



to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity. The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity. The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.

# Haringey Liberal Democrat Manifesto Council Elections 2010

# Our vision for Haringey

“The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.”

The Constitution of the Liberal Democrats



Dear Resident,

After 40 years of neglect and failure under Labour, Haringey needs a fresh start. Our Council has now been officially rated the worst-run borough in London by the Government's watchdog, the Audit Commission. Residents deserve better.

Labour have run out of ideas and run out of money. The Liberal Democrats have a vision for how to give our borough the fresh start it desperately needs. In opposition we already have an impressive record of action, delivering for residents on issues such as improving recycling, freezing council tax and fighting unfair school funding.

This manifesto sets out a clear vision of what the priorities will be of a Liberal Democrat run Haringey Council. We believe creating the fresh start Haringey needs will require determined action in six key areas:

- ✓ Putting child protection first
- ✓ Making Haringey safer and cleaner
- ✓ Giving power to residents
- ✓ Spending your money well
- ✓ Real action on the environment
- ✓ Creating a fairer Haringey

This manifesto sets out our ambitious action plan for ending Haringey Council's reputation for failure and helping to create a borough where all residents have the opportunity to succeed.

Working with residents, we believe we can give Haringey the fresh start our borough deserves.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Gorrie".

Robert Gorrie, Leader of Haringey  
Liberal Democrats

PS - Please support our fight for a fresh start. It will be a close fight between Liberal Democrats and Labour. The Tories are out of the race.

# Our six key pledges to you

Six good reasons to vote Liberal Democrat:

## 1. More police on the beat

We will put more police on the beat when and where they are needed most with new 24-hour local police teams.

## 2. Fairer funding for our schools

We will fight to end Labour's unfair school funding system, which gives every Haringey child £1,000 a year less than children in neighbouring boroughs.

## 3. Secure future for children's services

We will end the culture of cover-up and secrecy on child protection, and protect funding for vital children's services.

## 4. Freeze council tax

We will freeze council tax until at least April 2012, by cutting waste – such as Labour's £3m PR budget.

## 5. Cleaner streets

We will clean up Haringey's streets with 200 more litter bins and a 'Clean Streets Warden' for every neighbourhood.

## 6. Real action on the environment

We will take real action on the environment by boosting recycling and investing £5 million in a fund for green projects.



# Putting child protection first

All children who depend on our care must be kept safe from harm. But our borough has become nationally notorious for its social services failings, first with Victoria Climbié and now Baby Peter. Labour has perpetuated a culture of secrecy and cover-up that has failed to keep vulnerable children safe. The Liberal Democrats will make Children's Services our first priority, and will be ambitious for Haringey by striving to have the UK's best-run child protection services.

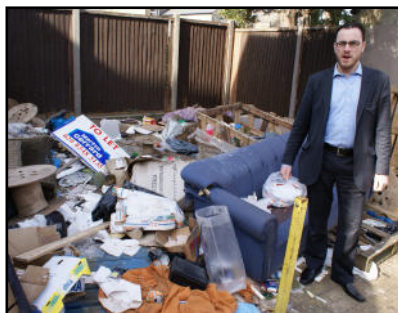
- ✓ We will end the culture of cover-up and secrecy on child protection issues, by creating a powerful new scrutiny committee to identify failures and take action before they become tragedies. The committee will meet in public and include both independent expert and lay members.
- ✓ Labour's failures have made the recruitment and retention of quality social workers in Haringey extremely difficult. We will commit £200,000 to a new training and professional development fund, to support social workers and boost recruitment and retention.
- ✓ The current state of UK public finances makes central government funding uncertain. To provide more financial security, we will ring-fence the Children Services' safeguarding budget for five years and protect the department's ongoing budget from any reductions forced by any central government funding cuts. We will also lobby central government to provide child protection the resources it deserves.
- ✓ We will ensure there is better co-ordination and communication with other agencies involved in child protection in Haringey, such as the Police and NHS. We will subject them to the same level of intense public scrutiny as we will subject our own services. We will press the NHS to make child protection a higher priority, and to improve its procedures and health services for families with young babies.



# Making Haringey safer and cleaner

To create a real fresh start that will benefit all of Haringey's residents, we need to transform the safety and cleanliness of our streets. Labour's neglect has left too many streets looking run-down and too many residents fearful of crime. The Liberal Democrats will bring visible change to Haringey by making our streets, parks and public spaces cleaner and safer.

- ✓ We will make Haringey safer by putting more police on the beat at the times and places they are needed most. To do this we will **create at least six new 24-hour local policing teams** in the neighbourhoods that are most affected by crime. Currently, many local 'safer neighbourhood' police teams are not even based in the neighbourhoods they protect. Working with the police, we will press for these teams to be based nearer the communities they serve.
- ✓ We will make Haringey greener by installing **200 more litter bins** in streets across Haringey. We would give every neighbourhood a 'Clean Streets Warden' to tackle issues like dumping, graffiti and dog mess, and to make sure local roads are swept properly, and that refuse collectors clean up after themselves.
- ✓ Labour's lack of investment in our streets and pavements has left them ugly and dangerous, and strewn with potholes. Rather than endlessly patching up problems, we will **more extensively resurface the roads with the biggest pothole problems**, and repave the most dangerous and uneven pavements. We will improve the council's gritting regime and at least treble the number of grit bins on our streets.
- ✓ We are determined to preserve the unique character of our borough. We will **protect Haringey's parks and green spaces** from development, and would scrap Labour's ugly advertising campaign which blights our parks, conservation areas and streets. We will boost policing in parks during the summer holidays, to ensure all residents can enjoy their local green space.





# Giving power to residents

For far too long local residents have been shut out of key decisions that affect their everyday lives. The Liberal Democrats believe that council services will be more effective if power is devolved down to local residents with more decisions made at a local neighbourhood or ward level. We strongly believe that local people should have more control over council services in their area.

- ✓ We will devolve power down to local Ward Assemblies, which will have more control over local spending, including new Neighbourhood Improvement Funds that will enable residents in every part of Haringey to bid for improvements for their area.
- ✓ Council officers will be more accountable and accessible locally, starting with new Cleaner Streets Wardens who will report to the Ward Assemblies. We will also devolve planning decisions as far as possible and make planning officers more accountable.
- ✓ Under Labour, parking has become a mess, with local residents' views often completely ignored on issues like controlled parking zones. We would listen to residents concerns and ensure parking controls are there to help local people and businesses, not to raise revenue for other services.
- ✓ We would put tenants and leaseholders first, and make local housing services more accountable and accessible, particularly on issues such as repairs, cleaning and safety. We will fight for central government to provide the resources necessary to complete the 'Decent Homes' programme to modernise our run down council housing. But we will listen to leaseholders and allow opt outs on expensive digital aerial systems.



# Spending your money well

Local residents have been badly hit by the recession. The Liberal Democrats believe there is more that the council could do to help hard-pressed local residents. Haringey residents pay the fifth highest council tax in London, but suffer the worst performing council in the capital. We will cut Labour's waste and focus spending to frontline services that make a real difference to local people.

- ✓ We will help residents hit by the recession by **freezing council tax until at least April 2012**. In the longer-term we will aim to bring Haringey's council tax down towards the outer-London average. We will also freeze the council charges that hit residents hardest, with a four year freeze on resident parking permits for greener vehicles.
- ✓ We will **cut Labour's waste** by scrapping their £11 million plan for a luxurious new Civic Centre, and diverting spending from the council's £3 million PR budget for spin and glossy magazines towards frontline council services. Refurbishing Haringey's well-loved but run-down libraries and community buildings should take priority over offices for councillors and council staff. In particular, we will invest in historic buildings such as Hornsey and Tottenham Town Halls and Woodside House to ensure local communities can make better use of these assets.
- ✓ Under Labour too much money has been put in the pockets of councillors. We believe it is wrong that almost every Labour councillor has received additional 'special responsibility allowances' and would cut **£250,000 from these allowances and councillor support costs**.
- ✓ Labour's failed attempt to sell off Alexandra Palace left Haringey's taxpayers with a **£2 million bill** when the flawed deal collapsed. We want the Palace to be commercially successful, but were opposed to Labour's misguided sell off, and are committed to **protecting the Palace and Park for use by the local community**. We will improve the governance of Alexandra Palace, so this mismanagement can never happen again.



# Real action on the environment

We believe tackling climate change is an urgent priority. Labour has failed to rise to the challenge, making pledges and targets that are never kept. Haringey Liberal Democrats are determined to take the decisive action necessary to make Haringey a truly green borough. We already have a record of action, with successful campaigns for council action on battery recycling and to get extra recycling boxes for residents.

- ✓ We will start a ten-fold increase in invest-to-save environmental initiatives. This means investing **£5 million** in green projects, such as improved energy efficiency in community buildings, that will pay back their costs in an average of five years.
- ✓ Under Labour, Haringey has missed its already un-ambitious recycling targets for 18 months in a row. The Liberal Democrats have already forced the council to increase the range of materials that can be recycled and we will further improve the quantity and quality of all recycling in Haringey. For example, we will work towards re-introducing separated recycling, when and where feasible, so that materials like glass can be properly recycled.
- ✓ Labour has failed to keep promises to halt the council's use of domestic air travel leading the council's green reputation in tatters. In contrast, we will lead by example by building an educational eco-home, scrapping the Mayor's gas-guzzling car, and cutting the council's energy use. We will get more council services and communications online, to reduce needless paper use.
- ✓ We will start a green food revolution by identifying waste land to turn into allotments and community gardens. We will work with local primary schools to ensure all children can have access to gardens and allotments to learn about healthy, locally grown food.





# Creating a fairer Haringey

Over the past 40 years, Labour has failed to reduce inequalities in Haringey and failed to give all our children a fair start in life. It is wrong that a child born in Tottenham Green will on average die nine years earlier than a child born in Alexandra ward. Haringey Liberal Democrats are committed to fighting poverty and discrimination. We will work to make Haringey a more equal borough, where people are respected and can succeed regardless of age, gender, disability, sexuality, religion or ethnic background.

- ✓ We will fight for more resources for our schools, by continuing Lynne Featherstone's campaign against the Labour Government's unfair funding system, which gives every child in Haringey over £1,000 a year less than children in neighbouring boroughs. We will also help the young people who have been hardest hit by the recession by backing apprenticeships and internships. As a first step we will set up 125 internships for local young people at Haringey Council.
- ✓ We will fight Labour's proposals to cut our A&E services at the Whittington and the North Middlesex hospitals. After winning the battle for a new health centre on the Hornsey Central site, we will now fight for better health facilities across the borough, particularly in Tottenham, where action to improve health is most desperately needed.
- ✓ Labour cut access to free leisure services for Haringey's older people, but we will reinstate and extend access with a new Seniors' Leisure Card to keep our older residents healthy and active. We will also set up a powerful new public committee to scrutinise adult social care and NHS services, to make sure vulnerable older and disabled people are being properly supported.
- ✓ Over the last few decades, millions of pounds have been wasted on top-down regeneration, rather than working with local communities and businesses to improve the borough. We will develop a 'Greener High Streets Fund' to help urban regeneration, by transforming run-down high streets and making them more attractive for shoppers and residents. Our biggest shopping area on Wood Green High Street will be our first priority.





# A fresh start with the Liberal Democrats



**Liberal Democrats  
working hard  
for you all  
year round**



**A fresh start for Haringey**

