



# Making Islington a fairer place for all

Islington Labour  
Manifesto 2018



IslingtonLabour  
**ON YOUR SIDE**

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# 1. Making Islington a fairer place for all: Our commitment to you

Islington Labour is on your side and is making a difference for the many, not the few.

We were elected in 2010, and re-elected in 2014, to run Islington Council and to tackle the issues that matter most to local people.

Islington is a wonderful place, but we know that too many people struggle to have decent housing, are out of work and do not have the same chances in life as others.

We are committed to making our borough a fairer place for all by tackling these issues.

We are proud that, over the last four years, we have:

- Helped over 4,000 local residents into jobs, including more than 1,200 young people.
- Delivered the largest number of new council homes built in Islington for 30 years.
- Supported young people to get the best start in life, with Islington now in the top 20 boroughs in the country for boosting pupils' attainment at school.

We have also kept all our libraries open, kept up weekly bin collections and maintained care services for older people. These achievements have been delivered despite the Tories cutting core central government funding to Islington Council by 70 per cent in a decade.

However, to make our borough a fairer place, there is much more to do.

Between 2018-2022, we will:

**Homes:** Build at least 550 new council homes, as we deliver 1,900 new genuinely affordable homes by 2022, and crack down on rogue private landlords.

**Jobs:** Support another 4,000 local people into good quality jobs, guarantee support for young people to get apprenticeships and pay all Council staff at least the real London Living Wage.

**Young people:** Give all young people in Islington the best start in life, guarantee 100 hours of work-related experience by 16 and invest in targeted support for those at risk of turning to crime.

**Help with the cost of living:** Save people money on the cost of living through Council-run energy provider Angelic Energy, protect free school meals for all primary and nursery school pupils and keep Council Tax below the London average.

**Still making a difference with less:** Despite massive cuts by the Tory Government to the Council, we will protect essential services like weekly bin collections, keep all libraries open and maintain support services for older residents.





## 2. Working together to make Islington a fairer place for all

"Our borough is a wonderful place with its history, its diversity and sense of community. It is also a place that has huge housing problems and environmental issues, such as air pollution and traffic.

"Our Council has seen core central government funding cut by 70%, and despite that has managed to maintain libraries and parks and ensure our housing and refuse services have been efficiently delivered by the public sector.

"The Council unlike many others, has succeeded in building new council houses and has been prepared to stand up for private tenants being badly treated, showing what a local authority could do if properly resourced by central government. I am particularly proud of the establishment of Angelic Energy to give us a properly priced municipal alternative for energy.

"I'm proud to work with our Council candidates to deliver housing and real opportunities for the next generation."

**Jeremy Corbyn MP,  
Islington North**

"This election is not just a chance to back Islington Labour on our key priorities of housing, education, and policing. This is also an opportunity for Islington to join all of London in sending a message to the Tory government that our nation's capital opposes their Universal Credit, demands action on the NHS funding crisis, and will not stand for a hard Brexit.

"So on 3rd May, let's vote for continued improvement in local services in Islington, and also for a change in government in Downing Street."

**Emily Thornberry MP,  
Islington South & Finsbury**

# 3. A fairer place for all: Our long-term vision for Islington

From our pioneering Fairness Commission in 2010 onwards, Islington Labour has been clear that our central goal is to make our borough a fairer place for all, that works for the many, not the few. Since then, Islington's school results have improved dramatically; the Council has helped thousands of people into work; we've built more new Council homes than at any other point in the last 30 years; helped thousands of residents out of fuel poverty and protected high quality services in the face of massive Tory Government cuts. We've achieved a lot in the last eight years, but we know there is still much more to do.

Despite the massive cuts imposed on the Council by the Tories, Islington Labour has not lost our ambition to make radical changes to our borough. Our manifesto for the local elections in 2018 sets out a plan that we promise to deliver if local people elect us for another term; but it also goes further than that. The manifesto sets out our longer-term vision for building a fairer borough. Achieving this vision will take longer than four years, although it would be quicker with the support of a radical Labour Government working with a Labour Council in Islington. This election is an opportunity to seek people's support for this long-term vision of how we want Islington to be.

## The challenge

Islington is, in many ways, a fantastic place to live. We're at the centre of the best city in the world, with all of the cultural and economic links it's possible to imagine. Our high quality schools and work opportunities mean it is easier for young people from ordinary backgrounds to get on in life here, than almost anywhere else. There is a strong sense of community, and the borough's diversity makes us both an inclusive and dynamic place to live. The response to the appalling terrorist attack in Finsbury Park last June showed just how strong a community we are. Public services are good and the borough cares about its residents. Islington is a dynamic, growing, and successful place.

Yet, like many other parts of Inner London, inequality and unfairness still disfigure our borough. The housing market often traps people living in social housing in unsuitable accommodation and punishes private renters, but rewards homeowners with massive capital gains. Although the numbers are reducing, over a third of the borough's children still live in poverty, while incomes for those in top jobs continue to increase. The borough's economy is rapidly expanding with more people working in the borough and world class companies moving in. While much progress has been made securing employment opportunities for local

people, too many residents don't have the skills, confidence or networks to see the benefit from this economic growth.

Changes beyond the Council's control - to government funding, the housing market and social security - have meant that while much has got better, too many residents feel that life is getting harder and that the economy and society is rigged against them. Although Islington's schools are massively improved, and the least well-off children do better here than almost everywhere else in Britain, the gap in school results between them and the rest is still unacceptably wide. Those on lower incomes also tend to be affected much more by crime and anti-social behaviour, and while Islington enjoys an incredible cultural offering, too often those on lower incomes either can't afford to access it, or to get the jobs available in the sector.

Islington Labour believes there is an alternative to this inequality. We're proud of our record over the last 8 years of making a difference for ordinary working people in some of the toughest of times. But we know much more can be done. We're optimistic that Islington can be a fairer place for everyone. This optimism is based on the incredible assets and strengths our borough has, and the determination by so many to change things for the better. This manifesto sets out how we plan to do this.

## **What we want Islington to be**

Islington Labour's mission is to make our borough a fairer place for all by ending the deep inequalities that currently define life in our borough. Across the different parts and periods of people's lives, we will work to improve the opportunities for those who currently lack them. In doing this, we believe we will improve the quality of life for everyone in the borough, as a more equal society will help us all to live happier, healthier and more fulfilling lives.

Our borough needs to change, because the status quo is deeply unfair. However, the change has to be of the right kind – it needs to be for the many, not the few. Inclusive growth is essential if we're to make our borough fairer; which means big increases in both the number

of genuinely affordable homes and good jobs in the borough that go to local people. This will need to be managed carefully and must be sustainable in both social and environmental terms. Islington cannot be a place where only those experiencing the extremes of wealth and poverty live. We want Islington to be a borough where everyone feels part of it, and everyone benefits from growth. Critically, we want young people growing up in the borough to feel that they have a future in Islington and that they have a sense of ownership over the changes they see around them.

The broken housing market is at the heart of the inequalities we face. A failure over generations to build enough homes means Islington's housing market, like much of London's, is broken. Fixing this housing crisis cannot be done in only a few years, but it has to be our top priority. Our vision for a fairer Islington is for Council housing to be more easily available to those who need it, and for key workers to have better options to live in, or near, our borough. We also want to see a private rented sector that is well regulated, and an end to the scourge of damp Council homes. A Labour Government would provide the resources and new powers needed to help end the housing crisis, and that is just one of the reasons why Islington needs a Labour Government as soon as possible.

Economic growth that excludes some residents and leaves communities behind, also contributes to the inequality in our borough. To make our borough fairer, we want all Islington residents to be able to thrive in our growing economy and feel the benefits of inclusive growth. We want our residents to have the skills and confidence to prosper in a dynamic and competitive economy, so that local job opportunities are filled by local people.

Critically, a fairer borough is one where children and young people's life chances aren't determined by their background. We want Islington to be a place where all children and young people can achieve their full potential. This means we want Islington to have the best schools in the country, and we want it to have the best services for children and families in those crucial early years. We want every family to have the kind of support that allows them

to flourish, to ensure every child is ready to succeed at school when they first start. We also want to see the chance to learn and gain new skills, made available to all throughout their lives, which is what Labour's plans for a National Education Service would deliver.

To flourish, young people need to be safe. A fairer Islington is one that feels safe for everyone. We will work to ensure young people are positively engaged and kept safe from crime and gangs who prey on the vulnerable. Families and those who fall into trouble will be helped early to improve their behaviour, and the long-term vulnerabilities that often lead to offending will be addressed. Islington will be tough on those who commit crime, but also recognise that early intervention and prevention must be part of the solution in making our borough a safer place for all.

A growing Islington will need to be a healthier Islington. It is essential that we improve air quality and enable more people to engage in sustainable daily travel. We should be honest in saying this will require a major transformation away from the use of motor cars. Within a generation we will work for an Islington that is self-sufficient in energy production. Power will be generated in lots of small, local ways that are both clean and green. This local power will be affordable, ending the unfairness of fuel poverty. We will work to ensure Islington is a place that encourages active travel, with walking, cycling (on new dedicated cycle routes) and public transport being the main ways of getting around the borough.

As our population gets older, Islington will have an effective and publicly owned health and care system. All people will be supported to stay fit and healthy (both physically and mentally) for as long as possible and to stay in their homes. We will arrange public services around people's lives, so that there can be early intervention before problems become too serious, which will help to maintain people's independence.

Islington's greatest strength is its people and we are proud that our community is a cohesive one. We want Islington to celebrate its diversity with mutual support and friendship between people from different backgrounds and income levels, and to foster communities that are resilient and confident. A fairer borough, with everyone able to enjoy the opportunities available here, will also lead to a stronger community.

Finally, we want the Council to be able to stand on its own two feet financially, with its actions being dictated by local people in elections, not by central government. The Council will deliver high quality in-house services, have a larger remit through devolution of new powers and be the democratically accountable lead for other public services in shaping our borough, not central government as it currently is. We believe the Council should be able to finance new infrastructure in the borough more easily.

It is an ambitious agenda which will take many years to deliver. But a vote for Islington Labour will give us a mandate to pursue this vision of a fairer Islington for all.

**"Islington Labour's mission is to make our borough a fairer place for all by ending the deep inequalities that currently define life here."**

**"I never  
thought I  
would get  
a flat of  
my own in  
Islington,  
but now  
I have a  
Council-built  
one."**

**Lola McEvoy  
Holloway N7 Resident**



## **Islington Labour will**

- ➔ Build at least 550 new council homes, as we deliver 1,900 new genuinely affordable homes by 2022.
- ➔ Create a long-term plan to end Islington's housing crisis.
- ➔ Introduce new local landlord licensing schemes to protect private renters.



## 4. Decent, secure and genuinely affordable homes for all

Everyone is entitled to a decent, genuinely affordable and secure home. Sadly, the national housing crisis means that too many people in Islington live in unacceptable circumstances.

That is why, under Islington Labour's leadership, Islington Council is delivering the largest council house building programme the borough has seen for 30 years.

By 2020, Islington will have delivered 2,400 new homes for social rent in a decade. We have also taken action to crack down on private landlords and letting agents treating people unfairly, securing fines of over £350,000, and have introduced targeted landlord licensing schemes to get renters a fairer deal.

### **Building the new genuinely affordable homes Islington needs**

Between 2018 and 2022, we will build at least a further 550 new council homes, as we deliver 1,900 more new genuinely affordable homes across the borough. We define genuinely affordable homes as those built for council or social rents, as well some homes that are built for shared ownership and supported living.

This ambitious programme will deliver 1,400 more homes for social rents. At least 550 of which will be new council homes prioritised for local people, with 950 being built and let by housing associations and a further 400 homes built for working people on moderate incomes

looking to buy. These figures do not include the genuinely affordable homes which we and the community want to see built on the former Holloway Prison site. We will robustly enforce the Council's planning policy for the Holloway Prison site, and demand that any developer ensures that at least 50 per cent of the homes built are genuinely affordable homes, to help address Islington's housing crisis.

We are proud that we brought management of the Council's homes back 'in-house', and we will rule out pursuing any public-private partnership in future that transfers Council housing assets to a profit-making private company.

We know that new building can cause some people to worry about how their communities might change. That is why we will continue to ensure that new council and genuinely affordable homes are prioritised for local people, protecting our long-standing communities and pushing back against unbridled gentrification. We want to ensure our communities remain diverse and cohesive, and will continue to prevent the building of discriminatory 'poor doors' in developments. Through our review of the Local Plan, we will also work to ensure that all residents have access to shared spaces like public gardens and play areas.

Islington has some of the toughest planning rules in the country, including our policy that eligible sites must deliver at least 50 per cent genuinely affordable housing, with the majority being housing for social rent. We will reaffirm our

commitment to pushing developers to deliver as many new genuinely affordable homes as possible, and challenge viability assessments on private developments to secure more genuinely affordable homes.

We will bring forward plans to deliver more genuinely affordable housing for 'key workers', such as teachers, nurses and police officers. We will work with all owners of public sector land in the borough to deliver more social housing and key worker housing. We will also investigate partnerships with other councils to deliver key worker housing within easy commuting distance of Islington. We will work with local communities to transform 'unloved spaces' on estates, like disused garages and unused buildings, into 'living places' as new genuinely affordable homes, affordable work space and places for play.

Whilst many people struggle to find a decent home, some leave houses empty. We will charge any home we can prove is empty double Council Tax, and will continue to implement our policy against 'Buy-to-Leave' to prevent homes being bought off-plan and never lived in.

However, to truly tackle the housing crisis in Islington, we need to create a strategy that helps us to build the new genuinely affordable homes our borough needs. That is why we will bring forward a long-term housing plan to end Islington's housing crisis. This plan will help to set out how we will build many more genuinely affordable homes, including new council homes, above the ambitious target we have set of building at least 550 new council homes as we deliver 1,900 genuinely affordable homes between 2018 and 2022.

As we and others in local government have made clear for many years, the Council would be able to build many more council homes if the Government removed restrictions on the Council's ability to securely and sensibly borrow to invest in new homes. We have repeatedly called for these restrictions to be lifted as the best way to help the Council build the genuinely affordable homes local people need, and we will continue to call on the current Government to lift the restrictions. Likewise, Government red tape prevents the Council from building replacement Council homes for those lost under Right to Buy. We will campaign for these barriers to be lifted,

so that the Council is able to replace homes on at least a one-for-one basis.

We will always listen to people's concerns about the building of new homes, but we will also introduce new ways of consulting those people who are in desperate need of new genuinely affordable housing, such as people on the housing waiting list and those living in temporary accommodation. We will also give young people a real voice in the planning process for major developments, ensuring our borough is designed with the future in mind.

## **Good quality homes for all**

The Council delivers over 50,000 repairs to Council homes each year, with 85 per cent of repairs fixed first time. We strongly believe that Council tenants, including Partners for Improvement tenants, deserve a high quality repairs service that listens to people's concerns and gets things fixed first time. We will do more to encourage tenants to report issues online, whilst listening to feedback from tenants and leaseholders when things are not done right. Residents' safety is our number one priority, and following the Grenfell Tower tragedy we will continue our Fire Brigade supported programme of fire safety improvement works, and will respond quickly to any reports of concerns from residents or tenants' groups about fire safety. We will act to comply with all the recommendations that emerge from the national public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower disaster, and will campaign for Government to provide the resources required to do so.

We know that damp continues to be a problem in too many Council homes. We will invest a further £15 million in major works at both the Andover and Girdelstone estates, helping to address damp problems in over 1,500 homes. After listening to what local people have told us, we will also look to introduce communal drying facilities on estates, helping to tackle damp in homes. Over-crowding is a major problem in Islington, and can make issues such as damp worse, so we will help people to down-size when they no longer need larger homes, helping those in overcrowded homes to move to more suitable council homes.

Many of Islington's 360 council estates have active residents' groups, and we will encourage

more tenants to join together to have a say on how their estates are run. We will also work with residents living in housing association properties to encourage them to establish and organise residents' groups, as we have done with Circle 33 tenants, and we will work co-operatively with Tenant Management Organisations (TMOs).

## **Getting a fairer deal for private renters**

As the number of people in the borough living in private rented homes continues to increase, it is essential that we help ensure they get a fair deal. Building on the success of previous landlord licensing schemes, we will look to introduce more schemes where appropriate, including a new landlord licensing scheme in Finsbury Park and Seven Sisters Road, and work towards a borough-wide scheme. We will also take more action against dodgy letting agents and urge Government to ban extortionate fees immediately.

Private renters often don't feel like they have a voice or somewhere to go when things go wrong. That's why the Council created a dedicated reporting line for private renters that helps hundreds of people each year. Since 2014, our action has helped improve over 1,400 private rented homes and we have offered advice to over 2,200 people having problems with their rented homes or with landlords. We will offer valuable Council support to private tenants in dispute with their landlords, as well as continuing to work with Islington Private Tenants and the London Renters Union to campaign for better rights and security for local people. We fully support Labour's attempts to make it illegal for landlords to rent out unfit properties, and will support tenants to exercise their rights.

We will promote the Council's not-for-profit private lettings agency to encourage more landlords to let their homes through the Council, and where private homes are built to be rented out, we will urge this to be at London Living Rent and on longer, secure tenancies.

## **Tackling homelessness through support**

It is unacceptable that anyone is forced to sleep on the streets, even for one night. Homelessness represents a failing of our society and we are committed to preventing it. Our approach to tackling homelessness is to provide the support that people need and to prevent people from losing their tenancies. For those people who do find themselves homeless, we will continue to provide tailored support they need to help them find secure accommodation and will work with them to address the challenges in their lives.

We will also expand our street homelessness outreach work, by making more staff available to work with vulnerable people and by bringing co-ordination of this work back under direct Council control. We will also support calls for the empty visitors' centre at the former Holloway Prison to act as a temporary homeless shelter. We will fully implement the requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act, but will redouble our campaigning efforts to call for the Tory Government to fully fund the cost of doing so.

## **Fighting unfair Tory housing plans**

Islington Labour has been at the forefront of campaigning against the Tory Government's disastrous housing policies - from defeating the compulsory 'Tory Tenant Tax'; to leading calls across councils in London for the forced sell-off of 'high value' council homes to be dropped - we have shown we are firmly on the side of local people. We will continue to work alongside the community, taking action to oppose Tory legislation which would end lifetime tenancies for Council tenants. We will also back calls for no fault evictions in the private rented sector to be scrapped, whilst reaffirming our commitment never to introduce the 'Tory Tenant Tax'.

We will also reaffirm our commitment that no evictions will take place due to rent arrears caused solely by the Bedroom Tax, and campaign for the Council to be given more freedom to spend Right to Buy receipts to deliver replacement council homes. We will also campaign to get the Government to completely lift the artificial borrowing cap that prevents councils from building more new homes.



**"I now have  
a full time  
job, that I  
love, because  
I got an  
apprenticeship  
through the  
Council"**

**Benjamin Harrison  
Linklaters Apprentice  
Holly Park Estate N19**

## **Islington Labour will**

- ➔ Support another 4,000 local people into jobs over the next 4 years.
- ➔ Deliver more apprenticeships through Council action.
- ➔ Secure the real London Living Wage for more local people.

# 5. Helping people into work and delivering an inclusive economy for all

Islington has a thriving, diverse and growing economy, but we want more local people to enjoy its benefits.

Since 2014, the council's integrated employment services have supported over 4,000 local residents into jobs, including more than 1,200 young people.

Working with local employers, we have helped more than 410 young people start apprenticeships since 2014, including in sectors that are rapidly growing like tech and the creative industries.

## Supporting more local people into work

We will continue to help more local people into decent and secure jobs through the Council's 'iWork' service. We will take the lead to co-ordinate employment support organisations across the borough, in a Team Islington effort to support another 4,000 local people into good quality jobs over the next 4 years.

We will strengthen our joined-up support for those people who are furthest away from the job market, or who face particular barriers to securing employment, such as unemployed single parents, BAME residents, and over-50s.

We will work to close the employment gap for residents with a disability or long-term health conditions, such as mental ill health, which currently stands at almost 50%. We will do this

whilst never forcing anyone who does not want to take up voluntary support to do so.

Our approach to helping more people into work should be the model adopted by JobCentre Plus. However, due to rigid Government guidelines and the disgraceful sanctions regime, too many people are not receiving the support they need. Taking the legacy of the Islington Employment Commission forward, we will continue to campaign for the devolution of JobCentre Plus to local council control, allowing us to integrate Council services to create an intensive 'Islington Works' service, free from the Government's sanctions regime and in keeping with Islington's approach to helping people find decent secure work.

## Getting young people ready for the world of work

The pioneering Fair Futures Commission has made a series of bold recommendations about how we can make our borough the best place for children and young people to grow up. The ideas it has produced came directly from listening to young people, who made it clear they want more support and opportunities to help them to be ready for the world of work. Despite the Government's failure to develop a careers service fit for the modern world, we will work with schools, colleges and employers to develop more up to date, industry led careers advice tailored to the needs of young people.



A great way for young people to gain skills and on-the-job training is through apprenticeships. Recognising the Council's role as a link between employers, colleges, schools and young people, we will broker more apprenticeships at businesses in the borough. We will guarantee any young person bespoke support to gain a high quality apprenticeship if they want one, ensuring there is first-class training in place as part of the apprenticeships. We will also establish tailored employment support for all young people leaving care, which will include a guaranteed interview for relevant Council roles. Building on our successful use of the Council's procurement powers to secure the real Living Wage for workers and to prevent 'blacklisting', we will use the power of the Council's procurement spend to deliver more apprenticeships. Whilst the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training has halved in recent years, thanks to work the Council has done, we will do more to support those who need it with outreach services that help find young people the job, course or support they need.

The Fair Futures Commission heard from young people that they wanted local employers to do more to help contribute to preparing young people for the world of work. We will act on this recommendation by looking to develop with local businesses and schools an 'Investors in Young People' pledge, that ensures young people are inspired and equipped to enter the world of work.

## **Helping people gain new skills and tackling in-work poverty**

Whilst we firmly believe that our borough would be a fairer place for all if more people were in work, we recognise that poverty is still a challenge for many people who are in work. We will develop an 'In-Work Progression' programme, to provide opportunities for residents experiencing in-work poverty to improve their skills whilst in employment.

The Council's Adult Community Learning service has been rated as 'Good' by Ofsted, and we have protected vital courses such as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) as well as offering higher level qualifications to help

people gain new skills and to open up new opportunities. We want to do more to make lifelong learning more accessible to local people. More libraries across the borough will work with our Adult Community Learning service to help us to offer courses that people want and at a time that suits them, including through the return of 'night schools'. Islington will also show how Labour's National Education Service could be delivered in partnership with local authorities, schools and colleges.

We will develop a skills strategy which identifies how we can close skills gaps and identify opportunities to make sure local people benefit from emerging industries. This work will also include anticipating the effects of Brexit on our local jobs market, and how we can best prepare ourselves to respond to these challenges. Islington is home to people of all backgrounds, including around 30,000 people from countries in the European Union. They are our friends, family and neighbours and they make a huge contribution to our vibrant and diverse community, and many work in vital jobs that support our daily life, such as in the NHS. We have campaigned for the Tory Government to stop using them as bargaining chips in their negotiations and we will continue to demand that the Government immediately guarantees the full rights of all EU citizens currently living in Islington.

We are proud that Islington has over 110 local employers that are accredited as paying their staff the real London Living Wage – one of the highest concentrations in the UK. We will continue to encourage more local businesses to make the switch through our Living Wage Business Ambassadors scheme. We will also use our position as a commercial landlord and voluntary sector grant funder to ensure staff must be paid at least the real London Living Wage.

## **Creating an inclusive economy, where growth works for all**

Our vision is of a local inclusive economy that benefits all of our residents. Our approach to economic development is underpinned by our commitment to creating a local economy where sustainable, inclusive growth is harnessed to reduce unemployment, poverty, and inequality

of opportunity. We will continue to develop partnerships through a 'Team Islington' approach, working with employers for the benefit of local people by securing apprenticeships and new job opportunities.

Whilst encouraging new businesses to come to Islington, we want to see local firms and local new enterprises supported. We will secure more genuinely affordable workspace across the borough, by strengthening our planning policies to require developers to provide affordable workspace at peppercorn rents for a minimum of 20 years or ideally in perpetuity. This affordable workspace will make available workspace to residents for free, or for much reduced rents. In addition, our affordable workspace providers will be required to deliver employment, skills and apprenticeship outcomes to local Islington residents. As part of our work to do more with 'unloved spaces' on estates, we will create affordable workspace units to sit alongside new genuinely affordable homes. We will deliver a £2 million investment in affordable workspace in Finsbury Park to create 140 new workspaces, helping local community groups and residents to grow their own businesses.

We have successfully used the planning system to secure affordable workspace on several developments, including the White Collar Factory near Old Street, and we will insist developers deliver on community benefit of this kind. Through measures such as this, we will work towards developing a more inclusive economy.

We strongly believe that people are better off in work if they are members of trade unions. In the modern economy, with insecure work becoming more commonplace, we will work with colleagues in trade unions to sign more people up to become members, helping to secure their rights in the workplace. We will also support people seeking to establish worker-led businesses, such as social enterprises and co-operatives.

## **Supporting local small businesses**

The Tory Government's business rates hike will see average increases in bills for local firms of 42% over the coming years. We fought alongside

our business community to urge the Government to reduce the burden on Islington, and secured some funding for discounts, but sadly the Tory Government ignored the calls of the community and pushed ahead with its damaging changes. We will work with local businesses and business groups to urge the Government to rethink its approach to business rates. We have supported traders across the borough to get a fairer deal on their business rates, including at Fonthill Road where the Council was able to negotiate lower bills, and will continue to offer support where we can.

Our Town Centre groups bring together small businesses, along with the Council and its partners to discuss how we can keep our thriving high streets distinctive and successful. We will offer support to local small businesses through a series of workshops, building on the popular sessions the Council has organised on business rates. Our local markets across the borough provide vital employment opportunities, as well as bringing our communities together. We will continue to work closely with them to help them thrive and to ensure that traditional stall holders receive support and advice.

The Council spends a great deal of money purchasing goods and services to provide vital services to local people. We want to ensure more local small businesses benefit from the Council's purchasing power. We will develop a 'social value' procurement framework that will support small local businesses to secure Council contracts. Through this, we will support our local small businesses, which will not only keep the benefits of the Council's purchasing power through its supply chains within our local economy, but will support small businesses that employ many local people. Importantly we will work with other key local businesses and institutions to encourage them to support small local businesses through their supply chains.

We will also use our Economic Development Strategy to make it clear that Islington wants and needs a diverse range of businesses, including family-run and long-standing independent traders.

**"My daughter will get a great start in life at an Islington school. They have improved a lot since I went to school."**

**Gulcin Ozdemir & daughter Leila,  
Finsbury Park N4 Residents**



### **Islington Labour will**

- ➔ Guarantee 100 hours of work-related experience for all young people by the age of 16.
- ➔ Support local schools to further improve results, so that all are above the London average.
- ➔ Keep all children's centres and Council youth centres open, and deliver world class youth services for all.

# 6. Making Islington the best place for all young people to grow up

Giving all children and young people in Islington the best start in life is at the heart of making our borough a fairer place for all.

Islington's schools are now some of the best in the country, with 9 out of 10 primary schools rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. We are also one of the best boroughs for helping young people from less well-off backgrounds secure good qualifications.

Despite massive Tory cuts, we have protected all our children's centres and have maintained our much-loved Adventure Playgrounds.

## **Supporting children and young people to have the best start in life**

The pioneering Fair Futures Commission has recently published its recommendations, after spending a year listening to local young people about their hopes and concerns. What was clear from the Fair Futures Commission was the ambition and passion of young people to get on in life. We will work to implement the recommendations of the Fair Futures Commission, and will monitor progress towards achieving the goals young people have identified through the Commission.

Our fantastic children's centres are helping to give children the best start in life, as well as supporting new parents. We will continue to

protect all children's centres, ensuring accessible services for all, and will move towards a seamless early help service for families that need extra support.

Good quality affordable childcare supports children and young people in their development, and is key in helping more parents back into work. We will deliver the new 30 hours of free childcare per week for parents of 3 and 4 year olds, and ensure fees for childcare at Council-funded settings remain affordable. After school clubs and holiday childcare are really important to many families in Islington and we are proud to be one of only a handful of councils that provides subsidised care for children aged over 5. We will use this year's 1% additional Council Tax increase to protect after school and holiday clubs for working families, and will include a healthy meal as part of the holiday childcare offer to address 'holiday hunger', where children go hungry outside of term time. We will also set ourselves the ambition of developing a truly comprehensive package of affordable childcare, subject to funding from the Government.

Islington Council has protected our accessible youth services for all and has changed how we commission services by listening to young people about what they want to do and learn. Our new youth centre, Soapbox, is a great example of how we are making estate improvements work for our communities. Despite ongoing Government cuts, we will keep

all Council youth centres open and deliver world class youth services for all. We will also continue to support the Council's 12 amazing adventure playgrounds, improving facilities at Martin Luther King, Crumbles Castle and Hayward.

We know that at least one in ten children and young people are affected by mental health problems, with the unreported figure likely to be even higher. We are increasingly concerned about the pressures placed on young people, partly through social media, and want to help children and young people enjoy good mental wellbeing. We will continue to support Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), working with staff in schools, youth settings and social care services to better co-ordinate services to support young people. We will also support the Local Government Association's calls for independent, school-based counselling to be available in every secondary school.

The inspiring Islington Youth Council ensures local young people have a voice and we will continue to support the Youth Council to be involved in how the Council works. We will support the campaign to lower the voting age to 16, helping to engage more young people in society.

Some of the most important work the Council does is to support young people who require care and specialist services. The Council will deliver vital services for children in our care and for those who need specialist support, such as Special Educational Needs (SEN) services. However, the Government must recognise the growing pressure on such services and provide additional resources to local councils to help them meet growing demand.

Being 'work ready' and having the knowledge of how to manage personal finances were important issues to those young people the Fair Futures Commission spoke with. We will work with schools to ensure 100 hours of work-related experience for every young person before they

are 16 and include financial education as part of the successful 'Summerversity'. We will also protect the £300 Islington Bursary that helps less well-off students at college with the cost of books and travel, whilst continuing to campaign for a comprehensive replacement for the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

## **Working with schools to deliver the best education**

At the heart of supporting young people to get the best start in life are our fantastic local schools, which have seen a radical transformation for the better in recent years. In 2008, the borough ranked in the bottom 20 local authorities for its GCSE results, but Islington now ranks in the top 20 in the country for boosting pupils' attainment. Pupils from less well-off backgrounds have made the 6th highest amount of progress in the country in writing between Key Stages 1 and 2. More than 9 in 10 of our local schools are rated as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, and we are working with local schools on robust plans to help them all to achieve Outstanding ratings.

The Tory Government's cuts to school funding risk undoing the great work that has been done to raise standards in our schools. We will work alongside schools, trade unions and parents in support of the Fair Funding campaign, demanding a fair deal for our local schools.

Despite the fantastic improvements in local schools, there is more to do to ensure every student gets the best education possible. Using our strong 'Family of Schools' approach, the Council will support and challenge local schools, ensuring our children and young people receive the best inclusive education possible. We will support local schools to further improve results, so that all are above the London average.

We will maintain the positive relationships we have with our local schools, intervening quickly



when issues arise and supporting schools to work in partnership with each other. We will oppose the academisation of existing schools and the opening of unnecessary 'Free Schools', instead arguing that the Council should be free to deliver new schools when and where they are needed. For those young people who fall behind or are excluded from school, we will continue to provide intensive support through our alternative provision and New River College (the Pupil Referral Unit), and we will work with schools to ensure that exclusions remain a last resort and do not disproportionately affect any particular groups.

## **A borough that is open to children and young people**

The Fair Futures Commission heard that young people felt too many parts of Islington were unwelcoming to them. A symbolic example of this are the many 'No Ball Games' signs across estates in the borough, and we will act on the Commission's recommendation to work with communities to remove or alter these signs. We will also listen to young people's concerns about how new developments are designed and how public space is organised, so that young people feel safe and welcome in their borough.

The Commission also heard how young people wanted to have more space to read, learn and to do their homework. Our libraries are already

thriving community resources, and we will ensure homework space and computers are provided in all libraries, and we will give every primary school pupil a library card automatically. We will also look to work with businesses to create 'homework zones' to increase capacity and to help businesses give back to the community.

It's important that young people are helped to lead healthy and active lives, and we will protect the discounted rates that many enjoy at council leisure centres and sporting facilities in the borough. We will also work with schools to open up their facilities to the public outside of school hours, making best use of the great facilities we have. Furthermore, we will work to ensure that active travel to school, to shops and to sports facilities is more accessible for young people by campaigning for Transport for London to provide better protected cycling infrastructure on key roads.

Islington has a fantastic range of cultural and arts institutions, and we will help all local young people gain access to the cultural institutions and music tuition, with the aim of each child in an Islington school to have experienced 11 cultural experiences in the borough by the time they are in Year 11. We will also use our new licensing policy and economic development work to support live music and cultural venues to thrive in the borough.

**"Despite ongoing Government cuts, we will keep all Council youth centres open and deliver world class youth services for all."**

**“Free school meals have saved my family £1,000 and ensured both our boys get a healthy, nutritious meal.”**

**Louise Allard & family  
N19 residents**



## **Islington Labour will**

- ➔ **Protect Free School Meals** for all primary and nursery pupils.
- ➔ **Give people a fairer deal** on their gas and electricity through Council-run not-for-profit Angelic Energy.
- ➔ **Keep Council Tax** below the London average.

# 7. Helping people with the cost of living

As wages stagnate and families face the biggest squeeze on their living standards since the 1950s, we know that local people need help with the cost of living.

Alongside the Tory Government's public sector pay freeze and restrictions on social security, spiralling housing costs are making it harder for families in Islington to make ends meet.

That's why our real action to help with the cost of living is central to our vision of making Islington a fairer place for all.

## Helping families to save money

We will continue to protect our pioneering policy of Free School Meals for all primary and nursery school pupils, helping to save parents £500 per child per year and providing a hot nutritious meal for children every school day. We will also work with holiday childcare providers to tackle 'holiday hunger', ensuring children receive a nutritious meal outside of school term-time. We will also protect the School Uniform Grant to help those who need it with the cost of new uniforms, and urge schools to neither over-specify or over-price school uniform requirements.

Childcare subsidies for up to 30 hours of care are provided by the Council, and we will ensure charges for these services remain

affordable. Other fees and charges the Council is responsible for will remain transparent and affordable.

The Tory Government's 'welfare reforms' are set to continue hitting people in Islington hard, with the roll-out of Universal Credit making the average household that receives it over £600 worse-off per year. Alongside campaigning for the Government to address the massive problems with Universal Credit, we will maintain the Council's vital Income Maximisation (IMAX) services, which help residents to receive the social security support they are entitled to and to challenge Government decisions or sanctions.

We are proud of the investment of over £13 million in our Leisure Centres over recent years, including at Highbury Corner and Archway. This investment has been delivered whilst also protecting discounted fees, which means that almost half of all Better members in Islington are on a concessionary rate. We will work with Better, the social enterprise that runs our leisure centres, to ensure our services remain accessible for all, and will help promote events offered in community centres by local groups.

## Tackling fuel poverty with fairer energy

In Autumn 2017, we were proud to launch the first council-run not-for-profit energy provider in London for 100 years, Angelic Energy, to

give local people a fairer deal on their gas and electricity bills. This fairer alternative to the 'Big Six' energy providers and the rigged market will never pay directors' bonuses or shareholder dividends, helping local people to save money. We will continue to expand Angelic Energy, helping local people to switch to a fairer deal.

Too many people in Islington live in fuel poverty, and we will work to improve the energy efficiency of Council homes, and provide advice to those in private housing about how they can save money on their bills through the Council's award winning SHINE services (Seasonal Health Interventions Network). We will also continue to develop more projects like Bunhill Energy Centre to provide cheaper local power for local people, and replace inefficient boilers in Council homes to help save tenants money.

## Keeping Council Tax below the London average

Despite the massive Tory Government cuts to the Council's budget, we have worked hard to keep Council Tax in Islington low. Islington Council froze Council Tax in five consecutive years from 2010/11 to 2014/15. We will commit to keeping Council Tax below the London average, whilst also protecting our Council Tax Support Scheme, which helps the least well-off.

We were proud to be one of the first councils to scrap Council Tax for care leavers up to the age of 25, and we will scrap Council Tax for Islington foster carers, whether they are looking after vulnerable children or adults.

**"Our real action to help with the cost of living is central to our vision of making Islington a fairer place for all."**

## 8. Valuing all residents, keeping Islington a caring borough

Making Islington a fairer place for all must include valuing all of our residents and providing support when they need it.

That is why we have protected the £100 Older People's Council Tax Discount, and maintained vital services for vulnerable residents.

We are proud that the Islington Carers Hub supports carers across the borough who do so much to support loved ones, and that we have launched a tough action plan to tackle violence against women and girls.

### **Supporting older people to enjoy their later years**

Estimates show that the number of people aged 65 and over living in the borough will increase by 23% in the next 10 years. We want to support our older residents to lead healthy and fulfilling lives, and to ensure services work both with and for disabled residents and those with long-term health issues.

For those people on fixed incomes, such as pensioners, the cost of living can be a real challenge. That is why Islington Labour introduced the £100 Older Person's Council Tax Discount to help people with their bills. We will protect the discount, as well as protecting the Council Tax Support Scheme which helps those most in need with their bills. We will also protect free swimming sessions for over 60s at all

Council-run pools.

We are proud that we have maintained care services for older residents, including for many who do not have the most severe needs. We will continue to deliver services that help tackle isolation, encourage exercise and allow older people to enjoy activities that improve their wellbeing. Services will be designed around people's needs, and we will continue to help people make decisions about their own care through personal budgets.

The Council has worked alongside NHS partners to make sure that when people do fall ill, they are supported to return to their own homes as quickly as is appropriate, with the necessary care packages in place. We will continue to promote 'reablement services' that maintain people's independence, including by adapting homes to reduce trips and falls.

We will adapt some sheltered housing so it becomes 'sheltered housing plus', giving residents more support to enable them to stay in their homes, rather than go into residential or nursing care. As the first council to sign-up to UNISON's Ethical Care Charter, we will renew our commitment not to use 15 minute care visits (unless specifically requested by those receiving care) and to pay all home care workers at least the real London Living Wage.

For many in need of care, those who often provide the most personal care and support



are family members, including children. We are proud to support the Islington Carers Hub, and will continue to work to support young carers and to provide respite activities and services.

Many older people living in Islington live by themselves. In fact, levels of loneliness among those aged 65 and above in the borough are the fifth highest in London. We want to do more to tackle social isolation, and we will work with voluntary and community sector groups to advertise better what is on offer and use interactions with Council services as an opportunity to promote activities to older people. However, we recognise that loneliness can affect people of all ages, so we will make it a requirement of all relevant council-provided and commissioned services to reduce loneliness and use outreach services to engage those who feel alone. Alongside promoting the varied events and activities available in the borough, we will also continue to put on thought-provoking and interesting exhibitions through the Islington Museum and Heritage Services.

## **Tackling domestic violence and abuse, and supporting survivors**

Preventing domestic violence and abuse, and supporting survivors is a major priority for Islington Labour. Despite the huge ongoing Tory Government cuts to Council budgets, all three refuges in Islington remain open and we continue to fund advice, support and refuge services for women in Islington. This is in addition to the support we provide through a wide range of projects and initiatives to tackle domestic violence, which includes supporting the Samira outreach project that specifically supports BAME and refugee women by providing advice and information to women experiencing any form of violence. The Council has also recently secured new funding to deliver a joint North London service for survivors of domestic violence with complex needs.

There has been an increase in the number of domestic violence and abuse cases the Council is currently involved with. This is the result of a sustained effort on behalf of the local partnership to increase reporting and the confidence of


survivors to come forward, as well as a range of services working with the local community to raise awareness of all forms of violence against women and girls. We welcome increased reporting and we want more survivors of domestic violence and abuse to come forward, so we can help give them the support they need. We will continue to implement fully the Council's strategy to tackle violence against women and girls.

When someone, usually a woman, suffers domestic violence and abuse it can all too often lead to the survivor, and frequently their children, having to move home. We think this is wrong. We will continue to support survivors of domestic violence to remain safely in their own homes, adapting properties to make them more secure and flagging them for priority police response. We will also redouble our efforts as a landlord, with partners such as housing associations, to exclude perpetrators from their victims' homes, and earn Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation for our work to tackle violence against women and girls.

We are proud that the Council has achieved White Ribbon accreditation, and we will do more to work with men and boys, including through schools, to prevent domestic violence and abuse.

In recent months we have seen powerful examples of how women have spoken out against sexual harassment and discrimination in society through the #MeToo movement. We know more must be done to achieve equality and tackle discrimination, and we will act on the recommendations of the Plan International Report into girls' rights in the UK, by creating a new 'Women and Girls Champion'. A councillor will be responsible for working to highlight what more can be done to ensure the rights of women and girls are protected and that services are designed to support them and to end violence against them.

We fully support equal pay for all and efforts to close the gender pay gap. The Council's gender pay gap report found that the median rate of pay for women at the Council was 12.61 per cent higher than for men. However, we will go beyond what is required by law through the gender pay

A close-up portrait of George Durack, an elderly man with white hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a dark jacket and a patterned scarf. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window or door frame.

**"The £100 discount I receive on my Council Tax really makes a difference when my other bills keep going up."**

**George Durack, Chair,  
Islington Pensioners  
Forum**

## **Islington Labour will**

- ➔ **Protect the £100 Older Person's Council Tax Discount.**
- ➔ **Help more people to stay in their own homes with tailored care and support.**
- ➔ **Work to exclude perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse from their victims' homes.**

gap report, and assess pay levels among Council employees by gender, not just overall, but grade by grade and take any action necessary.

## **Improving people's health, supporting the NHS**

We believe that the NHS is one of this country's proudest achievements. The NHS must remain free at the point of use, and be publicly owned and publicly accountable. We will campaign against NHS privatisation and have made our concerns about the Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STP) process clear, and will not support any proposals that lead to privatisation or cuts in services. To help deliver better and more responsive services for local people, we will continue to support efforts for a fully integrated health and social care system.

We firmly believe that there must be a genuine parity of esteem between physical and mental health services. We know that hard to reach groups and BAME residents are not always receiving the mental health services they need, despite Islington benefiting from many excellent local voluntary sector organisations. We will therefore commission specific services to help improve access to services by BAME residents, through alternative advertising methods and ways of accessing services. However, it is clear that there are not sufficient mental health services across the country to support people when they need help, and we will add our support to campaigns for better services for everyone.

We will continue to work closely with NHS partners to deliver the services that local people need, working together to provide community based preventative services. We will also continue to deliver accessible programmes through our Public Health teams to help people quit smoking, receive support to recover from drug and alcohol abuse, to access sexual health services more easily and to address obesity. Tackling obesity will be a priority, and we will continue to use health evidence to inform and support policies such as banning hot fast food takeaways from opening near to schools.

Tackling health inequalities is key to making our borough a fairer place for all, and by working in a more joined-up and preventative manner, we will support local people through Council and NHS services to lead healthier lives.

## **Enabling the voluntary sector to support local people**

We are fortunate in Islington to have a thriving and diverse range of voluntary and community organisations (VCS). These organisations work with the Council to address many issues and we are proud to have been able to protect the VCS Grants funding pot through its latest round. We are committed to working in partnership with our independent voluntary and community sector partners to achieve our key priorities for local people. We recognise that voluntary organisations play a key role in identifying social and economic challenges facing local people, and in working with residents to tackle them. We recognise also that volunteering can provide an important route for people to play a fuller and more satisfying role in the community, promoting skills, self-confidence and social integration. We will encourage people to volunteer, and support voluntary organisations in helping volunteers achieve positive outcomes.

We will build resilient communities with our neighbourhood and volunteer partners, and will intervene early to tackle the complex social issues our residents face with our delivery and advice partners. In addition, we will ensure that throughout all this work all aspects of social integration and diversity are championed in partnership with our borough-wide partners. The Council will also seek to ensure that our commissioned services achieve additional social value for residents and the local community by considering the contribution that contractors make to outcomes for residents, and by considering the way that contracted service providers intend to work with VCS organisations.

This Tory Government's changes to social security have often targeted the most vulnerable in society, including disabled people. Our free advice services and those we commission

through the Citizens Advice Bureau, Law Centre and others, have helped many thousands of people challenge unfair assessments and payment changes. We are proud that Islington continues to spend one of the highest amounts in London on advice services, and we will continue to support vital advice services in the borough. We will continue to advertise the Council's own advice and support services, making them available in community settings like libraries, where local people can access the internet to seek support and complete applications.

Many of our VCS organisations have played vital roles in supporting the Syrian refugees whom the borough has welcomed. We will continue to welcome people fleeing persecution and conflict, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children, ensuring that services are in place to help them build new and fulfilling lives as part of our inclusive community. We will also continue to support annual Great Get Together events to take place in the borough, ensuring Jo Cox MP's legacy helps us to bring our communities together.

We are proud that many residents of the borough are former or serving Armed Forces personnel and we are committed to supporting them through the Armed Forces Community Covenant and the Islington Veterans Association. In the centenary of the end of the First World War, we will mark the sacrifice of those who lost their lives, and use remembrance events to reflect on our hopes for a more peaceful and just world.

**"We believe that the NHS is one of this country's proudest achievements. The NHS must remain free at the point of use, and be publicly owned and publicly accountable. We will campaign against NHS privatisation."**

**"My energy bill is cheaper because I use energy supplied by the Council."**

**Rosaline Ogunro  
Bunhill EC1 Resident**



## **Islington Labour will**

- ➔ Do more to tackle poor air quality, especially around local schools.
- ➔ Install 400 new electric vehicle charging points and create more safe space for cycling.
- ➔ Protect weekly bin and recycling collections.



# 9. Creating a healthier environment for all

We believe that helping to make our borough a fairer place for all must include action to improve and protect the environment, including tackling poor air quality and helping more people to walk and cycle.

We have taken bold action to achieve these goals, with transformations to key interchanges, like Archway, and introducing extra parking charges for diesel vehicles.

We have maintained over 200 parks and open spaces to ensure they are accessible to all.

## **Cleaning up the air we breathe**

Poor air quality in Islington is caused by a variety of factors, with damaging emissions from diesel buses, lorries and cars contributing to dangerous levels of pollutants in the air we all breathe. We have already taken pioneering action to address these issues, including introducing the diesel surcharge on parking in the borough, introducing the first anti-engine idling ban and calling for all diesel vehicles to be banned from London by 2025.

In the next four years we will go further to clean up Islington's air. We will work towards banning lorries (HGVs) from driving through the borough on residential roads. We will demand Transport for London (TfL) moves faster in replacing its buses with cleaner and greener models. We will lead by example by making the Council's

fleet of vehicles as environmentally friendly as possible, whilst still meeting service demands, investing £3 million this year on vehicles that use environmentally friendly fuels. We will also bring forward plans to improve air quality near local schools by closing streets at school opening and closing times where feasible, and will install air quality monitors outside every school in the borough to inform further actions to clean up the air young children breathe.

We have already installed new electric vehicle charging points in more locations, and will install at least 400 new charging points across the borough over the next four years, to support local people to move to more sustainable forms of transport.

## **Healthy streets, with safe space for walking and cycling**

In the last four years, we have prioritised the transformation of key transport intersections to make them safer and to support more active and sustainable forms of travel. The removal of the Archway Gyratory has created new public space and new safer pedestrian and cycling routes, demonstrating our determination to secure investment in our transport infrastructure to support our goals of healthier and more accessible streets. We will continue to pursue similar transformational schemes at Highbury Corner, Old Street, Nag's Head and King's Cross to make a real difference in supporting people to



walk and cycle more, ensuring new schemes are accessible for all.

While we are proud of our record, it is clear that many people choose not to cycle because some streets can feel unwelcoming and are too dominated by motor traffic. This prevents many from taking part in active travel and from enjoying the enormous benefits that come from doing small amounts of exercise every day. We are committed to helping more people to be able to walk and cycle safely, and fully support the Mayor of London's vision that 80% of all trips are made by foot, cycle or public transport by 2041.

Despite being penalised by funding models imposed by the former Tory Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, we have delivered significant improvements to many roads. We have supported the Quietway programme, and are committed to delivering a successful Quietway network across the borough. But we need to do more. We will work with the Mayor to deliver the new cycle routes from Old Street to Clerkenwell Road, and along the Camden Road and Seven Sisters Road corridor. We will campaign for TfL to support our ambitions for protected cycle routes on the Holloway Road corridor and Upper Street. We see the need to close certain roads to through traffic to prevent rat-running, make neighbourhoods more liveable and improve cycling routes. We will investigate doing this in consultation with local residents and businesses.

Over the next four years, we will deliver 'quick wins' and at least one cycling improvement in every ward of the borough. We will install 400 more bike storage facilities on streets, but also on estates where storage space is often limited, building on our work that has seen almost 700 low-cost, secure, covered spaces for residents provided on Council estates. We will also look to create more storage space on estates for prams and wheelchairs as well.

Helping people to cycle safely means we need developers to take their responsibilities seriously around site safety and training for HGV drivers. We will sign up to the CLOCS standard (Construction Logistics and Community Safety) and become a CLOCS Champion. We will also review all streets in line with London

Cycle Design Standards. We fully support the Mayor's 'Healthy Streets' agenda, and, subject to external funding, will implement a programme of healthy streets at Clerkenwell Green, Central Street/Golden Lane and at Angel. We will submit a bid to the Mayor's Liveable Neighbourhood scheme at every opportunity. We will also support more 'play streets' to be set up and seek to improve access across the borough for people with disabilities.

We will continue to enforce our 20mph speed limit on Council-controlled roads, and repeat our calls for TfL to implement safer speed limits on the major roads it manages. We will also bring forward a new Transport Strategy in 2019, that supports our ambition of making Islington's transport environment healthy by promoting active travel and reducing the negative health impacts of motor vehicle travel on Islington residents, in particular the borough's most deprived communities. We will also call for plans to be developed for all TfL stations in the borough to be made fully accessible through step-free access, and continue to support Dial-a-ride and the Taxi Card.

## **Reducing Islington's impact on the environment**

We are committed to reducing the impact the Council and our borough has on our environment. We have worked hard to make sure we are ahead of our target of reducing carbon emissions in the borough by 40 per cent by 2020, and will work towards our long-term goal of Islington having net zero carbon emissions. By March 2019, we will convert all 11,350 streetlights in the borough to LED versions, cutting energy consumption and saving the Council £400,000 per year that can be used to protect frontline services.

One of our proudest achievements has been the continued success of the Bunhill Energy Centre, near Old Street, which provides locally produced clean heat and power for over 700 council homes, as well as for a leisure centre and swimming baths. We will complete Bunhill 2, which will capture waste heat from the London Underground, to provide heat and power to more homes and businesses. We want to

go further by developing more local energy centres across the borough, and ultimately want to see Islington be energy self-sufficient in a generation. This ambitious goal will not be easy to achieve, but we are determined to continue to help save residents money on their bills.

We will conduct a review of all Council-owned buildings in the borough, installing solar panels on any suitable buildings that do not currently have them. We will also encourage local community groups to apply for funding from the Islington Community Energy Fund to help develop and deliver energy projects.

## **Keeping Islington clean and tidy**

We know local people take pride in how the borough looks, as do we. We will make sure our borough continues to be kept clean and tidy, maintaining litter collections, as well as weekly refuse and recycling collections. Our 'Clean Islington' app has helped people to report fly-tipping and street litter directly from their phones, and we will do more to promote its use and improve our responsiveness to reports, and clamp down on litterbugs and dog fouling.

To help tackle litter and to keep streets clean, we will remodel our street cleansing services to ensure all streets are cleaned on every day, Monday to Friday, including a cleansing visit after refuse crews have collected. Main roads will continue to receive a 7 day a week service and we will also introduce three new rapid-response crews to react swiftly to reports of fly-tipping.

Recycling rates in Islington are above those in other Inner London boroughs, but we will continue to work to improve them. We will take a lead in reducing waste and increasing re-use and recycling throughout the Council. Working with the Council's new Recycling Champion and local volunteers, we will campaign across the borough to raise awareness of the benefits of recycling to residents, the environment and to the Council through lower landfill charges. We will continue to work with residents to make it easier to recycle and to tackle low participation and contamination.

To support people to reuse and recycle good

quality unwanted items for free, we will organise at least one 'Give or Take Day' in every ward each year, and continue to support Bright Sparks to help residents re-use and recycle items. We will support food waste reduction initiatives. We will also support efforts to reduce plastic waste and to encourage more businesses to offer free water refills, as well as working to install more water fountains where possible across the borough.

We are fortunate to have some wonderful parks and open spaces, and we will encourage more residents to participate in their local 'Friends' groups, as well as confirm that we will protect green spaces throughout the borough. Where groups of residents wish to organise themselves and volunteer to cultivate small garden areas on their streets, as the Elwood Street Gardeners and the Blackstock Triangle Gardeners have done, we will look to support such initiatives. We will continue to support the community effort to have a statue of Mary Wollstonecraft erected on Newington Green, to recognise the proud association of this borough with the fight for equality and liberation. We will also work with the local community and the West London Synagogue of British Jews to recognise the important status of the Jewish Burial Ground on Kingsbury Road, to seek funding to help maintain the only Jewish site in the borough, and to celebrate the long-standing history of the Jewish community in Islington.

We will support people to access and learn about local wildlife through our Ecology Centre and other initiatives. We will also keep our parks and open spaces looking good and ensure they remain accessible for the whole community. Parkguard will support us to tackle anti-social behaviour, and we will encourage more people to get active and improve their wellbeing in their local parks.

# 10. Creating a safer community for all

We want to see Islington become a safer community for all. Our local police do an extremely difficult job that has been made harder by Tory Government cuts that have seen Islington lose 250 police officers.

We have invested £2 million in a state-of-the-art CCTV control centre and work with the community to respond to anti-social behaviour concerns.

Our targeted support for young people at risk of turning to crime, and the Integrated Gangs Team works side-by-side with the police to deal with those people who do commit crime.

## Dealing with crime through prevention

To achieve our ambition of creating a safer community for all, we will continue to work closely with the police and the community to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Preventing crime, supporting victims of crime and encouraging the police to take appropriate action against perpetrators will rightly always be our priorities. We are committed to doing more to turn people away from crime in the first place. Crime and anti-social behaviour have a massive impact on the lives of both the victims and perpetrators, and we see tackling it as a matter of social justice. Our teams are already working with young people on the fringes of criminal activity, and we will continue to build on our

### Islington Labour will

- Invest £1 million in targeted support for those young people at risk of turning to crime.
- Lead local and national efforts to tackle dangerous 'county lines' drug-dealing.
- Stand up to hate crime in all its forms.

Integrated Gangs Team's approach, working with young people who are vulnerable to becoming drawn into criminal activity as well as those who require support to exit gangs. Using our growing understanding of the criminal systems that often exploit vulnerable young people, we will intervene earlier to help prevent more young people being drawn into criminality.

Islington's young people are energetic, vibrant and full of potential, and the overwhelming majority stay clear of trouble and choose the right path. However, we have to recognise that the borough has seen a worrying rise in serious

youth violence, including the tragic deaths of several young people. The community rightly expects the Council to work with the police to reverse this worrying development. We will continue to invest an additional £1 million over the next two years in a package of targeted support for young people who may be at risk of being drawn into crime, as perpetrators or victims. This programme will enable us to provide high quality mentors and independent case workers for young people who need it most, building their resilience, providing positive role models and helping them access education, training and employment. We will also continue to provide counselling and advice for young victims of crime through our victims support co-ordinator.

We fully recognise that many young people become caught up in criminal activity due to the influence of older people. We believe this exploitation is comparable to grooming and we are determined to act to prevent it from happening and to support the police in dealing with those who perpetrate it. We will continue to lead local and national efforts to tackle dangerous 'county lines' drug-dealing.

We value our robust working relationship with the police, which we will maintain through both collaboration and constructive challenge, holding them to account in our roles as elected representatives of the local community. We will encourage the police to build trust and confidence in policing throughout the local community and to employ tactics that are both effective and transparent.

## **Tackling anti-social behaviour**

Local people tell us they want action taken against the minority of residents who make life unpleasant for their neighbours through anti-social behaviour. We will maintain our anti-social behaviour hotline and use tenancy action to address issues. Our Area Housing Offices will continue to work with the police to resolve local

problems. We will also clamp down on illegal sub-letting and tenancy fraud, which only serves to make it harder for the Council to house people in genuine housing need.

The Council's state-of-the-art £2 million CCTV control centre helps the police tackle crime every day, as well as helping the Council to manage anti-social behaviour. We will continue to use this crucial resource to tackle these problems. Crime affects whole communities and we must harness the power of local people to make it clear that criminal and anti-social behaviour is unacceptable. We will use restorative justice techniques to help us do this, as well as keeping communities informed of work being done to tackle issues. As a borough with an active night time economy, we will also use our licensing powers to take action against businesses which do not follow the rules, or cause problems for local residents.

## **Islington is no place for hate**

Making our communities safer for all also means tackling hate crime in all its forms. The Finsbury Park terrorist attack sought to divide our community, but it had the opposite effect. We are proud of the support local people gave to each other in the wake of this attack, and of the support the Council provided for the victims and their families. We will continue to promote the Islington anti-hate crime pledge, and will engage with local communities to listen to them about their experiences and take action to help combat hate crime. We will also work with schools to ensure that clear messages are given to young people as they grow up, about respecting difference and to tackle bullying. Radicalisation towards violent extremism by whatever ideology is dangerous. We will work to prevent those who seek to exploit others in this way from doing so, whilst challenging Government programmes that risk demonising and discriminating against certain communities.

**"I'm impressed  
that the  
Council has  
been able to  
keep services  
running with  
only half  
the money  
from Central  
Government."**

**Adil Kolcak, Owner,  
Acoustic Brasserie N16**



## **Islington Labour will**

- ➔ Set an example by ensuring the Council never uses exploitative zero-hours contracts.
- ➔ Keep all libraries open and protect frontline services.
- ➔ Work towards fully divesting the Council's Pension Fund from companies that extract fossil fuels.



# 11. Still making a difference with less

Since 2010, Islington Council has faced the largest cuts to its funding in living memory. By 2020, the Tories will have cut over 70% of our core government funding in a decade.

Despite these massive ongoing Tory cuts, we are proud to have protected vital frontline services, and to still be making a difference on the issues that matter most to local people.

We have been able to save money by changing how we run services and sharing services, like IT, with other councils.

Due to Tory Government cuts and growing demand for services, Islington Council has been forced to save over £220 million since 2010, with more cuts to the Council's funding to come in future years. We have consistently and loudly stated our opposition to the Government's austerity agenda, which has hit Islington harder than most areas. We urgently need a Labour Government that will bring forward a fairer funding formula for local councils, and that rejects the austerity agenda which has done so much damage to public services in Islington.

We are fortunate that Islington has a tremendous community spirit and many people make voluntary donations to many good causes and charities. At a time of falling funding from Government, we will establish the 'Fairer Islington Fund', which will be a way for those who can to donate to help the Council and its partners deliver early intervention and prevention services to support local people. We

will also introduce a new voluntary Council Tax supplement that people living in our highest value homes could consider paying, with the proceeds used to support the work of the Fairer Islington Fund.

The Council's Pension Fund provides security to Council staff when they retire and we will always ensure it is maintained and invested prudently. In recent years, responding to our concerns and those of staff and local people, we have worked hard to bring down the carbon footprint of the Fund's shares by 45%. We will go further and will work towards fully divesting the Council's Pension Fund from companies that extract fossil fuels.

We will continue to make best use of the money we have by keeping up collection rates for Council Tax, whilst not using bailiffs to pursue debts for those in receipt of Council Tax Support. We will maintain our near 100% business rates collection record, using the proceeds of the devolution of business rates to London local government to protect services.

Local people can help the Council to save money by doing more online – it costs 32p to process a transaction online, compared to £7.40 when it is done in person – and we will make it easier to do so, whilst also keeping our call centre open and our Contact Centre staffed. More and more things are done online these days, and we understand that this can be daunting for some people, so we will continue to provide digital inclusion courses for local people. There is a legitimate concern that, if we go digital,



some people will be left behind. What we have to understand is that, if we don't go digital, everyone will be left behind.

We have shown that running services ourselves provides good quality at lower cost, while paying workers what they deserve. Since 2010, we have established publicly owned housing management, waste collection, education, housing repairs, CCTV, cleaning services and caretaking services. The waste service has cost less, saving £3 million per year since the private contractor was replaced; cleaners have been paid more with the Council securing the real London Living Wage when we took over the contract; and securing well paid jobs and apprenticeships has made our community stronger. We are proud to have established Angelic Energy as a not-for-profit alternative to the big private energy providers.

Our approach to bringing services back in-house when it is viable to do so, shows there is a real sustainable alternative to the Tories' approach of privatisation, outsourcing and doing down the public sector. In the wake of the Carillion scandal, we will continue to expand the range of publicly-owned services the Council provides, wherever it is viable and in the interests of local people. Working with a future Labour government that provides specific additional funding, we will review all existing PFI contracts, such as the current Partners for Improvement contract, with a view to ending them where they are not providing good services that are value for money.

Our dedicated Council staff are the backbone of how we are able to make a difference for local people. We will continue to work hard to maintain positive relationships with recognised trade unions and adhere to the Islington Labour Staff Manifesto. We will further reduce casual contracts at the Council, whilst maintaining our commitment never to use exploitative zero-hours contracts. We have successfully brought down our use of agency staff in recent years and will do more to bring spend down still further.

It is important to us that BAME and disabled staff have genuine opportunities to gain career progression and that the Council reflects the diversity of our borough, so we will bolster the Council's 'Inspiring Leadership' programme. We will also ensure the Council's policies and staff forums to support disabled staff, women, BAME

and LGBTQ+ staff are supported and heard.

We are proud that Islington was home to the first same-sex wedding in 2014. We will continue to support a programme of equalities events, including for LGBT History Month and Black History Month.

The Council has been awarded 'Achievement' status as part of the London Healthy Workplace Charter, and we will continue working towards achieving 'Excellence' level. We will strengthen support for staff across all areas, including mental health and wellbeing and to address problematic use of alcohol and other substances. By becoming London Healthy Workplace Charter accredited, the Council is able to lead by example in prioritising workplace health amongst local organisations and businesses. Currently 3 Islington organisations have reached commitment level, and we are providing further support to 45 organisations, in partnership with Greater London Authority and Healthy London Partnership, to achieve accreditation.

We have successfully used the Council's procurement policies to support local voluntary and community sector organisations to compete for council contracts, to increase the number of people receiving the real Living Wage and to tackle blacklisting. We will develop new rules which ensure that no company in our supply chains practises modern slavery, implementing the Co-op Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery.

Islington Labour is committed to working with a future Labour Government to develop new procurement standards that include equal opportunities best practice, staff training and apprenticeships, trade union recognition and compliance with collective bargaining, robust environmental standards and evidence that contractors are tax compliant. Furthermore, we will ensure the Council pays its suppliers within 30 days and will expect our contractors to do the same

We will also keep up our Trading Standards services, including performing food safety checks on all restaurants in the borough and clamping down on shops that sell alcohol, tobacco and potential weapons to under-18s.

# 12. Making Islington a fairer place for all

Despite the massive Tory cuts that the Council has faced since 2010, we are proud of the work we have done to help make our borough a fairer place for all. Islington Labour is on the side of ordinary working people and is making a difference for the many, not the few, on the issues that matter most to local people.

But we must be honest that difficult decisions have been made as we have sought to cope with these Tory cuts, meaning some services have changed and some staff have moved on. Ultimately, in order to protect our vital services that local people rely on, we need a Labour Government which will deliver a fairer funding deal for local councils.

Voting for Islington Labour on 3rd May is a vote for more Council homes, more help for people to find jobs, the best start in life for all young people and a Council that is making a difference with less by protecting key services like libraries and weekly bin collections.

This election is also local people's opportunity to send a clear message to the Tory Government that Islington rejects their unfair policies.

By working together with our partners and local people to deliver a radical agenda for improving people's lives, tackling poverty and reducing inequality, we can make Islington a fairer place for all.

## Between 2018 and 2022, Islington Labour will

- Build more genuinely affordable homes
- Support another 4,000 local people into jobs
- Give all young people the best start in life
- Save people money on the cost of living
- Protect essential Council services
- Work with the police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour