

Ambitious plan to build a new powerhouse

The South West Growth Charter sets out an agenda for economic prosperity throughout the region.

The charter was drawn up as a result of the South West Growth Summit at Exeter University on October 21, organised by Exeter-based Pennon Group, in partnership with the *Western Morning News* and with the support of the Local Enterprise Partnerships for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and Heart of the South West.

The campaign has gained momentum with the backing of politicians, business leaders and academics.

Pennon chief executive Chris Loughlin said: "This shows the strength of support for the growth agenda in the South West and is another positive step in terms of ensuring the Government provides much needed commitment."

Part of the Back the South West campaign, the charter supports the Government's industrial strategy and sets out how the Government can work with the region to increase investment and opportunities.

It outlines how the region has come together as a unified force to boost the region's prosperity and is asking the Government to address infrastructure shortcomings.

Sarah Heald, director of corporate affairs at Pennon Group, said: "The South West is a place where innovative, successful businesses like Pennon are able to thrive in spectacular surroundings. The peninsula is perfectly positioned to drive sustainable, inclusive economic growth."

"MPs from across the region threw their weight behind the growth charter, sending a resounding message to Government that the South West is ready for a new partnership for growth, recognising its true potential."

West MPs give 'stand and deliver' warning to the Government

BY KEITH ROSSITER

Westcountry MPs threw down the gauntlet yesterday, warning the Government not to expect unequivocal support unless it sticks to funding promises.

But they were met with platitudes and vague comments from industry and energy minister Jesse Norman in a Westminster Hall debate on the South West Growth Charter.

South West Devon MP Gary Streeter, who led the debate, said the peninsula was not going cap in hand, but would deliver economic growth if the Government delivered infrastructure.

Businesses in the two local enterprise partnerships – Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and Heart of the South West – have drawn up the growth charter, which has been submitted to Philip Hammond, the Chancellor, in advance of his Autumn Statement – or mini Budget.

The charter calls for a new government partnership with investment in digital connectivity, transport and energy systems.

After the debate in Parliament Mr Streeter said he was unhappy with Mr Norman's response. "It wasn't that I expected anything specific because we have to wait for the Autumn Statement, but in my opinion there was insufficient commitment to do with the Westcountry and our specific requirements."

During the debate Mr Streeter told Mr Norman that



in 2015 Westcountry voters gave the Conservatives an almost clean sweep on the back of promises made by the Prime Minister and other ministers.

"If the Government thinks there will be serried ranks of Conservative MPs [at the 2020 General Election], unless there is some action he has misjudged."

Mr Streeter told the minister: "We want a new partnership with the Government. We have the passion – give us the resources and commitment."

"Peripherality is our challenge, and connectivity is the solution," he said. Quoting *Western Morning News* editor Bill Martin on mobile "not spots", he said "the South West is the region where every phone call ends with the word 'Hello'."

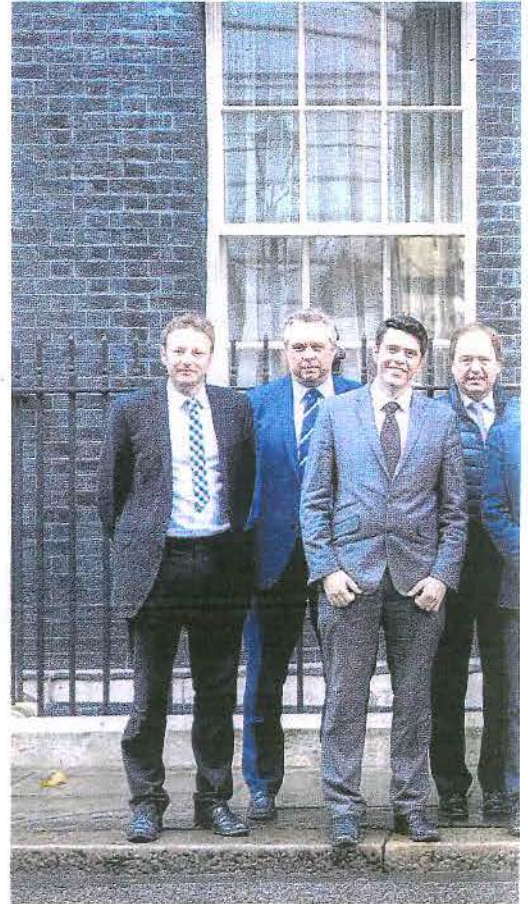
The South West is already a leader in the tourism sector, and is well placed to lead on aerospace in Newquay, marine science and engineering in Plymouth and environment in Exeter.



Conservative MP Gary Streeter

At the growth summit, Business Secretary Sajid Javid had said that hopes of devolution in the South West would depend on an elected mayor for the whole region.

Mr Streeter joked that the idea of a Western-super-Mayor had given "food for thought". Ben Bradshaw, Labour MP



for Exeter, advised Conservative MPs: "At some stage you are going to have to play hardball with the Government."

He highlighted the latest crisis to hit rail services, and said the superfast broadband roll-out had been a shambles.

The Heart of the South West local enterprise partnership is

bidding for a slice of the latest tranche of the Government's Growth Deal funding.

"In the last few days the LEP has been told it can only expect a tiny fraction of the money it was led to believe it would get," Mr Bradshaw said.

"There is a lot of anger about how we have been treated."



Business leaders and MPs take the Growth Charter to Downing Street

Politicians 'hunting as a pack' in quest for more investment

Westcountry MPs packed into Westminster Hall for yesterday's debate on the South West Growth Charter. Gary Streeter, the Conservative MP for South West Devon, who secured the debate, said there had been an impressive turnout.

"We got the message across powerfully," he said. "We are hunting as a pack."

What they said:

■ Plymouth Sutton and Devonport MP Oliver Colvile called on the Government to fund redevelopment of the city's main railway station in time for the 2020 Mayflower celebrations.

■ James Heapey (Con, Wells): "Our region feels awfully remote when there is water on the railway line."

He said improvements to the A303/A358 "have to happen with some urgency".

■ Peter Heaton-Jones (North Devon) reminded industry minister Jesse Norman not to forget the North Devon

Link Road. He said there was "talk of hyper-speed broadband. In some parts of North Devon we have no-speed broadband".

■ Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane) urged the Government to "listen and not take us for granted".

She said Somerset needed a university.

■ Chi Onwurah (Lab, Newcastle Central): "Before the 2015 General Election the Government was issuing letters of promise, and those promises have yet to be redeemed."

■ Jesse Norman, the industry and energy minister, said the Government's industrial strategy would be launched in the next few weeks and would go out for consultation.

■ Ben Bradshaw (Lab, Exeter): "We don't need a consultation document. That's what government does when it wants to kick something into the long grass."

Later Mr Bradshaw said: "The Conservatives made clear promises on rail and other investment at the last election, which helped them achieve a near clean-sweep in the Westcountry.

"Yet, today we learned the necessary resilience work at Dawlish - our top priority -

might not happen for 60 years. It's time the local Tory MPs found their spines, started playing hard ball with the Government and got them to deliver on their promises."

Johnny Mercer, Conservative MP for Plymouth Moor View, said the city was once an industrial powerhouse but had

been forgotten - "discarded after use".

"We cannot as a cohort continue to unequivocally support the Government without genuine 'spade-in-the-ground' investment in our transport infrastructure."

Afterwards, he said: "I was extremely disappointed with

the minister's reply. It is not good enough to plan another 'strategy'.

"Time for planning and promises is over, the time for delivery is now.

"As a collective group of MPs we will be judged in 2020 on that railway and I will not accept no action."

Western Morning News

THE VOICE OF THE WESTCOUNTRY

True cost of shortcomings in our rail service is clear

It made bleak reading for anyone who needed to travel into or out of the South West yesterday. The region's major train operator GWR gave would-be passengers logging onto its website the following message: "Rail passengers are advised not to travel into and out of Devon and Cornwall on Tuesday, November 22. The railway line between Tiverton Parkway and Exeter St Davids has been severely damaged and Network Rail is unable to provide an estimate of re-opening until water levels subside." Not only that, but GWR had to admit replacement road transport was limited by the availability of vehicles and by potentially hazardous driving conditions. In other words, stay at home.

It was not, to be fair, GWR's fault. The train operator is at the mercy of the tracks on which its locomotives and carriages run. And those tracks are patently unfit for purpose. Whatever the cause, whether it is decades of under-investment in the railway network or changing climate patterns – or both – the regularity with which anyone south west of Taunton finds their rail route disrupted or completely blocked is now beyond a joke. Whether it is the vulnerable section along the sea wall at Dawlish or the low-lying riverside stretch at Cowley Bridge that causes the problem – or

some other part of the track sensitive to leaves on the line, crumbling embankments or other unforeseen hazards – hardly matters.

The time lost to delays is becoming ever more damaging. It is not only inconvenient for domestic travellers – although that is serious enough. It is also a disincentive to businesses considering relocating to the South West and a major concern for those already here who rely on the train to get staff and visitors up and back from London.

It was deeply ironic that the main line should have been closed on the very day the South West rail task force delivered its report to the Government and the team behind the South West Charter for Growth took their demands to Downing Street. Some people due in London to fly the flag – including WMN editor Bill Martin – could not attend those events because of the damage caused by flood waters to the track at Cowley Bridge. The message that sends out, about a region effectively cut off from the rest of the nation and the thousands of individual passengers disrupted, definitely does matter. Mother Nature could hardly have picked a better day to demonstrate just why real investment in the South West's transport infrastructure is vital. Let's hope politicians were paying attention.



We want to hear your views

Write to us at: Studio 5-11 Millbay Road, Plymouth PL1 3LF

Email wmnletters@westernmorningnews.co.uk

Tweet us at @WMNNews [westernmorningnews](https://www.facebook.com/westernmorningnews)

On this day

- 1499: Perkin Warbeck, the Flemish impostor claiming to be Richard, Duke of York, was hanged at the Tower of London.
- 1852: Britain's first pillar box was put up in St Helier on Jersey.
- 1869: Valdemar Poulsen, Danish inventor of the tape recorder, which he patented in 1898, was born.
- 1888: Harpo Marx, the Marx Brother who never spoke on screen, was born in New York.
- 1889: The world's first jukebox was installed in the Palais Royal Saloon, San Francisco.
- 1910: Dr Hawley Harvey Crippen, who poisoned his wife to seek a new life with his lover,

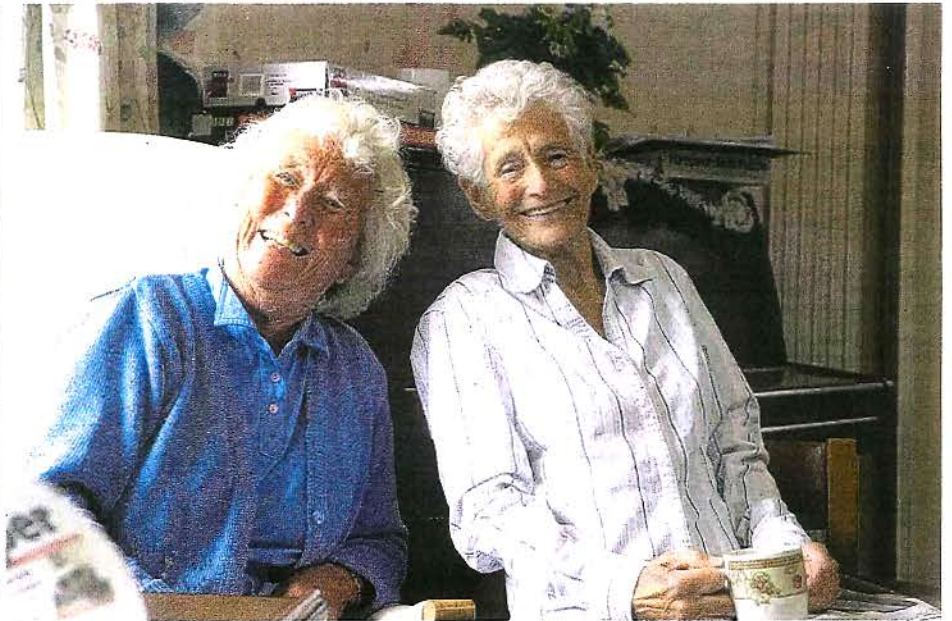
Ethel Le Neve, was hanged at Pentoville Prison.
 1963: The first episode of BBC TV serial Doctor Who was screened. The Doctor was played by William Hartnell.

Birthdays

- Alan Mullery, former football manager and pundit, 75
- Sue Nicholls, actress, 73
- Diana Quick, actress, 70
- Zoe Ball, presenter, 46 
- Kelly Brook, model, actress, 37.

Thought for the day

John 11:21 – "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died."



Good care services for people with dementia can help them stay out of hospital and remain at home where they want to be for longer

Broken home care system is failing our vulnerable people

The Government must fund dementia training for workers, writes **Debbie Donnison**

An investigation from Alzheimer's Society, part of the Fix Dementia Care campaign, has exposed a broken system that fails to equip home care workers with the necessary skills and understanding to help people with dementia living in the community.

We can all imagine spending the day at home by yourself, perhaps some people even crave the chance. But what if you were living with dementia? How would you feel if you weren't sure you could find your way back home, navigate crossing the road or remember why you went out in the first place? Might that day turn into two? A week or even a month?

Now imagine, as is the case for many of the 400,000 people with dementia receiving home care services in England that the professional carers who visit are the only people you see. It may only be for half an hour or an hour a time, to help with washing, eating or taking medication, yet the connection can affect how you feel for the rest of the day.

However the impact of your dementia means communication is a challenge – the care workers are unable to make that connection. It creates an anxious environment filled with doubt. Both sides incorrectly think they are at fault and avoid tackling the situation through fear of making things worse.

Beyond communication,

dementia can prevent someone from knowing when it is night or day, whether they have eaten or when they last used the bathroom. Daily activities that we all take for granted, like making a cup of tea or brushing our teeth, can become an impossible task as dementia advances.

Without dementia training, a home care worker may not recognise these challenges. The absence of understanding of the condition and more importantly the lack of skills and approaches needed to address and reduce the negative effects these challenges have, can cause

Charlotte described how home care workers had not appreciated why her grandmother, Jane, no longer recognised or understood when food had gone off and they failed to put mouldy food in the bin. Resulting sickness led her grandmother to be agitated and the care workers could not negotiate to help her wash. In turn this resulted in an infection, but this time the signs of discomfort and pain were assumed to be standard features of dementia.

Only when Jane was found face down on the floor, suffering hallucinations was the alarm raised. Twelve long

deal about the people they visit, but without the appropriate support they feel their hands are tied behind their back.

The majority of home care services are purchased by local authorities, who have seen budgets cut by nearly 40% since 2010. Home care providers are therefore operating in an increasingly impossible financial environment. As a result training is often one of the first things on the cutting block, which as Charlotte's story shows, is a false economy.

Alzheimer's Society is calling on Government to fix a broken system, by funding dementia training for all home care workers. Government must unlock the potential of home care services to help people with dementia stay out of hospital and remain at home where they want to be for longer.

Unfortunately this is an issue that affects people who are often unable to make their voice heard, happening behind closed doors. It is impacting lives in the South West today and it will continue to do so until Government acts. We need every reader to join our campaign and show that this is an issue that matters by signing our petition at www.alzheimers.org/fixdementiacare.

Debbie Donnison is the regional operations manager for Alzheimer's Society in the South West



Tomorrow:

Columnist Dartmoor farmer Anton Coaker gives his view on the Westcountry

seemingly trivial issues to escalate.

More than 1,200 people affected by dementia – people with the condition, their family and friends – shared their experience of home care with Alzheimer's Society, as part of the Society's Fix Dementia Care campaign. Many detailed the intolerable stress they had experienced because the care services they received failed to demonstrate an understanding of the condition, meaning people affected spent the day in soiled clothing, went without food or water or ended up in hospital.

weeks in hospital following an admission to intensive care was followed by an admission to a care home. Despite clear wishes expressed that she wanted to remain at home for as long as possible, Jane's family had lost faith in the ability of the home care sector to provide dementia care.

The Fix Dementia Care campaign found more than one in three home care workers receives no dementia training at all. The care system asks that they perform many aspects of the role traditionally performed by district nurses and the vast majority care a great