

# Whitehall FOCUS

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[www.darwenlibdems.org.uk](http://www.darwenlibdems.org.uk)



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From David & Karimeh Foster, John East, Steve Duncan and the Lib Dem team

## Lib Dems in Government deliver £5.30 a week pension rise

Lib Dems in government have delivered the biggest pensions rise in history.

From April 2012, the basic state pension will rise by a whopping £5.30 per week.

This is in stark contrast to the last Labour government who insulted pensioners with a miserly 75p increase.

Pensions Minister Lib Dem Steve Webb MP said: "I hope this pension increase demonstrates our commitment of fairness to people who have worked hard all their lives."

Under the Lib Dems' 'triple lock pensions guarantee', the basic state pension will rise every year in line with either earnings, prices or by 2.5% - whichever is highest.



...the biggest cash increases in the Basic State Pension ever...

*The Telegraph*

The state pension will rise faster each year than it did under Labour

*ThisIsMoney.co.uk*

## Darwen firm to benefit from Regional Growth

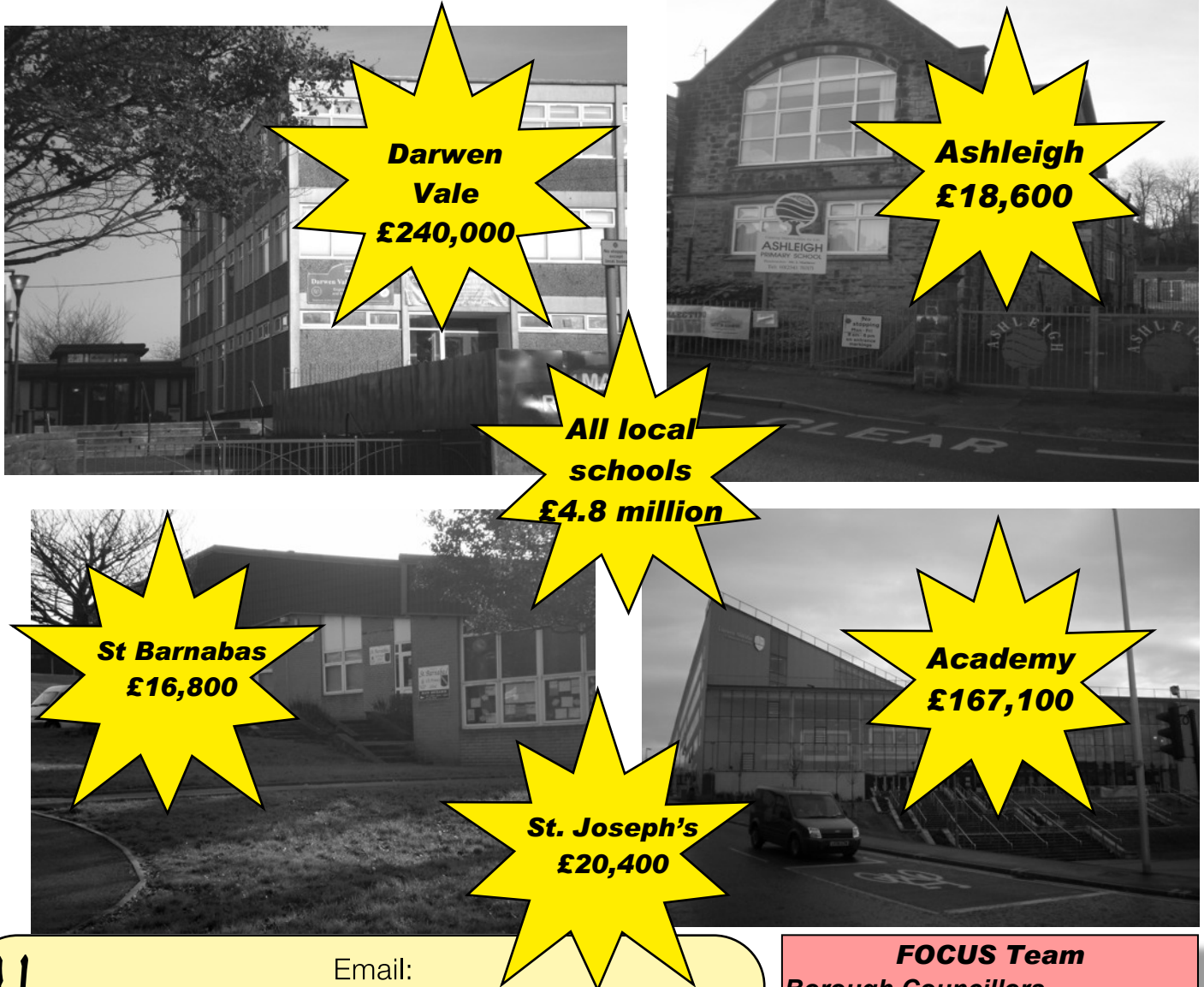


A Darwen Company will benefit from funding from the Regional Growth Fund recently announced by the government.

Lucite International (formerly IC I) will receive over £2 million to help with a £15 million investment to install a fourth production line at their Darwen factory. This will increase their production of acrylic sheeting for sanitary ware, lighting, signs, furniture, etc. This is part of the Coalition Government's £950 million national scheme which will create over 200,000 jobs across the country.

# LIB DEM'S PUPIL PREMIUM - MONEY FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

One of the key policies in the Lib Dem manifesto was the Pupil Premium, this was extra money for schools to help the education of disadvantaged schools. Despite the tough economic climate we have managed to keep this commitment. In total Blackburn with Darwen schools will get £4.8 million in Pupil Premium this year. Look at what it means for our local schools.



*Have your say...*

Let us know if there are any problems you think we can help you with.

We have a WARD SOLUTIONS Meeting at Bolton Rd United Reform Church on Thursday 19 January at 6:30 pm - all welcome.

In addition we will be having a surgery in Darwen Town Centre - outside the market on Saturday 4 Feb from 10:00 - 12:00.

Email: [david.foster@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:david.foster@blackburn.gov.uk)  
Tel. 01254 703858

## **FOCUS Team**

### **Borough Councillors**

**David Foster**

[david.foster@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:david.foster@blackburn.gov.uk)  
01254 703858

**Karimeh Foster**

[karimeh.foster@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:karimeh.foster@blackburn.gov.uk)  
01254 703858

### **Town Councillors**

**Steve Duncan**

[duncansatparkhouse@btopenworld.com](mailto:duncansatparkhouse@btopenworld.com)  
01254 702427

**John East**

[johneastdtc477@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johneastdtc477@yahoo.co.uk)  
01254 771957

### **Europe**

**Chris Davies MEP**

0161 477 7070

[chrisdaviesmep@cix.co.uk](mailto:chrisdaviesmep@cix.co.uk)