

# CLLR MIKE GILES

Liberal Democrat Prospective Parliamentary  
Candidate for Earley and Woodley



16 October 2026

Yuan Yang, MP for Earley and Woodley

*By email*

Dear Yuan,

With the Chancellor's Budget on 28 October, and your new role as his Parliamentary Private Secretary, you are well placed to speak up for Earley and Woodley residents within the Treasury.

You have written about the importance of the cost of everyday essentials. I agree. Now that you have direct access to the Chancellor, I urge you to press him on five areas:

1. **Make energy and water bills affordable.** Introduce an Essential Energy Guarantee, giving every household its basic energy needs at a discounted rate, and a single national social tariff for water, so no household is left unable to afford these basic necessities.
2. **Let working people keep more of what they earn.** Raise the personal allowance and employee National Insurance threshold to £15,000, putting up to £680 a year back in the pockets of basic-rate taxpayers, and raise the higher-rate threshold to £56,000 so fewer middle earners are dragged into the 40% band.
3. **Scrap the jobs tax on local health and care.** Exempt GP surgeries, NHS dentists, pharmacies, care providers, hospices and charitable healthcare providers from the employer National Insurance increase, or fully compensate them for the additional costs.
4. **Back our universities.** The University of Reading employs around 4,000 people locally, and many Earley and Woodley businesses rely on its students and staff. The proposed £925 annual International Student Levy risks adding to its financial pressures, putting local jobs at risk and undermining its ability to attract international students. Please oppose this levy.
5. **Make data centres deliver for local communities.** The Budget should speed up investment in renewables and grid capacity, so new data centres are not left running on gas for years, and ensure communities hosting them see real benefits. As it stands, the proposed data centre at Thames Valley Park offers very little to Earley and Woodley residents. The developers need to go back to the drawing board, and I urge you to join me in pressing them to do so.

As the Chancellor's PPS, you will be closely associated with this Budget. Please ensure it delivers for Earley and Woodley. If it fails to do so, residents may conclude that you have prioritised your Treasury role ahead of their interests and the local community.

I would welcome a written response setting out which of these measures you will support and what representations you have made or intend to make before the Budget. I intend to publish this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Mike Giles  
Liberal Democrat PPC for Earley and Woodley