



Majority: 13,544 (27.3%) over Liberal Democrat 4-way

Description: A seat north and east of Bournemouth - with many pensioners and one of the UK's highest proportion of detached homes - recently famed for its dramatic swings: it provided the late Robert Adley with a 23,000 Conservative majority in 1992, it registered the third biggest swing in recent history (35%) when it elected Liberal Democrat Diana Maddock with a 16,000 majority in the July '93 by-election; although it reverted narrowly to the Tories by 2,000 votes in '97, even this represented a notional anti-Tory swing of 18% from the previous general election; in

'01 the biggest pro-Tory swing of the election - 12% - re-established Conservative dominance;

Position: Spokesman: Transport '02-; ex: Spokesman: Treasury '01-02; Trade and Industry '98-99, DETR (Local Government) '97- 98; on Trade and Industry Select Committee '99-01; Chairman, Conservative Parliamentary Candidates Association '93-97; on DTI Deregulation Task Force on Transport and Communications '93-97; on Local Government Commission for England '94-95; on Health & Safety Commission '93-97; Under Secretary, for Transport '90-92, for Environment '86-90; Vice President, of Selsdon Group; PPS, to Peter Brooke '85-86; on Select Committee on Procedure '84-86; Secretary, Conservative MPs' Environment Committee '83-86, Shipping and Shipbuilding Subcommittee '85-86; on Executive Committee of Society of Conservative Lawyers '83-86; Leader of Wandsworth Council '79-83;

Outlook: The ultimate ideologue of the hard-Right; a partisan Rightwinger who plays the man as well as the ball; a would-be hard-hitter whose muscles are bound to Rightwing ideology; formerly a Cromwellian company commander in the Tories' onslaught on Labour's town halls; a fervent advocate of the poll tax and compulsory tendering; a Rightwing scion of St Andrews and the Adam Smith Institute, later in the 'No Turning Back' group of Thatcherites; "specifically dry" with "hard economic liberal convictions" (Edward Pearce, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH); long part of "the St Andrews privatisation Mafia" (PRIVATE EYE); formerly London's leading privatiser of public services and proselytiser for standing up to the public service unions from his one-time Wandsworth Council base; "a man conscious that local government finance is the crucible, the cauldron, the cockpit" (Frank Johnson, TIMES); his threatened "venomous attack" had "all the serpentine terror of attack by [a] slow-worm"; a "100% record of demonstrating to the House in all his contributions...a masterly failure to grasp the issues" (Labour MP Glenda Jackson MP); anti: minimum wage, BBC licence fee, bans on tobacco advertising or high hedges, congestion charging; pro: keeping the pound forever, expelling 100% of failed asylum-seekers;

History: An acolyte of Dr Madsen Pirie at St Andrews, he was in the Federation of Conservative Students in the late '60s; with Harvey Proctor and Piers Merchant, was a member of the Universities Group of the Rightwing 'Monday Club' Dec '69; was elected to Wandsworth Borough Council May '74; became Leader of Wandsworth Borough Council May '79; steamrolling his opponents, cut Wandsworth's costs by selling its properties; boasted he had cut 2,000 employees (20%), had cut rates but increased expenditure June '82; was awarded an OBE for his services to local government June '82; was selected for Itchen, which 'Bob' Mitchell had narrowly won for Labour before defecting to the SDP Dec '82; campaigned against Labour's defence policy as likely to lose jobs at Vosper-Thornycroft; won Itchen, with a majority of 5,290 over the sitting SDP MP 'Bob' Mitchell, with Labour's John Denham coming 3rd June '83; he made his Maiden speech against any MPs' pay rise beyond 4%, saying "we must set an example" July '83; voted for the restoration of death

penalty for all categories July '83; took on controversial far-Right Harry Phibbs as his researcher Aug '83; attacked the "complacent cabal" of local government officers for "pulling the wool over the eyes of elected councillors" instead of "cutting out waste" Jan '84; visited South Africa, as a guest of its Apartheid government Jan- Feb '84; backed playing Rugby with South Africa, and increased trade with it Feb '84; claimed ILEA was "systematically wrecking education in inner London" in preparation for a "Leftist takeover" Feb '84; criticised building societies for not giving mortgages on system-built homes Mar '84; was one of five Tories seeking to make it mandatory for employers to get employees' permission before deducting political levy Apr '84; headed a motion urging action against misuse of student funds for political purposes June '84; he asked Mrs Thatcher to appeal to the TGWU to end the "pointless" dock strike in Southampton July '84; visited the USA as a guest of the State Department Sep '84; called for advertising on BBC and the fading out of licence fee Nov '84; criticised the Government for delaying orders for Type 22 frigates, causing unemployment in his constituency Nov '84; co-signed a letter claiming pre-Thatcher full employment was really over-manning Dec '84; voted against fluoridation Jan '85; had an adjournment debate on the black economy and shoddy work in the building trade Jan '85; initiated a debate urging the abolition of "outdated" wages councils Feb '85; at his behest, the Government dropped a clause from the Transport Bill to allow representations on the unroadworthiness of applicants (later restored in the Lords) Apr '85; was one of two Tory members of the Procedure Committee who favoured time-tabling all Bills May '85; introduced a Bill to transfer sub post offices to an independent licensing body, instead of "bribing" some of them to close down by "spurious financial targets" June '85; in an adjournment debate attacked local authorities like Southampton which set up "fraudulent sham" companies with ratepayers' and taxpayers' money and without accountability June '85; was one of the 13 authors of the super-Thatcherite 'No Turning Back' pamphlet rejecting caution Nov '85; elicited from the Attorney General that Lord Kagan's firm had been given 7 years to pay its fine Feb '86; asked about police powers to deal with witchcraft Feb '86; again urged time-tabling of Bills, clashing with Leader of the Commons John Biffen Feb '86; complained that supplementary benefits failed to keep up with rising costs, compelling rest-home owners to waive charges for elderly residents Mar '86; sought reassurance that the local Vosper-Thorneycroft shipyard would not face unfair competition Mar '86; complained that some petrol stations were charging 10p more than necessary Apr '86; asked how many cleaning contracts had been kept in-house despite lower tenders from outside June '86; expressed fears that Vosper-Thorneycroft might lose experienced teams through loss of orders June '86; was promoted Under Secretary for the Environment Sep '86; announced he would stop "propaganda on the rates" Nov '86; caused consternation when he suggested an Ealing Labour councillor convicted of indecency should resign, just when the House was agog with similar rumours about a leading Tory MP Nov '86; announced his support for a Whitehall reorganisation which would end the 2.8b Property Services Agency Jan '87; announced ILEA members would be subject to disqualification in cases of surcharges Jan '87; defended retrospective clauses in the Local Government Finance Bill Jan '87; denounced a Labour council which advertised for a Director of Social Services in LABOUR WEEKLY Feb '87; made concessions to Toby Jessel in latter's opposition to wildlife-destroying Government plans to clear Thames river banks up to Hampton Court Mar '87; voted to restore hanging for "evil" murders Apr '87; refused Tony Banks' request for an independent audit of the savings the Government claimed would come from abolishing the GLC Apr '87; he increased his majority by 1,500, with SDPer 'Bob' Mitchell being forced into 3rd place by Labour June '87; became responsible to Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley for PSA affairs and to Minister of State Michael Howard for poll tax and compulsory competitive tendering June '87; despite three negative reports, asked for further investigation of the possibility of private provision of MPs' new offices July '87; claimed the poll tax was the last chance to save local government finances from "an advanced state of senility and

decay" July '87; despite Treasury caution because of a falling Stock Market, urged quick privatisation of Crown Suppliers Nov '87; claimed local councils could save a further 600m through compulsory tendering Jan '88; admitted the poll tax would cost twice as much to collect but denied the need for a national identity number system Feb '88; denied misleading the Commons by refusing to admit that the PSA could have valued DHSS headquarters at Richmond Terrace for 1,500 instead of the 40,000 charged by Cluttons Apr '88; investigated transferring Crown Suppliers' civil servants to the private sector without their agreement or legislation May '88; curbed local government publicity considered propaganda by Government July '88; voted against ordination of divorced men July '89; denied security would be endangered by privatisation of Defence bases Sep '89; claimed Bill ending council house rent subsidies would establish a truthful rent pattern Nov '89; was jeered at AMA conference when he alleged bad management over escalating rent arrears Feb '90; sought to embarrass non-poll-tax-paying Militant MP David Nellist in disclosing he had registered for the poll tax in low- tax Wandsworth rather than high-tax Coventry Feb '90; saw no prospect of reversing poll tax, insisting he had experienced worse resistance when privatising the Wandsworth dustmen Mar '90; announced cash incentives to lure council tenants into private dwellings Mar '90; voted against embryo research Apr '90; after rumours held that Mrs Thatcher was unhappy about his privatisation of PSA and Crown Suppliers, was moved sideways into Transport as Under Secretary for Roads and Traffic July '90; announced compulsory seatbelts Nov '90; through his boss, Cecil Parkinson, urged Mrs Thatcher to contest the 2nd round of the Leadership contest Nov '90; announced 20 mph speed limits near schools Dec '90; announced introduction of speed limiters on all heavy goods vehicles Feb '91; with fellow Thatcherite Michael Forsyth, tried to persuade Michael Heseltine not to abolish the poll tax Mar '91; was named as one of the Selsdon Group favouring privatising the NHS Oct '91; announced regulations curbing car alarms July '91; defended screen-washing gangs lurking at lights July '91; with Thatcherites Eric Forth and Edward Leigh was listed as considering resignations over the Maastricht summit Dec '91; was punched in the face while canvassing; lost his seat to Labour's John Denham by 551 votes Apr '92; admitted the market-testing of civil service departments was pointless in view of EU regulations on retaining the same pay and conditions May '93; unsuccessfully sought candidacy for Eastleigh, lost to LibDems at by-election June '94; was selected for Christchurch, which had been lost to LibDem Diana Maddock in the 3rd biggest by-election swing '94, Nov '95; said he would oppose a single European currency Apr '97; recaptured Christchurch from Diana Maddock with the reduced majority of 2,165, which represented an 18.28% notional swing from '92; it was the only Tory reversal of a by- election loss May '97; in the Tory leadership contest he joined the campaign team backing Michael Howard May-June '97; led the attempt to deny a 2nd Reading to Labour's Firearms (Amendment) Bill to ban most handguns June '97; asked the Attorney General whether he was "aware that many persistent burglars on their seventh conviction are not even being sent to prison?" June '97; the new Tory Leader, William Hague, named him Local Government Spokesman July '97; was given additional responsibility for quarrying because his team leader, Norman Fowler, having become a 25,000 Director of Aggregates Ltd, could no longer speak on that subject Oct '97; in the Road Traffic Reduction Bill urged special treatment for vehicles for the disabled and children Mar '98; his opponent, London Transport Minister, rejected his support for more roadbuilding of the sort that was already costing 20b Apr '98; was named Assistant Spokesman on Trade and Industry June '98; accused the Government of imposing an extra 9b in tax on motorists June '98; deplored the Government's "complacency" on the problems of small business June '98; wanted EU structural funds to London councils to be allocated by the councils not "the Brussels bureaucracy" July '98; in allusion to DTI Secretary Peter Mandelson's private life he referred to the FINANCIAL TIMES as "the pink paper" Nov '98; protested late payment by Lord Chancellor's Department of debts to legal aid lawyers, noting that a debt incurred for the Lord

Chancellor's wallpaper would carry interest whilst a debt for a core legal service does not Nov '98; probed Peter Mandelson's links with millionaire Hinduja brothers Nov '98; sympathised with US "frustration" in tariff war over bananas, blaming the EU's "delaying" Mar '99; visited Japan with Parliamentary Information Technology Committee (PITCOM) May '99; visited Paris Air Show with Parliamentary Space Committee as guest of UK Industrial Space Committee June '99; he was dropped from the frontbench team June '99; was named to the Trade and Industry Select Committee July '99; voted with 15 other Conservatives against the Northern Ireland Bill relaunching devolution on the expectation of IRA arms decommissioning July '99; accused Health Secretary Milburn of post-code rationing of health care in Dorset because it was "a county with lots of Conservative MPs" Dec '99; introduced Bill to abolish the BBC TV licence fee Feb '00; sought crack-down on cannabis use which he claimed was linked to road accidents Feb '00; sought enquiry into Mohammed Fayed, sending a dossier alleging tax evasion Mar '00; accused Chancellor Brown of misleading pensioners over the date for new saving thresholds Apr '00; acted as a teller against Football Disorder Bill increasing police powers to stop football supporters travelling to matches July '00; was reported as saying the disabled, because slower workers, should not get the minimum wage; he corrected the record to say that the minimum wages penalised slow, inexperienced and disabled workers by pricing them out of jobs and that the working time directive should be abolished Oct '00; he "vehemently" opposed Bill banning tobacco advertising, saying "first they came for the huntsmn, then they came for the tobacco advertisers" Jan '01; opposed right of redress against high hedges as a threat to privacy and quality of life Apr '01; was re-elected with a greatly increased majority of 13,544 on a pro-Tory 11.7% swing, the largest of the election, finally correcting the LibDem by-election incursion of '93 June '01; rejected TIMES analysis that pro-European Conservative MPs had done better in the election, claiming that he had secured the biggest pro-Tory swing and had campaigned to keep the pound "forever" June '01; was re-named to the Trade and Industry Select Committee July '01; he voted for Iain Duncan Smith in all the leadership ballots July '01; was reappointed by Iain Duncan Smith to the frontbench as Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury Sep '01; sought compensation and Ombudsman investigation after report into collapse of Equitable Life Oct '01; accused Government of confiscation of compensation in treatment of white farmers in Zimbabwe, and in winding up Railtrack and causing some worker- shareholders to lose as much as 33,000 Nov '01; sought action to curb spread of bee disease Nov '01; welcomed Labour MP Gareth R Thomas's Bill to strengthen industrial and provident societies but opposed costs of regulation Jan '02; sought higher social services funding for Dorset's 88,000 over-65s, currently funded at 183 per person less than the national average Jan '02; alleged money for concessionary travel was being diverted to Labour-controlled areas Jan '02; raised plight of embalming firms threatened by Government regulation Jan '02; asked Home Secretary Blunkett why 30% target for repatriating failed asylum seekers wasn't 100% Feb '02; sought sanctions against Ministers who refused or gave evasive answers Mar '02; opposed higher NI contributions as an impost on employers May '02; moved amendment to cut duty on small breweries May '02; moved amendment to tax foreign lorries on British roads May '02; told Prime Minister not to use public money to fund a libel action by Transport Secretary Stephen Byers against the DAILY TELEGRAPH which had called him "a liar unfit for office in any government department" May '02; doubted higher spending led to improved health provision May '02; tabled amendment to exempt self-employed and employees of pensionable age from higher NI contributions June '02; blamed Treasury squeeze and Mayor Livingstone's hostility to the public sector for the failure to arrange a PPP for the Underground June '02; opposed higher duty on flavoured alcoholic drinks July '02; queried delay in granting arms export licences to two firms in his constituency July '02; presented a petition against Royal Parks Agency's plan to close a car park in Richmond Park July '02; raised case of a retired RAF officer in his constituency on whom inaccurate data was stored by the Criminal Records Bureau following

false use of his identity by a criminal July '02; called for "denationalising the monopoly national lottery" rather than "the dirigiste approach adopted by the Government" Oct '02; claimed industry considered regional assemblies irrelevant to the needs of the economy Nov '02; said London congestion-charging would force the vulnerable into a "crime-ridden Underground" Nov '02; complained of "enormous amount of street crime" and assaults on teachers, urging legislation "to abolish both the BBC as we know it and the television tax" Nov '02; urged Treasury Committee inquiry into regulatory failure in the case of Equitable Life collapse and organisation of a rescue by the Government Nov '02; backed fiscal incentives for low carbon fuels Dec '02; sought upgrading of South Coast trunk route from Honiton to Folkestone to avoid congestion on the M25 Dec '02; opposed Mayor Livingstone's congestion charge as an unfair tax lacking public support and pledged Tory abolition Feb '03; spoke to Road Haulage Association convention in Portugal as their guest May '03; blocked Labour MP Stephen Pound's High Hedges Bill claiming it was too wide-ranging and would apply to individual trees as well as hedges July '03; asked Tony Blair if "the Prime Minister shares my concern that two-thirds of the British people do not trust him" July '03; he was confirmed as a spokesman on Transport by the Tories' new Leader, Michael Howard Nov '03;

Born: 19 May 1947, Eastbourne

Family: Son, of late His Honour Robert Charles Chope, retired Circuit Judge, and Pamela (Durell); m '87 `Christo'/Christine (Hutchinson), fine arts archivist who worked as his secretary; 1s, 1d;

Education: St Andrew's School, Eastbourne; Marlborough College; Dundee University; St Andrews University (LLB Hons) where he was a contemporary of Michael Fallon and Michael Forsyth, and was influenced by Dr Madsen Pirie;

Occupation: Barrister (non-practising), Inner Temple, '72-; in Lord (Peter) Rawlinson's chambers; Shareholder (ex-Director), Carclew Ltd (business and parliamentary consultancy) '99-; ex: on DTI Deregulation Task Force on Transport and Communications '93-97; Special Adviser, Ernst & Young (accountants and management consultants) '99-01, '92-97; on Local Government Commission for England '94-95; on Health & Safety Commission '93- 97;

Traits: Tall; blond; specs; angular features; down-turned mouth; Boy Scout manner; exhibits a studied greyness and wooden manner; "Piers in Alan B'stard" (David Blunkett); as a Minister was "an inveterate droner", "one of the most insufferably boring fellows in the House" (Stuart Wavell, GUARDIAN); in local government was considered brave to the point of foolhardiness by his Tory friends; by his opponents was known as "Chopper" Chope, "unscrupulous and crude", "rasping and aggressive, willing to break all the rules" (a Labour opponent, quoted in GUARDIAN); "pitiless" (Frank Johnson, TIMES); Rottweiler owner;

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