

Defending Our Community

London Borough of Ealing
Manifesto 2014



Ealing  Labour

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Dear Resident,

Over the whole four year term that Labour has been running Ealing Council since the last elections in 2010 we have frozen the Council Tax. In real terms this has saved the average family in the Borough £372. With the cost of living crisis pressing down on local families through stagnant wages and rocketing household bills the Council Tax freeze is crucial help for everyone in Ealing trying to make ends meet. If we are re-elected on 22 May we will freeze Council Tax again in 2015/6 for a fifth consecutive year.

Freezing Council Tax for four years has not been easy. Don't let the local Tories have you believe that their government has paid for this. They have not. The Council Tax freeze subsidy still left us over £7m short over the period and the Council has also had unprecedented levels of cuts to its budgets during this time - £87m or over 30% of our controllable budget has been slashed from our finances by the Tory led government.

Despite this we have not closed any of our Children's Centres, nor cut our youth service and we have put unprecedented capital sums into expanding our schools to meet the demand for school places caused by a 30% increase in the birth rate over the last 10 years. We have targeted our reducing budgets on the increasing numbers of those most in need of elderly care and of services to those with physical and learning disabilities and special educational needs.

In this time of budget cuts and austerity we have also invested £3.5m more than the Tories promised in 2010 resurfacing our roads and pavements - a significant £18.5m over the four years. We have worked closely with the local police to bring crime rates down, investing in more police



Cllr Julian Bell with Hilary Benn MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, launching Ealing Labour's pledged cards.

officers, CCTV in crime hotspots and alley-gating. We have pushed ahead with major regeneration projects on our main housing estates creating new affordable homes and jobs and at the same time transforming local communities where people are now proud and happy to live.

We have not closed any of our libraries or leisure centres and in fact we have invested substantial sums into modernising and refurbishing many of our libraries and we are also providing many state of the art sports facilities as part of our Olympic legacy. Brand new libraries are being provided for Acton and Southall and the new leisure centre, community rooms, eight lane swimming pool and learner pool in the former Acton Town Hall will be a fantastic facility for the whole community.

I'm proud of what Labour has achieved for Ealing in difficult times but there is more to be done and it won't be easy. We know the Tory led government has a similar round of budget cuts in the pipeline for Ealing Council in the next four years and our frontline services will come under massive pressure. The next four years will be the toughest of

all but we are determined to try and defend services and our community from the onslaught.

The battle to save our local Hospitals will go on and we will expose the Tory lie that they have 'saved' Ealing and Charing Cross A&Es. The truth of what the Tories are doing will be clear for all to see when the bulldozers knock down Ealing Hospital and we will oppose this and fight for real A&Es with blue light admissions and consultants. We oppose the plans to close Central Middlesex and Hammersmith A&Es after the election and Ealing's Maternity Unit in early 2015. These closures are clinically unsafe and being driven by finances and the Tory led government.

This manifesto contains our 5 key pledges and thematic chapters around a prosperous, safer, healthier, cleaner, fairer and accessible Borough. Having seen what we have achieved in the last four years I'm confident you will put your trust in the Labour Party

to continue to freeze Council Tax for as long as possible and defend vital local services in the next four years. The local Tories false promises can only be met by catastrophic cuts to services. This is an alternative that is too horrendous to contemplate - closing community facilities by the dozen and slashing services that will hit the weakest and most vulnerable hardest. Make sure you, your family and friends vote Labour on Thursday 22 May to Defend our Community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julian Bell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Cllr Julian Bell
Leader of Ealing Council



Ealing Labour's pledges to you

Labour has listened to the issues that matter most to you. If you re-elect a Labour council on May 22nd these are our **five top pledges** we will deliver for you:

1. We will keep council tax low with a fifth consecutive council tax freeze next year
2. We will continue to campaign to save our hospitals from Tory cuts, including a blue light service at Ealing & Charing Cross A&Es
3. We will install new CCTV, alley gates and street lighting in crime hotspots.
4. We will make Ealing cleaner, including 50% recycling by 2018
5. We will build at least 500 new council homes and create 500 apprenticeships for young people



“Unlike neighbouring Tory boroughs Ealing Labour has kept all of our Children’s Centres open as well as all of our libraries”

A Prosperous Borough

Labour has a plan for growing our economy to enable the whole borough to become more prosperous. While the Tories plan to only help the wealthiest, Labour is pledging to create 500 new apprenticeships to help young people develop skills and secure work. We will build at least 500 new council homes and 1500 affordable homes to ensure residents of the borough have a decent and affordable place to live.

“School results for all age groups have improved in Ealing under Labour”

Under Labour Ealing is open for business and we have secured major investment into the borough. We will continue to attract investment and ensure that you and your neighbours benefit from big projects like Crossrail, Old Oak Common and in the continued revival of the Borough’s town centres. We will ensure that we maximise benefits from HS2 by ensuring better connectivity between HS2 and the Central line. We will continue to work with and put pressure on the London Mayor

and the developer St James to ensure the western access road is built and the Southall station bridge is widened ahead of schedule at the Southall Gasworks site so the traffic impacts are mitigated before the development is substantially progressed.

In order to ensure investment is attracted to the borough and jobs are provided for local people we must ensure our planning department is as efficient as possible and deals with applications quickly and fairly.

To make your town centres a great place to shop and spend your time we will continue to develop them through working with key developer partners to improve the retail offer and improve the public realm through our Places for People initiatives, s106 contributions and the shopping parades investment scheme.”

“Labour successfully campaigned to have HS2 tunnelled underneath the borough

We will seek to establish business improvement districts in West Ealing and Southall which will encourage investment. We will support the development of social enterprises in town centres. We will ensure that Ealing town centre gets a cinema.

Heathrow is a cause of major noise pollution and disturbance over the skies of Ealing. It also provides 16,000 jobs to people in the borough so closure of the airport would be devastating. That is why we will continue to campaign against expansion but also against Heathrow's closure



“Under Labour the council has provided 7560 new school places, a new high school and new primary schools”

Labour will deliver better prospects by ensuring residents have access to the jobs and training they need to secure sustainable employment. We will increase the number of apprenticeships available for young people through the Council's major contracts and development projects, and by working in partnership with local employers.

We will continue to develop work clubs to support people to get into work. Labour will work closely with our partners to enable as many people as possible in the borough get into employment, education or training. Housing is crucial to building a prosperous borough. The Tory led Government cuts have led to a massive increase in homelessness and rough sleeping since 2010 resulting in many local people losing their homes and children forced to leave schools through no fault of their own. Labour's vision is to deliver secure, affordable and safe housing. We will deliver more affordable homes. We will build 4000 homes of all types and tenures across the borough over the next 4 years including 1500 affordable homes and 500 new council homes.

We will also continue our programme of estate regeneration including on South Acton, Copley Close, Green Man Lane, Rectory Park, Dean Gardens, Havelock, Golf Links and Allen Court. Labour will ensure the growing private rented sector meets high standards of management. We will do this by taking tough action against rogue landlords and develop proposals for licensing of private landlords to improve standards and safety.



We will take tough action to ensure empty properties are brought back into use and use the Council's CPO powers. We will also review the services provided by housing

associations to ensure they remain affordable and accountable to residents.

“Labour has built new council homes for the first time in a generation with many more planned after we scrapped Tory plans to privatise council housing”

For Labour to build a prosperous borough we want our children to receive the best possible education and be prepared for employment and to do this we will deliver good quality schools. Labour will continue our programme of investment in new school places by expanding schools as well as providing more SEN places. Under

Labour, there will be no return to leaky roofs and portakabins. Labour will continue to improve the standards of schools in Ealing.

We will fight to defend our Children's Centres and the services they provide for our children early in life from the Tory led government's cuts.

We are proud that we have protected our libraries from Tory led government cuts and invested in them. We will continue to do so.

Taking time off work to raise your children needs a true choice and not financial necessity. Labour recognises childcare is often a barrier to people getting into work. That is why we will be rolling out more free nursery places.

Cllr Julian Bell, Tessa Jowell MP, Cllr Jasbir Anand, and Dr Rupa Huq. Ealing's Labour Council won the 2014 local government award for children's services.



A Safer Borough

Keeping your streets safe is a top priority for Ealing Labour. We will work closely with the police to ensure Ealing feels safe. That is why Ealing Labour has made more CCTV, alley gating and street lighting in crime hotspots one of our key pledges. We will invest more when re-elected.

“Labour has installed £400k worth of new lighting in crime hotspots since 2010”

We will work closely with the police and continue the council’s pioneering partnership which has seen police officers working together with council officers to maximise the use of joint powers.

“Your Labour council has paid for 19 new police officers since 2010.”

in our own buildings and robust planning conditions in private development.

Labour wants to make your roads safer, which is why we are committed to improving junctions to make them safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

We plan to spend over £14m on improving your streets and make major routes through the borough safer. We will trial 20mph zones in residential roads, and see whether they could be widely rolled out across the borough.

Labour will campaign to make displaying the food hygiene scores mandatory for restaurants and cafes in order to ensure you have confidence when eating out in the borough.



A Labour council will increase our focus on cracking down on street drinking by working with the Police to enforce more vigorously and consistently.

A Labour council will continue our crackdown on beds in sheds with the police and other agencies, bringing exploitative landlords to justice. We will also ensure that new homes meet high standards in preventing crime through innovative design

“Labour introduced a night time and weekend council noise service.”

Labour will do all we can to prevent betting shops taking over our borough. We support calls for tighter regulation on fixed odds betting terminals as well as a stricter planning regime for off licenses.

A Healthier Borough

"Ealing's Labour Council led the fight to Save our Hospitals and will keep up the fight."

Labour will deliver a healthier borough for you. The Tories approach to the NHS is cuts and closures. Ealing Labour has led the campaign to Save our Hospitals and to stop the closure of A&Es at Central Middlesex, Ealing, Hammersmith and Central Middlesex hospitals and maternity services at Ealing.

"The Tories are closing four local A&Es despite explicitly promising they wouldn't at the last election."

We will continue the fight to see these hospitals kept as district general hospitals with A&E services that accept blue light ambulances. Anything less is not an A&E and is just Tory spin. Only a re-elected Labour council will continue this campaign and continue to hold the Tory-led Government to account for their destruction of your NHS.

As well as making sure you have the best services to help you when you fall sick, Labour are committed to helping prevent you from becoming ill in the first place.

With the return of public health powers to the council's control, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity.

We will prioritise taking the most effective action, which is during early years. Our priorities will be to tackle childhood obesity; reduce alcohol-abuse, help people give up smoking; and help older people lead longer healthier lives.

Labour knows that there is a clear link between poor health and not having a healthy household income. That is why helping you get access to education and employment will be a top priority. We will ensure that all aspects of the Council's activities work toward improving the Borough's collective health.



Ealing Labour Leader Julian Bell with Shadow Secretary of State for Health, Andy Burnham MP



Labour will ensure older people receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place by the right person. We will work with the NHS to join up our services in order to bring down many of the barriers that prevent you getting the right care, as well as giving you more say over the services you want to use.

“Labour has upgraded parks across the Borough and built new sports pavilions, a skate park and BMX track.”

Over 70% of our residents have personalised care budgets and we will increase that to ensure that everyone who can access a personal budget does so. We'll do this by working to improve advocacy services so everyone receiving care is aware of their options. We will provide modern purpose built day care facilities in the adults service centres in Southall, Acton and Greenford.

Labour is committed to supporting elderly people to be healthier and more active. We will do all we can to help our elderly people stay in their homes longer wherever possible. We will provide grants for disabled facilities in people's own homes. Labour has protected care for the most vulnerable, and will continue to do so.

Labour will support carers who do so much for our local community including implementing a carers' parking permit to

make life better for those who work for the vulnerable. We are committed to making Ealing a dementia friendly borough offering support and respect to all.

“Labour has invested £19m in the new 25m pool, gym, community rooms and Library in Acton”

Our Borough's green spaces and leisure facilities help make our Borough healthier and we commit to providing at least 12 green flag parks, the gold standard of park quality. We pledge not to build on our green spaces. Labour will continue to plant more trees across the Borough to keep our streets green. We will deliver major improvement projects at Walpole Park, Pitshanger Manor and Gunnersbury Park.



New state of the art gym equipment in the £19m Acton Centre

We will invest in our leisure facilities and will refurbish Gurnell Leisure Centre, as well as building another skate park. We will continue to work with partners to ensure unused or poor quality leisure facilities are improved and brought back into use.



A cleaner borough

“Labour has achieved the borough’s highest ever recycling rate of 43%”

Labour will make our borough cleaner. We have significantly improved recycling in Ealing and we have now reached the borough’s highest ever recycling rate. A Labour council would improve this further by improving the borough’s recycling rate to 50% by 2018. Labour has made £4m annual savings on the waste and recycling contract whilst protecting weekly collections. We will improve waste collection by ensuring all recycling will be collected in one go. We will also promote furniture recycling.

“Labour has delivered a 24hr grime buster hotline allowing people to get fly tips cleaned quickly”

Labour will deliver an improved street cleaning service. We will ensure that

where the current service is not delivering, we will take action to ensure streets are clean as well as improve the street washing programme.

Labour acknowledges the great work of our volunteers as our eyes and ears. We will review our street watchers scheme to ensure our volunteers are supported and their role is enhanced and valued. Labour will empower residents and allow them to take practical steps to help their community. Labour has introduced a recycling rewards card and will give community champions extra rewards in recognition of their work. Labour will ensure the council’s waste contractor commits 2500 hours to community projects.

To help you reduce your energy bills and to play our part in tackling climate change, Labour will deliver 1000 ‘green

doctor' visits to help local people on limited incomes reduce their energy use. We will continue to promote retrofitting homes and community facilities. We will encourage local business to take up greener energy.



Cllr Julian Bell and Cllr Bassam Mahfouz on a 'spot check to keep our streets clean'

We will continue to invest money across the borough to make it one of the most desirable places to live in London.

Labour's Places for People pot of funds, together with our Community Champions project will offer you the opportunity to do more in your area to improve the way it looks and feels; creating open/green spaces we can all be proud of and enjoy. We want to support residents to make a positive difference and turn projects into

reality through our Recycling Rewards scheme, crowd funding website, use of community payback, contractor volunteer hours and by recognising our Community Champions with resources for the work and time they give to make our borough a better place to live, work and enjoy.

"Labour has delivered full recycling services to flats and schools"

Labour will tackle air pollution especially in hotspots like Horn Lane in Acton. Labour will continue to work with residents and the Environment Agency to improve monitoring to pinpoint the sources of the air pollution and use the Council's planning powers to encourage lighter non polluting industrial use on employment land in the vicinity."



Cllr Julian Bell with Marketing Director of Greenredeem launching the recycling rewards scheme

**"Labour has frozen council tax for our entire first term.
We will freeze it again for a fifth time next year."**



A fairer borough

"Labour has frozen rents this year to help our tenants with the cost of living crisis"

Labour believes in building a fairer society where everyone plays their part and is rewarded fairly. To tackle the cost of living crisis, we have frozen council tax for our entire first term despite what the Tories claim this has cost the council over £7m to achieve on top of the £87m cuts to our budget. Council tax costs the same now as it did on the day we were elected. A Labour council will freeze the council tax again next year. This has saved the average family £372.

The cuts the Tory-led Government are making to the council's budgets means we will have to find savings if we are re-

elected. There will be unavoidable cuts to services due to the scale of the Tory-led government's cuts. We have set out clear principles as to how we will try and manage the Tory cuts:

- We will make every effort to protect the elderly, disabled, children and young people who are the most vulnerable residents of the borough;
- We will make every effort to continue to protect front line services by seeking to cut out waste, we will also seek to share services and share procurement;
- We will consult on difficult decisions
- We will seek to mitigate the impact any cuts will have on employment within the council and the borough by reducing the use of consultants, agency staff and contractors and offering voluntary redundancy to our staff.
- We will seek to distribute any cuts as equally as possible so that no one group has to unfairly bear the burden.

Labour will do all we can to ensure future savings are found by reducing waste and inefficiencies rather than reducing front line services.

“70% of Labour savings have come without reducing front line services”

We will make greater use of community budgets so public sector organisations can pool their resources to deliver better services at a lower cost and share services across neighbouring authorities where service levels can be maintained and savings found.

“We are a living wage employer”

Labour believes you receive a fair reward for your work. Under Labour, we will lead by example and that is why we are proud that Ealing has become a living wage accredited Council. We will continue to support the London living wage and continue to ensure all the Council's employees receive a living wage. We will also work towards all our contractors paying the living wage and we will seek to increase the number of firms in the borough that are living wage employers.

We will work pro-actively with residents impacted by the Tory led government's Welfare Reforms including the bedroom tax to find sustainable housing and employment solutions and we will work to support food banks and voluntary sector organisations helping those struggling to survive these changes.

Labour will continue to crackdown on council tax evasion and benefit fraud. We have already launched pioneering fraud detection work and we will continue to crack down on tenancy fraud. Labour will not stop until fraudsters are brought to justice, and we will take persistent

offenders to court. We will work to improve collection rates for all money the council is owed.



Acton cllrs with Ealing Labour Leader Julian Bell at the new state of the art Library in the £19m Acton Centre

Labour believes we need to provide positive alternatives for young people to avoid getting involved in crime or anti-social behaviour. That is why Labour will invest in young people. If Labour is re-elected we will build a new skate park and prioritise investment in young people.

“Labour ended the Tory bonus scheme for senior managers”

We will make it easier for you to engage with the council so everyone gets fair access to services by making it easier and quicker to report problems.

We will ensure our democratic processes are welcoming, accessible and relevant to you. We will improve how we communicate with you by minimising jargon and bureaucratic language, using 'Plain English' in all our documents.

Following the award winning external renovation of Ealing Town Hall we will refurbish the interior whilst maintaining it as the civic and community heart of the Borough. We will investigate providing a new Ealing Central Library.



An accessible borough

Labour wants to make sure the borough is accessible to all and is easy to get around.

We will spend over £14m over the next three years on improving our boroughs most important routes. We will make them safer for pedestrians and vehicles, whilst alleviating congestion. We will trial 20mph zones, with a view to making more roads in residential areas 20mph.

“We have invested £18.5m in road resurfacing which is £3.5m more than the Tories would have done.”

We are committed to the best possible standard of roads and will commit to keeping your roads at ‘good’ standard with sufficient money committed to road resurfacing each year to ensure this happens.

Labour will make Ealing a great and safe place for cyclists. Cycling helps alleviate congestion, improves air quality and helps people stay healthy.

“Labour has delivered a new interchange at Ealing Broadway and a new lift at Greenford Station.”

Labour will do all it can to encourage people to cycle including making segregated lanes, developing more quiet ways and investing in better north to south routes. We will do everything possible to remove barriers that make it difficult to cycle to school. We will deliver our Mini-Holland vision for cycling including making Ealing town centre easier to cycle around and through, improving the Uxbridge Rd for cyclists and linking safe cycle routes up with the A40 cycle superhighway.



“Labour has got Crossrail to totally change its designs for Ealing Broadway station”

Labour will continue to campaign for an iconic sub-regional station at Ealing Broadway. We will press Crossrail, Network Rail and TFL for a well designed station at Ealing Broadway that integrates with the surrounding buildings and heritage features. We will also continue to demand excellent station designs and facilities at the other Crossrail stations at Acton Mainline, West Ealing, Hanwell and Southall.

Labour has campaigned to improve all of the boroughs stations by making them more accessible. We will campaign to get a Sunday service and increased frequency, a lift and a southern entrance at Hanwell station.



We have had major success in securing lifts for Ealing Broadway and Greenford. We will continue to press TFL and Network Rail to make all our stations step free. Labour believes it is vital public transport is accessible to all.

We will continue to put pressure on bus companies and TfL to ensure that it is easier for you to get to Ealing's schools, hospitals and services as well as ensure that all bus routes in the Borough meet the needs of our growing neighbourhoods. If we lose the fight to Save our Hospitals we will campaign to have new public transport services provided to alternative hospitals outside the Borough



“Labour has re-opened the Southern entrance at Hanwell station” (Above)

Labour has made major improvements to parking. We will continue to work for more accurate parking controls and will work to decrease the number of wrongly issued tickets. We will work to make parking easier to use as well as working to end paper parking permits, making it as easy as possible to park in your own neighbourhood.

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