

Switching to a better Energy Deal

James Brokenshire has welcomed action to help consumers get the best available deal on their gas and electricity bills. Speaking on the BBC Sunday Politics, James highlighted a new London wide scheme supported by Bexley Council to help local households secure the best available tariff as well as Government proposals to force energy companies to move customers onto less expensive contracts.

Bexley Council is supporting 'The Big London Energy Switch' – a collective switching scheme being run by a number of councils in London to secure lower priced gas and electricity. Participating councils will run an 'energy auction' inviting gas and electricity companies to offer their cheapest tariff to those who have registered. Anyone who pays a household energy bill can take part - including tenants and customers on prepayment meters.

Provisions in the Energy Bill which is currently before Parliament will give new powers to the Government to:

- set a limit on the number of energy tariffs offered to domestic consumers;
- require the automatic move of customers from poor value closed tariffs to cheaper deals;

RUGBY CLUB DEVELOPMENTS

James Brokenshire saw the next phase of work to improve the clubhouse facilities at the Dartfordians Rugby Football Club during a visit to their ground in Bexley Village on Saturday. James also cheered on the club's 1st XV to a win in their latest home game against Cranbrook to stay top of the Shepherd Neame Kent 1 League.

Works to incorporate a new gym and a significant expansion of the changing rooms are underway as part of an extension to the club house just off Bourne Road, Bexley. The new facilities are expected to open towards the end of this year in readiness for the club's 90th birthday celebrations in 2014.



James Brokenshire on BBC Sunday Politics London

- require the provision of information by suppliers to consumers on the best alternative deals available to them from them.

James said that the Government's 'Green Deal' to promote energy saving measures such as loft insulation would also compliment the initiatives and help reduce gas and electricity bills.

You can find out more information on The Big London Energy Switch at www.biglondonenergyswitch.org.uk

Further details on the Green Deal can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/green-deal-energy-saving-measures/how-the-green-deal-works>



James Brokenshire at the Dartfordian RFC grounds

During his visit James was presented with a Dartfordians RFC tie (which James is proudly wearing in the photo above) by Club Chairman Jarrod Lawrence.

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DIARY FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

In addition to my general duties responding to constituent enquiries and other Parliamentary and Ministerial responsibilities, this week I will be:

Speaking to students at the Birkbeck Conservative Association.

Joining Cancer Research UK to celebrate their exciting new website for the '[citizen science](http://citizenscience.org)' project.

On Friday I will be assisting in an employment training seminar at Job Centre Plus, Bexleyheath. The Bexley branch for the Rotary Club run regular events to help young people in Bexley.

Making CCTV Systems more effective

I have underlined the potential benefits of the use of CCTV systems to combat crime in local communities.

As a minister at the Home office I am involved in drafting the new code which is based on the principle of surveillance by consent – meaning the public can be confident that cameras are not there to spy on them but to protect them and help in the fight against crime. It will give the public the power to hold the police and local authorities to account through greater transparency and is designed to improve the effectiveness of CCTV and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR). The code will provide straightforward guidance, helping the police and local authorities to increase image quality and boost the chances of catching criminals.

Responding to questions in the House of Commons, I stated that the Government supported the use of CCTV highlighting how it can be a very important way of bringing criminals to justice and added that the new Code of Practice was intended to ensure that its use was "effective and commands the support of the public".

WHERE YOU CAN SEE ME NEXT

Surgery Dates:

Surgeries will be taking place on the following dates:
1 March, 8 March, 22 March