



**Damian Hinds**  
*MP for East Hampshire*

News release

10 March 2011  
For immediate release

## **Damian Hinds Welcomes Government Support of Credit Unions**

Damian Hinds, in his capacity as Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Credit Unions, has welcomed the announcement by Ministers that the Government will make £73 million available to help to help credit unions expand and modernise.

The Government also announced its commitment to making credit union accounts accessible through the Post Office network, something for which the APPG has been campaigning for some time.

Damian Hinds said

*"I am delighted to learn that the Government is going to make up to £73 million available to credit unions over the next four years and I especially welcome the Government's commitment to providing access to credit union accounts through the Post Office network.*

*Credit unions, like the United Savings & Loan in Bordon and soon now in Alton, have achieved great things in recent years working with the support of the Department for Work and Pensions through the previous Growth Fund, so I am especially pleased to learn today that new funding is being made available.*

*Credit unions have shown they can provide the financial products and services that people on lower incomes need – and want – but often struggle to get elsewhere. By linking up with the Post Office, credit unions will be able to reach many more families, making access to credit union services – such as bank accounts, bill payments, safe savings and low cost credit – that much easier."*

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Full news of the announcement can be found at  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2011/mar-2011/dwp025-11.shtml>

More information about the campaign to link the Post Office network and credit unions, and Damian Hinds support for it, can be found at  
<http://damianhinds.com/Content%20-%20PDF%20Docs%20for%20web%20site/PRCredit%20unions%20and%20post%20offices%20fmt.pdf>

For information about Hampshire's United Savings & Loan see  
<http://www.usal.org.uk/>

It has a branch on Bordon High Street and will be running an information centre in Alton from 5 April.

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