

## MEDIA RELEASE

### MIXED NEWS ON UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE HENLEY CONSTITUENCY

13 August 2010

Figures recently released by the Office for National Statistics for July 2010 show that the Henley constituency (which now stretches from the edge of Bicester to the edge of Reading) has seen a drop of 245 in the number of unemployed claimants since July 2009.

The total number of claimants stood at 749 in July 2010. This represents a rate of 1.6% of the economically active population. This ranks the constituency as 643 out of 650 in the UK for the lowest rate of unemployment.

Henley MP, John Howell, said:

*"I of course welcome the news that there has been a drop over the past year in unemployment and that the constituency has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. I congratulate all those local businesses which have helped keep unemployment low in what are still very difficult times. As these figures are based on claimants it is likely that the real rate is somewhat higher. We should not be complacent or fail to recognise the impact of unemployment on the lives of those who are jobless and their families.."*

*"Let us not forget too that over the period from July 2005 to July 2010 unemployment in this constituency went up by nearly 97%. What is more there has been a worrying increase in the long term unemployed (unemployed for 12 months or more) which has risen by 65 in the past year."*

*"Whilst the number of young people (aged 24 and under) has fallen by 60 over the year from July 2009, the number is still 170% what it was in July 2005."*

He added:

*"The Government's work programme will move towards a single scheme offering targeted, personalised help for those who need it most, sooner rather than later. Claimants facing the most significant barriers to work should be referred to the newly created welfare to work programme immediately, not after twelve months as is the currently the case. A greater level of personalised support means more people moving into and, crucially, staying in work and to make sure we get the best value for money, we will also be changing the framework to increase the role of the third sector and the private sector, and reward providers based on results."*

*“At the same time, we will also make sure the system is fair by ensuring that receipt of benefits for those able to work is conditional on their willingness to work”*

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **1. Figures**

The figures, which are not seasonally adjusted, have been produced by the House of Commons Library.

The figures are:

#### Total JSA claimants

July 2005 381

July 2009 994

July 2010 749

Increase July 2005-July 2010 368 (96.6%)

Decrease July 2009-2010 245 (24.6%)

#### Long term claimants

July 2009 60

July 2010 125

#### Claimants aged under 2005

July 2005 85

July 2009 230

July 170 170

### **2. Other Oxfordshire constituencies are ranked out of 650 constituencies as follows for the lowest rate of unemployment:**

Oxford East 406

Banbury 584

Wantage 596

Oxford West & Abingdon 603

Witney 644