

Labour's Manifesto 2022

**BUILDING A  
FAIRER  
NEWHAM**

# CONT

“Everything we have done since 2018 is about investing in our people and our borough to make it the best place to live. We are addressing poverty and inequality, tackling the housing crisis, health inequality and food insecurity. There is still much more to do.”

Rokhsana Fiaz OBE  
Mayor of Newham

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With thanks to all Labour Party Councillors, candidates, members and affiliate organisations in Newham who have participated in the manifesto consultation webinars and survey for your great ideas and submissions.

# CHAMP



## A MESSAGE FROM ROKHSANA

**IONING****YOU AND YOUR  
FAMILY IN THESE UNCERTAIN  
TIMES**

**When elected Mayor in 2018, I promised to work hard for the people of Newham so that our borough becomes a place where children, young people, families and local businesses can flourish, thrive and be supported in these uncertain times.**

I said that I would improve the Council, so that every penny and pound is used to deliver all those vital frontline services such as supporting our elderly and making our borough cleaner, greener and safe. I pledged to invest in homes our people can afford, services for our young people, and to ensure that residents are involved in the decisions we make here at the Council so they can shape the neighbourhoods they live in.

Over the past four years, we have shown what Labour in power at a local level can do for all our people and that we are on your side.

Newham is the place where I live. I've grown up here and love how brilliantly diverse our borough is. Through our people, we have connections to all parts of the world. We are a great example of people coming together to help each other, as we saw during Covid-19 and through our support for refugees fleeing conflicts such as Syria, Afghanistan and now Ukraine. Our people and our communities make our borough, Newham so special.

We have the youngest population in the country. We want a bright future for them and everyone else that makes Newham their home.

That's why everything we have done since 2018 is about investing in our people and our borough to make it the best place to live. We are addressing poverty and inequality, tackling the housing crisis, health inequality and food insecurity. There is still much more to do.

Newham has some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country: 67 percent of Newham's households live in poverty. 30 percent of pupils in our schools are eligible for government funded free school meals. In Newham, some 24 percent of households are reliant on more expensive pre-payment meters for their gas and electricity. The cost of living crisis is going to make poverty in Newham worse

As your Labour Mayor, leading Newham Council, I've been delivering Community Wealth Building and Inclusive Growth locally to address these challenges head on. This is my moral drive for social and economic justice so that we can tackle poverty and the exploitation many of you face in work or from landlords.

My anti-poverty and fairness resolve means we have protected universal free school meals for all nursery and primary school-aged children, saving families £500 per year in these hard times.

By making health, well-being and happiness the primary measure of economic success at the Council, we are focusing on fair and just outcomes for all our people, regardless of their backgrounds.

We are building our response to the Climate Emergency across all aspects of our work in the Council to achieve net zero by 2045.

We are also protecting the health of our children and people by tackling the air pollution caused by vehicle emissions. We have increased the amounts we spend on fly tipping, street cleaning and recycling and brought the street cleaning service back in house to provide you with a better service in future. We have already invested an extra £1m each year into this service. As part of £18.8 million of investment this year, we are spending an additional £9.5m in children services and adult social care as well as support for families facing homelessness or who face destitution, such as refugees.

During Covid-19, we provided thousands of our residents' £3.5 million worth of food and other essential household items through our Help Newham programme and the Newham Food Alliance. We pioneered the Covid-19 Health Champions working with local residents as we faced the biggest public health emergency of our lifetimes and it has now been rolled out nationally. We were the only Council in the country to support residents isolating with Covid-19 by offering them hotel accommodation. This was one of the most outstanding frontline responses of any Council to stop the spread of the virus in our community.

Newham was hard hit by Covid-19 and through our rapid testing centres, the Covid-19 helpline, supported isolation plans, ground breaking work of our Covid-19 Health Champions and Vaccine Peer Support volunteers, we worked hard as a Labour-led Council to save lives.

Newham is changing, and people can see this. We have been awarded the highest allocation of Levelling Up grants in London. We have secured £40 million out of £65 million allocated to the Capital for two major programmes to improve our neighbourhoods.

Over the past four years much has already been done to sort out the Council and deliver for our people during the difficult times we have been facing. With the cost of living crisis facing us all, creating fairness in Newham and ensuring the Council spends money wisely in vital public services for you will be our focus.


As we look ahead to the next 4 years this manifesto sets out our promises to you. We will continue to support you and our communities in Newham across so many vital areas including:

1. **Delivering 1,500 new Council homes for Newham residents and their families.**
2. **Investing £40 million to keep our streets and neighbourhoods clean and cut reported fly-tipping by 50 percent.**
3. **Delivering 1000 Electric Vehicle charging points and 500 cycle hangars across the borough.**
4. **Paying the London Living Wage to all Council staff and specify that all our contractors do likewise, and campaign for the London Living Wage to be paid to all employees in Newham.**
5. **Campaigning for affordable care costs that meet the needs of our elderly residents to age well in comfort and with security.**
6. **Holding the police to account so that they work for our residents to make Newham safe and especially for our women and young people.**
7. **Supporting all our people and local businesses facing the Cost of Living crisis.**

I am proud to be leading an excellent team of Labour candidates across the borough standing to represent you and our community in Newham.



**ROKHSANA FIAZ OBE**  
**MAYOR OF NEWHAM**

 @rokhsanafiaz



# DELIVER

## FOR NEWHAM PEOPLE

**Over the last 4 years your Labour Council in Newham has**

1. Started 1000 new Council homes our people can afford as part of a £2 billion investment to tackle the housing crisis in Newham.
2. Invested £13.5 million to increase the number of the Council's youth workers from 4 to 43 full-time equivalent, and funding a further 120 youth workers through our collaboration with the voluntary and community sector.
3. Increased the number of Youth Zones for our young people in the borough from 4 to 8, including the flagship youth zone in Stratford and a £6 million investment to rebuild Shipman Youth Zone in Custom House.
4. Established Neighbourhood Assemblies where residents are involved in how £800,000 is spent to improve their local areas and established the country's first permanent Citizens Assembly to involve residents in decision making.
5. Stopped the privatisation of Council services and brought the Council's street cleaning services back in-house, including investing an extra £1 million a year on street cleaning. We have also invested an extra £6.6 million in recycling and extended it to all Council owned flats.
6. Stopped the joint venture on the Carpenters Estate and collaborated with residents to develop a plan for 2300 homes to be built or refurbished and 50 percent of those Council homes will be let at social rent levels.
7. Taken on the big banks like Barclays and saved you millions of pounds in interest payments on toxic loans. This includes £143m saved over the next 40 years in a deal with NatWest bank. These savings will be spent on frontline services.
8. Implemented 5 new low traffic neighbourhoods and 14 healthy school streets to support our plans to improve air quality and make our streets safe for children and families.
9. Developed healthy travel policies for Newham to improve our air quality, reduce traffic congestion and make our streets safer.
10. Implemented a new CCTV network to make roads safer; upgraded the Greenway pedestrian and cycle route and created our first network of electric vehicle charging points, with a total of 1000 to be installed.
11. Launched the UK's first local government Employment Rights Hub to support local residents, and since it started in June 2021 £228,247 has been recovered in unpaid wages and redundancy pay for them.
12. Through the Council's Our Money service, residents have been supported during the Covid-19 pandemic to increase their income by £2.3 million through benefit claims, dealing with their debts and maximising their savings. It has also distributed £1.1 million in grants to support families with emergency financial assistance to help 11, 826 people including children facing hardship.

# RING



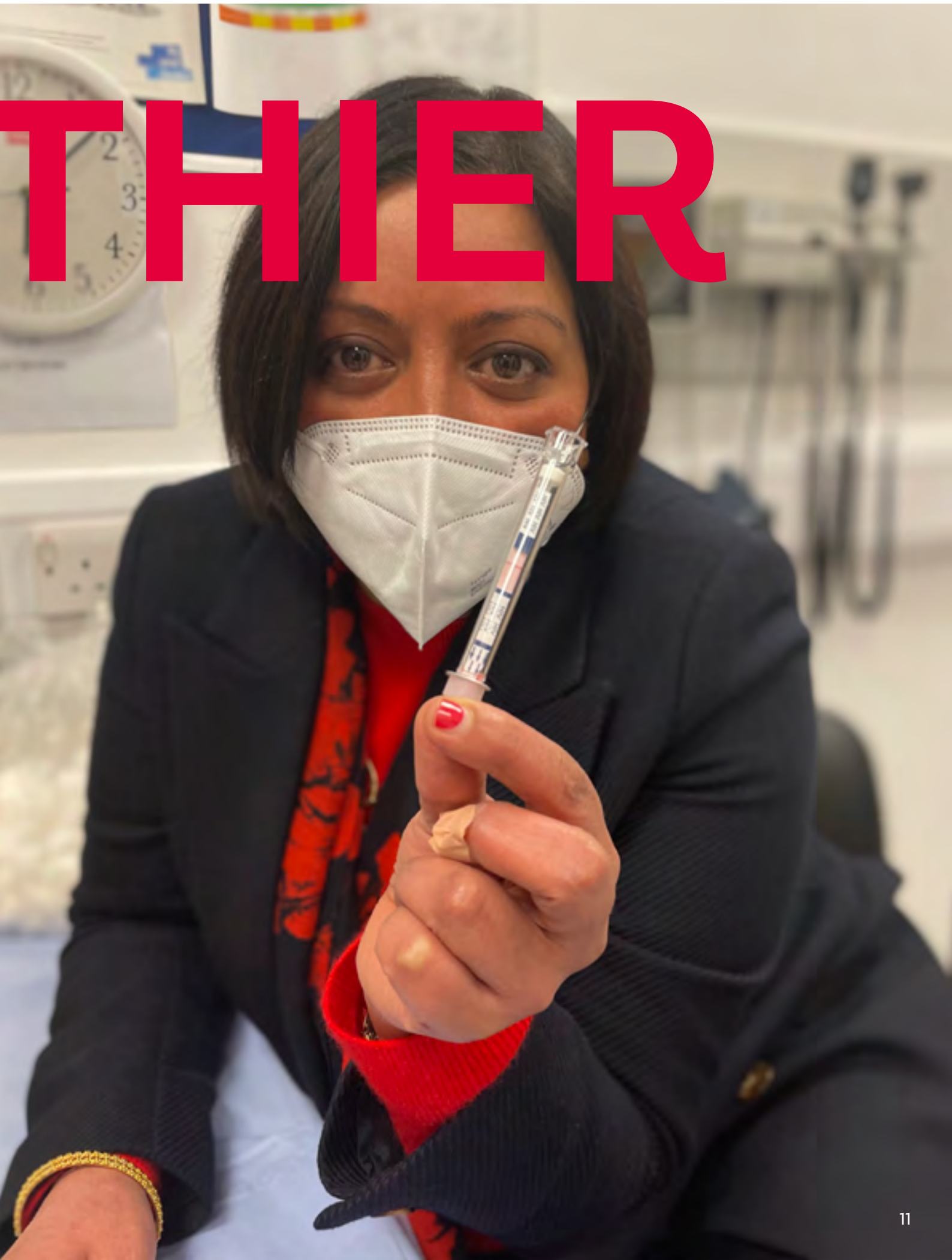
# A HEALTHY

## NEWHAM & AGEING WELL

**Our three highest priorities over the last 4 years have been tackling health inequalities, dealing with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic; and making sure that we support our elderly residents better so that they live independently and well by starting to address the historic under investment in Adult Social Care.**

**People in Newham have poorer health outcomes than the population overall with shorter life expectancy and they live in good health for less time too. These health inequalities are rooted in poverty and economic inequality and also influenced by other factors including race and ethnicity which impact the health outcomes of many of our residents. These inequalities have been highlighted by Covid-19 where the combination of factors have put Newham's communities at significant risk from the worst outcomes of the pandemic.**

# THIER



# WE ARE DELIVERING

- Newham has spent £29 million on shielding our communities and protecting people from the worst effects of Covid. Only £19m of this has been refunded by the Government, leaving us with a £10 million shortfall.
- We have increased expenditure on Adult Social Care by £5 million despite savings that the Council had to make because the Conservative government has failed to fund local councils properly. There is still a lot more to do and that's why we have a new homecare framework through our Carers and Aging Well strategy.
- We pay 1,000 homecare care staff the London Living Wage, investing £5.5 million per year, and over 800 of these care workers are Newham residents.
- Despite chronic underfunding from central government we are investing £1.6 million each year to tackle rough sleeping, and have reduced the number of vulnerable adults on our streets from 105 to 11 through compassion and care to support them.
- We are investing £3 million in a new multi-purpose Centre of Excellence on Rough Sleeping to support people off the street as part of a new 5-year Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy.
- We have launched our 50-steps to a Healthier Newham and our Well Newham programmes with over £1 million a year of investment across a range of health promotion services such as Smoking Cessation, Healthy Weight, and Social Prescribing.
- We have opened our first joint health centre at Royal Wharf with the NHS which provides seamless health and wellbeing support. This health centre will be a model of best practice in Newham to promote a healthy Newham for all.
- We have pioneered the Hartley housing scheme for older people as part of the Council's 1000 new homes to be let at social rent levels.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic we established our Help Newham network to support residents shielding and vulnerable families with food and essential household items. Between April and September 2020, over 80,000 food parcels across 8 Council-led hubs were delivered to support our residents.
- We also established the Newham Food Alliance in collaboration with over 100 organisations - and growing - in the voluntary sector, investing £3.5 million to provide food for low income families. In a typical week in November 2021 we provided food support to over 3118 households, and 1783 of these where families with children. We are currently supporting 6,000 households in Newham.
- We work with the Felix Project to distribute surplus food and are currently its largest local authority partner in the UK, with Council vehicles driving some 25 tonnes of food a week from the Felix Project to voluntary sector partners across the borough.

## Over the next 4 years we will

- Continue to pay the London Living Wage to all our care workers, which will also cover their travel time; and campaign for the London Living Wage to be extended to all workers in Newham's social care sector.
- Explore new models of care delivery for social care, including cooperatives, and engage with our residents and providers on the services they want to receive and provide in the future.
- Establish a Centre of Excellence on Race Equality in Health and Social Care, as well as an Adult Social Care Citizens Assembly for residents with learning needs and disabilities so that they are involved in the design and delivery of services aimed at them.
- Launch Newham's first Social Prescribing pilot as part of plans to embed a preventative health approach across the borough. This will accelerate health promotion and prevention and improve physical and mental health outcomes for all Newham residents in all our neighbourhoods.
- Change our 0-19 years health provision model so that it responds flexibly and able to more effectively support our young people and families most in need.
- Oppose any further privatisation of NHS Services and hold health partners to account on provision and funding for children with special educational needs and disabilities through Newham's Health and Wellbeing Board as part of our ongoing drive to improve health outcomes for all Newham Residents.

PART OF OUR  
1000+ NEW  
COUNCIL HOMES  
PROGRAMME



# NEWHAM'S INCLUSIVE **ECCO**

## TO SUPPORT YOU IN THESE HARD TIMES

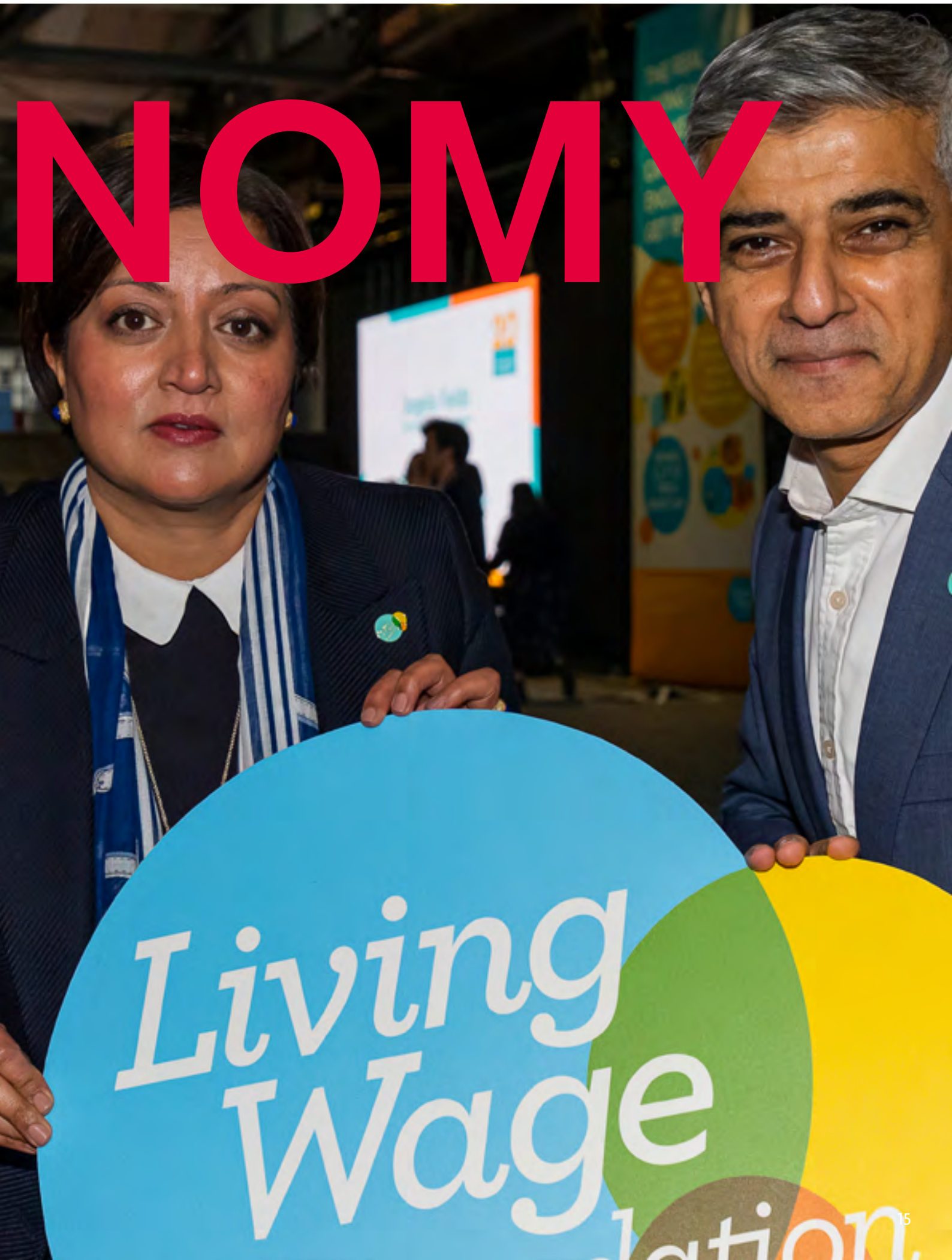
**Labour in Newham is creating an inclusive local economy which works for local people, supports their wellbeing and their financial security. Our pledge in 2018 was to transform Newham into a beacon of Community Wealth Building by using the Council's purchasing power to keep wealth in Newham to benefit our residents.**

**We want to achieve inclusive economic growth locally to improve the quality of life of all Newham residents so that they can get decent and secure jobs and earn sustainable wages to provide a good life for themselves and their families.**

**We have worked to achieve this through championing fair pay and conditions, supporting low income families with additional financial support, supporting affordable local business options and creating accessible learning opportunities to secure higher skilled jobs and greater earning potential.**

**That is why Newham Council under Labour is a London Living Wage employer. We champion good employment practices and the London Living Wage in Newham through our Community Wealth Building pledge which so far has been adopted by 102 businesses locally. Through our Employment Rights Hub we are helping our residents know their rights at work and safeguard them from exploitation by bad employers.**

# NOMY



*Living  
Wage*  
ation

We have established the Council's Our Newham service to help our residents to find work and to stay in work as well as supporting local businesses. Working with a range of statutory and voluntary sector partners we also help residents facing financial hardship.

We have put in place plans to direct investment coming into our borough to support jobs and opportunities for our residents. We welcome investment and innovation that supports our agenda for a fair employment and supports inclusive growth locally. We are already increasing the amount the Council spends as a purchaser of goods and services locally and we are widening opportunities to benefit our small businesses in Newham.

A quarter of Newham residents have no formal qualifications which is why we are ambitious in creating high quality learning, training and skills opportunities so that they can access high skilled and higher paid jobs.

Through the Council's Our Newham service we are supporting residents, including those with complex needs, to fulfil their potential. Our ambitious lifelong learning agenda is supporting residents to access a range of skills and training courses to get higher paid jobs and benefit in their career progression.

Working in partnership with local colleges, universities, local businesses and our collaboration with the GLA through the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone and Good Growth programmes, we are addressing the skills gap holding our residents back and hampering the growth potential of our local economy.

We know that residents and families will be facing significant financial pressures because of the cost of living crisis and we will continue to support them in these hard times as part of our plans to build a fairer Newham through our inclusive economic growth agenda.

## WE ARE DELIVERING

- **As a London Living Wage Labour Council we pay all directly employed Council staff and care workers in Newham the London Living Wage because a hard day's work deserves a fair day's pay.**
- **Through Our Newham Work we have supported 1350 residents back into work during the Covid-19 pandemic, including 650 young people aged 18-24 years. Overall it has referred 22,987 residents to employment, training and support opportunities.**
- **As part of our Towards a Better Newham Covid-19 Recovery Strategy we have helped 359 young people aged 18-24 years into jobs through the Council's Kickstart scheme and another 426 young people to access a range of job opportunities with employers.**
- **Our Newham Learning service has supported 41,000 residents since 2018 to access part-time courses across our 6 Adult Learning and Skills hubs in our neighbourhoods.**
- **Since March 2020 residents accessing training courses has increased by 8 percent in Arts, Media and Publishing; 7 percent in Information & Communications Technology and is up 4 percent in Retail and Commercial Enterprise.**
- **We have invested £3 million in English to Speakers in Other Languages provision to boost uptake from Newham's diverse community to increase their life and work skills, with an additional £4 million for the Adult Education Budget.**
- **Over 10,000 local businesses have been supported through the Our Newham Business and Enterprise service, with £119 million worth of grants issued to 5000 business during the Covid-19 pandemic; including £546,000 to 489 eligible businesses this year through our Omicron grants scheme. Additionally, local businesses in Newham have benefitted from £100 million in business rate relief.**

- We have established the Our Newham Money service which helps Newham residents facing financial hardship, providing support and advice on all money matters as well as emergency support through supermarket and energy vouchers, white goods and furniture and other grants.
- Between March 2020-2022, the Our Newham Money service has supported Newham residents increase their income by £2.3 million, distributed £1.1 million in grants to support families with emergency financial assistance and help 11, 826 people including children facing hardship.

**'I had built up high rent arrears after fleeing my home from domestic violence. Our Newham Money supported me by ensuring I was receiving my full entitlement to benefits.'**

Newham Resident

- We have launched our Newham Employment Rights Hub at the Council, the first local authority in the country to do this to support our residents in employment. Since it started in June 2021, 205 residents have been supported to recover £228,247 in unpaid wages and redundancy pay, and 119 residents have been helped through its Employment Rights workshops.
- We have launched a pioneering data and digital strategy Newham Sparks, to ensure that Newham is at the forefront of digital transformation in local government for the public good; and of London's data economy seize future job and economic growth opportunities.

**'I was dismissed by my employer and did not receive the pay I was due. The Employment Rights Hub helped me write a letter to my employer and I have now been paid all my wages.'**

Newham Resident

- We have launched Newham's Creative Future, the Council's first ever cultural strategy, to support growth in our creative and cultural industries as well as support local talent, well-being and happiness.
- Our plans for Covid-19 recovery were rewarded with £40 million of Levelling Up funding from the government; the highest allocation to any council in the Capital and representing 60 percent of the grant awarded to London.

**This will deliver:**

- 4.7 kilometres of new walking and cycling routes in the borough
- 3,757 square metres of new community space in our historic Royal Docks
- 958 square metres of refurbished culture, heritage and learning space
- Five refurbished shop units in Canning Town and Custom House
- A new bridge over the River Lea which will run from Canning Town to Tower Hamlets



## Over the next 4 years we will

- Campaign for the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone to become the Capital's first London Living Wage neighbourhood, using our and the GLA's purchasing power, and for all businesses in Newham to become London Living Wage employers.
- Specify that all contractors doing business with the Council pay their staff the London Living Wage and support local suppliers, so that more of the money we spend as a Council stays in Newham to directly benefit local businesses. This has the potential to unlock £150 million each year to help their businesses thrive and create more jobs for our people.
- Use Council owned land and buildings to provide work spaces for Newham residents to develop business ideas, promote entrepreneurship and support micro and small business start-ups by lowering the risks and barriers locally.
- Undertake a review of all outstanding Council services privatised before 2018 to scope out how these services can be brought back under the Council's direct control.
- Develop planning policies by the end of year one of our next term for the neighbourhood in Stratford to become the borough's first Green Zone by 2024, as part of our Climate Emergency response. It will be an example to the rest of London of how to implement a fair and green economy locally through high quality and sustainable development to create healthy and safe neighbourhoods, as well as a range of social and economic opportunities.
- Extend the Green Zone model to all the borough's neighbourhoods by May 2026 as part of our response to the Climate Emergency and public health crisis caused by poor air quality.
- Ensure all aspects of our work in the Council support plans to achieve Net Zero by 2045, and we will introduce a Green Budget by the end of the first year of our next term.
- Develop a gold standard across the Council's Adult and Skills Learning Hubs which are inclusive and where people feel inspired to succeed and enabled to access a range of full-time jobs and career opportunities in the green economy, data and technology, science and the creative sectors.
- Transform East Ham Town Hall to become the Council's first Data Economy Campus, as part of a network of data economy hubs which will include one located in the Council's Royal Docks building. These data sector hubs will bring innovators, starts ups and training providers together to unlock the potential of Newham's people and to make our borough become the home of London's data economy.
- Continue investments in skills and training, with plans to increase the Adult Education Budget by £4 million through strengthening our collaborations with Adult Learning Colleges as part of a refreshed Lifelong Learning strategy to prepare residents for the jobs of the future.
- Work with the Women's Resource Centre, a national umbrella organisation of 800 women led organisations, to establish a dedicated Women's Hub in Newham. This hub would house specialist organisations which support women with skills, training and routes into employment.



# YOUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

**Air pollution in Newham is worse than anywhere else in London. Less than half of Newham residents have access to a private car. Air pollution kills 115 people each year while hospitalising 4,500 children with severe respiratory conditions like asthma and other illnesses.**

**Our borough is a through route for commuter traffic. In 2019, 666 million vehicle miles were driven in Newham, an increase of an extra 86 million vehicle miles since 2014. The Silvertown tunnel will bring even more pollution into our borough which is why we will continue to oppose it.**

**We want to reduce traffic in our neighbourhoods and streets, cutting down on rat-runs that drivers use in our borough to get to their destinations quicker without regard for the health or safety of our residents.**

**We want to tackle dangerous driving which is a risk to the lives of pedestrians and cyclists. We are determined to make our roads safer for everyone, especially children, the elderly and parents; and we want to reduce accidents and injuries**

**This is why we have introduced a number of people-friendly schemes to improve our streets including managing parking based on emissions, introducing electric vehicle charging points, healthy school streets and people friendly streets with low traffic neighbourhoods.**

# RHOOD



We will work with residents and communities across Newham to make their residential roads quieter, safer and cleaner. We want to improve all our neighbourhoods for residents so that Newham becomes a healthy place to live and work.

We are also pressing ahead with our response to the Climate Emergency through a cross-Council Taskforce which has initiated a range of programmes to achieve carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2045.

We are supporting sustainable transport, and the switch to cleaner vehicles, with 150 Electric Vehicle charging points already installed across the borough, and another 400 to be installed by the summer of 2023.

## **WE ARE DELIVERING**

- **Our street cleaning service is back in-house and being run directly by the Council and we have invested an extra £300,000 in our fly-tipping team to target our main streets. We have also taken on 40 permanent street cleansing staff as well, to make the service more responsive to resident needs and meet our local requirements.**
- **We are reviewing changing all the street cleaning schedules including when the waste bags on our streets are collected so that our neighbourhoods are cleaned more effectively.**
- **Working with Keep Britain Tidy, we have developed a range of initiatives that we are rolling out across the borough to target fly-tipping hotspots. This has led to a reduction in fly-tipping of up to 75 percent in these areas.**
- **We have introduced more enforcement actions to tackle the scourge of fly-tippers who don't care about the places we live and who disrespect our neighbourhoods.**
- **We have rolled-out recycling to all Council owned homes in blocks across the borough and extending the range of materials that can be recycled to the most ever provided in Newham.**
- **We have brought our Parks and Green Spaces team back in-house, allowing us to modernise the service and begun an investment programme in our parks and in our neighbourhoods.**
- **We have introduced a new tree planting programme which will mean new trees on our streets and in our parks every spring and autumn. By the end of spring this year, 800 new trees will have been planted.**
- **Since 2018, we have introduced a number of Healthy Schools Street schemes covering 14 schools to protect the health of our children and ensure they can walk or cycle to school safely. Schemes benefiting another 11 schools are currently being implemented and these will be completed by the summer.**

## Over the next 4 years we will

- Consult and work with residents to identify residential roads and areas in the borough that are affected by dangerous driving, rat-runs and traffic congestion to design schemes to make these roads safer, quieter and healthier for all our residents, including wheelchair users and those with visual impairments and disabilities.
- Make our roads safer places by continuing to target dangerous driving and enforce parking rules across the borough, as well as launch a safety awareness campaign about electrical scooters and bikes.
- We will continue to work with residents and Transport for London on accessible streets, public areas, improved green spaces, public transport facilities, and a 20mph speed limit with a focus on making all residential streets safer.
- Continue to work with our schools and parents on the introduction of Healthy School Streets schemes across all schools in Newham to protect our children going to school.
- Install at least 1000 Electric Vehicle charging points across the borough to support the transition to cleaner vehicles, alongside 500 cycle hangars and the expansion of our cycle hire scheme with to encourage more cycle usage.
- Work with Transport for London to expand our cycling facilities and cycle routes as part of our plans to create a borough-wide cycle network, including good quality cycle provision for Romford Road and Barking Road.
- Implement the greening of the Council's vehicle fleet with 50 percent of vehicles are clean by 2026 with a target of 100 percent by 2030.
- Continue to invest in our road and pavement resurfacing and repair programmes; investing at least £10 million a year. This will deliver a programme of resurfacing and patching works, pavement upgrades including those damaged by overgrown tree roots.
- Continue with a borough-wide programme to repaint road markings and zebra crossings, alongside improvements to our streets with more trees.
- Spend £40 million over the next 4 years to keep our streets and neighbourhoods clean and cut reported fly-tipping by 50 percent.
- Encourage more recycling through a 50 percent increase in recycling opportunities across our neighbourhoods and invest an extra £600,000 in recycling, including the introduction of weekly re-cycling collections.
- Introduce a food waste recycling pilot scheme as part of our Climate Emergency response to reduce methane gas and support Newham's circular economy.

- Implement a new food hygiene and quality strategy to improve food retail standards across the borough to support local high streets, street markets and Newham's night-time economy.
- Launch a Newham High Streets improvement and investment strategy to support our plans to create thriving local 15-minute neighbourhoods.
- Work with residents and local community groups to deliver more community gardens, with at least one community garden in each of the borough's neighbourhoods.
- Continue the investment in our parks so that at least 10 parks in the borough are awarded the nationally recognised Green Flag by 2026.
- Expand adult leisure facilities, training equipment and accessible activities across our parks and open spaces in all our neighbourhoods to promote the health and wellbeing of Newham residents. This will include a facility for urban street sports modelled on the StreetMekka project in Copenhagen to support access and participation in basketball, parkour, skateboarding and rollerblading for our young people.
- Invest in all children's play areas across the borough by 2026 so our children have access good quality play areas, including dedicated facilities for children with special education needs and disabilities.
- We will also invest in SEND play for children and young people; working with specialist partners, and co-designed with futures users, parents, carers and residents to create a dedicated facility.

**Vote**  **Labour**





# SAFER

## NEWHAM

**Over the last 4 years we have pressed our police hard to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Newham, but we know that not all of residents feel safe on our streets. This has to end. We want to see a Newham where all our residents feel safe and secure when out alone at night and where women, younger and older people do not feel at risk of harm when using our parks and open spaces. More CCTV alone is not the solution though it has a role to play.**

**We believe that unless we address the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities we will fail to improve the lives of our residents when they use our streets and open spaces. At the same time we must also ensure that our police respond quickly to anti-social behaviour and resolve resident concerns in an efficient and timely way.**



There are particular issues that women in our Borough face because of the reality of misogyny and harassment in all aspects of their life. Violence against women and girls has been a key priority and we are addressing this through community conversations with women, developing a new Domestic Abuse strategy and we launched our Women's Night Safety Charter in 2021.

Police reform is also urgently needed so that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) regains the trust and confidence of women and communities

in Newham facing racism, Antisemitism, Islamophobia and LGBTQ+ hate crimes. We will work with our police partners as their critical friend and advocate for reforms to strengthen confidence in policing by consent.

The Council cannot solve these issues on its own so will work with the community to make Newham a safer place and ensure that we work with our police so that they effectively tackle crime experienced by Newham residents.

## **WE ARE DELIVERING**

- **Since 2018 we have spent £17 million on crime and community safety, alongside youth safety. We have implemented new ways of tackling crime with our local police so that our residents and communities feel safer.**
- **Established a Youth Safety Board which works together with Newham's young people to keep our young people safe. It has brought together the Council's Youth Empowerment Service and Youth Offending Team, the Police and the voluntary sector across the borough and collaborations with the wider community.**
- **Developed a public health and early intervention approach to combat the violence and exploitation facing young people which harms families and our communities. This includes targeted support for families and young people with mentoring and interventions that directly support those at risk of exploitation and county lines.**
- **Launched an Adolescent Exploitation Strategy which responds to adolescent risk factors, learning from serious incidents and case reviews to safeguard and support children and young people up to the age of 25 through a collaborative multi-agency approach.**

## Over the next 4 years we will

- Hold our local police to account through the Newham Crime and Community Safety Partnership to reduce and prevent violence in the borough, increase trust and confidence by building stronger relationships with our residents, and ensure that they protect people from exploitation and harm.
- Increase the number of the Council's Community Safety Enforcement officers over the next 4 years to tackle ASB on our streets, environmental crime such as fly-tipping and enforce Public Space Protection Orders when they are breached.
- Increase the number of Anti-Social Behaviour officers to respond to nuisance neighbours, noise and to tackle ASB hotspots with multi-agency action plans to achieve sustainable outcomes. This will include using our network of CCTV cameras to identify perpetrators of crime and take enforcement action.
- Launch a Hate Crime Strategy and Action Plan to map the scale of hate crime in Newham, and increase awareness and reporting through building a community coalition against hate. This will include a hate crime reporting line in partnership with Stop Hate UK and our local police where residents will be supported and action can be taken against perpetrators.
- Implement high quality support in collaboration with our police and Victim Support, including training for Council's front line staff on how to support victims of hate crime.
- Continue with our public health approach to youth safety in collaboration with the young people in the borough, the Council's Youth Safety Board, MOPAC, schools, health partners, the voluntary sector and the wider community. This will include a borough-wide anti-knife crime campaign and ongoing work to reduce the exploitation of our children and young people from county lines.
- Launch a zero tolerance campaign against misogyny and street harassment experienced by women and girls in Newham to address problematic behaviours. This will include an app to support the reporting of street harassment that occurs in public spaces.
- Improve the safety of women in the borough through encouraging more local businesses to sign up to the Women's Safety Night Charter so that women and girls in Newham are confident that their concerns or experiences of harassment in the places they visit will result in a supportive and positive response, including from the police.
- Develop an Open Spaces Action Plan, in collaboration with women, young people and communities facing hate crimes, so that our public spaces and high streets are safe places for all.
- This will include a Women's Safety Audit across all the borough's neighbourhoods, as well as investments in 'smarter' infrastructure in our parks, open spaces and streets such as smart lighting, clear sightlines, improved pedestrian pathways and the use of data and technology.
- Introduce a range of preventative measures as part of a new Domestic Abuse Strategy to stop domestic abuse and violence against women and girls happening in the first place. Services will also be commissioned to ensure that they are culturally responsive to the diversity of women and girls that need our vital support and protection.
- Introduce a Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse programme to help people who have been abusive towards their partners or ex-partners to change their behaviour and develop respectful, non-abusive relationships.
- Reduce the stigmatisation and exploitation of street and off-street sex workers through a new strategy which sensitively acknowledges the complexity of prostitution and the diversity of people involved who are at risk of harm. As well as catching and convicting perpetrators, including those who traffic vulnerable people, the strategy will support those involved in prostitution to report crimes to the police, provide access to specialist Sexual Assault Referral practitioners and help individuals.

# HOMES

## FOR OUR RESIDENTS

**Newham's housing crisis is now 50 years old. It continues to exist because Government has never provided the Council with the resources needed to build the homes we need. Instead it has promoted the Right to Buy. It has also encouraged the scourge of the private rented sector which offers its tenants no security of tenure and high, often unaffordable, rents. Some 35.5 percent of all homes in Newham are now owned by private landlords. Many of these homes also suffer from overcrowding, disrepair and have poor standards of amenity and thermal efficiency at a time when energy costs are heading skywards. Their rental payments are largely lost to the Newham economy.**



In consequence, there are 32000 households on our housing register and 5,700 households in temporary and non-secure accommodation, the highest in the UK. Because of the rent cap and non-availability of homes in Newham we are forced to house many of our homeless households outside Newham, a long way from their families and social networks. Our Local Plan, inherited from the previous administration, and now being reviewed, specifies only 35 percent affordable housing in new build schemes.

The remaining housing stock that we own, some 17,000 homes, needs significant investment and much improvement to bring it up to modern standards of repair, amenity and energy efficiency in particular. A stock condition survey to give us accurate costs and accurate programmes of work is now being carried out.

## **WE ARE DELIVERING**

- **We have started to build 1000 new council homes our people can afford, to be let at social rent, representing a major manifesto commitment which has been delivered.**
- **This includes the start of 150 new homes in Custom House to provide decanting capacity and we will be starting a further 150 new homes in Canning Town by the end of 2023, all at social rent levels.**
- **We have started a long term borough wide programme of major repairs, renewals and improvements to our homes. £150 million will be spent over the next 3 years and more in subsequent years from the Council's capital programme.**
- **This programme will cover all of our estates, remedy historic under investment while implementing our 'retrofit' programme addressing energy efficiency and amenity. Over £50 million of this money will be spent on building safety and environmental sustainability.**
- **Our new Housing Delivery strategy along with our first ever long-term Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping strategy is being implemented and our residents are being supported and helped. We have worked hard over the last two years to reduce our reliance on expensive and unstable nightly booked accommodation through an approach based on prevention by working pro-actively and early with people living in insecure housing conditions. The increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation has slowed to 2 percent.**
- **Developed a Tenant Rights Action Plan based on a collaboration with Generation Rent, the national campaigning body for private renters.**

## Over the next 4 years we will

- Provide at least 1500 more new homes, through starting our own homes, acquisitions and enabling other providers to develop. 1000 of these homes will be let at social rent levels; the remaining 500 will provide long term sustainable rented housing for homeless households and be let at Local Housing Allowance rent levels as an alternative to Temporary Accommodation.
- Provide 2175 new and improved homes at Carpenters Estate by 2037; we will complete 132 renovated homes at social rent levels at James Riley Point by 2026.
- Complete the Custom House and Canning Town Masterplan in participation with residents and hold a residents' ballot on Phase 1 by the end of 2022.
- Start at least two innovative roof-space development schemes, building at least 20 new homes on top of existing buildings.
- Build all new homes to at least Government level space and technical standards. This will include high standards of energy efficiency to tackle the climate emergency, fuel poverty and housing need.
- Our policy objective is that all our new homes shall be carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2045 and this will constrain the absolute numbers we can build. That is why we will campaign to get Government to provide the resources we require to make all our homes carbon zero.
- Review our local Development Plan so that it specifies 50 percent homes for social rent are built on all development sites. This will need Government approval.
- Employ our own viability assessor to forensically scrutinise developer proposals.
- Review our Local Development Plan to maximise the number of new homes to be built at social rent levels, in particular on smaller sites which the Council owns. Our target is 50 percent.
- Continue to develop Community Land Trust schemes in the borough. We have already identified the borough's first site in Custom House and we will identify at least one more site elsewhere in Newham by 2026.
- Over the next 4 years we will attempt to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation from the current 5,700 households, but this is dependent on the financial resources available to the Council and many other factors outside of the Council's control, such as the cost of living crisis.

- Increase the percentage of homeless households rehoused in Newham over the next 4 years to 70 percent from the current level of 63 percent target as a priority.
- Improve the quality of our remaining Temporary Accommodation by working only with landlords whose homes are of a decent, habitable standard and which meet Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C where practical, cost effective and affordable.
- Minimise the use of nightly paid Temporary Accommodation so that it is only used when no reasonable alternatives are available.
- Inspect all new homes prior to purchase or letting, subject to staff resources and ensure that residents continue to receive support from the Council until they are permanently rehoused.
- Re-establish Tenants and Residents Associations on all estates where the residents want to have one and establish a Newham wide Tenants and Residents Panel.
- Produce in collaboration with our Council tenants a best practice consultation and engagement policy, which will clearly set out the stages and ways in which residents will be fully consulted and involved especially when work takes place to their homes.
- Open up to six housing hubs across the Borough where tenants and residents can access in-person help and advice on housing services.
- Implement a full digital repairs offer for our own tenants, giving them the ability to report, track and change repairs online.
- Improve our key performance indicators for repairs including first time fixes, appointments kept, and repairs satisfaction to all exceed 90 percent within the next 4 years. They are now in the range of 70 - 80 percent.
- Employ at least 30 new apprentices from Newham in our Repairs and Maintenance Division. This is over 10 percent of the Division's core establishment.
- Implement the findings of the Grenfell Part 2 Enquiry and undertake any immediate remediation work required across our housing portfolio. Our programme already includes 5000 new fire doors and replacement cladding to 7 tall blocks.
- Create a new Housing Repairs and Building Safety Division in the Housing Service to procure, client and manage our repair and improvement work across all the Council's homes including that needed in response to the new Building Safety Act and Grenfell Enquiry.

- Seek Government approval to extend the private landlord registration scheme for an unprecedented third term of 5 more years. It will include all Temporary Accommodation.
- Introduce an enhanced inspection regime for the private rented sector in Newham, zero tolerance of poor landlords and provide the staffing resources needed for rigorous enforcement activity.
- Set clear property standards so that landlords have to provide high quality housing that has good space standards, is safe and well managed.
- Place particular emphasis on establishing minimum standards of energy efficiency so that private rented homes meet EPC Band C where practical, cost effective and affordable and also have high standards of security.
- Campaign for a future Labour Government to introduce both rent controls and security of tenure, subject to cause, for private rented sector tenants.



# SUPPORT

## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

**We want to give all of our children the best start in life and for Newham to be the most child friendly borough, enabling all our children and young people to reach their potential, be safe, happy and healthy regardless of their background. We want them to be ready for school, achieve good educational outcomes, get a good job and feel secure about their futures. That is why in 2021, we launched the Newham Year of the Young Person to celebrate the brilliance of all our children and young people in Newham.**

**Since 2018, we have started an ambitious agenda for them, through significant investments in children services in response to the Ofsted Inspection which rated the service we inherited as inadequate.**

**This reflects the chronic under investment by the previous Council which we are reversing, including in our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision which also requires improvement.**

# RTING



We are committed to driving significant change to raise standards to provide the best, timely and responsive support for our SEND children working with parents, carers and partners as part of a process of rebuilding trust and providing an excellent service with health partners.

Over the past 4 year, we have invested an additional £40 million across all our children and young people services provision. The most recent Ofsted visit in early 2022 has confirmed that there has been ‘tangible and visible signs of improvements’.

This includes increasing investment in Youth Service provision with a £19 million injection over 4 years to reverse the disinvestment in our young people.

We have also launched a Youth Empowerment Fund enabling young people to access £500,000 to enable them to reach their potential. We have increased from 4 to 43, the number of full time equivalent of which 9 operate a detached engagement approach working on prevention and youth safety across our neighbourhoods in Newham. We are also funding a further 120 youth workers in the voluntary sector.

Our focus on prevention and early intervention means that we are setting the conditions for which our children and their families can have the best opportunities. Our approach is universal and inclusive, always focusing on the specific and complex needs of young people, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.

## WE ARE DELIVERING

- Investing £6 million per year to provide all children in nursery and primary schools a nutritious meal through our Eat for Free guarantee which saves hard working parents and carers £500 per child per year.
- Strengthened our partnership with our family of schools with 96 percent achieving good or outstanding education status across early years to post-16 settings.
- Our school inclusion strategy has seen a significant reduction in the number of permanent exclusions across our schools by 50 percent in 2020 / 21, and will continue to hold schools to account for the number and type of pupil exclusions.
- Launched our Journey of Child platform so that parents and carers are clear about the services that the Council provides for their children as they grow up in Newham.
- Published our Newham Young People’s Charter, developed by young people, which sets out what they expect from us at the Council, from partners and the wider community to support them as the live and grow up in our borough; what’s important in their lives and the opportunities they want us to unleash for them.
- Increased the number of Youth Zones in the borough from 4 to 8. This includes the flagship Stratford Youth zone that specialises in the performing arts and cultural enrichment. Shipman Youth Zone in Custom House will benefit from a £6.2 million brand new state of the art building. Another £2.5 million is being invested to upgrade the remaining Youth Zones. Every Youth Zone has SEND empowerment and activity provision for young people up to 24 years old.
- Secured £4.7 million from the North East London Clinical Care Group (NEL CCG) as part of our SEND improvement response. This will fund, to March 2024, the speech and language therapy needs of our SEND children and young people in Newham. It will also fund our joint commissioning plans and enable the expansion of the independent SENDIASS service which provides advice to parents and carers.
- Addressed the backlog impacting 1,400 SEND children in our borough waiting for Autism assessments, by securing funding from the NEL CCG for the Children with Autism in Newham Diagnosis Service.
- Worked with 56 schools in Newham through our pioneering HeadStart programme to support children’s mental health and well-being. Over 3415 school staff have been trained and 1168 children have co-produced this exemplary personal resilience programme.

## Over the next 4 years we will

- Embed a child first and child rights environment in Newham to support all our young people.
- Continue with our Eat for Free programme for all nursery and primary school children and address food security facing young people in secondary education.
- Campaign through the Newham Food Alliance and Social Welfare Network, for wider food security for all children and families on low incomes.
- Work closely with school leaders and governors to ensure a continuing reversal of exclusions as part of our wider strategy of addressing systemic racism, inequality and disproportionality in education participation and achievement of ethnic minority young people.
- Invest an initial £1.2 million in the first year of our next term so that our children with SEND are given the best education and development opportunities. This will increase the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) support workers from 3.5 to 5.5 in the independent SENDIASS service to help parents and carers. To accelerate the Council's Education and Health Care Plans assessment process, the number of case officers will increase from 11 to 20 and 500 plans per year over the next 4 years will be completed.
- Establish a temporary team of 5 SEND case officers, 2 Education Psychologists and a SEND manager to tackle the current backlog of assessments and plans so that the existing backlog will be cleared in the first year of our next term.
- Expand the Council's Education Psychology service team from 8 to 14 FTE posts, including an assistant and trainee. As part of our commitment to co-production, appoint a dedicated officer to work with parents and carers to improve the SEND service, and a principal SEND Practitioner to set a gold standard in SEND practice and quality.
- Direct money from the Schools High Needs Funding Budget to fund specialist teaching services, speech and language therapy and support our SEND children and young people for adulthood.
- Establish a Centre of Excellence in SEND Practice to ensure that schools, health partners and the independent SEND Parent and Carer Forum better involve families in the education and social care of their children, as well as adopt exemplary practice.
- Appoint an expert Commissioner for SEND and Inclusion in Education to help support improvements required in SEND provision over the next 4 years by the Council, schools and health partners. The Commissioner will act as an advocate for SEND children and their parents or carers and will report directly to the Mayor and the Cabinet member who has responsibility for Education.
- Work with arts, culture and creative partners to launch a Culture Passport for all young people between the ages of 10-18 years (and up to 25 years for young people with SEND) to access enrichment and learning opportunities for free as part of our recently launched Building Newham's Creative Future cultural strategy to widen participation and support enrichment opportunities.
- Strengthen the Council's Prevention and Early Help Services for children and young people from 0-25 years so that every child or young person and their families can access multi-agency support and provision within a 15-minute walk or cycle from where they live.
- Further develop the Council's Youth Citizens Assembly so that it provides leadership across all the Council's youth participation activities, so that young people are involved in decision making, increase their influence in shaping the future of Newham and hold the Council accountable. The Youth Citizens Assembly will be supported by an investment of £50,000 per year to be used for projects and initiatives co-produced with our young people. It will be enabled to co-design and make recommendations on the services young receive, which will be considered by the Mayor and Cabinet, as well as be presented to Full Council.
- Invest a further £50,000 per year in the Youth Empowerment Fund, which we launched in November 2020 with seed funding of £500,000 to support the ambitions of our young people.
- Continue with a public health approach to youth safety, in collaboration with young people and the wider community by strengthening early intervention and preventive offer which includes advice and information.
- Enhance our children's health offer, ensuring that all parts of the Council work with the Public Health team in health promotion and disease prevention for our children and young people, with a specific focus on oral health, childhood obesity and asthma.

# PEOPLE POWERED

## NEWHAM AND WIDENING PARTICIPATION

**A referendum was held in May 2021 which confirmed the future of the Mayoralty. We will build on the recommendations of the independent Democracy and Civic Participation Commission, adopted by the Council in October 2020, to increase citizen participation in the life of the Borough and the work that the Council does.**



# WE ARE DELIVERING

- **Through our People Powered Council and participatory democracy agendas, we have established the UK's first permanent Citizens Assembly, made up of a representative and random sample of residents chosen by lot. Citizens Assembly members discuss topics voted for by local residents.**
- **Greening the Borough and 15-minute Neighbourhoods have been the most recent topics discussed. All recommendations and findings are formally presented to Cabinet and then to Full Council which discuss how the recommendations will be implemented.**
- **Labour in Newham has also put in place the largest participatory budget setting exercise in the country; with £800,000 allocated across the borough's 8 Neighbourhood Assemblies per year so that residents can shape and decide improvements to their local areas.**

## Over the next 4 years we will

- **Continue to develop the now established permanent Citizens' Assembly which has the remit to make recommendations to the Council twice a year on topics aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan. These recommendations will continue to be formally considered by the Mayor and Cabinet and presented to Full Council.**
- **Consult with residents involved in our Citizens' Assembly and Neighbourhood Assemblies in the development of the Council's evolving Towards a Better Newham outcomes-based key performance indicators. This will enhance collaboration and involvement of residents and enable better scrutiny of how the Council is performing against its Corporate Plan and Financial strategy targets and outcomes, and will supplement assessments of the Council's performance by the Audit Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- **Allocate each Neighbourhood Assembly a budget for projects in their area to be chosen by the Assembly and local residents. This currently stands at £100,000 per year for each Assembly. We will seek to increase this amount over the life of the next Council to at least £3.2 million subject to budget considerations, the Council's good governance processes and legal requirements about how Community Infrastructure Levy money can be spent.**
- **Consult with local residents via the Neighbourhood Assemblies on the review of the Local Plan presently underway and its provisions for their local areas**
- **Extend strategic and long term policy making in Newham through the better use of the scrutiny process to include pre-scrutiny of decisions and policy, joint working with the Executive and the involvement of the residents from the Citizens Assembly, Neighbourhood Assemblies, Youth Citizens Assembly, Adult Social Care Citizens Assembly as well as the voluntary, community and faith sector in Newham.**
- **Enhance the involvement of marginalised communities in the policy making and consultation processes of the Council, including young people, those with special educational needs and disabilities.**



# A CAMPA

## COUNCIL

**Campaigns are an essential part of the work of the Council where we work to change the views of the Government and other organisations so that Newham gets more money from them or changes the policy or legislative framework within which the Council works.**

**Over the last 4 years we have campaigned with success to reduce the financial cost of the Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loans taken out by the previous Council administration, saving Newham millions in interest payments. We have lobbied successfully for government to give us more money to help with the impact of Covid-19 to keep our residents safe, and continue to lobby them to give us the money to cover the £29 million that the pandemic has cost us.**

# ALIGNING



We continue to campaign for re-imburement of all the costs arising from the Grenfell enquiry on building safety and against the Silvertown Tunnel which will needlessly and adversely affect the Silvertown area of our Borough and the health of our people. Over the next 4 years...

## WE WILL CAMPAIGN

- For an end of the Right of Council Tenants to Buy their own homes, as well as rent controls and security of tenure in the Private Rented Sector.
- For the full re-imburement of the cost of building defects arising from the Grenfell Enquiry, which is causing anxiety and financial hardship for our residents living in the Private Rented Sector.
- Against the Silvertown Tunnel for its adverse impact on air quality and the extra traffic that it will bring to Newham.
- Against the MSG Sphere by urging the Mayor of London to re-consider the scheme when it comes to him for final approval because of the detrimental impact it will have on the wellbeing and health of our residents in Stratford who will have to live with this for years to come.
- For more Police accountability and improved Women's safety in Newham.
- For a change in our Local Plan to provide 50 percent social rented homes in all new housing schemes.
- For the funding needed to deal effectively with the Climate Emergency and in particular that funding needed to bring all existing Council owned homes up to a high standard of energy efficiency.
- Proper funding from Government for refugees, asylum seekers and those without recourse to public funds and a change in the law so that they can work.
- For the Government to fully fund the infrastructure costs of the proposed Beckton Riverside DLR Station, the expansion of Stratford Station and the proposed works at Lower Leaside.
- For Government support to make the Royal Docks London's first Living Wage neighbourhood.
- For universal open-access and quality youth service provision to be a statutory requirement for all Councils in England with proper funding from Government. This will require an amendment of Section 507B of the Education Act (1996) and reflects our enduring commitment to the children and young people of Newham.



# Vote Labour

## Thursday 5 May

[www.newhamlabour.org](http://www.newhamlabour.org)

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Promoted by James King on behalf of Rokhsana Fiaz and all Newham Labour candidates, Trinity Centre, East Avenue, London E12 6SG