

14 September 2009

### **Hopkins seeks answers over local jobs threat**

Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins has written to Yorkshire Minister Rosie Winterton and Yorkshire Forward Chief Executive Tom Riordan to ask what assistance the Government and the Regional Development Agency intend to offer to Keighley-based KONE Escalators where hundreds of local jobs are currently under threat.

Last week it emerged that the firm had begun consulting with staff over proposals to close its premises off Dalton Lane where 320 workers are employed.

It remains unclear whether a further 70 jobs, at the company's call centre facility beside the factory, are also at risk.

"I was very disturbed to hear this news and am keen to ensure that whatever can be done to retain these jobs in Keighley is being done," Cllr Hopkins commented.

"I have therefore written to the Yorkshire Minister and the Chief Executive of the Regional Development Agency asking what they are proposing to do to keep KONE Escalators in the town and save these jobs.

"Collectively, the Labour Government and Yorkshire Forward have often come together to assist firms struggling in various parts of the Yorkshire and Humber region.

"I hope they are now prepared to demonstrate the same levels of generosity in Keighley."

ENDS