

Rt Hon Sir Chris Chope OBE MP Christchurch



Chris Chope has nearly 40 years' experience as an MP. He was first elected as MP for Christchurch in 1997. From 1983 to 1992, he was MP for Southampton Itchen.

He began his political career as a councillor of Wandsworth Council in the early 1970s. He became Leader in 1979 and helped pioneer competitive tendering and cost-cutting in Local Government, ensuring that Wandsworth could achieve the lowest council tax in the country. Chris was subsequently appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the 1982 New Year Honours for services to local government.

Chris held Ministerial office in the Governments of Margaret Thatcher and John Major between 1986 and 1992, latterly as Roads Minister. He also held shadow Ministerial posts under William Hague and Michael Howard. He was a member of the Health & Safety Commission from 1993-1997 and the Local Government Commission from 1993-1996.

Chris has held various positions in the Conservative Party: As Vice-Chairman for Local Government, he founded the Conservative Councillors' Association. He was Chairman of the Parliamentary Candidates Association between 1995 and 1997. He also served as Joint Secretary of the 1922 Committee from 2006-2012.

He chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Park Homes, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Highways, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Private Rented Sector, and the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Covid-19 Vaccine Damage. He was also Joint Treasurer of the British-American Parliamentary Group and a member of the UK Parliamentary delegation to the Assembly of the Council of Europe.