

# Haringey Liberal Democrats

# Manifesto

Haringey Borough Council Elections 2014



[www.haringeylibdems.org.uk](http://www.haringeylibdems.org.uk)



*The Liberal Democrats are working to deliver  
a **stronger economy** in a **fairer society**  
enabling every person to get on in life*

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*"After 44 years of scandals and failure under Labour, Haringey needs change. Residents pay the 5th highest council tax in London, yet receive some of the worst services. As a result, Haringey is the 4th most complained about Council in London."*

**- Cllr Richard Wilson**  
Leader of Haringey Liberal Democrats

After 44 years of scandals and failure under Labour, Haringey needs change. Residents pay the 5th highest council tax in London, yet receive some of the worst services. As a result, Haringey is the 4th most complained about Council in London.

The Liberal Democrats have the energy and vision 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 increasing school funding, freezing council tax, winning an extra £7.6m of health funding and getting the Council to agree to build the first new council homes for 25 years.

Now we are fighting the local elections for more changes to help residents - for instance, 30 minutes free parking for our high streets, new energy-efficient street lighting, and a new landlord registration scheme to protect tenants. These policies form part of a manifesto which sets out a

clear and positive vision for Haringey.

Our manifesto sets out Haringey Liberal Democrats' six main priorities for making Haringey a borough to be proud of:

- Building a stronger local economy
- Enabling every young person to get on in life
- Creating a fairer Haringey
- Making neighbourhoods to be proud of
- Caring for all of Haringey's residents
- Empowering residents and delivering excellent services

*The Liberal Democrats have the energy and vision to give our borough the fresh start it desperately needs.*

We have ambitious action plans for ending decades of failure by Haringey

Labour and helping to create a borough where all residents have the opportunity to succeed.

Only the Liberal Democrats can turn Haringey around, the Conservatives and Green Party don't have a single councillor in the borough. Working with residents, we believe we can give Haringey the fresh start our borough deserves.

*Richard Wilson*

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## 1. Freeze Council Tax

To help local residents with the cost of living, we will freeze Council Tax for the next 4 years. Our long-term aim is to bring council tax down to the London average

## 2. Better roads and pavements

We will tackle potholes by spending an extra million pounds on resurfacing roads and pavements.

## 3. Action to fight crime and improve the environment

We will give a council tax discount to volunteer special constables, and make our streets safer with modern, energy-efficient LED street lighting across the borough.

## 4. Free parking on our high streets to boost the local economy

To support our high streets, help shoppers and protect local jobs we will provide 30 minutes free parking on local high streets.

## 5. Better NHS funding and a more effective Children's Services

We will continue the fight for fairer funding, so our local NHS services receive the same resources as those in neighbouring boroughs and ensure that Children's Services improve to protect vulnerable children.

## 6. Real action on housing

We will build the first new council homes in Haringey for 25 years, and to protect private tenants we will introduce a landlord licensing scheme.

*“To pay for these pledges we have identified fully-costed savings of over £3m a year that can be made to Haringey's budgets without hitting frontline services, by cutting Labour's waste. These savings include reducing spending on middle managers, reducing dependency on agency staff and cutting spending on communications and PR.”*

**- Cllr Katherine Reece**

**Deputy Leader Haringey Liberal Democrats**







Protecting our local high streets and making them more successful, diverse and vibrant will be a top priority for a Liberal Democrat run Haringey Council.

### **Protecting our high streets**

We will promote our high streets to local shoppers, for instance through a borough-wide competition to identify the best independent shops. We will improve the street scene to make our high streets more attractive and provide more cycle lock up points.

We will also ensure the council provides 30 minutes of free parking in our local town centres to help them compete with out of borough retail destinations. This proposal is supported by the Federation of Small Businesses and was recommended by Mary Portas' report into the future of our high streets. Our plan will protect local jobs and boost the local economy, and will also increase council funding through business rates.

### **Supporting regeneration**

The regeneration of Tottenham is key to the future of the borough. We will work with local traders, residents and business to ensure that the regeneration is done for the benefit of local people. We will ensure that the big

businesses that benefit from regeneration will contribute to Tottenham and provide local people with jobs and apprenticeships. We will ensure that local people and businesses are consulted on every stage of the regeneration of Tottenham.

We will also prioritise the regeneration of Wood Green, Bounds Green, Turnpike Lane and other parts of the borough

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*We will also ensure the council provides 30 minutes of free parking in our local town centres*

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that have been allowed by Haringey Labour to become more rundown in recent years.

### **Improving local transport**

We will push for improved transport links between the east and west of Haringey to make it easier to move around the borough. We will continue to call for Transport for London to take over the suburban services into Moorgate that are currently run by First Capital Connect, and run an improved London Overground service.

### **Supporting local business**

The Liberal Democrats will help the local economy by establishing a £250,000 business

support fund for small and medium businesses in the borough. This fund will provide support to draft business plans, advice on marketing and training.

### **Protecting our local heritage**

We are committed to preserving Haringey's historic buildings for future generations, making sure they can be used by the local community. We would protect Alexandra Palace and Hornsey Town Hall ensuring that the buildings are maintained and that the square in front of the Town Hall is kept for public use.

Our aim would be for Alexandra Palace to be governed by an independent trust so it can reach its potential as one of London's most iconic places.

### **Protecting local libraries**

The Liberal Democrats are also committed to protecting local libraries and will keep all the borough's libraries open, and invest in improving the fabric of libraries that are rundown and in need of repair.

We will also reverse Labour's plans to cut the mobile library service.



Unemployment in Haringey has dropped drastically since 2010 -with youth unemployment down by over a third. 3,000 new apprenticeships have also been created in Haringey since 2010.

### **Increasing apprenticeships**

We will work with local and national employers to increase the number of apprenticeships available in the borough and ensure that young people are aware of these opportunities. We will provide extra information to local employers to encourage them to create apprenticeships and to apply for the grants that support them. The Lib Dems will replicate the success of our local MP Lynne Featherstone's apprenticeship recruitment event and hold similar events across Haringey.

We will boost links between local schools and leading universities and employers to increase aspiration and reduce the numbers of young people who do not go into education, employment or training (NEETS) when they leave school. We will make sure that young people who do become NEETS are provided with advice and guidance on paths open to them.

### **Improving our schools**

Labour has failed to implement all the recommendations of the

independent 'Outstanding for All' report on education in Haringey. We will make sure all of the report is implemented, including:

- Excellence for all schools improving the quality of education for local children
- Establish better working relationships between schools and teaching unions
- Provide schools with better central services such as HR and finance
- Improve communication between parents, council officers, teachers and children

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### **Better early years provision**

We will also focus on Early Years provision where Haringey is 138th out of 152 councils in terms of the percent of children showing good development. We would improve local children's centres and encourage the uptake of the Government's 15 hours of free childcare for the poorest two-year-olds and all three-and-four year-olds.

### **Protecting youth services**

We will improve youth services and make sure that youth centres are open as advertised and not

closed unnecessarily as happened under the current Labour administration. We will also look at ways of using restorative justice so that young offenders understand the consequences of their actions, to help reduce high levels of youth re-offending.

### **A family friendly council**

We will make our parks more family friendly, particularly during school holidays. We will boost supervision and cleaning in parks during the summer, and ensure more action is taken against those who litter or allow their dogs to foul our green spaces. We will reverse Labour's increase in the number of commercial music concerts that are allowed to take over and damage Finsbury Park, and instead ensure it is accessible for local families and young people during school holidays.

We will make sure that all of Haringey's leisure centres are open to all especially to young people- by subsidising access where appropriate.

We will ensure that the Local Children's Safeguarding Board is efficient and accountable.







After 4 decades of increases under Labour, Haringey's Council tax is the 5th highest in London. To help local residents with the cost of living we will freeze council tax for the next 4 years. In the long-term our aspiration is to bring Haringey's council tax in line with the London average.

### Standing up for private and council tenants

We will introduce a landlord registration scheme for private landlords to ensure that the 34,000 households living in privately rented property in Haringey have a decent home. We will ensure that council homes are not left empty for years as has happened under Labour. We make sure council homes are filled quickly and private homes that are left empty are brought back into use.

### Building affordable homes

We will build Haringey's first new council homes for 25 years to help increase the supply of affordable housing and reduce overcrowding. We will make sure all council homes in the borough meet the government's decent standard requirement by 2030.

We will not repeat the scandalous waste caused by the Labour administration, for example, paying for costly permanent improvements to properties which are about to be knocked down.

### Cutting cash for Labour spin

We will slash Labour's communications budget for PR and glossy magazines and spend the money on services for

*To help local residents with the cost of living we will freeze council tax for the next 4 years.*

residents instead. We will make sure that no more than £1m a year is spent on the council's communications budget.

### A London living wage & supporting credit unions

We will work to ensure that where possible council contractors pay the 'London Living Wage' and that this is considered in any future procurement of services by the council, so that more residents are paid a decent wage. We will support the work of the local credit union which provides low

cost loans to local people who might otherwise use more expensive payday lenders.

### Improving energy efficiency

We will ensure that council buildings are run efficiently and that energy bills for council's office buildings are kept low by ensuring all buildings are as energy efficient as they can be.

### Housing repairs not bonuses

Too many people have experienced poor home repairs from Homes for Haringey.

We will increase the inspection of repairs to make sure that work is done properly the first time, and we will do more to protect leaseholders from high charges.

We will improve the way housing is run in Haringey and put a stop to scandals such as Labour spending £3m on bonuses for repairs staff.





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 spend an extra million pounds resurfacing the roads with the biggest pothole problems, and repaving the most dangerous and uneven pavements.

### **New street lighting**

Labour's budget assumes it will be 46 years before all street lights in Haringey will be low energy. We would make sure that all street lights are replaced with energy efficient LED lighting in 10 years not 46. This would make an annual saving in power costs of £318k as well as making streets feel safer, and making substantial carbon savings.

### **Regular street sweeping**

The Lib Dems will make sure that the streets are swept regularly and we will tackle grot spots where rubbish is dumped regularly. Labour's one-size-fits-all fortnightly waste collections have left some roads blighted with smelly, overflowing bins or bins blocking pavements. We will re-introduce weekly collections on these streets.

### **Supporting our parks**

We will improve neglected parks like Pond Park and encourage the formation of more successful friend of parks groups,

empowering local communities and improving the parks. We would scrap Labour's ugly advertising which blights our parks, conservation areas and streets.

### **20mph for residential roads**

We will introduce 20 mph speed limits on all residential roads in the borough to increase safety and make our streets more pedestrian and cyclist friendly. Reduced speed limits on main roads like 'A' and 'B' roads will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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***We will spend an extra million pounds resurfacing the roads with the biggest pothole problems, and repaving the most dangerous and uneven pavements.***

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### **A cycle friendly borough**

Haringey Liberal Democrats want this to be a cycling borough. We will listen to cyclists' priorities for improving the local cycle network and increasing cycle lanes. We will also lobby the Mayor of London to get bikes for hire at tube stations in Haringey. We would also sign the Safer Lorries, Safer Cycling campaign pledge to ensure the council only uses the best equipped lorries and best trained drivers to stop cyclists being killed.

### **Supporting community policing and safer streets**

We will press the police to make sure that all residents can go to a

local police counter or contact point. We will work with the police to ensure that places like Muswell Hill have a police contact point or front counter.

### **Cleaner, greener power generation**

We will encourage more community ownership of power generation, such as solar panels, with community control of the proceeds of selling the power back to the grid so this can be spent on local priorities. We will oppose any applications for fracking in Haringey.

### **Planting more trees**

The Lib Dems will support local community groups to plant more trees and plants in small green spaces, and will promote micro-parks. We will increase the number of trees that are planted on our streets.

### **Stopping betting shop blight**

We have been concerned for years about the effect of the unrestricted spread of betting shops on our high streets which was caused by Labour's 2006 Gambling Act. We will consult on bringing in an "Article 4" direction which would require planning permission for all new betting shops within Haringey.





The Liberal Democrats will reinstate funding for luncheon clubs for the elderly which Labour cut and for the mobile library service. These services provide older people with an opportunity to socialise and help prevent social isolation.

We will push for high standards of care for elderly people in nursing and residential homes by encouraging 'Gold Standard Frameworks'. We will also advocate personalised and specialist support for people with dementia and their carers.

### **A pedestrian friendly borough**

We will make Haringey an accessible and pedestrian friendly borough, particularly for older and disabled residents. We will look to install dropped kerbs for wheelchair users and parents with buggies and improve the council's gritting regime and at least treble the number of grit bins on our streets.

### **Supporting our local NHS**

The demands on our health service will continue to increase as will the number of older

people and families with children in the Borough. The Lib Dems have already got £7.6 million of extra health funding; we will continue the fight for fairer funding for health so that Haringey gets similar funding to neighbouring inner London boroughs. We will work to reduce the gap in life expectancy that prevails in Haringey.

*The Liberal Democrats will reinstate funding for luncheon clubs for the elderly which Labour cut and for the mobile library service.*

### **Joining up council and NHS services in Haringey**

We will ensure NHS and council social care services are better joined-up, to benefit local people particularly those with chronic illnesses and mental health problems. We will use pooled NHS and Council budgets to achieve significantly better outcomes for people need care and health services, and at the same time conserve resources.

### **Better children's service**

Despite the many scandals and

tragedies in recent years, Haringey's Children's Services are still not good enough. We need the most skilled and experienced social workers in Haringey, but Labour's failures have made their recruitment extremely difficult. We will protect the Children's Services budget, investing in and supporting, high quality staff.

We will also increase the effectiveness of spending in Children's Services through greater transparency, scrutiny and more investment in preventative services that stop families getting into crisis, reducing the number of children in care. We will improve the Council's recruitment and support for local foster carers to reduce the Council's dependence on expensive out-of-borough foster agencies.



## **"A failing Labour council"**

Former Labour Cllr Alan Stanton, Dec 2013

**"As a lifelong Labour voter,  
I urge you not to vote  
@HaringeyLabour at the  
next election!"**

@TottenhamCake - Twitter, March 2014

## **A 'Council in crisis'**

Ham and High Broadway, March 2013

**Labour councillor accused of  
being 'hostile and unhelpful'**

Haringey Independent, 13th March 2014

**"Tax dodging [Haringey] Labour councillors"**

Haringey Independent, 1st April 2014

Labour has failed to get a grip, ensuring that council services are run properly and efficiently.

### **Getting excellent services**

Residents in Haringey pay one of the highest council taxes in London and they deserve good services. But this is something the Labour-run council has spectacularly failed to provide. We will ensure that local people get excellent services. We will tackle under performance in key areas of the council such as customer service, planning and enforcement.

### **Improving customer services**

Haringey Lib Dems are committed to ensuring that in future Haringey Council provides excellent customer services to

residents. The council must answer phone calls and emails from residents and deal with the problems raised. Under us performance of all council departments will be kept under review. We believe all parts of the council should be delivering an excellent service and we will take action to improve any department that is not meeting that aim.

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*Haringey Lib Dems are committed to ensuring that in future Haringey Council provides excellent customer services to residents.*

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### **Sorting out local parking**

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.

### **Sorting out planning**

We will sort out the poor performance in Haringey's planning and enforcement services, ensuring that planning applications are dealt with correctly and quickly, and local residents are consulted properly.

### **An open, transparent council**

Under Labour's leadership power has become increasingly concentrated in the Leader's office, with a lack of accountability and openness. We would reverse this trend and give local people more of a say about the decisions that affect them. We will ensure that there is proper scrutiny of the Council's decisions by having the Overview and Scrutiny Committee chaired by an opposition councillor. We will also review the council's system of governance and consider reintroducing the Committee System so the Leader has less power and all councillors have a say in decisions.

### **Ending Labour's yachting trips**

The Lib Dems will put in place better safeguards to avoid risking conflicts of interest and ensure that expenses are only paid for journeys that are necessary.

Unlike Labour we would not send council officers or councillors on expensive trips to meet with property developers on yachts in Cannes.





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