

THE LABOUR PARTY IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW

Manifesto Pledges for the Local Government Elections on Thursday 22nd May 2014

BETTER HOMES, BETTER STREETS, BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR YOU

OUR 5 GUARANTEES TO YOU

If re-elected, a Labour Council will:

- 1. Secure a further 3,000 affordable homes in Hounslow, 400 of which will be new Council houses*
 - 2. Provide 300 new apprenticeship places for young people and more local skills training*
 - 3. Deliver major regeneration for Brentford and Hounslow Town, and a masterplan to improve Feltham*
 - 4. Overhaul bin collection; to boost recycling and get streets cleaner*
 - 5. Invest in education; to provide a better choice of local schools for local children*
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Highways, Pavements and Street-cleaning

Since the 2010 local elections, we have:

- Resurfaced 54 miles of highway across the Borough, with £350 million of investment in our new highways and street-cleaning partnership with Vinci Ringway
- Replaced 54 miles of pavements across the Borough as part of our new highways contract
- Replaced 9,976 street-lights around the borough with modern, more effective LED lamps
- Improved parking management; with residential permit schemes where they have been asked for; and zoned bays for '2-wheels on the pavement' parking - bringing order to our streets

If re-elected, in the next four years, we will:

- Declare war on potholes; with ongoing investment to resurface our streets and better, prompt repairs
- Introduce 20mph zones for all schools in Hounslow where this is possible, to bring down traffic speeds
- Ban the parking of lorries and heavy vehicles from residential roads around the Borough
- Improve local cycling opportunities; linking up existing routes & helping enable the cycle superhighway
- Improve street-cleaning, with £1million additional investment - delivering better leaf-clearance, more thorough street sweeping, and more action against those who fly tip, spit or drop litter in public space
- Gate more problem alleyways; and ensure proper debris removal and better cleaning up after road works, with action taken against private utility companies whose works aren't up to standard
- Continue to resurface and raise the quality of pavements across the Borough; and continue to replace and upgrade street-lighting – with all the Borough's stock that needs it replaced by 2018

Education and Children's Services, Health and Social Care

Since the 2010 local elections, we have:

- Begun investing £156 million to expanded our schools, and provided 660 new pupil places to ensure we met rising school-place demand for local children
- Provided 4,600 health check for local residents, and raised local participation in sport to its highest level since counting began in 2006
- Protected key front-line services to vulnerable residents from the Tory government's cuts
- Campaigned against the Tories' reorganisation of local A&E services, which threatens access to health services for Chiswick and other parts of the Borough
- Piloted an Intensive Family Support Project - helping over 30 families and delivering improved school attendance, reductions in Anti-Social Behaviour and getting adults back into employment.

If re-elected, in the next four years we will, we will:

- Ensure a proper forward strategy and plans are in place to meet growing demand for school places
- Raise the aspirations of our poorest children locally, so they are equipped to succeed; and increase the involvement of parents and the community in ensuring the Borough's schools are thriving
- Use the Council's new public health responsibilities to reduce health inequalities in Hounslow - ensuring more co-ordinated action and better joined up services to improve health
- Improve services for those with learning disabilities, and ensure there is proper support for all sections of our community, particularly elderly, isolated or vulnerable residents
- Continue our campaigning to ensure all the Borough's residents are still appropriately served by A&E services, accessible treatment centres and health provision; fighting cuts to Charing Cross hospital
- Ensure our community is cohesive. with a resilient. sustainable and empowered voluntary sector

Leisure, the Environment & Open Spaces

Since the 2010 local elections, we have:

- Brought 8 parks in the Borough up to the Green Flag standard and planted 1,400 trees
- Increased visits to the Borough's leisure centres from 900,000 in 2010 to nearly 1.5 million now
- Purchased the full freehold of the Bedfont Lakes site, to secure it for residents in perpetuity
- Approved a new ground, training and playing space for Brentford Football Club
- Funded the project for 'Friends of Turnham Green' to establish and plant a wild flower meadow
- Replaced the heads of 9,976 street-lighting columns across the Borough with LED fittings, significantly reducing energy consumption and light pollution from our highway lighting

If re-elected, in the next four years, we will:

- Construct and open a new fit-for-purpose Leisure Centre for Heston; continue to raise the numbers of local residents participating in sport and exercise
- Clean up the Feltham Arena site and ensure new sports facilities are in the Feltham Masterplan
- Secure the 'Green Flag' standard for 15 parks; with Heritage Lottery bids for Gunnersbury Park and Boston Manor, and by making significant improvements to Heston park with Council capital
- Plant 1,000 new trees around the Borough in our parks, open spaces and appropriate verge-land
- Continue to campaign for a better, not bigger Heathrow – opposing a 3rd runway, tackling pollution, fighting to retain periods of peace from overhead flying and for a fairer noise compensation scheme
- Improve recycling rates and waste collection, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill
- Reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption in Council buildings; improve the energy efficiency of Council homes, ensuring affordable warmth for our tenants, particularly the elderly

Neighbourhood Management, Enforcement and Community Safety

Since the 2010 local elections, we have:

- Deployed more uniformed Council staff to maintain and patrol the Borough's streets, with 80 Hounslow Highways staff, 60 Hounslow Homes officers - and 4 Police officers dedicated to housing estates managed by Hounslow Homes
- Actively worked to tackle loan sharks and pay-day lenders who prey on vulnerable residents
- Stepped up action against illegal outbuildings, with enforcement against hundreds of properties
- Introduced a 'nil' policy to prevent the proliferation of lap dancing clubs/venues
- Delivered a Borough-wide Controlled Drinking Zone, installed new CCTV cameras, brought in 3 infra-red cameras to target fly-tipping, and worked with the Police to help deliver a 20% reduction in crime categories targeted by the Mayor of London's Policing and Crime Office

If re-elected, in the next four years, we will:

- Work with developers to design out crime in the planning of new residential development
- Deliver 6 new CCTV cameras to tackle enviro-crime/fly-tipping & take tougher action on dog fouling
- Continue to reduce anti-social behaviour and work with the Police to tackle drug dealing locally
- Continue the major investment to replace and upgrade all the Borough's street-lighting stock, to ensure residents feel safe on our streets
- Work with our partners to make more local homes safe and secure, with locks and alarms to reduce burglary and domestic fires; undertake more preventative work to reduce domestic violence

The Local Economy, our Town Centres, and Employment

Since the 2010 local elections, we have:

- Run the Council efficiently, reducing costs for residents : with a Council Tax freeze for the first two years of Labour's administration and then Council Tax cut for residents in 2013/14 and 2014/15
- Employed more uniformed staff on the Borough's streets, made Hounslow Council a 'Living Wage' employer - ensuring all Council staff and those working for its Contractors are paid the Living Wage
- Kick-started regeneration of Hounslow Town Centre, with a town vision, new paving & street furniture
- Developed a small business hub and established a sustainable procurement policy, including measures to grow the number of local people employed in Council contracts
- Worked to support local small businesses, develop residents' skills, and built new affordable homes – all helping to strengthen our local economy

If re-elected, in the next four years, we will:

- Help residents with living costs - by improving insulation in Council homes, freezing Council Tax for the year ahead, and keeping Council tax as low as possible thereafter
- Increase the number of young people between 16-25 who are in training, apprenticeships and employment – providing, with our partners, 300 apprenticeships for local young people
- Continue to roll-out 30-minute free 'stop & shop' parking to local parades, to support local business
- Bring forward fully-costed plans to relocate the Civic Centre into Hounslow Town; to help residents access services and to ensure the Council contributes more to our local High Street economy
- Deliver free Wi-Fi access around to the Borough's town centres and major shopping areas
- Develop a proper masterplan to make further improvements to Feltham Town Centre
- Deliver a Hounslow Town war memorial we can be proud of, for the 100th Anniversary of World War 1

Housing Supply and Regeneration

Since the 2010 local elections, we have:

- Enabled construction or granted approval for 2,574 new affordable homes for sale or rent across the Borough; and changed housing policies to ensure local people can access housing
- Modernised and upgraded Council housing stock; with all homes now meeting the Decency Standard
- Used the Council's powers effectively, bringing 50 private empty homes a year back into use
- Stepped up action against illegal outbuildings and planning breaches, with enforcement action against more than 200 properties

If re-elected, in the next four years, we will:

- Enable the construction of 3,000 new affordable homes in the Borough to improve housing supply; ensuring Hounslow Town Centre and other major development sites make a significant contribution to providing affordable housing accessible to local people
- Directly provide a minimum of 400 new Council properties to help meet local housing need
- Deliver major regeneration in Hounslow Town, Brentford and along the 'Golden Mile'; and develop a proper masterplan to make further improvements to Feltham town centre
- Tackle rogue landlords and sub-standard accommodation, with tougher action against illegal dwellings and better regulation of private rented accommodation
- Make further improvements to the communal areas of Council owned blocks of flats
- Improve the range and mix of social housing locally and provide appropriate incentives so more tenants under-occupying homes can down size, freeing-up properties for local overcrowded families