

A Fresh Start for Hackney



The Liberal Democrat Vision for our Borough





Pauline Pearce

for Mayor

Liberal Democrats

A Fresh Start for Hackney



I'm Pauline - you might know me as Lady P or the Hackney Heroine - I am standing for Mayor and this is my plan for our borough.

Like me, it doesn't mess about with a lot of flowery language. **I keep it real - I tell it like it is and I say what needs to be done!**

You've probably already read about some of my biggest ideas: **The Violence Reduction Unit**, a proven tool for getting guns and knives - and the harm they cause - off our streets.

Maybe you also know I want to build more council homes to tackle the housing crisis - and fit fire sprinklers in tower blocks, so nothing like Grenfell can ever happen here.

I hope you also know it's us Lib Dems passionately fighting Labour and Tories over this Brexit madness!

But I'm serious about giving Hackney a Fresh Start - in all areas - so I'm putting forward a full plan of action to make Hackney better... for everyone.

Pauline

An Exit from Brexit



Dave Raval, Hackney Central ward candidate

Hackney is an open, diverse and liberal place and so it was no surprise that the borough was one of the strongest Remain areas in the EU referendum.

Brexit is bad for Britain and bad for Hackney. It will damage businesses, jobs and families - Liberal Democrats have been at the forefront of the campaign to limit the damage, by staying in the Single Market and Customs Union and by guaranteeing EU citizens' rights.

Meanwhile, Jeremy Corbyn and many Labour MPs have consistently voted for Brexit in parliament, with the Tories.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Keep campaigning with the Hackney community for an Exit from Brexit.
- Support EU citizens in Hackney and campaign to protect their rights.
- Advocate nationally for a vote on the final deal - with an option to remain in the EU if it is rejected.
- Take a strong stance against hate-crime and xenophobia surrounding Brexit.

A Safer Borough



Pauline Pearce with Lord Brian Paddick

Violent crime is on the rise in Hackney and 2018 has already seen a series of tragic deaths on our streets.

Liberal Democrats have opposed the closure of our local police stations and neighbourhood offices under Labour and Conservative Mayors.

We need better policing, but police alone are not enough.

We must tackle the causes that lead to violence and criminal activity - by the time a young person picks up a gun or a knife, they have already been failed by the system. We need to break the cycle.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- **Fund extra Police Officers and invest in youth and social work.**
- **Set up Hackney's first Violence Reduction Unit - with its own staff and budget - to address violence using proven public health techniques.**
- **Re-open neighbourhood police offices across Hackney .**
- **Develop a community outreach programme to reduce tension between residents and the police.**

Building Homes



Simon de Deney, Clissold ward candidate - with Pauline Pearce

Hackney, like most of London, is facing a housing crisis. Skyrocketing rents in the private sector and over 13,000 people on a council waiting list.

For years, developers have been let off their responsibility to provide affordable homes and even Labour's definition of affordable - rents starting at around £1000 a month - is nothing of the sort.

Hackney is at risk of losing its greatest resource, the diversity of its communities and its people, because people cannot afford to stay.

We say enough is enough.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Set up a council-owned company to build homes for real affordable rents.
- Introduce resident-led decision-making on all regeneration plans.
- Create a community land forum to identify sites for new homes.
- Pressure developers to provide more affordable and key-worker homes.
- Require developers to publish their viability reports for public scrutiny.

Renting in Hackney



Les Kelly, Brownswood ward candidate

A major consequence of the housing shortage is the number of Hackney residents forced to live in substandard and sometimes unsafe properties.

Some of those most affected are the homeless, often living in poorly maintained hostels and temporary accommodation at high cost to the taxpayer. This cannot be allowed to continue.

In addition to our commitment to build new, decent quality homes for Hackney, we will work to ensure existing private sector homes are fit for purpose.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Introduce landlord licensing with compulsory safety inspections and a requirement to make safety reports freely available to tenants.
- Provide support and advice to help homeless people get accommodation with a "housing first" approach.
- Introduce regular inspections of all temporary accommodation used by the council to ensure it is maintained to a good standard.

Fire Safety



Darren Martin, De Beauvoir ward candidate - with Pauline Pearce

The tragic Grenfell Tower fire in June 2017 posed many questions about safety in tower blocks.

Liberal Democrats called for tall buildings to be fully assessed and the findings made public. Although these checks were eventually completed, the Labour council has repeatedly failed to be transparent - a worrying trend when the risk assessments found 3000 urgent faults in need of attention.

Meanwhile, private landlords have even less oversight and tenants get even less information. This must change.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Retrofit sprinklers in all tower blocks.
- Make risk assessments for all public and residential buildings available online as soon as they are completed.
- Set up a safety task force to respond to and address residents' concerns.
- Provide RAG safety ratings of schools.
- Publish the full report on cladding.
- Require landlords to release safety reports as part of Landlord Licensing.

Protecting the Vulnerable



Joe Richards, Hackney Central ward candidate

Cuts by central government have had a major impact on the council budget and forced it to make some hard choices. Too often, however, Hackney Labour has chosen measures that hit the poorest hardest. This is simply unfair.

Labour's recent changes to Council Tax Support mean a 13% council tax increase for those on the scheme - some of the borough's poorest residents.

We proposed a range of other ways of raising the money - all were ignored.

Meanwhile, the council used bailiffs against CTS recipients 870 times last year.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Reverse Labour's cuts to Council Tax Support payments.
- Save money by restricting eligibility for CTS to those with savings of under £10,000, reduce backdating and cut payments to people who are out of the country.
- End the use of bailiffs for those on Council Tax Support as a matter of principle and instead work with those in arrears to reach a solution.

Schools



Javed Isroli and **Isaac Kornbluh**, Cazenove ward candidates

Hackney has excellent schools and teachers - but more tailored support is needed in schools and in the community to ensure young people don't slip through the net, and that they go on to lead happy, successful lives.

Hackney Labour is cutting SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) funding to schools by 5%.

Despite the schools funding crisis, the Liberal Democrats believe it is vital to retain current levels of funding for the most vulnerable pupils; those dealing with poverty, disability or mental illness.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Continue to support the cross-party Fairer Funding for Schools campaign.
- Target support for ethnic minority pupils and those from disadvantaged backgrounds, aiming to close the attainment gap.
- Ensure all schools have at least two Mental Health First Aid qualified members of staff.
- Protect Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) funding.

Young People



Pauline Pearce at a community event in King's Park ward

Hackney has some of the highest levels of inequality in the UK. 1 in 4 children in the borough lives in poverty.

Every parent wants to give their children the best life, but too many young people's chances are limited by circumstance.

Education is vital, but it is also crucial that young people have opportunities and places to go outside school where they can participate in clubs, sports and widen their horizons.

We would invest in a community network to support young people to become the best that they can be.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Invest in new youth centres, additional youth workers and extra-curricular activities for young people.
- Introduce mentoring programs in schools to tackle discrimination, bullying and violent behaviour.
- Work with community leaders and groups to identify and support vulnerable young people.
- Keep campaigning for votes at 16.

Health



Ben Mathis, Lea Bridge ward candidate

We think health and social care should be one integrated service where residents who rely on both can receive the care they need together.

Liberal Democrats have campaigned for this approach and put forward plans to raise income tax by 1p to fund a high-quality integrated service.

Services for those with mental illness have long been underfunded.

It is vital that we work to get parity of esteem between mental and physical conditions in order to get people in Hackney the care they need.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Ensure provision of outdoor gym and sports facilities, especially on green spaces within estates.
- Commit to working with the Alzheimer's Society to become a dementia friendly borough.
- Work with charities such as Mind and Open Door to provide 24 hour access to mental health services with special attention to the needs of ethnic minority and LGBT+ users.

Access and Ability



Bill Upex, London Fields ward candidate - with Pauline Pearce and London Lib Dem campaigners

Those with disabilities or limited mobility are too often ignored in our society - sometimes forced to be dependent on others because services are not properly accessible.

It is vital that we have older people and those with disabilities in mind when we create council services or develop public spaces.

The Liberal Democrats would focus on ways to improve well-being by supporting those in the community with differing needs to play a full role in the life of the borough.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Work with local businesses to create a 'Hackney Help Network' assisting those with disabilities, dementia or isolation to access services.
- Seek input from disabled residents in the planning of new public spaces to ensure access for all.
- Continue to campaign for step-free access to all local rail stations - starting with Hackney Downs and Dalston Kingsland.

Vibrant High Streets



Victor de Almeida Alberto, Shacklewell ward candidate

Many of our shopping streets are struggling to compete and others feel constantly at risk of being taken over by pizza shops, estate agents or gentrified out of all recognition.

While change is inevitable and frequently brings big benefits, we must make sure that progress in Hackney comes from building on the strengths we have, not erasing our heritage and transplanting something else.

Liberal Democrats would use projects like Crossrail 2 as opportunities to enhance local areas, not bulldoze them.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Create local retail partnerships, allowing shop-owners to work together with the council to improve local high streets.
- Use the council's power as a landlord to keep high streets diverse - not dominated by any one type of business.
- Promote and enhance our flagship markets like Ridley Road - they are the heart of our communities.

Walking and Cycling



Pippa Morgan, De Beauvoir ward candidate

65% of Hackney households only walk, cycle or use public transport, but road space is still dominated by cars.

Encouraging cycling and walking in the borough is vital for our young people, with recent statistics showing that 20,000 school children in Hackney are breathing illegal levels of pollution.

Labour-run Hackney Council has accepted low-quality infrastructure in order not to inconvenience car drivers. The Liberal Democrats do not believe you should have to be brave or super fit to get on a bike or walk in Hackney.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Develop a Hackney Cycle Network of well-maintained and well-signposted routes across the borough.
- Create protected space for cycling on major roads including Green Lanes, Seven Sisters Road and the A10.
- Implement inclusive roadway design standards to allow all-ability cycling.
- Develop cycling neighbourhoods to enable and encourage local as well as commuter cycling.

Transport



Ben Mathis, Lea Bridge ward candidate

Only small pockets of Hackney are in walking distance of the Tube - We rely on buses and mainline rail.

Lib Dems have long campaigned for better and cheaper connections - calling for re-zoning Shoreditch High Street back into zone 2, for a Crossrail 2 stop in Stoke Newington and lately a review of the overcrowded 393 bus route.

We want a safer, cleaner borough with accessible public transport for everyone. We will never unfairly target drivers and will always consult widely, but greener transport must be Hackney's future.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Increase charges for parking a second or third car per household.
- Initiate a review of disabled spaces and ensure the fair treatment of "blue badge" holders.
- Fully enforce 20mph streets.
- Oppose the Labour Mayor's cuts to local bus services across the borough.
- Keep pushing for better rail services like a stopping service between Clapton and Tottenham Hale.

A Greener Hackney



Ian Sharer, Cazenove ward councillor

If Brexit is the most urgent issue right now, action to stop climate change is the most important of our lifetime.

You have already seen how we can move away from polluting forms of transport, cutting CO₂ emissions and air pollution. In some areas, though, we need to take direct action for the environment, locally as well as globally.

We can save money and reduce energy use with more efficient lighting, provide alternatives to wasteful plastics and use the power of the council to boost biodiversity and clean up the River Lea.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Divest from the top 200 fossil fuel companies by 2022.
- Take action to protect and improve green spaces and waterways as places for people and nature.
- Invest in public water fountains to cut use of plastic bottles
- Replace all of Hackney's street lights with more efficient LED lanterns
- Scrap Labour's bulky waste charge.

A Council that Listens



Pauline Pearce - meeting local business owners in Dalston ward

Labour doesn't listen.

Residents are telling us countless stories of how issues they have raised have not been adequately dealt with or simply ignored.

The Council has been hostile when questioned on big issues such as fire safety, plans to cut council tax support or special education funding.

Consultations are set up to get the answer that the council wants and alternative plans are not considered.

The Liberal Democrats would do things differently.

Pauline's Lib Dems will...

- Take petitions seriously and debate residents' issues in the chamber.
- Hold ourselves properly accountable by letting opposition councillors lead key scrutiny committees.
- Offer communities the chance to take back power with local community councils.
- Use online tools to let residents get in touch faster and more easily.
- Hold genuine public consultations



Hackney Liberal Democrats

Our 2018 ward candidates

Brownswood: Les Kelly, Pauline Pearce

Cazenove: Javed Isroliya, Isaac Kornbluh, Ian Sharer

Clissold: Sylvia Anderson, Simon de Deney, Marcia Roberts

Dalston: Hayley Dove, Becket McGrath

De Beauvoir: Darren Martin, Pippa Morgan

Hackney Central: Jamie Chamberlain, Dave Raval, Joe Richards

Hackney Wick: Andreea Deac, James Lyons, Ken Rolph

Haggerston: Geoff Payne, James Neville, Bella Sharer

Homerton: Neil Jacobson, Jeffery Shenker, Mark Smulian

Hoxton East & Shoreditch: John Clinch, Peter Friend, Lorraine Shears

Lea Bridge: Ben Mathis, Joseph Willits

London Fields: Silvia Mendonça, Tom Osborn, Bill Upex

King's Park: Sebastian Bayer, Joe Bell, John Hodgson

Shacklewell: Teresa Clark, Victor de Almeida Alberto

Stamford Hill West: Anthony Harms, Andrew Neadley

Stoke Newington: Juliette Bigley, Alton Hassan, John O'Brien

Victoria: Jeff Gabbott-Rolph, Heather James, David Sommer

Woodberry Down: Carol Chan, Myall Hornsby

www.hackneylibdems.org



Printed by Solopress.com, 9 Stock Rd, Southend-on-Sea SS2 5QF.

Published and promoted by B Mathis on behalf of P Pearce and Liberal Democrat candidates, all at 124 Riverside Close, E5 9SS.

A Fresh Start for Hackney

Liberal
Democrats

