

Newham Labour Manifesto 2026



Contents

1. Newham’s Future – A Vibrant, Inclusive Community We Are All Proud Of	4
2. Creating Financial And Governance Stability By Acting Responsibly With Our Finances	6
3. A New Way Of Making Decisions; Involving Councillors And Residents More	8
4. A Council That Puts Residents First And Prioritises Essential Service Delivery	11
5. A Cleaner And Inclusive Neighbourhood And Environment To Celebrate And Take Pride In	13
6. Safer And Better Connected Communities To Live And Work In	17
7. More Good Quality Social And Affordable Housing For Our Tenants And People In Housing Need	19
8. Remaining Healthy And Aging Well	25
9. Helping Our Children And Young People To Do Even Better	27
10. A Mayor And Councillors Who Deliver Through Collaboration And Inclusion	30
11. Helping The Third Sector	33
12. Performance Management And Using Data Well To Transform And Improve Our Services To You	36

We seek your support and your votes for our Mayoral candidate Forhad Hussain and our Councillor candidates in the ward where you live.

1. Newham's Future – A Vibrant, Inclusive Community We Are All Proud Of

This Manifesto is about Newham's future – a vibrant, inclusive community we are proud of, full of opportunity. A place where everyone belongs, grows, and builds lasting connections.

We will deliver more transparent, disciplined and accountable leadership through changing the way Council decision making works. Residents, Councillors and the Third Sector will be much more involved in shaping delivering the services that are so important to all of us – rather than the Mayor running the show alone.

This Manifesto sets out the way in which we will restore public confidence in your Council.

We will provide Leadership You Can Rely On.

Our five Major Policy Pledges are

ENFORCE THE RULES WITH A DEDICATED TEAM IN EVERY AREA

We will protect residents and their communities by tackling street crime and anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance, dumping and litter

CLEAN THE STREETS WITH AN EXTRA £12 MILLION OVER 4 YEARS

We will clean our streets and open spaces, repair pavements and potholes, take tough action on fly-tipping and bring back a free bulky waste collection

PARKING THAT WORKS WITH FAIR PARKING, DONE PROPERLY

We will make the first resident parking permit free, give permit holders one hour's free borough wide parking and make sure local people are involved in decisions affecting them

LOCAL PEOPLE DECIDE WITH LOCAL DECISIONS MADE BY YOU

We will consult properly and use community ballots to make sure decisions on important changes to your local street and environment are made by you

RESTORE SOUND FINANCES WITH NO MORE EXCUSES

We will fix the council's finances while protecting vital services; from refuse services to your local library. Our plans for fair parking and cleaner, safer streets are fully costed.

This manifesto represents our huge ambitions for Newham and we now commend this manifesto to you.



2. Creating Financial And Governance Stability By Acting Responsibly With Our Finances

The promises made in this Manifesto will be implemented in a phased way as we stabilise the Council's budget. We are committed to stable finances so we can maintain and build the services in Newham that you and your community rely on.

Be in no doubt, however: local authority budgets around the UK remain in a very difficult position.

So, our primary financial commitment to you is to show fiscal discipline and good financial management when we spend your money and have balanced budgets for the next four years.

It is only this step that will allow us to deal with the Temporary Accommodation crisis we now face.

We will spend every penny of taxpayers' money wisely. We will conduct a review of every line of Council spending, to ensure we're getting value for money out of each pound we spend. We will balance our annual budget each and every year and phase in this Manifesto and its commitments accordingly.

We are grateful to the Labour Government for recognising that Newham has not received its fair share of government funding since 2014, at least. As a result our Government Fair Funding Grant will increase by £124m over the next three years to reflect our actual population and higher housing costs. We are still required in to make savings of £56 million in 2026/7 but this

sum is much smaller than it would have been without the extra Government support. This will allow us to protect important services such as our libraries, bin collection and school crossing patrols.

Councils like ours must still work harder than ever to deliver vital services that remain under financial pressure. That means focusing on what matters most to our residents and making tough choices about reducing some services to allow us to pay for those of a higher priority.

In the short term this will mean selling underused assets and restructuring our debt to minimise interest payments; in the medium term getting Temporary Accommodation and all our other budgets fully under control. In the long term it will mean delivering on our Implementation Plan for Temporary Accommodation, generating additional income, and working better with other London boroughs to save money on things like procurement and purchasing.

We will also be helped as our Labour Government continues to grow the national economy and provide us, as a result, with more resources to invest in service delivery.

We will also further review the Council's organisational structure to reduce tiers and bureaucracy, delegate more, and implement a flatter structure which empowers staff to make better

decisions. This will reduce costs and enhance customer service.

At the same time, we must look ahead, investing in ways that make our Borough more resilient and sustainable for the future.

We will:

- Conduct an immediate review of the revenue budget to ensure that all our commitments are fully funded in 2026/7 and 2027/8 and that all proposed spending will provide good value for money.
- Conduct a thorough review of the capital programme to reprioritise projects, save money, and invest in cost-saving initiatives. This will focus on projects that deliver tangible benefits to residents, such as improved infrastructure (eg making our website and parking systems much easier to use by residents), more social housing including both new build and acquisitions from the private sector and better community facilities.
- Use our additional government funding to maintain existing essential services, and support and empower our most vulnerable residents in 2026/7 and beyond.
- Deliver our Implementation Plan for Temporary Accommodation.

- Work with local stakeholders and residents to deliver a balanced budget every year that protects our most vulnerable households, as part of a long-term financial strategy with robust performance targets to stabilise the Council's finances.

- Transparently use and account for sources of money such as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 funds¹.
- Increase the scrutiny and control of the Public Health funding allocated to the Council to ensure that it is allocated appropriately to public health priorities.
- Promote Newham as a place where private sector investment must have a positive impact on our local communities; our community facilities and the public realm.
- Be well on the way to being recognised as a model of best financial practice and governance by 2030, including by insulating ourselves against unforeseen financial shocks by replenishing our reserves to Government recommended levels.
- Work with our residents and other stakeholders as full partners to achieve the above objectives.

¹ Money developers are required to pay the Council for the extra demand on our services that their development will create, like new schools and extra refuse collection

3. A New Way Of Making Decisions; Involving Councillors And Residents More

One person makes far too many decisions in Newham: the Mayor. This very centralised command and control model is not fit for the 21st century. Councillors, our residents, the Third Sector and officers are all disempowered. Decision making is slow and cumbersome, not nimble and proactive.

Our vision starts from our pride in Newham being a diverse place. We come from all over the world, with very different cultures and experiences. We all have something to contribute to making our Borough a better place to live, put down roots and bring up our children.

Our diversity and our tolerance are our strength and we must build on this at a time when what gives us strength is under attack from many sides.

We want all our residents to have pride in where they live, to feel at home here whether they were born here or arrived at some other time in their lives. We want them to have good relationships with their neighbours, contribute to their neighbourhood and Area, have homes they enjoy living in, be proud to tell their friends and family they live here and stay for the long term.

In order to achieve any of this Newham needs a new model of decision making in which power is shared by the Executive Mayor. Residents and Councillors must be empowered to contribute towards the future of their Borough

We will review all our Services to ensure officers take responsibility for helping you whatever your question. We want to break down the silos that exist so that no one says to you, "This is not my job". Residents must not be passed from pillar to post when dealing with the Council. At the very least, they must be signposted in the right direction.

To ensure residents have a proper say in decisions, there will be a new Area based model of governance. At first, resident involvement will be consultative. But as the model beds in and develops, we hope to bring our residents into the formal decision making process as members, rather than consultees.

The success of such an approach will depend on good quality data that measures and then informs our decision making and collaborative working. We will establish an integrated Performance Management Framework for the Council which is open to public scrutiny and has stretching targets for the Mayor, Councillors and our Officers.

Our libraries are central to our model of Area working.

Libraries will NOT be closed by Labour.

Rather, they will be developed as real community hubs offering the full range of traditional and digital library services as well as other cultural, educational and community activities. We will ensure they offer vital digital services to our young and older residents. This will

include seamless internet access and library streaming services complete with films, e-books and audiobooks, as well as well as providing access to cutting edge technology like virtual reality.

This will be particularly aimed at children and residents who live in the Private Rented Sector and need a safe, accessible and warm space to study and learn.

Our objectives here are simple: a restoration of trust between our residents and their Council/Councillors with measurable year on year improvements in our performance.

We will:

- Empower our Councillors and residents through an Area model of governance.
- Establish 8 Areas², each with an Area Committee, that look at all matters affecting their Area and make recommendations to the Cabinet. These Areas will have oversight of policy implementation; be involved in determining spending priorities; and make grants for local activities. Area Committees will meet regularly, be supported by Council officers, and be formally consulted about matters such as the Council's annual budget.
- Appoint a Council member to chair and lead Area Committee meetings. All Councillors in an Area will be members. Residents and other local stakeholders will be encouraged to attend and officers will be present to

provide advice. The Area Committees will shape and facilitate resident and community-led activities and initiatives in their Area to **get things done**. They will not be talking shops.

- In the longer term, and subject to resident involvement targets being met, we will include residents as full members of Area Committees. We will consult as to the best way to achieve this step after the Area model is up and running. It must be more than the "usual suspects" getting together to claim they are representative of residents as a whole.
- Train Councillors and residents in an Area. This will give them the confidence and skills to take part in an effective way in their Area Committee and the oversight of their local services such as street cleaning, refuse collection, control of noise nuisance, enforcement activities and infrastructure projects. This will improve Area pride and potentially open up routes into employment, beyond the Council.
- Assess the Mayor and Councillors on service delivery against a series of publicly available and stretching performance targets.
- Replace People Powered Places with our new consultation policy within a year. This will have a clear entitlement for our Areas, tenants and residents generally and all other consultees. Consultation will always take place within the expenditure limits set by the Council, which will be specified; i.e., consultation is never a 'blank cheque'.

² The Areas will be: Beckton and Royal Docks, Custom House and Canning Town, East Ham, Forest Gate, Green Street and Upton Park, Manor Park, Plaistow, Stratford and West Ham. We will review their boundaries after the election following consultation with residents.

- Hold Community Ballots for affected residents in an Area, before decisions are made about implementing important changes that affect their local street and environment.
- Protect lifeline services residents rely on such as Our Newham Money³, street crossing attendants and bin collections.
- Not close Libraries. Rather, we will produce a new strategy for the future development of our library service, as set out above, after consultation with residents and the wider community. This will include the introduction of the National Libraries Pass Scheme⁴ for Newham residents and their children in particular.
- Establish Safer Neighbourhood Bases to get the Police into our communities and counteract police station closures. This could also be done by using our libraries and area offices.
- Ensure that each Area has a dedicated enforcement officer patrolling the streets, focusing on hot spots by December 2026. We will also have a dedicated Area-based noise nuisance service on Friday and Saturday nights by December 2026 and extend it up to 24/7 by 2027/8. Newham residents will have the right to the quiet enjoyment of their homes from fireworks, loud music, and other sources of noise nuisance.
- Create an Area based and unified enforcement service, providing a better, more joined up service for our residents, during the next four years.
- Use our Areas as the starting point for commissioning community, youth, cultural and leisure activities and other services from Third Sector and statutory providers.
- Revise our yet to be adopted Local Plan to properly reflect our new Area structure as well as our policies on matters such as tall buildings, density of development and more social housing provision.

³ The Council's Money Advice Service for Residents.

⁴ A scheme where all children are enrolled as library users at birth, with eligibility to use all library services across the UK.

4. A Council That Puts Residents First And Prioritises Essential Service Delivery

Our streets must be cleaner and our public realm better managed in future.

So, we will review all our Public Realm Services (e.g. cleaning, bin collection, fly tipping and enforcement) to ensure that we are obtaining Best Value AND Value for Money from them.

We will use our new Area structure to give local Councillors and residents, incrementally, the power to manage the Public Realm Services in their Area, against a defined set of performance indicators.

This means that residents will directly shape their local environment.

Good communication, better feedback, and a willingness to learn will be essential.

Our war memorials are a source of civic pride and respect. But they have been neglected for many years, so we will look closely at the restoration work required. Meanwhile work has been agreed to restore East Ham War Memorial in Central Park to its full former glory.

From December 2027, Newham has a new waste disposal contract which will make it easier and cheaper to dispose of your food waste and increase recycling. 12,500 homes in the Borough now have separate food waste collections. This will be rolled out across the rest of the Borough from autumn 2026 to meet the statutory targets that the Government has set for all local authorities.

We will:

- Improve key services like delivering repairs on time and to quality, street cleaning, refuse collection and fly-tipping removal year on year. This is our most important service improvement priority.
- Restore fortnightly domestic bin collections.
- Invest an extra £12 million in our public realm services incrementally over the next four years (ie £'s 1.5m, 2.5m, 3.5m and 4.5m in successive years)
- Re-introduce three free bulky waste collections a year for each household, to tackle a key cause of fly tipping
- Conduct a root and branch review of all our Public Realm services, in particular our street cleaning and bulky waste collection services. We will ensure that they are using the best modern technology and have clear and publicly available performance standards for our Councillors and residents to judge them by.
- Include staff training and development, data management, service specification, supervision, management and delivery and the creation of Best Value services in this Review. The current service specification, supervision, management and delivery do not meet the aspirations of residents and this must change if we are to achieve Best Value and Value for Money from our extra expenditure.

- Look at encouraging residents to take ownership of the local street scene, by giving them the ability to influence and control local environmental matters. Promotion of the 'Love Clean Streets' app could be the start of this process.
- Establish a formal purchaser/provider split in these Services to help demonstrate that Best Value is being achieved and benchmark their costs.
- Work to revitalise our high streets by encouraging residents to shop locally and support local businesses. We want to create attractive community spaces and provide increased parking opportunities for residents and visitors that will bring new life and opportunity to the Borough.
- Ensure our staff treat residents with respect and fairness, always going the extra mile to connect with them and deliver excellent services. There will be specific performance indicators for resident satisfaction which all staff, whether front or back office, will be required to meet.
- Roll out the new food waste collection service so that the experiences of our residents are improved and their satisfaction with the service increases. This will take account of feedback from the pilot project.
- Conserve and restore East Ham War Memorial to its former glory, investing around £150,000 in specialist craft workers and stonemasons to do the work required. We will also review all the other war memorial sites across the borough to see what work is needed.
- Update our cumbersome and confusing website and call centre and make it easier for everyone to contact the Council by phone and email, ensuring help, support and a human voice are always within reach. We will use technology to improve customer service, reduce costs, and enhance transparency. This will allow residents to report issues, pay bills, and access Council services more easily, while catering for those who are not online.
- We will produce costed proposals, a specification for the revised services and a programme for this critically important piece of work within one year and implement these proposals in the period up to 2030 and beyond.

5. A Cleaner And Inclusive Neighbourhood And Environment To Celebrate And Take Pride In

It is time to invest in our Areas and the way we travel through them.

We will implement a just and affordable net zero transition strategy in Newham, moving from carbon to renewables, which benefits us all and which does not penalise working people and their families in that process.

This strategy will have targets for reducing carbon emissions and increasing renewable energy usage and for new initiatives such as green roofs and, working with TfL, better active travel options.

We believe in investing in people, places and travel, creating greener, safer, and healthier neighbourhoods for all. This includes measures such as more Low Traffic Neighbourhoods – but only after a ballot of residents supporting one in the Area where they live; these changes must take place by consent.

We will work closely with pedestrians, bus users, cyclists and motorists to make our streets, parks and open spaces safer, greener and cleaner so that residents are proud of them and want to use them. This includes the provision of more trees and their maintenance where residents want them. Newham has one of the lowest levels of tree cover in Greater London and we want to change this.

Parking shouldn't be a privilege. It should be both affordable and work for everyone. This will make for a much fairer parking regime.

Our fairer parking review will include all our Areas and high streets, encouraging people to shop locally and support our economy. In future, parking enforcement will concentrate on improving safety and access rather than revenue generation and punishment.

This will be done while respecting the views of our residents, rather than imposing our views on them.

Everyone should have the opportunity to live an active, healthy life. That is why we will invest in our leisure services and locations, making them welcoming, well-maintained, and fit for the future. These spaces are vital to everyday wellbeing, community connection and participation in sport and physical activity.

By directing funding into leisure facilities, parks, playing fields, open spaces, allotments and active travel-friendly spaces, we will expand opportunities for people of all ages to get moving, take part in sport, and enjoy the outdoors close to home.

We will take a close look at all our parks, open spaces and any other disused or underused areas to see where extra amenities can be provided for e.g. pocket parks, allotments and other leisure and sports activity. We have a large unmet demand for allotments in particular, that will be better managed going forward.

We have already developed the Beckton Parks Masterplan which sets out a community vision and framework for investment in Beckton and Custom House parks and open spaces. We have delivered the wildlife habitat Beckton Meadows, a new pedestrian and cycling routes through the Park at the Beckton Corridor and ecological interventions in North Beckton Park. We are refurbishing the Will Thorne Pavilion to open as a cafe and community space from summer 2026.

Using funding secured through the Government's Pride in Place Programme, we will next invest in re-opening the former Newham City Farm site as a Community Hub with animals and as a green skills hub. There will also be a new multi-use games area in King George V Park.

We also welcome the £2 million per year for 10 years (£20 million in total) just awarded by our Labour Government for Public Realm improvement works in Little Ilford and the £1.5 million awarded to us from the same Programme for high street improvements Borough wide. We will consult with residents on the best use of this money.

PARKING AND MOVEMENT

We will:

- Hold a borough-wide Parking Review to investigate how future improvements can be made to benefit all our residents and, equally importantly, support local businesses in Newham.
- Include matters such as the day-to-day parking needs of our residents, businesses and visitors, including a possible parking/permit scheme tailored to their needs; parking zones and their hours; availability of cars, bikes, buses and other forms of transport; current and future predicted travel patterns and the desirability of more car-free developments. This Review will be chaired by a Cabinet member, take external advice and evidence, produce an interim report within six months and a final report within a year. It will include the Council's own homes.
- Introduce further Low Traffic Neighbourhoods where local residents support them after proper consultation, including resident ballots.
- Work with TfL to improve the number and flow of buses in the Borough and make it easier for buses to move around Newham.
- Establish further cycle routes signposted to avoid main roads where possible.
- Introduce free cycle hangars where residents request them and they can be feasibly located.

PUBLIC REALM AND PARKS

We will:

- Give every household a free parking permit for their first car, easing pressure on family budgets during the cost-of-living crisis. This will be paid for in part by increasing charges for second and third cars.
- Give one hour per day of free parking to all resident permit holders in any zone.
- Give visitors to Newham 30 minutes' free parking in bays and car parks serving our local high streets. This will give even more help to local businesses.
- Review the merits of a paper-based parking permit scheme. We will also make our parking app much easier to use – or change the contractor providing it, if this is not possible.
- Use parking enforcement to improve safety and access rather than revenue generation and punishment. In particular, we will stop the removal of cars from the street unless they pose a demonstrable public safety risk.
- Encourage walking and cycling while at the same time getting residents moving through a priority programme of better cleaning, pavement and road resurfacing, pothole repairs, and decluttering of public areas.
- Work with TfL and the Greater London Authority to decarbonise public transport and our own vehicle fleet.
- Review our signage to make sure that it is properly coordinated and clear both in terms of textual legibility and visibility on approach, in both winter and summer.
- Invest over £1 million each year in improving our parks throughout the Borough to ensure they are safe, secure and accessible to all.
- Make full and effective use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 contributions to ensure that new development directly supports healthier communities.
- Introduce an integrated approach to the Public Realm so that there is one public point of political and managerial responsibility in each Area.
- Review with residents and Third Sector organisations such as the Right to Grow Campaign, all our parks, playing fields, open spaces and forgotten pieces of land, to see where areas can be developed and/or maintained as allotments, private or community gardens, pocket parks, and so on. The community gardens in Forest Gate and Manor Park are good examples of what can be achieved, and we would like to replicate them in other spaces throughout Newham and particularly in the Victorian core of the Borough.
- Invest in every park across the Borough, as resources permit. This will provide, for example, a new children's play area in particular for children with special needs or outdoor exercise facilities, depending on what local residents want most. We have already secured funding to improve Little Ilford Park, Forest Lane Park and Warrior Square.

- Invest in re-opening the former Newham City Farm site in Beckton as a Community Hub with animals and as a green skills hub. There will also be a new multi-use games area in King George V Park.
- Consult with residents on the best use of the monies awarded to the Council for Little Ilford and highways as part of our Labour Government's Pride in Place Programme for Public Realm improvements.
- Develop a scheme for volunteer park keepers to supplement the work of our existing staff with litter picking and carrying out basic gardening tasks in our parks and open spaces. They will also be tasked with collecting intelligence about parks and misbehaving users.
- Provide more trees in our parks, open spaces and streets in particular to green, soften and shade our often harsh older streets and open spaces. This will include the development of tree planting programmes as resources permit.
- Review our tree maintenance programme to ensure that it is both effective and timely. We will work with the Third Sector and Residents to develop new and innovative ways of both funding, maintaining and watering trees and open spaces, in particular during the summer months.
- Invest over £1 million across the footpaths in our parks to ensure they are safe secure and accessible to all.
- Develop further sports opportunities in our parks, like the Community Tennis Programme. This programme covers our 25 tennis courts and targets women and girls, people with disabilities and those with long term health conditions, improving both their mental and physical health.
- Encourage more Newham residents to use Epping Forest for leisure and recreation in addition to the Wansted Flats and work with other conservation bodies (such as the Epping Forest Heritage Trust) to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Epping Forest Act in 2028 and also with TfL to improve transport links into the Forest that Newham residents can use.

6. Safer And Better Connected Communities To Live And Work In

We want all residents, young and old, to be able to walk safely and without fear anywhere in Newham, day and night.

So, in Newham, if people break the rules, they will face the consequences.

There will be zero tolerance of bad behaviour – whether or not it is criminal. We will ensure that the rules for our streets, public spaces and homes are followed by enforcing them firmly but fairly using the full extent of the Council's powers.

There are, for example, particular problems with the misuse of e bicycles and mobile phone theft at the present time that we must do more to address, including pressing for better legislative powers to deal with them.

In pursuit of this objective, we will work closely with other statutory agencies to reduce violence against women and children, provide more safe spaces for those fleeing domestic violence and abuse and give support to survivors. This runs alongside our support for children and young people set out elsewhere in this Manifesto.

We will also work closely with statutory agencies and the third sector to maximise the fines that can be imposed on offenders.

However, we will not punish law-abiding residents who make genuine mistakes or use enforcement purely as a money raising venture. Rather, we will focus on educating those unfamiliar with the rules or who make unwitting mistakes.

We will:

- Create, within 12 months of the election, a Community Safety Action Plan with specific targets for the next 4 years. This will include education initiatives, enforcement, new engineering (e.g. physical changes and CCTV), and evaluation. We will maximise the penalties for deliberate littering, fly-tipping and noise nuisance.
- Create a strong Community Safety Partnership with the Police, residents and other agencies and encourage Newham staff and residents to become Special Constables or Police Cadets.
- Re-establish Neighbourhood Policing and the co-funding of additional police officers as resources permit.
- Press Government for additional regulatory powers to deal with an oversupply of existing betting shops, street gambling, fast food outlets, vaping shops and other venues that may give rise to nuisance or have an adverse effect on our residents' enjoyment of their streets. This should be in addition to additional powers to prevent new ones. We will strictly enforce the new laws in relation to vaping shops.
- Work with the Police to ensure high quality policing, particularly in new developments – and especially those to the south of the A13 and in the Olympic Park.

- Work with other statutory agencies to reduce violence against women and children, provide more safe spaces for those fleeing domestic abuse, and support to survivors.
- Get our neighbourhood enforcement officers to concentrate on low-level crime, anti-social behaviour and Public Realm issues and in particular those created by Private Landlords. They will work with the Police, your local Councillors, residents, and other local partners, using the Community Safety Partnership approach.
- Appoint at least one enforcement officer to each of our 8 Areas by December 2026. There will be additional enforcement officers providing a noise nuisance service, borough wide. This Service will start on Friday and Saturday evenings by December 2026 and be widely publicised and extended boroughwide, up to 24/7 in 2027/8.
- Take enforcement action and maximise fines and legal action against fly-tippers, commercial waste, the badly littered state of the front gardens of many private rented homes and HMOs, illegal HMOs, kerb crawlers, street sex workers, irresponsible dog owners, those who park and drive illegally, noise nuisance, misuse of fireworks and other misbehaviour in the public realm such as the misuse of e bicycles and mobile phone theft.
- Review the Council's use of Kingdom enforcement because of justifiable concerns about their operating model. We will look urgently at alternative ways of providing this service.
- Develop a litter and fly-tipping enforcement strategy based on intelligence that targets and punishes serial offenders.
- Supplement the Council's existing CCTV network with mobile CCTV and facial recognition technology (with appropriate safeguards) in hot spot areas. This will allow us to publicly name and shame persistent offenders.
- Ensure that every report of serious ASB results in an action plan being sent to complainants which is followed up properly and monitored, as resources permit. There will also be a greater use of injunctions against ASB.
- Use Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) where local residents support them. This will include tough enforcement action against those organising street sex work, the users of it and street sex workers, where appropriate, themselves. We will also press the Police to take stronger action against those who traffic and/or control vulnerable people and we will continue to provide them with support to leave sex work.
- Introduce, where lawful, stricter licencing conditions on shops selling alcohol and/or fireworks and gambling shops in areas where there are schools, persistent ASB, street drinking, and high levels of street crime. We will press for changes in the licensing and other laws where appropriate to achieve this.

7. More Good Quality Social And Affordable Housing For People In Housing Need

There are many people in Newham for whom the housing system does not work. They include:

- Many of the 41% of households living in the private rented sector (PRS) whose homes are often very expensive but insecure, cold and in a poor state of space amenity and repair.
- Many of the 24% of households living in socially rented homes, who have been waiting for repairs and improvements and Decent Homes over long periods of time.
- Many of the 35% of households who are owner occupiers (13.5% owned outright) who are either in homes in disrepair or elderly and in housing too large for them or younger families struggling to pay mortgages which are now much more expensive in real terms when incomes have not kept pace with inflation⁵.

This is a perfect storm which has led to more and more homeless households and demands on the Council at a time when it is less and less able to meet them.

Residents see some homeless households put up in hotels at great expense, others living in sub-let, or under-occupied, Council homes – while they themselves cannot afford a decent, affordable home of any tenure for their families. They very clearly see and resent the unfairness that is so evident.

Our task is to provide some hope for these families, most of whom are long-term Newham residents.

This chapter of our manifesto describes how we can get out of the emergency accommodation and hotels business and reduce the use of temporary accommodation to its original intended purpose.

It involves building or purchasing more new and existing homes; helping under-occupiers to downsize through grants; and the building of retirement homes for older people.

It is about efficiently repairing maintaining and improving our own homes so that they meet a good, modern, standard of safety, repair and amenity via our programmes of both capital and revenue repairs and improvements; and helping owners by e.g. making group applications for Warm Homes grant

Finally, it involves maximising the use of all currently available forms of funding and developing new forms of funding for the future which do not involve the Council borrowing larger and larger amounts of money.

Newham now has over 7500 households living in Temporary Accommodation. The cost to the Council will be over £80m in 2026/7. The Council's housing list is more than 41,000. These numbers put a huge pressure on the Council's budget, reducing the money available

⁵ ONS, Subnational estimates of dwellings and households by tenure, Revised to 01 08 2025. Aggregates Council owned homes and RP/RSL homes. There are about 16,000 Council owned tenanted homes and 7000 leased long term Council homes (i.e. not TA). (Source HRA BP Update 2024)

to spend on services for all of our 350,000 residents.

The recent rise in the costs of temporary accommodation is unsustainable for the Council. More importantly, families and households do not benefit from living in temporary homes; the uncertainty has a damaging effect on them, their security, employment, social connections, wellbeing, education and health. Because of the lack of social housing supply, solutions which help them to move into more long-term accommodation which they can afford will largely be found in the private rented sector, or in the Council acquiring homes suitable for families living in TA. This is our highest housing priority.

At the same time we will ensure good regulatory compliance for our own social homes. The Housing Service has been poorly managed and under resourced over many years in Newham, as exemplified by the worst possible grading (C4) against the Regulator of Social Housing's Consumer Standards, issued in October 2024.

Both our tenants and leaseholders have had a raw deal. This must change.

The Private Rented Sector often provides insecure housing, much of it with poor amenity, insulation and repair. This has a huge impact on every part of the lives and health of the 41% of Newham residents who live in that sector and their local environment.

Here, there are the many additional street and front-of-homes problems of disrepair and mess which arise in and around private rented homes. We will take strong action against non-performing landlords wherever possible.

While Council action alone cannot solve this problem, enforcement action can remedy some of its worst effects.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION AND HOUSING NEEDS

We will:

- Seek to reduce significantly the number of new homeless acceptances each month over the next four years.
- Continue to place new homeless households where we accept a rehousing duty, or discharge our duty to existing homeless households, in accommodation outside Newham only where this is necessary, because of the Local Housing Allowance limit or the absence of suitable supply of, in particular, family housing.
- Seek to reduce the unit costs of temporary accommodation and bring it in line with other neighbouring East London boroughs.
- Seek to significantly reduce the number of households in Temporary Accommodation. We will produce a detailed Implementation Plan within six months of the election setting out how we intend to achieve this. Our aspiration is to reduce the current number by two thirds by 2030.
- Eliminate the use of expensive hotel accommodation, other than on a strictly temporary and emergency basis.
- Take account of market opportunities to purchase homes for Temporary Accommodation, where this is 'cheaper' in the long term than the use of Temporary Accommodation itself.

- Review all Housing Register (Waiting List) applicants by May 2028. Alongside this we will also review our allocations policy within one year both generally to make sure it is up to date and fully caters for those tenants and residents with a strong local connection.
- Specifically ensure that vulnerable residents with high needs are not placed in unsupported homes.
- Make it clear that our limited supply of social housing will only be available for those households with the highest housing need.
- Develop and implement a strategy for the housing of vulnerable tenants, including those in Temporary Accommodation that provides them with appropriate housing and support.
- Reach out to all rough sleepers and rough drinkers in a further initiative to provide support, move on and then longer term housing. We will continue to support and commission those Third Sector organisations helping rough sleepers and rough drinkers, who can demonstrably provide a high quality as well as cost effective service.
- Increase grant levels and support for under-occupying tenants to move to smaller or specialist homes, thereby freeing up larger family homes for reletting, in conjunction with a new build programme aimed at this group of tenants.

MORE NEW AND IMPROVED HOMES

We will:

- Continue to build, purchase and maximise new Social and Genuinely Affordable housing for our residents, as resources permit. For context, our current net spend on Temporary Accommodation each year would pay to build 200 new homes instead.
- Maximise grant funding from the Government's Social, Affordable and Warm Homes Programmes, and look to develop new forms of long-term finance for Social and Affordable Housing.
- Reduce new-build scheme costs through e.g. the use of standard designs, which are then tailored to the site concerned, and value engineering so that more new homes can be built.
- Maximise the proportion of Social and Genuinely Affordable Housing that is built, wherever possible.
- Press the government to ensure that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has maximising social and affordable homes as its key objective.
- Press the Mayor of London and Government to ensure the London Plan seeks to achieve the highest level of social and affordable homes possible and does not make permanent the time-limited changes to the London Plan currently in force for the development of new homes which reduce the amount of Social Housing that developers should build. This includes 50% social housing in all new developments and the

- reinstatement of the requirement for developers to contribute the full Community Infrastructure Levy for schemes, so that this can be re-invested back into the community.
- Reduce developer profit margins to allow more social homes to be built, with appropriate sanctions to ensure enforcement.
- Give priority to existing residents, including their children in the allocation of those homes to be let at higher than social rents.
- Change our planning and environmental policies and Local Plan to make it much easier to:
 - Build the Genuinely Social and Affordable Housing that our residents need;
 - Put new homes on top of or adjacent to existing homes where it is financially effective to do so;
 - Provide modular/moveable homes for Temporary Accommodation, where it is financially effective to do so;
 - Oppose over-dense and very tall developments (of all sorts) and bedsits and prioritise good quality well designed family housing in which each household has their own private open space.
 - End the record of poor design and the pursuit of quantity (which causes residents to leave Newham) over quality (which encourages residents to stay), so evident in Newham's post-1945 housing.

- Create a specialist integrated Procurement, Design and Management Service for all our new and improved homes with a performance management framework that encourages innovation and delivery to quality, time and budget. This service will be part of a newly created Regeneration Directorate, including the Planning Service, with its own Corporate Director and Cabinet Member and the specific remit to promote both Regeneration and Genuinely Social and Affordable Housing Development in Newham, in its widest sense.
- Continue the redevelopment of the Carpenters Estate and Custom House with 50% Social Housing, always putting existing residents and local communities first in new development, with residents receiving independent advice where necessary.
- Seek to develop jointly with the Department for Education and NHS the large sites they own next to Plaistow Station and Newham General Hospital. This should include homes for long term Newham residents seeking to downsize, key worker housing and properly supported living and small-group homes, for Newham residents and children with specific needs, rather than rehousing them in the private sector at very high cost.
- Bring Populo Living fully under Council control with a Shareholders Board consisting of Councillors and officers that meets regularly and reports back to all Councillors.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SERVICES

We will:

- Achieve compliance with the Regulator of Social Housing's consumer standards by 2030, achieving at least a C2 (Good) rating.
- Ensure that all building safety checks are 100% up to date by March 2027 and that any work arising is part of a planned programme of works by Spring 2028.
- Spend over £650million on programmes of building safety, capital repairs and improvements to our homes and acquisitions by 2030, ensuring safe, decent and well-maintained living conditions for all our tenants and leaseholders.
- Increase the proportion of non-emergency repairs attended and made good within time from 93% in late 2025 to 97% by 2028. This will be done by introducing an up to date and fully computerised dynamic repairs ordering and tracking system, which draws off a modern Schedule of Rates.
- Implement and achieve a maximum 4 week turnaround target time for all our standard, non-capitalised voids and other empty homes with strict conditions to avoid abuse by March 2028.
- Improve tenant satisfaction with repairs from 80% in late 2025 to 90% by 2030.
- Improve emergency repairs attended and (i) made safe within timescale from 99.9% in late 2025 to 100% by March 2027 and (ii) made good within timescale to 100%, also by March 2027.
- Train all our emergency repairs operatives to be multi-trade by 2028. This will include any contractors used to provide this service.
- Improve tenant satisfaction with the Council's service as a landlord from 71% in late 2025 to 85% by 2030.
- Make sure that all homes have an up to date Stock Condition Survey by Summer 2027.
- Ensure all homes reach the current Decent Homes Standard by March 2029.
- Complete a full tenancy audit by May 2028 and use this to identify potential housing fraud. We will use our full legal powers to recover all such homes for those in housing need. This will also enable the Council to encourage older and under-occupying tenants to downsize to newly built homes.
- Make it clear that the Council will pursue all legal avenues for dealing with tenancy and housing fraud, including sub-letting. Where housing fraud is detected, tenants will be evicted and staff will be sacked. We will work with the Police to pursue criminal prosecutions wherever possible.
- Treat leaseholders fairly and in accordance with the Statutory Framework and their leases so that there is at least 90% cost recovery by the Council from qualifying works by 2030 and a substantially reduced lack of compliance by the Council.

PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR**We will:**

- Crack down hard on rogue landlords by enforcing a zero-tolerance approach to poor, substandard housing, the environmental blight it causes, and overcrowded homes. We will be in the top quartile of bad landlord prosecutions by 2030, maximise fines for poor behaviour by landlords and use the money raised to improve their homes and the environment around them.
- Work with landlords, Registered Providers and their agents, who should be appropriately qualified to provide good quality housing for both Temporary Accommodation and private renting more generally.
- Get all councillors working closely with residents and officers to identify hotspots so that bad landlords can be tackled in a systematic fashion.
- Work with the Police to introduce assisted enforcement visits to HMOs where there are suspected licence breaches.
- Prosecute vigorously landlords who are illegally sub-dividing houses into HMOs.

HOUSING PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**We will:**

- Collect and publish detailed performance data by 2028, with clear outputs and outcomes for matters such as:
 - Resident satisfaction
 - Temporary Accommodation numbers, costs and flows
 - New homes and improvements: numbers, bedroom size and costs
 - Compliance with the Regulator of Social Housing and Building Safety Regulator's standards
 - Repairs improvements and Capital Programmes
 - Safety data including compliance
 - Rent collection, arrears, tenancy fraud and legal actions
 - Void turn-round times and costs
 - Environmental indicators
 - Stock condition
 - Compliance with statutory requirements for leaseholders, invoicing compliance and recovery rates and appeals
 - Private Rented Sector complaints and enforcement

8. Remaining Healthy And Ageing Well

There are many older and disabled people in Newham who need and deserve the Council's support, on many fronts. There is a large demand on the Council for advice about poor housing and debt and services to support these residents. This is because many Newham residents still do not live in a secure home or have a safe and peaceful family life.

We need more hospital beds and community health facilities as our population continues to increase. With the new housing planned in Stratford and Docklands, Newham's population is predicted to grow by 110,000 people between 2020 and 2040 – creating a huge need for more hospital beds and community health facilities.

Many of our residents receive unacceptably poor levels of service from the NHS. 12 hour waits in A & E are common, routine waiting times for appointments of all sorts are far too long and processes do not seem to work.

ADULTS, LIVING AND AGING WELL**We will:**

- Work with other statutory agencies and the Third Sector to build a safer physical, social and family environment for families and all their members, including places to meet that are accessible, welcoming, warm in winter and comfortable. Our vision for our Areas includes this provision.
- Improve the quality of our Adult Social Care advice and services from 'Needs Improvement' to 'Good' by the time of their next inspection.

- Provide integrated services for older residents, – in particular those with disabilities, in their own homes. They will be supported to remain independent, socially connected and age well, without the need for expensive residential care, for as long as they wish.
- Help deliver the Labour Government's commitment to the New Deal for Working People, including a Real Living Wage for young people, better employment rights and fair pay agreements.

HEALTH**We will:**

- Publicly hold the NHS to account for the failing of our residents and press for more health resources for East London and Newham to help to resolve these failings and improve our health services
- Seek to have Newham General Hospital and community health facilities brought under local democratic control.
- Meanwhile, work closely with local healthcare providers to improve access to healthcare services for our diverse communities This aligns with the three major shifts in focus contained in our Labour Government's new NHS 10Year Plan. The shift of bringing care from hospitals to the community sits well with our plans to return to a strong Area focus for the Council's work as does the shift in focus from treatment in hospital to prevention and care in a community setting.

- In particular, seek adequate NHS funding for mental health, alcohol misuse and services for rough sleepers.
- Work with our NHS partners to increase the number of hospital beds, community health facilities and latest health care technology provided, in-borough, in line with our expanding population.
- Work with our NHS partners to develop a network of Area-based drop-in facilities for people in mental health crisis, as NHS and Council resources permit. This will be based on the Trieste model⁶, working with families, the NHS, and Third Sector bodies such as Mind.
- Support Our Newham Money Advice Service and social prescribing to help residents on low incomes and in debt to improve their household finances and wellbeing as well as making better use of services such as Citizens Advice to provide help and advice to residents. We will look at the co-location of such services in our libraries and Area offices.
- Deliver in full the New Deal for Working People for our own staff and encourage business and other employers in the Borough to do the same.
- Develop a comprehensive health and wellbeing strategy with targeted delivery plans to address health inequalities and promote healthy living.
- Encourage a culturally appropriate approach to exercise and diet that reduces the number of residents developing type 2 diabetes, and which provides appropriate support for those already living with diabetes.

9. Helping Our Children And Young People To Do Even Better

Newham has outstanding schools and colleges, and stratospheric rates of educational achievement and social mobility. We are extremely proud that East Ham is ranked first in the country, and Stratford and Bow second⁷.

This is the culmination of a 40 year process started in the mid-1980s by Labour controlled Newham Council to improve standards of educational attainment in the Borough.

We will support and encourage our schools to further improve on these achievements so that future generations of our young people are able to leave our schools and colleges with both a high-achieving academic education and a well-rounded social education that helps them into higher education, vocational training, and the jobs market.

In contrast, our current model of youth services is less effective than it could be. Over the long term we want to take provision to where young people actually are, rather than only providing standalone facilities. We need a model of provision which works in cooperation with schools, colleges, and the Third Sector and attracts many more young people than now while operating in all areas of our Borough.

EDUCATION SERVICES

We will:

- Use accurate data and local insight to plan school places and ensure sufficient, high-quality early years provision across all our Areas.
- Support, where possible, our maintained schools in their provision for those of their pupils who have a specialist education need or disability.
- Work towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission Report on the Relationship Between Black Boys and the Borough⁸. We will champion better outcomes for all young people and black boys, in particular, whose attainment levels are lower than other cohorts, through stronger partnerships with our maintained schools and targeted support to ensure every young man is heard, supported, and able to thrive. We will fund such work as resources permit.
- Work with colleges, employers, universities, and training providers to create clear post-16 pathways into education, apprenticeships, and good jobs so that our young people gain skills, confidence, and real routes into employment or further study. Our

⁷ suttontrust.com/news-opinion/all-news-opinion/london-miles-ahead-of-other-regions-in-providing-best-opportunities-for-the-poorest-young-people/#:~:text=Overall%2C%20East%20Ham%20in%20London,West%20compared%20to%20East%20Ham

⁸ Research referenced in this report indicates that because of systemic and structural racism, Black and Global Majority boys fare less well than their white peers and this has been seen across a range of issues, including their levels of employment, educational achievement, interactions with youth justice, overrepresentation in the criminal justice and mental health systems. In many areas of society Black boys and young men are negatively overrepresented or negatively underrepresented.

⁶ In Trieste, a new model of walk-in, mental health care almost ended demand for hospital beds. The service provided a full range of support services in non-clinical, community settings with the option of voluntary overnight stays. The model is currently being trialled through pilots in England that have had promising early results. In Newham, we are already considering how we might incorporate such an approach. cambridge.org/core/journals/the-british-journal-of-psychiatry/article/why-trieste-matters/67D5001954441F24F25EBD90032FFD and elft.nhs.uk/news/elft-welcomes-italian-mental-health-delegation

intention is that no 16 to 18-year old in Newham is without an education or training opportunity.

- Provide maintenance grants to our 16 to 18 year olds leaving secondary schools and colleges as resources permit first consulting with parents, schools and our young people as to how a scheme should be established and its funding levels.
- Continue delivering free school meals for primary school pupils and improve the quality of our services for children with additional needs. We will extend free school meals to secondary school students as soon as we have the funding to do so.
- Review the provision of school uniforms for our children so that there is a real choice of suppliers at affordable prices, and work to develop a school uniform exchange scheme managed by schools and Third Sector providers.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We will:

- Maintain our Outstanding Ofsted rating for children's services at our next inspection in 2029.
- Work with statutory agencies and the Police to strengthen child protection and the Newham Safeguarding Children Partnership, reduce harm to children, and ensure safe spaces and support are available for children and young people affected by neglect and abuse, including those affected by domestic violence. This will build on our work with our schools and parents on preventing harm to children by keeping

them away from gangs, exploitation and harmful online content.

- Involve carers in our policy development, service design and scrutiny for our looked-after children so that they feel heard, respected, and better supported.
- Continue to fulfil our legal obligations in a fair way for our SEND children for so long as the Council continues to have responsibility for their funding and press all Newham schools to ensure that SEND monies are spent appropriately.
- Improve retention and provide incentives for key workers, including social workers as resources permit. We want to provide career progression, manageable caseloads, and wellbeing support to retain experienced staff.
- Support care leavers so that their life chances are improved and they become self-supporting independent adults.
- Keep children and young people in their own homes with good support wherever possible and appropriate. We will build new homes for our looked after children to live with their foster parents so that we can provide a better service and reduce the use of very expensive private provision as capital provision permits.

YOUTH SERVICES

We will:

- Commission our youth services from schools and the Third Sector in future on an Area basis which will cover the whole of the Borough and within a fully accountable SLA framework.
- Specify a new model of provision which works in cooperation with schools, colleges, and the Third Sector and attracts many more young people than now to places which already provide services for young people.
- Look at leasing existing youth buildings to locally based (ie not national) organisations, who are providers of youth and other community based services and provide grant funding which provides a fair share of overhead costs to providers who meet the Council's objectives.

10. A Mayor And Councillors Who Deliver Through Collaboration And Inclusion

Newham is a borough of deep social ambition and strong community roots, with Third Sector organisations embedded across our neighbourhoods with a lived understanding of our people and their needs. With global financial centres on our doorstep and one of the youngest and most diverse populations in the UK, our borough is uniquely placed to build partnerships that turn ambition into practical results for our residents.

We believe progress comes through thoughtful collaboration: purposeful public leadership from the next Labour administration, trusted Third Sector organisations that help shape and deliver solutions, and responsible investment aligned with public purpose that can support funding and enhance innovation. Bringing these strengths together creates new opportunities to address the issues our residents face.

Drawing on emerging evidence and new approaches to financing, this kind of collaboration can help the council support practical programmes, from tackling housing insecurity and poverty to strengthening the way local services work, improving the lives of people who call Newham home.

The Council will deliver the promises set out above by working with residents, local businesses and the Third Sector to make the Borough a better place to live, grow, do business, and make lasting connections.

And while this manifesto is and must be primarily about Newham issues

Newham Labour is also mindful of its responsibility to be clear about its view on Palestine Iran and Divestment. We set out our position below

We will:

- Work closely with local communities through our Area Committees.
- Ask local Councillors to chair Area Committees where residents and community organisations will be involved in decision making.
- Consult with our Area Committees in the terms set out in Chapter 2 of this manifesto.
- Provide the Area Committees with regular reports on Councillor and Council Performance.
- Take a zero-tolerance approach to serious breaches of the Councillor Code of Conduct.
- Review both the pricing and availability of meeting spaces for the Third sector and local businesses.
- Create partnerships and jobs and grow a stronger local economy for Newham's increasingly well-skilled and socially mobile young and diverse workforce. We will do this by harnessing the potential of Newham's key stakeholders such as Westfield, London City Airport, the UEL and other universities with campuses in Newham, the Financial Conduct Authority, Eastbank, ExCel, the Olympic Park Authority, Employers'

organisations and TfL to help establish, work with and develop small businesses.

- Develop and lead partnerships between the Council, responsible investors and trusted community organisations to improve the lives of Newham residents. These partnerships will focus on making council services easier to access, improve how residents engage with the Council and help more Newham residents become and remain securely housed.
- Introduce a 'Business Champions' programme to support local entrepreneurs and businesses to grow and be successful
- Ask our businesses to sponsor community activities such as Christmas, Eid and Diwali decorations and trees, fun days, and other local celebrations.

GAZA, IRAN AND DIVESTMENT

Gaza and Iran

Newham Council was one of the first Councils in the country to pass a motion on Gaza in October 2023, recognising the scale of the humanitarian crisis and the urgent need to protect civilian lives. As councillors, we wrote directly to Keir Starmer to make clear the strength of feeling from our residents and to call for meaningful action.

The reality is simple: international crises like Gaza and now Iran are not distant issues. They are felt deeply within our communities and shape how people engage with politics here at home.

Newham Labour stands with Gaza.

The devastation of Gaza and the loss of innocent life demand real action in the UK. That is why Newham Labour has acted and raised over £11,000 for Medical Aid For Palestine (MAP).

Forhad Hussain, our candidate for Mayor, said: "I condemn the destruction in Gaza and call for those responsible for atrocities against innocent Palestinian people to be held to account. We need a political settlement that fully respects Palestinian rights and a two-state solution that enables the rebuilding of communities devastated by this conflict. But words and protest alone will not bring change. That's why Newham Labour chose to act. Together, we have already raised over £11,000 for Medical Aid for Palestine, delivering vital medical and practical humanitarian support on the ground. We act because it matters and because it's who we are." We therefore urge all Labour supporters and Newham residents to donate regularly to MAP as well.

Iran

Military intervention is bringing more destruction and more death to the Region. We remember all too well the mistakes of Iraq made by the British and US Governments.

We call for all parties to end the destruction now. Lasting peace and security in the Middle East will not come from endless cycles of bombing and retaliation. It requires serious diplomacy, enforcement of non-proliferation agreements, regional dialogue and sustained international efforts to reduce conflict and prevent further escalation.

Divestment

On 9th October 2025 Newham Council agreed, unanimously, to the following part resolution proposed by Labour members of the Council.

“This Council calls on the Pension Committee: -

1. To review all its investments to ensure that it follows the highest standards possible, within the constraints it operates, about human rights and the risks they create in all its investments, especially in conflict areas throughout the world and including Gaza.
2. In accordance with Council protocols, will consult with the required stakeholders.
3. Recommends that the pension committee employs a recognised specialist Pension governance advisor to monitor, advise and take appropriate engagement action about its investments in to ensure that they comply with UK and international law about human rights.
4. Reports back to this motion to a future Full Council on its response to this motion.
5. All recommendations are subject to fiduciary duty and legal compliance. “

Newham Labour will continue to support this resolution and will ensure that points 1-4 of the resolution are fully implemented in accordance with the legal framework under which all members of the Council must act.

11. Helping The Third Sector

We want the Voluntary, Community and Faith sectors, the ‘Third Sector’, to be our active partners in helping to solve Newham’s problems and challenges.

We recognise that, especially in times of crisis and emergency, our partnership with the Third Sector is essential to the well being of Newham residents. Lack of resourcing by the Council over the last 20 years has meant that no strong co-ordinating body for the Third sector has survived in Newham

We recognise the need for the Third Sector’s innovation and flexibility, its inclusivity and its awareness of seldom heard groups and individuals in particular. We would like to see hope, faith and engagement from the Faith Sector.

In order to encourage and support the Third Sector, we will set up and fund an infrastructure organisation, which will represent, support and train its volunteers, staff and Committee members/trustees, to ensure high standards of governance, practice and accountability, over the life of the next Council. We will consult widely on how best to achieve these objectives

We will use our Areas as the basis for commissioning community activities. This will include activities and services currently provided by the Council. We will give preference where possible to locally, Newham based, organisations.

We will proactively address the lack of burial places in Newham. We will work collaboratively with neighbouring boroughs and faith groups to secure sustainable and respectful burial arrangements for years to come.

There has been no strategic approach to the provision of places of worship and community facilities. Decision making has been piecemeal; there is a lack of capacity and locations that are not fit for purpose.

Newham is at the heart of London’s cultural and sporting life. We have world class institutions at East Bank, including the London Stadium, V&A East, Sadler’s Wells East and the BBC’s Music Studios. There is also a rich network of local venues, community initiatives, faith groups and creative spaces. The Borough thrives on creativity, diversity and talent.

Cultural hubs such as the Royal Docks and Stratford bring people together, celebrate heritage and showcase the artists, dance companies, theatre groups, production agencies, musicians and fashion designers who define Newham’s unique identity.

At the same time, our parks, leisure centres and sports facilities support a vibrant sporting culture, from grassroots football, cricket and athletics to inclusive community activities that drive health, participation and social cohesion across the Borough.

Culture and sport are powerful drivers of regeneration, inclusive economic growth and community wellbeing. As the sectors’ partners, champions and advocates, we will leverage our influence and resources to secure external funding, investment and support, amplifying the impact of local creativity and physical activity.

By expanding access to opportunities in the creative, cultural and sporting

sectors, supporting sustainable employment, and ensuring that venues, facilities and spaces thrive, we will enable residents, the Third Sector and businesses to realise their full potential. Lifelong learning, talent development and cross sector collaboration will be at the heart of this work.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

We will:

- Consult on, set up and fund an infrastructure organisation which will represent, support and train the Third Sector, to ensure high standards of governance, practice, financial management and accountability over the life of the next Council

BUILDINGS

We will:

- Look at all proposals for religious buildings and community facilities on their merits in relation to the site and/or location, area and surrounding locale. A major consideration will be the impacts of any proposed activity on its nearby neighbours, especially residential ones, of all faiths and none. Another will be whether a local, or boroughwide, facility is proposed.
- Provide a first free meeting for community groups seeking pre-application advice and effective enforcement where planning conditions are breached.
- Take action against existing commercial community facilities that are not fit for purpose or cause nuisance to residents where required.

PARTNERSHIPS

We will:

- Develop strategic partnerships with cultural, sporting, community and voluntary organisations so as to broaden participation and ensure every community can benefit. This approach will strengthen Newham's reputation as a Borough where creativity, physical activity, opportunity, pride and wellbeing thrive for all.

DIGNITY IN REST: A FAIR AND RESPECTFUL RESTING PLACE FOR OUR LOVED ONES

We will:

- Address the shortage of burial spaces in Newham by forming long-term partnerships with religious groups, neighbouring boroughs and reputable out-of-borough providers.
- Undertake a feasibility study on the joint acquisition and management of a new site or sites outside of Newham for burial facilities and funeral rites.
- Ensure that every family has access to dignified and, where possible, local provision for the necessary rites for their dead.
- Introduce affordable, reduced price, funeral packages for Newham residents, helping families during difficult times and ensuring no one faces financial hardship at the time of their grief.

FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

We will:

- With support from the Infrastructure Organisation as appropriate, we will encourage Third Sector groups to share their festivals and celebrations with the wider community so that we learn more about each other and build our community cohesion.

PARKING AT FUNERALS, RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

We will:

- Address any remaining issues faced by Newham residents and other mourners when attending local funerals. Free Parking for a fair period of time will be given to a pre-agreed number of attendees and a pre-agreed number of funerals per week.
- Consult with faith organisations about the precise mechanism and numbers.
- Make similar arrangements for celebrations at agreed religious festivals and other large-scale community events.

12. Performance Management And Using Data Well To Transform And Improve Our Services To You

High quality data is the key to transforming and improving the quality of the services we deliver to you. Ultimately what gets measured is what gets done!

We will collect and report on data in a clear, understandable way for all our services.

We will use this data to set stretching targets for the Council. This data will form our performance management framework. It will allow you to see, easily, how well we are delivering on our promises to you.

This data will be publicly reported.

We will:

- Commission and publish an annual borough wide survey of resident satisfaction and other key performance targets so that we can show you, our residents, how our performance is improving year on year. These targets will include outcomes covering resident satisfaction, complaints, and the quality of our services to you.
- Ensure that there is an effective set of outputs and outcomes by which the effectiveness of this spend can be judged.
- Use our data to inform the implementation of the policies in this manifesto so that we and you can clearly see and understand what works – and make changes when things do not work.

- Set targets for our councillors in areas like the number of surgeries they hold, the members' enquiries that they raise, the number of committee meetings they attend and the general quality/competence of their performance as Councillors. This will be done via the adoption of a competency framework for all Labour Councillors and their annual assessment against it.
- Make sure that the targets in our boroughwide surveys reflect our service delivery and cascade through the Council; i.e., the same target is set and monitored at all levels of the Council. This will provide clarity to our Councillors, residents and staff on our service delivery and achievements.

On 7 May 2026, the choice is between a serious plan for Newham, living within our means and delivering for you – or chaos and unmet promises.

We seek your support and your votes for our Mayoral candidate Forhad Hussain and Councillor candidates in the ward where you live.



Vote  **Labour**

Thursday 7 May