

A FRESH START FOR HARINGEY

*Haringey Liberal Democrats
Manifesto 2026*





A FRESH START FOR HARINGEY

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We are Ambitious for Haringey

When I first decided to get involved in politics a decade ago, it was because I had a simple ambition of wanting to make the place I call home **a better, fairer one.**

I saw an area with such opportunity, but lacking support from a distant council where the priorities seemed all wrong.

I was seeing Hornsey Town Hall, a prized municipal asset just around the corner from me, flogged to the highest overseas bidder, whilst our high street was lacking any support or investment. Meanwhile our Labour councillors were jetting off to property conferences in Cannes, and spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on a bright red, brand new council logo. Meanwhile, the Lib Dems were the only party speaking up against it. Unearthing scandals, and fighting against every poor decision.

I wanted to get elected so I could bring a different kind of politics. Like so many Liberal Democrats, my politics is born through wanting to empower an area and help it thrive, not through top-down, 'we know best' decision making, and not as a stepping stone to becoming a career politician.

Sleeves-up, get-things-done, listen, care, make lives better, bring-people-with-you politics.

As a councillor for Crouch End for the last eight years, that has been my commitment to my ward and our community. That has been the commitment from all of my Liberal Democrat councillor colleagues to their communities too - and I hope that our reputation affirms that.

It has also been my commitment to everyone in Haringey as Leader of the Opposition.

But whilst we are proud to have achieved much even as the Opposition party here in Haringey, it has often been far more of a battle than it should be.

No resident should have to put up with Haringey being the most complained about council in England for the past two years in a row. Or with council homes left damp, holes in roofs, safeguarding referrals left unread, and children's school holiday care packages only confirmed hours before the end of term. **That's not fairness.** But when you have a council that fails to communicate, fails to listen, and fails to even answer the phone, it comes as no surprise.

The problem is that, having run the council for 55 years, Labour cannot change the culture. They are part of it. They are simply out of ideas.

And now, after years of our warnings on their spending, Haringey Labour have confirmed that they will need to borrow the fourth largest amount of any council in England next year just to balance their budget. Worse still, they have no plan to bring the borrowing down.

That is why we need a Fresh Start for Haringey, led by those with a proven track record, and with the experience required to make it happen.

We need to rebuild the council from the ground up. A council designed in 2026 serving the needs of the present and the future.

The Liberal Democrats are ambitious for Haringey. We have fire in our belly more than ever before, to build a better Haringey.

A Haringey where politics and choices happen in people's homes, in parks, libraries, leisure centres, town centres, businesses, places of worship and everywhere in between. Not hidden away in brand new vanity project council offices that are costing the taxpayer £70 million. We want to bring fairness back to Haringey.

The change that's needed won't be easy, and you shouldn't believe anyone that tells you it will be - but we cannot go on like this. **The Lib Dems are the only party** ever to come close to overturning the Labour majority in Haringey, and we are the only party with the experience to lead the change we need. **This year let's finally make it happen.**

That ambition I spoke of which got me into politics a decade ago - to make the place I call home a better, fairer one - is bigger and brighter than ever. **Now it is for the whole of Haringey.**

We are ready to deliver.

On 7 May, back a Fresh Start for Haringey with the Liberal Democrats.

Yours,

Luke Cawley-Harrison

Leader of the Opposition on Haringey Council





Introduction

When Liberal Democrats speak to residents on the doorstep, one thing comes through loud and clear: it's time for change in Haringey. The Labour Party has run our council since 1971 - longer than most of our borough's residents have been alive - and with Labour also in power nationally and regionally, the administration no longer has anywhere to hide.

On Labour's watch, Haringey has been the country's **most complained about council** for two years on the bounce, has been rated the **worst council for dealing with damp & mould** in the council houses it owns, and has plunged into millions of pounds of debt - forced to **borrow the 4th highest of any council in England** from central government just to balance the books, trapped into a cycle similar to those caught on pay-day loans.

All this has led to the Standard dubbing us "England's 'most rotten' borough".

It doesn't have to be this way.

Liberal Democrats are ambitious for Haringey. Ambitious for our environment, for our services, and, of course, ambitious for the residents of our amazing borough.

Liberal Democrat councillors in Haringey have a concrete record of action, despite being in opposition: helping residents every single day, keeping our communities informed, getting things done and challenging our Labour Council.

Change is needed, but achieving change takes experience, hard work and individuals ready to make it happen.

In our borough, over many years only the Liberal Democrats have shown that we have the dedication and new ideas to achieve real results for residents.

So, we hope you will join us in getting the Fresh Start Haringey so desperately needs, and **vote for your local Liberal Democrat candidates on Thursday 7 May 2026.**

Experienced, Ready...

Our local councillors and candidates are Haringey residents themselves, bringing a diverse range of skills and professional experience - from nursing and teaching, to engineering and business. Crucially, the Liberal Democrats believe in the wisdom of our local communities.

Which is why we have developed this manifesto by listening directly to you through regular local surgeries, our daily work as councillors, and year-round engagement over the past four years, ensuring our priorities reflect your greatest concerns.

Complete change doesn't suddenly happen overnight. It will take time to dismantle a culture and way of doing things that has been 55 years in the making under Labour. But our councillors and candidates have the experience, and are ready, to bring about the change we need.

That's why our plan for a better borough, and a Fresh Start for Haringey, will start straight from Day One.

Please see our Day One plan for a better Haringey to the right, or read on for our full four-year manifesto for a Fresh Start for Haringey.



The "Day One" plan for a better Haringey with the Lib Dems:

- ✓ **A council that listens, and a borough that works.** Phone lines answered, emails responded to, and council services in the heart of our town centres.
- ✓ **Help through the Cost of Living crisis.** Provide help and support to those in Haringey who are struggling.
- ✓ **A 'can do' council that gives power back to local communities.** An end to the attitude of 'computer says no', and 'council knows best'.
- ✓ **Fix Haringey's finances.** Near bankrupt under Labour, the financial foundations need rebuilding.
- ✓ **Neighbourhoods that feel safe.** Work with the police to tackle shoplifting, theft, and crimes within our neighbourhoods.
- ✓ **Invest in our environment.** Cleaner streets, more trees, protected parks, and greener, vibrant, town centres.
- ✓ **Homes that are safe and healthy to live in.** Ending the damp and mould scandal, repairs dealt with without delay, and building new homes fit for the future.

Voting takes place: **Thurs 7th May**



01

Finances

Haringey's finances are a mess. After failing to take our warnings seriously for the best part of a decade, Labour have plunged the council into a huge amount of debt, and are now borrowing the 4th largest amount of any Local Authority in England to balance the books.

We are caught in a cycle similar to those on pay-day loans - forced to borrow more and more from central government, with prospects of righting the ship receding further and further into the distance.

There is no plan from Labour to fix the finances, with the council's own financial strategy seeing us

continuing to borrow more and more each year.

Yet even now, Labour persists with wasteful spending such as on new council offices, or nearly 10 support staff to the council leader.

Only the Liberal Democrats can Fix Haringey's Finances. We are the only party with both the experience and knowledge to do it.

Our plan to cut wasteful spending and bring in rigorous financial expertise will put the council back on a sustainable footing.

We will deliver the value-for-money and efficient services you deserve.



FINANCES

Our Plan

Getting the Finances Under Control

- Introduce a **Financial Transformation Plan within six months** to address Haringey Labour’s spiralling debt which if left unmanaged will lead to the need to borrow over £100 million in just one year to balance the books.
- Establish a new Oversight Board to immediately start the work of complete **root-and-branch reform of council operations and financial oversight**, including how departments are currently spending vs comparative local authorities.
- We would introduce a **Contract Monitoring and Review Panel**, to vet all new contracts and procurement, and to review contracts against the originally projected financial assumptions and business cases, ensuring the council is getting ongoing value for money - not taking our eye off the ball as soon as contracts are awarded.
- Ensure **accurate budget management** with a tighter grip on in-year overspends and efficiency improvements.
- Empower all senior officers to produce **business cases for reimagined services** and departments fit for 2026 and beyond.
- Labour’s borrow and spend attitude over recent years has saddled the council up with debt, with a large percentage of our annual budget now going on repayments and interest alone. We would immediately review the viability of the council’s existing capital programme, to **reduce future debt projections**.

Future Financial Stability

- Keep fighting the Labour government to reform **local government finance** to ensure local councils are properly resourced.
- **Lobby the Labour Government to directly fund statutory services** which councils are currently forced to pay for such as social care, and which are stretching council finances to breaking point.
- Invest in additional staff who's roles will **lead to increased income**, instead of Labour’s across-the-board job cuts, improving poor performing areas like debt collection.
- We would **overhaul the budget setting process** in line with recommendations from the council’s auditors, who have stated that Haringey does not currently “have in place adequate arrangements”.
- **Implement formal pre-scrutiny** on both the annual budget and on the in-year quarterly financial performance report so the Overview and Scrutiny panel can review the council’s financial decision making and suggest alternative actions before Cabinet approves it, not after.

The Right Priorities

- Shift the priorities and cut the waste. We would **end Labour’s culture of spending on vanity projects, self-promotion, and councillor niceties** like £70 million on new council offices, the Haringey People propaganda magazine, and a brand new chauffeur driven car for the Mayor; **and ensure that every penny spent** is to support and improve the lives of our residents.
- We would end the ideological presumption in favour of insourcing services, even when there are higher quality, lower cost alternatives - **and ensure decisions are based on the best result for residents** not political ideology.
- End the Labour practice of agreeing to spending without budgeting for it - in the desperate hope that central government might write off the debt.



02

A Listening Council

As the most complained about council in England for two years in a row, we all know Haringey Council's attitude to the public must change.

We know this isn't trivial - in the last couple of years Haringey has been exposed as not carrying out electrical safety inspections in council homes, and with failing to monitor its safeguarding referral inbox - potentially putting lives at risk.

And, when it comes to working with residents, the council can

always come up with 1000 reasons why something can't happen. It's always "computer says no."

But that's not our way. We believe in bring-people-with-you politics and a council that cares about what you have to say.

In making things easier for residents, not putting up barriers.

Liberal Democrats believe that you deserve a council that listens, acts quickly, and treats residents as partners.

A LISTENING COUNCIL

Our Plan

Listening to Residents

- We will treat residents as partners, **ensuring genuine and meaningful engagement on key decisions** and an end to often-ignored tickbox consultation exercises.
- We will **act quickly on community-reported issues**, ensuring every issue raised receives a clear response and resolution.
- Instil an ethos of **bottom-up politics, not top-down**: that decisions should be derived from communities not imposed upon them.
- For too long, Haringey Council has been led by a “computer says no attitude”. We would deliver **a council focused on “how can we make that happen”**.
- We would change the council’s “cover-up culture”. Mistakes happen, but officers and councillors have a duty to be open and honest so that lessons can be learned.
- We will make sure that any future plans from neighbouring local authorities that impact Haringey have cross-borough involvement, understanding that changes to one area have an impact beyond a council boundary line.





Better Customer Service and Transparency

- No resident should have to wait over an hour on the phone to speak to a council customer service agent, or send enquiries by email or online only for them to go unanswered. **We would fix the council front door**, changing how we do customer services so everyone can access council services quickly, efficiently and with successful outcomes.
- We will implement a **new customer service charter** - our pledge to you on being able to get a positive outcome from the council whenever you need it.
- We will **recruit more customer-service staff** to answer your calls and respond to enquiries more quickly.
- We will introduce a **new online enquiry ticketing system** within your My Haringey account, to streamline the process of enquiries, keep track of conversations, and easily escalate matters if needed.



- Introduce a **new My Haringey Mobile App** to raise issues with the council, speak with customer service agents (including live chat), manage your council tax, rent, view bin collection data, local consultations, parking permits, and so much more.
- We will create **'council customer service shops' in each town centre**, which will bring public-facing council services together in one place, such as parking permit purchases, reviewing the latest local planning applications and reporting local issues, making services far more accessible to residents.
- We will **make use of modern technologies** to answer more questions, and provide resolutions quickly without the need to wait for officer responses.
- We would **overhaul the complaints process** ensuring complaints are independently reviewed and handled every step of the way, with a target to reverse Haringey's complaints culture to become one of the least complained about councils in England within four years.
- Overhaul the parking fine and permit processes and system to make it clearer, easier to manage and integrated with residents' accounts for other services such as council tax so that everyone has a single account for all council services.
- Ensure all our systems and knowledge about residents is joined up. You should not have to provide information multiple times to the council because you are dealing with different departments, and provide greater automation across the council using that joined up data.

Empowering Communities

- We will **empower local communities** by strengthening Neighbourhood Plans and supporting community-led initiatives.
- We will **introduce Neighbourhood Committees, and Area Improvement Forums** to give residents a real voice in their area working in partnership with ward councillors.
- Introduce a **monthly Leader's Question and Answer session**, where residents can hold the council's leadership to account directly.
- We will **ensure engagement happens within communities** - not just rely on online platforms like Commonplace - so everyone gets a voice, and a chance to improve their area.



03

Cost of Living

We know that rising costs - whether it's council tax, energy bills, housing, childcare, food and so much more - is making life really tough, not only for our least well-off residents, but for everyone.

Liberal Democrats will fight to do everything a council can to bring down costs locally. Whether it's

making homes cheaper to keep warm and dry, to fighting to keep council tax as low as possible.

We will also provide support for those who are struggling the most, increasing support for our amazing borough food banks and expanding the council's financial support services.



COST OF LIVING

Our Plan

Delivering Value for Money

- Implement a **root-and-branch reform of council finances**, spending, contracts and processes to **ensure every single pound spent by the council is delivering value for money**, with the right priorities in mind to support our residents - not things like £70 million on new council offices.

Help with Bringing Your Costs Down

- Keep fighting the Labour government to reform local government finance to ensure local councils are properly resourced, **so that Council Tax can be kept down** to support our residents.
- **Reimburse overpaid Council Tax proactively**, ensuring residents get money back in their pockets as quickly as possible.
- Focus on cost-effective **energy efficiency measures for council homes**, including home insulation, solar-panels, and battery storage to ensure residents can make use of off-peak energy tariffs.
- Lobby the government to legalise plug-in solar technology as is already permitted across Europe - including balcony solar panels, **to rapidly reduce the cost of any resident adding solar energy** to their homes.
- Support residents of listed buildings and conservation areas to make **energy efficient home improvements**.
- Ensure that **no Haringey resident faces an increase in council tax due to taking in a refugee**. Anyone eligible would retain their existing council tax support or single person discount.



- Introduce a **100% council tax discount scheme for those facing a terminal illness**, to remove the worry of council tax bills towards the end of life.
- Open a **Library of Things** to offer affordable rental of devices and equipment, helping residents fix up their homes and host events without high costs.
- Work to deliver the very best energy tariffs for our council residents through **bulk buy discounts with energy providers**.

Provide Support and Advice

- Ensure **face-to-face support is available in the hearts of our communities**, reducing barriers such as digital exclusion or lack of phone access.
- Expand the council's financial support team to create a **dedicated Cost of Living support service**, helping people with switching energy and utilities providers, advising on reducing energy costs through changes to boiler and heating settings and more.
- Launch our **"Benefits Boost" campaign** to help residents claim the full income-related benefits and social tariffs they're entitled to, with tens of millions of benefits still going unclaimed in Haringey.
- **End the use of bailiffs for council tax collection**, instead focusing on income maximisation and support programmes.
- **Increase support for Food Banks**, including assistance with venues and business rate reductions.



04

Housing

Every resident deserves a home that is safe, healthy, and genuinely affordable. But Haringey's record on housing is shocking.

Over the last four years under Labour, Haringey has been rated the worst council in the country for dealing with damp and mould in the homes it owns, had to self-refer to the Regulator for Social Housing and undergone monitoring from the Housing Ombudsman.

What's more, countless council-owned properties in the borough are being left empty for months, even years, as a result of poor record keeping and mismanagement - some even

falling into disrepair as a result. Haringey currently has almost 400 void properties: that's 1 in 40 of all Haringey properties sat empty.

We deserve better.

Liberal Democrats will act decisively to end the damp and mould scandal and ensure repairs are carried out without delay for council tenants, and will work to enforce higher standards in the private rental sector, using all the powers available to the council.

What's more, we will ensure the building of a new generation of high-quality council and affordable homes.



HOUSING

Our Plan

Safe, Warm and Comfortable Homes

- Introduce an **automatic compensation scheme** for council tenants and leaseholders who receive late or poor repairs - only then will we change the council's incentive structure and ensure appointments are scheduled promptly, attended to on time, and issues fixed.
- **End the Haringey damp and mould scandal** by ensuring all reports of mould in Haringey properties are investigated within 7 days (half the legal requirement), and in all instances of damp and mould the source of the problem fixed to prevent recurrence.



- Introduce a **new My Haringey Mobile App** to report new repairs and view details of existing ones, speak with the repairs team (including live chat) and upload photos and videos of your issues. All alongside managing your council tax, rent, viewing bin collection data, local consultations, parking permits, and so much more.
- Ensure every Haringey council home meets the **Decent Homes standard**, and introduce energy efficiency and cost saving measures to properties whilst we are doing it.
- Ensure **all council homes are made safe**, tackling critical fire safety defects and maintenance backlogs.
- **Review all council communal areas alongside tenants** to identify improvements to lighting, safety, design and wellbeing.
- **Enforce high standards in the private rented sector**, using all available powers to stop criminal landlords, stand up for tenants rights and ensure properties are made safe at the landlord's expense.
- Ensure the "fit and proper" test is applied and inspect HMOs for safety **before granting landlord licences**.
- **End the use of hotels** for Temporary Accommodation in Haringey.
- Expand the Haringey Lib Dem-proposed **Landlord Incentive Scheme**, to encourage more private landlords to provide family homes to the council, benefiting both parties, and our residents.

End the Empty Homes Scandal

- We will **end the scandal of 1 in 40 Haringey homes being void**, bringing homes that have been left empty for far too long back into use, moving families from expensive Temporary Accommodation into permanent homes the council already owns but isn't using.



Creating Homes for All

- **Create 6,000 new Council Homes by 2036**, doubling Haringey’s previous target of 3,000 council homes by 2031, ensuring all our council-built homes are designed to the highest energy standards.
- **Deliver a range of affordable and intermediate homes** to ensure those that are currently priced out of owning their own home, and are not eligible for council homes, are able to get on the housing ladder in Haringey.
- **Deliver homes that are accessible** at "Gold Standard": Part M4(3) level ensuring all our residents can have a safe, usable home fit for their futures.
- Deliver specialist support to **prevent homelessness**, using “housing-first” principles to **end rough sleeping**, and offer dedicated educational support and training to enable those that have faced homelessness or rough-sleeping into work.

A Fair Deal for Leaseholders

- Leaseholders are often hit with huge bills by Haringey for “major works” or improvements, costing leaseholders many times the amount of simply arranging for the works to be carried out themselves. It is unfair. Residents should not be financially penalised for being Haringey leaseholders. Which is why we would **grant leaseholders the ability to find their own tradespeople to carry out comparative works when issued a section 20 notice**, allowing them to be in control, and ensuring they are paying a fair price.
- **Triple the current statutory notice period to Haringey leaseholders** for major works, from one month to a local minimum period of three months, and create a long-term works plan so residents have an idea of any works that are coming up.
- Create an **optional sinking fund for Haringey leaseholders** so that leaseholders pay a monthly fee in order to create a fund that can contribute to future major works, rather than being given enormous bills to pay all in one go. This will be recorded and accounted for so that leaseholders can see the funds available and how they are allocated when they need to be spent.

Ensure Development Protects and Enhances Neighbourhoods

- **Ensure developers are contributing financially to the areas they are building in** so that parks, roads, and public spaces are improved, and new infrastructure like doctors, dentists and community buildings are added, to allow communities to benefit as a result of development, not be left behind.

- **Ensure larger developments “green” the environment** by having open and green spaces, water features, planting more trees and flowers, attracting wildlife and pollinators, and ensuring the designs are for people-led, not vehicle-led spaces.
- Ensure new large developments include facilities for complete source separation of waste and where possible, Underground Refuse Systems **to reduce the use of wheelie bins** on our streets, and decrease the time collections take across estates.
- **Invite residents to redesign the outside spaces on their estates**, empowering community planting, growing and gardening; artwork and installations; changing how waste is kept and managed; and encouraging communities to design new entrances and signs for their estates.
- Strengthen our neighbourhood plans and design codes to **ensure developments respect and positively contribute** to the character of our many unique and wonderful neighbourhoods.





05

Neighbourhoods

From thousands of doorstep conversations around Haringey, and responses to our residents' survey, we know that crime and making our roads safer are both top priorities for a lot of our residents.

Crimes such as shoplifting, thefts of and from vehicles, and robberies have become rife under Sadiq Khan's control of the Met.

Liberal Democrats will employ new community wardens in every area of Haringey, who will identify sources of this 'petty' crime and antisocial behaviour.

What's more, we will put tackling the scourge of violence against women and girls at the centre of our plans, and stand up for all our communities against rising hate crime.

Meanwhile road safety will be a top priority for a Lib Dem-run council. We will support Vision Zero, with improvements for pedestrians with better footways and more crossing points, as well as for cyclists with dedicated lanes and training. And we will use resident insight to tackle speeding proactively, not just after accidents happen.



NEIGHBOURHOODS

Our Plan

Community Safety & Crime

- Employ **Community Wardens in every area of Haringey** to identify sources of crime, address anti-social behaviour, and to clean up our streets by reporting issues like fly-tipping, graffiti, dirty pavements, potholes, trip hazards and so much more, making our borough, safer, cleaner, and more welcoming.
- Bring **“bobbies on the beat”** back to Haringey by ensuring the Met Police deliver the community police numbers it is supposed to across the borough, to ensure our neighbourhoods are safe and criminals are caught.
- Around 80% of burglary cases go unsolved by the Met Police across London. We would lobby the government to introduce the Liberal Democrats’ **“Burglary Response Guarantee,”** under which all burglaries would be attended by the police and properly investigated.
- Identify **new locations across the borough for our Neighbourhood Police officers to use as bases**, filling the gap left by the closure of Police counters so that our police are not wasting hours travelling across the borough to be in their wards.
- Audit all our public footpaths to **ensure our borough is properly lit** for safe walking, installing extra lighting in known crime and ASB hot-spots.
- Working with the local community and friends groups, we will **add new lighting to our parks, including playgrounds**, so every resident, including children, can enjoy them safely after dark, all year round.



Safe, Accessible Streets for all

- Add **new signposting and wayfinding** with walking times around the borough to encourage more walking between destinations.
- **Create new, engaging, school walking routes** with artwork and objects for our schoolchildren to find on the way to school to encourage active travel from a young age.
- Introduce new discovery pathways around the borough using alternative paving styles, to **guide people towards green and open spaces, as well as hidden gems around the borough.**
- **Increase the number of benches and places to sit** across the borough to give people opportunities to rest.
- Roll out Copenhagen Crossings at junctions with high pedestrian footfall to **give walkers priority over cars.**



- **Roll out a borough-wide network of “Side-Road Zebras”**, following the lead of councils like Sheffield to install low-cost, paint-only zebras on residential roads and junctions, slashing installation costs by 95% and making our streets safer for pedestrians, especially children and young people.
- Carry out the recommendations made by the 2025 independent High Streets Accessibility Study to **make our town centres accessible to all users**.
- **Upgrade and widen pavements** in high footfall areas and where pavement widths are below national standards to ensure we have an accessible, walking borough.
- Roll out **segregated cycle lanes** to boost cycle mobility across the borough, including continuous east-west and north-south routes; and a safe, connected cycle network to reduce car use and congestion, and protect some of our most vulnerable road users.



- **Provide cycle training for all ages**, to give confidence to first time riders, and ensure they can ride safely around other road users.
- **Enforce 20mph zones** effectively within our powers, and do everything we can to lobby the Labour Government to give Local Authorities the power to install and operate speed cameras across the borough.
- **Penalise contractors and utility companies** who fail to meet standards for fixing roads and clearing gullies, or who are late with their work.

- Grant resident exemptions for the borough's LTNs so residents are not driving around their neighbourhood, and adding to traffic on boundary roads, every time they want to get to or from their own home.
- Continue to expand the School Streets programme, to include School Zones, School Walk and Scoot Routes, and School Play Streets.
- Ensure that signage for restricted streets or zones, such as School Streets and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, is clear to motorists - including utilising road painting/artwork, so residents don't unwittingly drive into these controlled zones.
- Increase the CPZ review cycle from the current 5 years to 10 years, saving on expensive, unnecessary and frequent CPZ consultations, which more often than not, lead to an outcome of “just leave things alone”, whilst still granting communities the ability to request a review should it be needed.
- Improve the management of dockless bikes to reduce antisocial behaviour, pay penalties for creating accessibility issues and ensure dockless bike companies are contributing financially to Haringey for operating in the borough.
- Ensure that residents and businesses are always engaged on the location of dockless bike bays, unlike the current Haringey Labour administration who have bypassed the legal requirements of a statutory consultation, under the pretence that the bays are temporary.

Zero-Tolerance to Violence and Hatred

- We will stand up against hatred and discrimination, protecting minority groups from intimidation and taking real action to reduce Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG).
- Use multi-agency working and provide direct support services to support victims and survivors of violence, and protect the Hearthstone service to support those who are the victims of, or at threat of, domestic violence.
- We will strongly oppose the divisive anti-immigrant rhetoric of other political parties, including the Labour Government, and continue to promote the UK as an inclusive, tolerant place for all.



06

Creating Opportunities To Thrive

Everyone, whether young or old, should have the very best opportunities in life as a resident of our wonderful borough.

A Lib Dem borough will celebrate our amazing assets such as our libraries to make them destination venues at the heart of our communities full of culture and activity.

We would embrace and champion entrepreneurship, business and enterprise to boost our local economy, creating new jobs,

supporting small businesses, and offering opportunities to retrain, learn new skills and even change career.

And we would nurture and support our young people, so that everyone growing up in Haringey can become whatever they want to be without limits.

We would make Haringey dynamic and fit for the twenty-first century with new ideas and energy so that everyone has the opportunity to thrive here.



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO THRIVE

Our Plan

Culture & Expression

- **Protect all Haringey libraries.**
- **Increase library opening hours** across the borough, so that every resident has the opportunity to access our libraries.
- Look to provide evening performance spaces, arts venues, mini theatres and evening masterclasses across our libraries, **turning hours where our libraries are currently closed to the public into active destination spaces** for our local communities.
- Look to **introduce new activities to our libraries in collaboration with friends groups and local communities**, such as board game cafe Sundays and silent cinema Saturdays, to bring in new audiences and offer new experiences.
- Create **short-term library “residencies” in collaboration with local businesses, artists and makers** to provide crossovers between our library spaces and vibrant cultural activities going on in our neighbourhoods.
- **Increase bookings** of existing library meeting rooms, and multipurpose spaces, to support the financial viability of libraries, and bring people through the doors.
- Provide **refreshment facilities** within our libraries.
- Launch a campaign to encourage every resident of Haringey to **become a Library Member.**
- Base our **new Community Wardens** out of our existing libraries so residents can meet and talk with them, raise concerns and queries, and learn more about what is going on in their local area.
- Re-focus the Council’s ‘Borough of Culture’ away from council PR and self-promotion, and instead use it as an opportunity to increase access and take-up of the arts, music, identity, traditions, and creativity with a **focus on inspiring the next generation.**



Young People

- Create **new youth provision**, giving access to sport, the arts, and work experience, and invest in youth workers, to help keep young people safe and away from crime and exploitation.
- Push the Government to provide **better resources and support to ensure schools meet the needs of all our children**, especially those with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND).
- Protect Haringey’s children’s centres from closure and increase provision as they transition to **Family Hubs.**
- Work with schools to **move away from exclusions** and extreme behaviour policies which disproportionately affect SEND, ethnic minority, and poorer children.
- Encourage schools to **prioritise reading programmes**, so that by the time children move to secondary school they are comfortable with basic skills and able to cope with more challenging work.



- Genuinely **co-design services with SEND families**, including those who are hard to reach, to ensure that processes are easy to access and responsive to need.
- Expand access to Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) assessments, making certain that they are **available to families** who do not have the time or resources to fight for funding, and guaranteeing that no children slip through the gaps.
- Better **support for refugee children** in the borough, including training for schools and council staff who are in contact with refugee children, and improved cooperation & information sharing between the council and voluntary sector organisations.
- Work with mental health services to ensure mechanisms are in place to **identify vulnerable young people** in Haringey and strengthen the Children and Young People Mental Health Service (CYPS, formerly known as CAMHS).

Helping Business Thrive and Attracting Enterprise

- **Invest in our town centres and high streets** to make them more attractive places for people to shop, spend time and carry out leisure activities, and support shop-local campaigns, markets and events that bring footfall back.
- **Create distinct local identities** for our high streets and town centres by upgrading shop fronts and public spaces, through local design codes, rooted in Haringey's many neighbourhood cultures and histories.
- Make it easier and cheaper for businesses to run **food and local festivals** and events by temporarily closing off streets.



- Use new High Street Rental Auction powers to **bring empty shops back to life** quickly even when privately owned.
- Make it easier for cafes and restaurants to provide **outside dining and spill out spaces** - particularly in summer - to increase the vibrancy of our town centres.
- Provide a **business rates discount scheme** for entrepreneurs wanting to set up new business in Haringey.
- Provide spaces for **pop-up shops, and food courts**, giving home artists and makers opportunities for shopfront sales they may not be able to afford otherwise.
- Encourage businesses to choose Haringey, utilising our existing industrial and light industrial land for businesses of the future, providing **new jobs, skills and training for our local residents** in the process.
- **Ensure commercial land is used in ways that create jobs and boost the local economy**, and limit the proliferation of large commercial low/zero-staff sites that limit job opportunities such as self-store facilities.
- Continue to lobby the Labour Government to support the Lib Dems' national campaign for an **emergency VAT cut on hospitality of 5%**.
- Continue to campaign for a **banking hub** in every town centre.
- Use planning directives to **protect our high streets** from losing business space in conversions to retail.
- Lobby the Labour Government to **reform the punitive business rates** system that penalises small/independent high street businesses that are the bedrock of communities.

Giving new opportunities through Education and Training

- Work with local colleges, businesses and providers to **increase education and training opportunities** for adults, focusing on skills vital to Haringey's economy, and giving our residents the opportunity to retrain and change career later in life.
- Bring **new training and skills opportunities to our communities** by making use of council buildings in our neighbourhoods like our libraries.



07

A Healthy Life

Investing in health is non-negotiable. As a council, Haringey has a vital role in social care, mental health, and of course promoting active and healthy lifestyles.

Yet it does not always seem that the council takes this role totally seriously. Last Autumn it was revealed that over 1000 safeguarding emails regarding vulnerable adults had been left unread. Since being insourced,

our leisure centres have been beset by management issues, poor maintenance and increased fees. It's time to turn it around.

Liberal Democrats have been fighting for our vital services, and are known nationally as the only party taking social care seriously.

This is a hugely important part of what the council does, and we need an administration who acts like it.



A HEALTHY LIFE

Our Plan

An Active Lifestyle

- **Fix up our Leisure Centres.** On-site maintenance staff, a Service Level Agreement for repairs, and a cleanliness pledge in every centre.
- With Haringey’s council-run leisure centres having been beset by management issues, poor communication, closures and repairs that simply take too long, we would review the current business case to identify whether an in-house Leisure Service model is actually delivering **the best service to our residents, and the best value for money**. The council’s original options appraisal, run when terminating the Fusion contract, identified that the ideological choice of in-house management would cost the council £700,000 per year extra, compared to providing the service through a specialist operator (such as Better), as most other local authorities do.
- Protect all our leisure centres from closure, and **invest in new equipment, options for refreshments, hireable spaces and more**, whilst ensuring they are accessible to all for a fair price.



- Commit to not just maintaining the **Park Road Lido**, but expanding it to be open to match daylight hours all year round. Explore additional lighting to add after-dark swims, and market Park Road Lido as a day-out destination to everyone in the capital, so it is known London-wide.
- **Slash the price of the current "kids for a quid" swim in half to 50p**, and make it **free for children under eight**, to encourage more children to swim, and keep more money in parents' pockets.
- **Protect all our council tennis courts.**
- Look to facilitate new partnerships between local sports teams and schools to **ensure all Haringey primary school children have access to sports** such as cricket, tennis, hockey, football, netball and more, at affordable prices.
- Roll out **outdoor gyms across all Haringey parks**, to ensure every resident has free access to gym equipment.
- Roll out schemes to **support “active ageing” within parks and neighbourhoods**, such as regular Tai Chi and Qigong sessions, to combat loneliness, and improve physical and cognitive health for those in later life.
- Work with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to ensure that all care homes are assessed for **physical activity provision** with the aim of achieving a gold standard across the borough.



Better Access to Youth Mental Health

- Push for improved **mental health services for young people**, and for every school to have appropriate counselling support.
- Strengthen mental health services by expanding **community-based support** and clear crisis signposting, especially for young people and marginalised groups.

Tackling & Preventing Addiction

- Every pound spent on treating drug and alcohol addiction saves at least £7 in future costs, which is why we will **increase investment to tackle drug and alcohol addiction**, ensuring rapid access to support, and assisting people into jobs, homes and helping to identify the best support systems for them.
- Use trading standards to **crack down on shops selling illegal vapes, or advertising vapes to children** or alongside items geared towards children.

A Caring, Supportive Council

- Last year's damning ombudsman report, including the revelation that over 1,000 safeguarding emails had gone unread by Haringey Council is shocking. We will immediately initiate a **root and branch review** of the department to ensure no residents are being left at risk.
- **Tackle backlogs in the social care system**, including with safeguarding referrals, to ensure efficient service delivery, including care assessments, hospital discharge support, and bill calculations.
- Strengthen **support for unpaid carers**, by creating a dedicated Carers Strategy, including respite care, career advice, and support during transition away from caring.
- Caring is at the heart of the Liberal Democrats' values. We will lobby Government to **back the Lib Dem plan to fix social care** across the country, accelerating the delivery of wide-ranging reforms which Labour have so far kicked down the road.
- Work with partners to bring health services such as **podiatry and diabetes** treatment into the community.

- Support the provision of appropriate **care in the community** for those with disabilities or autism who are currently being sent to short-stay assessment.
- Ensure Haringey becomes a **carer-friendly employer**.
- Adapt Haringey's targeting of resources to enable those receiving social care to stay in their **own homes** for as long as possible.





07

Environment

When it comes to our environment, every moment matters as climate change continues to shift the dial at an ever rapidly increasing pace.

It is why we need to act without delay, and have a council agile and forward-thinking enough to do so.

The benefits of improving our local environment don't just relate to climate change however. Doing so boosts physical and

mental health of citizens, stimulates the local economy to help small businesses grow, and makes our public spaces more accessible to everyone that uses them.

A Lib Dem-run Haringey would put environment at the heart of every decision - greening and cleaning our borough, improving access, and investing in the technologies which will power the future.



ENVIRONMENT

Our Plan

Protect and Maintain Green Spaces

- **Protect and enhance our parks and green spaces** with new planting, trees and flower beds, and ensure the maintenance and planting of verges and roadside flower beds is fully funded.



- Ensure our parks and green spaces are **not completely fenced off by festivals and large music events** which often exclude many local residents, so everyone can have access to green space and play facilities year round.
- **Plant thousands of new street trees** around the borough.



- Transfer the management of **Finsbury Park to an Independent Community Trust** with the council as a partner, not sole decision-maker, giving control back to the community, and ensuring Haringey doesn't simply use it to mitigate their huge financial debts.
- Continue to fight to protect **Pinkham Way** as a nature reserve and area with abundant wildlife, and a vital pollution barrier for the A406 (North Circular).
- Provide **shading/canopies in children's play areas** and **upgrade outdated and unsafe playgrounds**.

Improve our streetscene

- Introduce **Community Wardens**, using them to report all local issues including potholes, fly-tipping, graffiti, and badly-parked e-bikes; and support improving our public realm by facilitating planting, and new design initiatives that showcase the unique nature of every neighbourhood.
- **Increase public street bins**, and bring bins back to streets where the current Labour administration has removed them.
- **Clean up and fix up our streets**, jetwash our public spaces, and ensure our pavements are constantly monitored by our community wardens so trip hazards and accessibility issues are reported and fixed.
- Provide **alternatives to the daily bagged waste** collections in our town centres and high streets that often leads to ripped waste bags, litter and food strewn across pavements, trip hazards and unsightly public spaces.



- Give residents the ability to apply for **pocket parks** in their streets to green their neighbourhoods and help fight against flash flooding.
- Encourage the use of **'play streets' and holding of street parties** by making it easier for residents to apply for temporary road closures for events.

Improve Access to Greener Transport

- The Lib Dems have led the charge in Haringey for cross-pavement gully charging. Haringey is soon trialling this, but the trial is too slow and too small. We would **rapidly roll out gully charging and alternative new technologies for home electric-vehicle charging** to make it easier to safely run charging cables across pavements.
- Ensure that **no company has a monopoly on vehicle charging** in Haringey, installing more public, affordable roadside charging points from multiple suppliers.
- Following our success in securing the DfT's commitment to make Alexandra Palace Station step-free and accessible to all in 2026, we would continue to lobby the DfT, TfL and National Rail to **ensure every single station in Haringey provides step-free access** from pavement to platform.
- The rollout of dockless bikes has led to a fantastic increase in cycling across the borough. We will continue to encourage the use of cycling through both private bikes, and via hire schemes, and **promote active travel in Haringey**.
- Ensure **no single operator has a monopoly on dockless or any other form of bike hire** in the borough.
- Fight for a **price cap on dockless bike journeys under 30 minutes** so it never exceeds the price of a single TfL bus journey in London.

Improve Recycling and Waste Collection

- Make it easier for every resident to **recycle**, including delivering on the need for universal food waste collections.
- Enforce a complete **ban on single-use plastics in council facilities**, except for within care settings and where there is a medical requirement.
- Take an **education-first approach to waste management**, instead of fining people as if they are criminals for simply putting their waste out at the wrong time, or leaving items for others to take and upcycle.



Living with a Changing Climate

- Roll out more Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to **improve drainage** and regularly clear gullies to prepare for extreme weather and fight flash flooding.
- Support every school in creating a plan to switch to **100% renewable energy**, install solar panels on council homes and buildings, and explore installing "solar canopies" in council car parks.
- Run a **grant funding scheme** for residents and businesses to install energy efficiency measures to their homes and buildings.
- Triple the number of air quality monitoring stations around the borough, so we can properly assess whether the council's interventions are working, identify pollution hotspots, and better **tackle the impacts of pollution** on residents and our climate.
- Add **'green screens' around schools**, replacing fences with hedges which absorb carbon dioxide, support wildlife, diffuse wind and provide a shelter belt.



A FRESH START FOR HARINGEY

*Haringey Liberal Democrats
Manifesto 2026*

*Vote Liberal Democrat
on Thursday 7 May 2026*

This manifesto sets out Haringey Liberal Democrat policies and priorities for the London Borough of Haringey for the 2026 local elections.

A digital version can be found online at:
haringeylibdems.org/2026