

# **BUILDING A BETTER BOROUGH**

## **HILLINGDON LABOUR PARTY**

**2022**



*Developing a thriving borough that puts the council at the centre of the community, with residents at the heart of decision-making, enabling local people to take control by working in partnership with their elected Council*

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## Hillingdon Labour's Vision to Build a Better Borough

I have been a resident of Hillingdon all my life. I was born in Hillingdon Hospital and have lived and worked in the borough ever since. My family have strong roots in Hillingdon. My dad was born in Yiewsley and my grandparents came from Stockley and West Drayton. My entire lifetime has been spent as a resident of the borough, working for companies based here. So, my vision of a better borough is born out of a real lived experience of the local area, and listening to fellow residents across the borough.



There is a lot to be proud of in Hillingdon, whether it's our military history with RAF Northolt, the Bunker at RAF Uxbridge, HMS Warrior in Northwood. Our electronic and music history in Hayes, the home of HMV, EMI and the place where stereo sound was invented. Or our aviation history, with Fairey aviation, Radar developments and Heathrow Airport, to name but a few. However, in more modern times we have lost some of our big industries and become a commuter borough.

My vision for a better borough for 2022 and beyond is to learn from the past and place the council at the centre of our local community. The council should truly serve the resident and not merely dictate to them. Councillors, particularly cabinet members, should not be locked away in their ivory towers at the Civic Centre. They should be accessible and available to the residents, listening to real concerns and then working in partnership with residents on local projects and improvements, so that the council is integrated and embedded into the local community.

This vision recognises all that is already good, but I am not satisfied with just being good. I want to work with and empower the residents of the borough to work in partnership with a council that truly serves their needs and aspirations, so that we can all strive for excellence and build a better borough.

If you want to help us build a better borough, then **VOTE LABOUR** on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and we will do it together.

*Peter Curling*

Cllr Peter Curling FRSA  
Leader of The Labour Group

## Our Key Pledges To You

1. We will **protect free weekly** waste and recycling collections
2. We will ensure **low council tax**
3. We will not build on **Green Belt**, or open space land that is protected by a covenant
4. We will take a **zero-tolerance** approach to anti-social behaviour and appoint ward-specific officers to ensure continuity
5. We will **improve care** by phasing out 15-minute rushed visits, prioritising quality, and increase resources to tackle loneliness

The ethos and culture of a Labour administration in Hillingdon will be to place the council at the centre of the community, enabling residents to take control and work in partnership with the council to improve and innovate services that meet the needs of the local community.

This manifesto sets out our priorities and our programme to serve the residents and local businesses so that we can all do our bit together and build a better borough.

## **The Local Economy**

We believe that the backbone of our communities are local businesses, employers, and the workers who spend their hard-earned money in our shops and in our towns. The Council must recognise this and give local business the support that it needs.

### **A Labour administration in Hillingdon will:-**

- Ensure Council Tax is kept low
- Ensure the council's finances are managed effectively. Unlike the Conservative administration, we would not allow a deficit to spiral out of control, such as the current £38 Million deficit in the budget
- Work in collaboration with local businesses to prioritise local economic development and regeneration. This will benefit local people by providing true local insight into the regeneration of our towns and communities, rather than private developer-led regeneration. Redirecting wealth back into the local economy and place control and benefits in the hands of local people, rather than national or international businesses that have no commitment to the local area
- Take the Hillingdon First card scheme further by working with local businesses to create more incentive and rewards for local residents to shop in their local communities
- Partnership working with local health services and Brunel University London, especially in the areas of public health, social care, sports and recreation, and youth services
- Build and support the voluntary sector to enhance community cohesion and relieve hardship in our borough especially with the continued cost of living crisis

## **Environment, Planning & Transport**

Everyone has the right to a decent environment with clean, fresh air and parks and open spaces to enjoy. The planning system, particularly the approach to public consultation and community involvement, needs to become much more inclusive, with meaningful consultation with residents and community stakeholders. Our transport systems also need improvement, particularly the services that run North/South in the borough.

### **A Labour administration in Hillingdon will: -**

- Protect free weekly waste & recycling collections
- Not build on Green Belt, or open space land that is protected by a covenant
- Maintain our position of 100% opposition to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Runway at Heathrow. We want a better Heathrow, not a bigger Heathrow. We will also tackle issues caused by HS2 especially environmental issues and the contamination of the water supply
- Oppose road charging, London border charge and extension of the ULEZ to the whole of Greater London. We recognise that these measures hit those on the lowest incomes the most, especially during this cost-of-living crisis
- Improve the council's response to the climate emergency and reduce our carbon emissions through pro-active measures and investing in renewable energy sources. Divest through all council investments, from fuel fossils producers who have a detrimental impact on climate change
- Review planning policies to enable more environmentally friendly development and build carbon zero homes, helping the borough meet climate change targets and improving sustainability whilst at the same time reducing residents' energy bills.
- We will keep our streets clean by coordinating street cleaning after bin collections unlike the current Conservative administration who have overseen the managed decline of our councils' services

## **Homes & Communities**

We believe that everyone should have access to a safe, comfortable and affordable home. The housing crisis is not getting any better and the affordability of a home is something that needs addressing. We recognise that the housing and homelessness crisis is not going to be resolved overnight, but there are things that can be done to make a start in tackling this crisis. We also believe that community infrastructure also needs to be factored into additional housing in order to build and maintain thriving local communities.

### **A Labour administration in Hillingdon will: -**

- We will introduce a zero tolerance to rogue landlords, and support private renters by implementing a private landlord register to ensure that private landlords comply with minimum standards
- Listen to and work with residents to restore a sense of community and local pride in our areas, through forums and true local engagement not just the statutory minimum consultation.
- Work with stakeholders to release brown field land that could be used to build and maximise the number of low rent council and social homes
- Ensure that council tenants and leaseholders have an active involvement in the management of their homes, and that any redevelopment of old housing estates does not disadvantage existing tenants and lease holders
- Work in partnership with residents and other community partners for the provision of community facilities, such as medical centres, leisure facilities, community centres, faith centres, public and open spaces
- Discourage the trend of building blocks of flats for sale on the open market and maximise the provision of truly affordable family homes

## **Health and Social Care**

We believe that the residents of Hillingdon should benefit from an approach to health and social care that pursues prevention, as well as providing support and enabling independent living. Our approach to health and social care has the potential to make the system safe, effective, compassionate and efficient, by improving standards and enabling people to maintain a good quality of life in their own homes.

### **A Labour administration in Hillingdon will: -**

- Phase out 15-minute rushed social care visits, prioritising quality, and increase resources to tackle loneliness
- Operate an ethical care charter, to improve home care for vulnerable residents and safeguarding employment conditions of paid carers
- Advance the integration of health and social care services by working in partnership with local health care providers to bridge the gap between hospital and home
- Support the development of co-operative care providers that create a personalised package of care, offers choice and control, and protects dignity
- Review the care assessment process and criteria to make sure care and compassion are the focus, and ensuring that the local care system champions service users
- Establish a Hillingdon Mental Health Forum

## **Community Safety & Anti-Social Behaviour**

We believe that everyone has the right to feel safe in their own home and in the borough as a whole. Police budgets are being stretched and we see an ever-increasing level of anti-social behaviour. The Conservatives have lost control of anti-social behaviour and have run down the ASB and Community Safety teams, at a time when they are most needed. The Conservatives have failed in this area and we will lead the way in improving and enhancing measures to keep people safe and secure.

### **A Labour administration in Hillingdon will: -**

- Take a zero-tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour, and appoint ward-specific ASB officers for continuity, working with local police teams. Too often, residents have to keep resubmitting complaints because the Council's team does not join-up repeated complaints.
- Improve and enhance the borough's CCTV network and target the portable cameras to areas of anti-social behaviour
- Improve street lighting to tackle the problem of very dark areas caused by the high contrast effect of the LED lamps, supporting residents to feel safer on our streets.
- Establish community safety hubs at libraries and community centres, including a contact point for the neighbourhood police and community safety and anti-social behaviour officers
- Set up a Restorative Justice Programme in collaboration with the police and anti-social behaviour team to redirect the energy of those who commit anti-social behaviour into local community projects
- Tackle the ever-increasing fly-tipping with more enforcement as well as a programme of resident education and information

## **Education, Children & Young People**

We believe that the council should be at the heart of the community and play a vital role in the provision of early years and young people's services. We believe that our children and young people have been neglected by the Conservative administration with a deliberate decline of young people's centres and children's centres. We believe that young people are our future, so we will invest in and empower them to be part of the development of the borough's young people's services.

### **A Labour administration in Hillingdon will: -**

- Work pro-actively with school's forum and other local stakeholders to ensure the education budget is managed effectively and that the £38 Million SEND deficit is dealt with, and that measures are put in place to prevent another serious deficit
- Establish an inclusion alliance with educational partners and parents for borough wide support of Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) pupils in order to raise expectations
- Work with schools and community groups to improve the collaboration between schools and the community, particularly with regard to facilities
- Review and strengthen the borough's provision of youth and play services, maximising the use of our young peoples and children's centres, ensuring that the provision of services is appropriate to the needs of our children and young people
- Invest in community based detached youth workers to work with young people especially those who are vulnerable and in danger of falling into crime and anti-social behaviour

## **Help Us Build a Better Borough**

We believe that the Conservatives have become arrogant and complacent, having run Hillingdon for the last 24 years. Since Sir Ray Puddifoot MBE stood down as Leader, the Conservative group have suffered from internal divisions. Their new Leader, Ian Edwards, has lost grip of his group, and more importantly lost grip of the council's finances with a spiralling deficit in the budget. This risks the council facing bankruptcy, just as it did when the Conservatives first took control of the council in 1998. This is Conservative financial mismanagement, and residents are paying the price.

With weak and vulnerable leadership, mis-management of the finances and a general arrogant and complacent attitude, the Hillingdon Conservatives have nothing to offer apart from failure to keep a grip on the finances, with a £38 Million deficit that threatened to bring the council to bankruptcy, and a council tax increase at the time of the worst cost-of-living crisis we have seen for decades.

This manifesto shows that Hillingdon Labour have the vision and drive to place the council at the heart of the community, with a commitment to listen and learn from residents and local businesses, protect and enhance the local economy, create thriving communities and tackle the housing crisis, whilst maintaining and enhancing community facilities and public open spaces.

Now that you have read through this manifesto and have seen what we believe in and why we are convinced that the time is right for you to put your trust in Hillingdon Labour, we hope that you can agree with us and use your vote to make it happen.

**On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May, Vote Labour**

## **Hillingdon Labour – Building A Better Borough**

*If there is a local government issue you would like know our position on that isn't in the manifesto, you can email us at [contact@hillingdonlabour.org.uk](mailto:contact@hillingdonlabour.org.uk)*