

EDUCATION

Investing in Education – Every child counts

Every child in Kingston is offered a place at a local school and to meet growing demand we have built two new primary schools and refurbished or expanded twelve existing schools. Campaigning with local parents to secure a new secondary school in North Kingston, we will deliver a new free school to be run by the Kingston Education Trust, which is a partnership of our University, College and the Council. And working with residents we will build four new primary schools around the borough.



Every year our results are among the best in the country:

- GCSE results – best ever in 2013 (5 A*-C)
- And 89% received five or more A*-C
- A level results – 81% graded A*-C and 99% per cent A*-E
- Ranked third for English Baccalaureate.



And with the Rose Theatre contributing millions to the local economy, the community receives benefits far in excess of the grant given, including an educational programme and free ticket for schools.

Apprentices

Since 2010 we have invested in 1,300 apprentices and seen youth unemployment fall by 22% across the borough.



Pupil Premium and free school dinners

Delivering extra funds for our most vulnerable children through the Pupil Premium we are helping over 3,000 local children with an extra £2.9 million a year to improve their education. From September, all of the 5,550 infant children will receive a free healthy meal at lunch time, saving families over £400 a year.

HEALTH

Investing in Public Health – Working alongside the NHS

As the first borough to be awarded devolved health budgets, we have now taken responsibility for public health services. With Health Visitors, Community Nurses, Physiotherapy and Age Concern all now working together to provide better services.

Investing an additional £2 million into services for older people, we pioneered a scheme enabling elderly people to stay in their own homes for longer. Providing real quality care to people living with dementia, the new Amy Woodgate Resource Centre opened in Chessington and to meet the growing number of people affected by dementia, we aim to invest in a second home in New Malden.



HOUSING

Investing in local housing

Defending our social housing, we believe our tenants deserve decent, modern homes. Campaigning for an end to rents being taken away from the Borough, we have now secured an extra £44 million of investment to refurbish and improve 5,500 Council homes. The Better Homes standard is providing decent kitchens and bathrooms.

Reinvesting most of the money gained from rents and working with local housing associations we are providing 1,000 new affordable homes so local people and their families can stay in the area.



KINGSTON BETTER OFF WITH THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

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Printed, published and promoted by and on behalf of Kingston Liberal Democrats at 21 Berrylands Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8QX. Designed by Lucy Dodsworth – www.lucydodsworth.com

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Campaigning with you



Four more years of progress

For over a generation, Liberal Democrat Councillors have worked to make Kingston one of the best place to live, work and raise a family etc – once again celebrating its riverside, heritage and commerce. Now London's safest Borough, our schools are among the very best in the country and our care for the environment shows in the Green Flags awarded to our parks and open spaces.



With your continued support, we plan to build four new primary schools, a much-needed new secondary school and create more and better facilities for our elderly to meet the growing need for dementia care. We will build vital affordable homes so our young people can stay in the borough and we will continue to protect our environment by turning waste into energy.

OLYMPIC BOROUGH

Our vision to continue to be a Borough where people of all ages feel safe and grow and prosper in ways they want was demonstrated when Liberal Democrats secured the participation of Kingston as an Olympic Borough. A huge success, residents witnessed Lizzie Armitstead and Sir Bradley Wiggins on their way to winning medals. Thanks to all the volunteers for making this event successful. Through the Olympic legacy, we secured funding for a new cycle track in Chessington to increase disabled participation, brought Ride London to Kingston and improved sports facilities across the Borough.



SAFEST BOROUGH

Kingston MPS @MPSKingston - Jan 13 2014
All London boroughs aspire to it... Only one achieves it... #Kingston is officially London's safest borough... #staysafe



Earning a fourth Purple Flag for making the town centre a safer and more pleasant place to be after dark, we supported the innovative taxi-marshalling scheme and Street Pastor services. Clamping down on rogue nightlife in Kingston town centre, we closed three night clubs and gave our Police powers to stop anyone drunk or violent from drinking in the town centre.

BEST VALUE FOR MONEY

We are delivering value for money while keeping costs under control but the last four years have been some of the hardest in living memory. We have frozen Council Tax, made huge savings, extended some services and introduced new ones. Being stronger together and working in partnership is central to our philosophy as we achieve better run local services by working with a range of partners from the voluntary and community sector to the police and health services.

- We have kept important frontline services going and
- **saved nearly £40 million** over four years
- **cut over £1 million** from our senior management pay bill
- seen that **Councillors take the lowest basic allowance in London**
- **celebrate the work of our voluntary sector**

“ Neighbouring Conservative councils have slashed and burned – cut services to the elderly, closed libraries and taken away grants from voluntary groups. In Kingston, local Tories have tried to stop new schools being built, scorned environmental and cultural initiatives and want to see all decisions centralised at the Guildhall. ”



ENVIRONMENT

Virtually every household in the borough is now served by our recycling scheme. With your help, we have some of the highest recycling levels in London. Residents now recycle 50% of waste; 4,900 tonnes of food waste is collected and since we added plastic, you have recycled 1,000 tonnes of it. A new facility is being built in Sutton that will see our non-recyclable waste turned into electricity and heat.



recycling pic to come

GREEN SPACES

Offering valuable habitat for wildlife, recreational opportunities and escape, our green spaces enjoy a mix of formal parks, areas with an untouched rural feel such as the Hogsmill River Valley and the open fields in the south of the borough. Currently we have been awarded 4 Green flags for the quality of our parks.



Our green campaigning also includes

- Consistently standing against expansion of Heathrow airport
- Campaigned to save the filter beds
- Encourage cycling to address climate change and improve health
- Solar panels and energy improvements on Council buildings
- Continued fast action to remove graffiti and abandoned cars
- Working with Kingston Environment Group, the 'Green Pledge' will see businesses and organisations reduce their environmental impact
- Giving environmental grants – last year Kingston Community Furniture collected 300 tons of furniture, reused to furnish homes



DELIVERING LOCAL SERVICES



1994–2014: Celebrating 20 years of Neighbourhoods
Introduced by the Liberal Democrats, Neighbourhoods produce community plans with local residents to reflect the aspirations and priorities of the community. Enabling residents to get involved, Neighbourhoods support local groups with small grants, have installed car clubs, hear local petitions, decided planning applications and support community festivals and events.

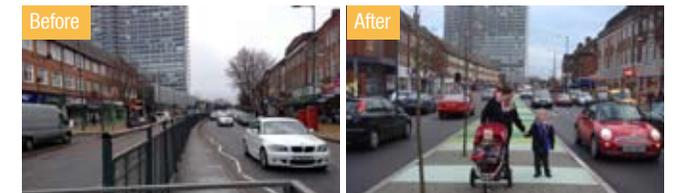
“ The Conservatives opposed Neighbourhoods from the start and would see them demolished if returned to power. ”

Snapshot of local action from your Neighbourhoods:

- Fly-tipping is cleared up quickly
- Roads and pavements kept free of litter
- Introduced Neighbourhood Rangers
- An extra £2.1 million invested in road maintenance and pothole repair
- 463 new trees will be planted this season across the Borough – 2,000 by 2016
- 20 miles of roads and 10 miles of pavements resurfaced
- Street lights on for fewer hours and dimmed saving £000s
- Protected our leisure centres and libraries investing in longer opening hours and new facilities.



“ Nearby, Labour and Tory councils have made savage cuts resulting in a vast number of closures. ”



Inward investment – revitalising our Neighbourhoods

Keeping the burden of Council Tax down, we won external funding from the Mayor of London. Current work has transformed Tolworth Broadway and Kingston Market Place will provide a much better space to welcome people to the historic core of Kingston's town centre.

External funding is helping other projects too:

- Residents of the Norbiton Estate have new play facilities.
- Surbiton got funding towards new street lighting.
- Optimistic for good news for the 'mini Holland' bid; a gold standard design creating connected networks in all parts of the borough. This will make Kingston London's most cycle-friendly borough.
- Celebrating our aviation heritage including the 'Paper Trail' Sculpture.

