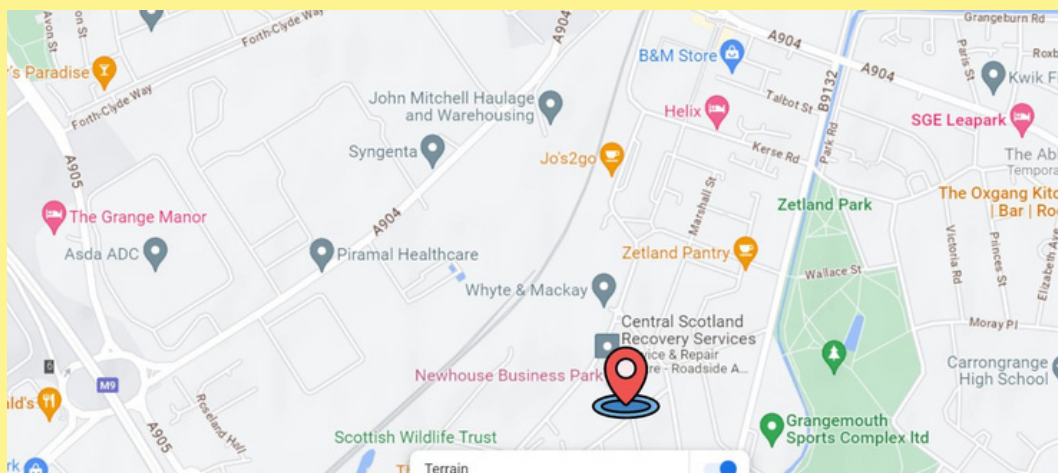
**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MY WORK AS YOUR MSP WATCH OUT FOR MY WEEK IN 5 UPDATES ON MY WEBSITE HERE :**

**[HTTPS://WWW.MICHELLETHOMSON.SCOT/NEWS](https://www.michellethomson.scot/news)**



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