



# A new era for London

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**SOME  
THING  
NEW**

# A new era for London



*NHS worker Lindsey Garrett with her daughter*

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The Conservatives hold a majority in parliament with the support of only 24% of the electorate and Labour is now arguing about how much more right wing it needs to be. The Greens have failed to surge and the LibDems are in terminal decline.

I have deeply held values and feel that none of the parties share those values. I have a commitment to achieving justice for vulnerable people, even if powerful - seemingly unbeatable - forces stand against them.

Our city is divided between those who struggle to make ends meet and the wealthy whose pleasure and entertainment are catered for. We deserve a city that everyone can enjoy; where everyone's ambitions are nurtured; where we're not ground down daily by insane rents and mortgage payments.

More than ever, real Londoners need a voice and that's why I'm putting my name forward for London Mayor. I'm standing because the only choice is Labour or Conservative, and neither option is good enough.

I have outlined a platform below that shows what sort of London I want to create and live in. I admit it can be improved - I'm not saying I'm an expert on everything. I want to draw on your expertise and experiences over the coming year to help me build a stronger platform for a fairer London.

This is my plan. This is the city I want to build and I'm asking for your support to build it. Be part of something new; join me and help create a new era for London.

# A London Wealth Commission

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The economy - to the average Londoner - is a simple balance of money in against money out in their household. Higher wages are meaningless if they are swallowed up by higher rents, fares and other costs. And there's a dangerous effect on the city's economy. As living costs rise, employers have to pay more to get people to stay in London, meaning housing costs threaten our city's competitiveness in the world.

I will institute a London Wealth Commission (LWC), which will take steps on rents, fares and wages to increase the disposable income for regular Londoners.

Firstly I will seek legislation putting the London Living Wage on a mandatory footing. The London Wealth Commission will also implement a London Living Rent threshold, defining by household type the maximum bearable rent for the most vulnerable private sector renters. I will also seek powers to implement a tax on rental income above the Living Rent threshold with that money directly funding the Homes for London Board. The London Wealth Commission will also make recommendations on the transport fares for the year.

The LWC will have a target of increasing the disposable income of Londoners while maintaining the competitiveness of London's jobs economy. Under this plan, landlords who insist on charging higher rents will have no choice but to fund the building of public housing. But however it balances, Londoners will have more money in their pocket every year.

# Decent, secure and affordable housing

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## **Secure homes for all**

The mandate I am seeking for Londoners includes an end to “no-fault” evictions. Landlords should only be able to evict tenants if they break the law on housing or breach the contract. If a landlord has another reason to end a tenancy they should buy tenants out, recompensing them for the loss of their home.

## **Decent housing conditions for everyone**

The compromises people have to make to survive in London are untenable. Some people live in degrading conditions because that’s all they can afford. I will drive out of this city every last rogue and exploitative landlord with these measures;

1. Mandatory licensing of all landlords and the rejection of unfit landlords
2. Unified minimum housing standards across social and private housing, including environmental standards
3. A central housing prosecutions team to support local authority enforcement teams
4. Tougher financial penalties against landlords who breach, including fines payable to both Councils and tenants.
5. An equity fund to take over the portfolios of unfit landlords through Management Orders or CPO where necessary.

## **A cost-price housing market; homes to live in, not for profit**

The Homes for London Board will use a revolving equity fund to build homes that are sold for cost price, which could be 20-40% below market price in London. Because the purchasers will not be paying a market rate, they will be barred from a market return on sale or when renting out. In London, the Help-to-Buy scheme will only apply to these homes. The private mortgages used to buy these homes will replenish the equity fund so that more cost-price homes can be built.

## **Community-led estate regeneration**

Councils and Housing Associations cannot continue to impose estate regeneration plans that break up communities in the name of gentrification.

I will make all funding for estate regeneration conditional on the projects being a partnership between landlords and residents, and a cast iron guarantee that any person who is moved gets to move back – if they want to – under the same or better terms.

Residents on every estate in London should be invited to think about their community’s future and how they can create a place where they can thrive.

# A London NHS

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London needs an integrated NHS that provides the services Londoners need, rather than a perverse internal market where hospitals and other providers compete with each other. I will use the Mayoral mandate to deliver a single NHS for London, seeking the same transfer of powers that have been granted to Greater Manchester.

I will back social impact bonds so that future savings can fund preventative healthcare measures today.

# A playground for everyone; not just for the rich

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## **London for a pound**

London's social and cultural life increasingly caters for wealthy people. I will institute a city tax on hotel stays and short lets – common in most other global cities – to fund the “London for a pound” programme. This programme will support free events and back commercial leisure and entertainment providers in return for discounted tickets for Londoners. All Londoners will be eligible on a first come first serve basis.

# World class police: supported by the people

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London suffers from a lack of trust in its police and there's no easy fix. But a fix is essential. Last year alone saw 5,000 rapes, 10,000 sexual assaults, 67,000 incidences of domestic violence, 14,000 hate crimes and 95,000 robberies and burglaries. And these are just the reported figures.

We police visibly on our streets at the times when they are needed most. But we also need confidence they're on our side. We need a new attitude from police officers as protectors of a community who are part of it rather than outside of it. Our police need to be trustworthy in order to be trusted and that means a zero tolerance for the racist, sexist and homophobic attitudes that have undermined that trust, and a greater use of video cameras on police uniforms, and inside vehicles and buildings.

The police are not an army here to oppress us. We want a force that our young people aspire to join as a respected institution. The Metropolitan and City police have to be seen as global examples of excellence. The streams of work I will resource to excellence are;

- Sex crimes, hate crimes and crimes against children and other vulnerable people
- Internet crimes, fraud and financial sector crimes
- Intelligence and forensics based detection
- Street crime, public order and anti-social behaviour, including tough enforcement of cab drivers. Everyone should be safe when they get in a cab
- Gangs and organised crime

Our legal team will focused on delivering these resources through the full use of the Proceeds of Crime Act. The Courts Service in London will be reshaped to deliver justice efficiently and fairly.

Public safety isn't only about catching criminals; it's about creating opportunities that prevent people turning to crime and helping them create lives outside of crime if they have done wrong. We must accept that people who commit crimes justify it to themselves and their peers. That may be using cannabis or cocaine or it could be driving offences or just using the office stationery for personal admin. We must get away from the idea that an MP who cheats their expenses, a Lord who sexually assaults someone, a landlord who fiddles their taxes or a banker who brings down an economy are better people than someone who smokes cannabis or illegally sublets their flat so they can get by.

Crimes are crimes – parliament decides this and these laws must be enforced. But police forces decide on priorities for detection and prosecution. Too often rapes and sexual assaults are deprioritised on this basis. We need a grown-up look at crime and redemption if we are going to create a police force that is trusted and has the support of communities.

# Education and opportunity for everyone

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## **A London Education Service**

I will use the government's free school and academy programme to create a London schools network independent of government control. It will replicate a classic education authority, with parent, teacher, council and community governors, but centralise the buying power and educational standards at the highest level. This London Education Service will deliver the best education with a focus on creating a generation of ambitious, empowered Londoners.

## **Lifelong development**

London's economy can't depend on low wages because housing costs are too high. We have to help people develop to higher skilled jobs to protect our competitive position, reduce unemployment and to help people achieve their ambitions.

Based on the Leitch Review of Skills, I will enhance the Train to Gain programme in London, so that unskilled workers get skills development and ultimately, access to better paid jobs. I will work with the Sector Skills Councils and FE colleges to create centres of excellence in skills development.

I will challenge the university sector in London to deliver jointly a programme of affordable lifelong access to higher education, including both informal educational enrichment and programmes for earning formal qualifications.

# Sustainable transport and environment for a growing economy

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The challenge for any Mayor is to run a huge transport network efficiently and to grow its capacity, and it's very hard for me to say I would do anything other than the same, though I would do so by hiring the right experts, empowering them and holding them accountable.

But there are big changes in transport and the environment needed, together with the economy and housing, which may take more than one mayor's tenure to establish. These are the main challenges I want to tackle.

- Creating jobs in outer London "Orbital Economy" to reduce the need to commute to work
- Creating orbital public transport, including trams, buses and light rail, opening up orbital commuting as an option
- Cycle commuter routes separated from roads, perhaps using high level routes over main line train lines.
- Expansion of the hire bike scheme
- Creating a river transport network from Kew to Thurrock that's fit for commuting, integrated with other transport modes and incorporating public transport and river taxis that are distinct from the tourist-focused offer we currently have.
- A 24-hour transport system supporting a 24 hour economy. London is a global city doing business at every hour. If we can deliver a 24-hour economy, we will create jobs and wealth for everyone.

I also want to create a new market for electric vehicles. The air quality in London is a huge challenge and in the longer term, a switch to electric vehicles will have a big impact. I will explore how investment in electric car infrastructure, together with the introduction escalating charges for non-electric vehicles can, over a 15-20 year period clean up our city's air.

The tough standards on rental conditions will force landlords to bring the worst homes up to modern environmental standards while bringing down energy bills for tenants. But I also want to explore how products like the Tesla Powerwall can work with home microgeneration technologies to reduce London's reliance on fossil fuels.

London's parks, commons and sportsfields are as much a cultural asset as an environmental asset. I will help authorities managing parks to open them up to communities, ensuring they are safe, lively and available for people taking part in sports or cultural activities.



## Backing expansion of Heathrow Airport

One of the worst failures in politics is when a difficult decision is used as a tool for winning votes. The Mayor of London has many difficult issues, some without easy answers, but the question of Heathrow expansion has been outrageously politicised.

As long as there are strict limits on noise and pollution emissions, the expansion of Heathrow is set to bring 70,000 jobs to London; jobs that Londoners need and a transport asset that our city needs if it is going to remain internationally competitive.

Boris Johnson is a well-paid politician, now an MP and in the Cabinet as well as being a well-paid writer. The luxury he has to come up with fantasy plans for £50 billion island airports is not the luxury the average Londoner has when they simply need a job.

Heathrow expansion is a difficult decision but if the experts say that's the cheapest and quickest way to bring jobs to London and if the environmental impact can be limited, then I'm prepared to go to those people who are affected, fight for them to be generously compensated, but also to take responsibility for a difficult decision.

# A thriving democracy

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While London needs more powers to protect its people from both government and a tempestuous global economy, we also need an era where people truly control their city. We don't need an establishment making our decisions for us, we can do it ourselves. But to achieve this we need major democratic reform.

1. A devolution of power from Parliament on equal terms with Scotland.
2. Normalisation of democracy in the City of London

The banking sector, largely in the UK and the US, brought the global economy to its knees. And after a huge bailout and quantitative easing, we are left paying the price in austerity. Yet the City of London's establishment is not answerable to parliament or City Hall. In my first week in office I will ask the Queen to bring the Corporation of the City of London under the writ of Parliament, normalising it with the rest of British democracy.

3. Electoral reform in London and the creation of five super-boroughs

I will seek the abolition of the 33 Local Authorities and the creation of five powerful Boroughs in London, with directly elected Mayors, which will be essential in delivering the orbital economy, while saving millions in unnecessary bureaucracy. These powerful and efficient Boroughs will be both a partner in delivery and a counterbalance to the excesses of the Mayor of London.

Each Borough assembly will administer ten districts so that community decision-making will be closer to the public than today. I will demand an electoral system where every ward in London has 6 Councillors elected by Single Transferrable Vote.

I will seek the reduction of the age of voting in London to 16 for all elections. If the Government insists on implementing English Votes for English Laws, I will demand that only London MPs can vote for Laws that operate in London.

4. A new role for the London Assembly

I will end the antagonistic and dismissive attitude of the Mayor towards the Assembly and create a new, adult relationship. I will task the Assembly to improve and deliver my programme, granting executive power through Deputy Mayoral appointments to Assembly Members on a project by project basis. Any Assembly Member willing to help create a new era for London will be welcome to that power regardless of the party affiliation. I will not oppose the appointment of a London Assembly member to deliver a programme, for example the education agenda, if they happen to oppose another programme, for example in Transport. I believe we can work together where we agree and challenge each other where we disagree.

# A mandate for London

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A lot of this mandate for Londoners will require legislation from a government that won't necessarily want to do right by us. But I will challenge every one of London's 73 MPs to back the laws that we need, even if that means rebelling against their own parties. By electing me Mayor, we will be telling those MPs that Londoners will punish them at the next election if they turn their backs on their people to further their careers.

This is the mandate I am seeking for a new era for London. Everyone should have a secure, decent and affordable home. Everyone should have the educational opportunities to reach their potential. Everyone should enjoy the life and culture the city has to offer. Everyone should have a say in how their city is run.

This is not too much to ask and yet our political leaders have not asked for it. It will take a very different politics to create this new era for London, so I'm asking you to join me and be part of something new.

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