



**a fairer  
future  
for  
Waltham  
Forest**

# CONTENTS

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<b>MY MESSAGE TO YOU - COUNCILLOR GRACE WILLIAMS</b>	2-3
<b>OUR RECORD</b>	4-5
<b>OUR PLEDGES</b>	6-11
Invest in our community's future, with a university campus, a new lido, 4 new health centres and 4 new youth hubs	7
Make our borough the best place to grow up and be a place to age well	8
A safer, cleaner and greener Waltham Forest	9
Help you through the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis	10
Ensure a decent roof over your head	11
<b>A FAIR DEAL FOR WALTHAM FOREST</b>	12-13
<b>OUR CONTINUED COMMITMENTS TO YOU</b>	14
<b>CONTACT US</b>	15



Sir Keir Starmer, Leader of the Labour Party, and Rachel Reeves, Shadow Chancellor, visiting Walthamstow Market to speak to local residents about the cost-of-living crisis

# MY MESSAGE TO YOU

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When we wrote our 2018 manifesto we couldn't have imagined the change that would unfold over the next four years. The pandemic has affected us all, and our thoughts go to the loved ones we have lost over this difficult time. It showed the extraordinary way in which our community can come together in times of need, but sadly also the stark inequalities that still exist in our country.

**We have all become better neighbours, friends and members of our community, and I want to thank you in the part you have played through these tough times.**

Our borough is being let down by the Conservatives in Westminster. Higher tax, the cut to universal credit and rising energy and fuel prices – this is a perfect storm **and local families are being abandoned by this Tory Government just when they need them most.** In the last decade we've seen rising poverty, spiralling housing costs and mounting debt.

For years, residents of Waltham Forest have not had a fair funding deal from government. Conservative cuts to our council mean we have lost more than £120 million from our annual budget since 2010. Only by electing a Labour Government will councils be properly funded and we will campaign hard to achieve that. Yet until then we have to make every £1 of your council tax go further than ever before, whilst ensuring that in this time of need our key services like social care, children's services and housing are strengthened.

That is why in our recent budget, we agreed a **no cuts budget** that protects our most vulnerable residents. Our vision is for a borough is one of **fairness, opportunity and improvement** as well as extra support for those who need it most.

**We are proud of what our Waltham Forest Labour administration has achieved with your support,** from the way we have worked hand in hand with our voluntary and community sector and health partners during the pandemic to the work that underpinned Waltham Forest's success as the first London Borough of Culture. From our pioneering programme which has increased cycling and walking in the borough to our Hate Crime Citizens Assembly, from our work to transform our children's services to our ground-breaking private landlord licensing scheme and support for rough sleepers.



Councillor Grace Williams with Sir Keir Starmer, Leader of the Labour Party

But we accept there is much more to do and that achieving change will mean a very different Waltham Forest Council. **We must now focus on creating a lasting vision for the future.**

**My commitment to you is to do everything I can to create the best possible future for our children and young people.**

We must build on our achievements to be the best place to grow up - ranging from opportunities for play and literacy, the best possible support for families in our children and family centres, youth hubs and in our help around cost of living and preventing homelessness.

**We will work with you to shape places in our 15-minute neighbourhood's programme.**

Celebrating the hyperlocal and bringing the very best amenities in terms of health centres, transport and cultural spaces.

There is a **focus on addressing systemic inequalities across everything that we do** from the practical steps we are taking to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, our approach to culture and our plans for new work to address health inequalities.

Tackling the climate emergency is also our priority and we are committed to reaching Net Zero by 2030. We will work with you to build a movement for change across the borough and in all that we do.

**I am proud to lead an excellent team of Labour candidates across the borough standing to represent you and our community. They are committed to listening to you, improving the community we live in and will always be on your side.**

Thank you

**Councillor Grace Williams**  
Leader of Waltham Forest Council

# OUR RECORD

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## First Ever London Borough of Culture

First ever London Borough of Culture in 2019 which has enabled us to ensure arts and culture is always placed at the heart of our communities



## Whipps Won't Wait

Campaigned and supported plans to build a new Whipps Cross hospital with 11,000 residents signing our petition to the Government



## Supported active travel and cycling

Promoted active travel with 600 Bike Hangars installed and 42km of segregated cycle track



## Invested in and expanded our local libraries

Invested over £4 million in our libraries, including a new Wood Street Library and a transformed Lea Bridge Library



## Built new council homes for our residents

Our council have one of the best records for new council homes in London and we are consistently one of the London boroughs with the highest percentage of affordable housing



## Created Fellowship Square at the Town Hall

Created a Fellowship Square at the town hall open to all in the borough, with a brand new interactive fountain and over 50,000 people enjoyed the free events this past summer



## Created Soho Theatre Walthamstow

Breathed life back into the former EMD Cinema, with a £30m investment into the venue's revival to make it an entertainment venue and cultural hub



## Boosted our local economy

Ran an award-winning choose local campaign to boost our local economy, with 95% of residents saying it encouraged them to shop locally



## Worked to ease the cost-of-living crisis

Worked with our voluntary and community sector to help residents through the cost-of-living crisis including over £850,000 on free school meals in school holidays and a cost-of-living campaign which helps residents to get the best support in our community, including grants of up to £750



## Pioneered a new approach to safety

Pioneered an innovative and proactive approach to the safety of our residents including the first Hate Crime Citizens Assembly, Bystander Intervention Training and our Violence Reduction Partnership





## Ensuring that no child is left behind

Good with Outstanding for leadership and management for our Children's Services, Children and Family centres to support families in each neighbourhood and our Life Chances programme which ensures no child is left behind



## Supported our rough sleepers

Support for our rough sleepers so that no rough sleeper is without help, a 30 per cent decrease in families in temporary accommodation and a strong Private Landlord Licensing Scheme to protect residents from rogue landlords



## Helping you to save the planet by recycling

We now collect the most materials for recycling on your doorstep of any London council, from coffee pods to small electrical appliances



## Planted trees and installed EV charging points

Since 2018 we have planted nearly 18,000 trees, given away 220,000 spring flowering bulbs, and installed over 400 electric charging points



## Supported residents with dementia

Opened a brand new Dementia Hub, one of only four in the UK



## Supported over 1000 residents into new jobs

Since 2018 we have supported over 1000 residents into new jobs



## Invested in our housing estates

Invested in our housing estates, making full fibre broadband services available to over 9,000 social housing homes, improving facilities from entrances to heating systems and ensuring our buildings are safe for all



## Families in Housing Need programme

Put £2 million in a new Families in Housing Need programme to support families to gain access to the skills, services and opportunities they need to maximise their income and ensure that their housing is good quality and financially sustainable



## Allocated £86m to support our local schools

Allocated £86 million to provide school places and improve and maintain community school buildings between 2020 and 2024, with 97% of children getting their first placed school in 2022. We also reopened the Suntrap Centre with a multi-million-pound refurbishment to provide year-round outdoor environmental learning activities



## Supported you through the pandemic

Supported residents through the pandemic, with 120,000 free masks given out, and created vaccination clinics and test sites across the borough and set up the Community Help Network

# OUR PLEDGES TO YOU

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- ✓ Invest in our community's future, with a university campus, a new lido, 4 new health centres and 4 new youth hubs
- ✓ Make our borough the best place to grow up and be a place to age well
- ✓ A safer, cleaner and greener Waltham Forest
- ✓ Help you through the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis
- ✓ Ensure a decent roof over your head and build 1000 new council homes



Councillors Paul Douglas, Elizabeth Baptiste, Grace Williams, Khevyn Limbajee and Louise Mitchell, in Fellowship Square



Work continues to restore the former EMD, now known as Soho Theatre Walthamstow

## Invest in our community's future

- 1** **Bring a new Lido to Waltham Forest**, working to promote healthier lifestyles and expand the range of activities available to residents.
- 2** **Invest in four youth hubs** to support our young people into early adulthood.
- 3** **Establish new Health Centres in each neighbourhood**, and continue our commitment to a new Whipps Cross Hospital fit for the 21st Century.
- 4** **Bring a University campus to the borough**, creating high quality jobs and expanding education opportunities for our residents.
- 5** **Improve our libraries**, making them centres for joined up support for residents to access everything we do, including working with residents on climate action.
- 6** **Building on our Borough of Culture legacy**, we will open Soho Theatre Walthamstow, Coronation Square in Leyton and support the delivery of the Regal Cinema in Highams Park and the Standard Music Venue at Blackhorse Road.
- 7** **Support our high streets**, working with local partners to ensure local businesses benefit from Council and public spending, ensuring more money is retained in our local economy.



# Make our borough the best place to grow up and be a place to age well

- 1 Waltham Forest will be the best borough to grow up in.** We are strongly committed to children and family centres, working with our schools to improve life chances. We will promote inclusion and tackle inequality and become a borough of storytelling and play.
- 2 Ensure Waltham Forest is the best borough in which to age well** by tackling pensioner poverty, expanding our dementia care and reviewing how we deliver home care.
- 3 Help Waltham Forest residents have access to good quality mental health care** by improving mental health and wellbeing for all and tackling systematic health inequalities, to ensure people get the support they need, when they need it.
- 4 Create a more accessible borough for all.** Waltham Forest will be inclusive for those who are neurodiverse or who have mental and physical disabilities.



Councillor Alistair Strathern, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, on World Book Day



Councillor Clyde Loakes, Deputy Leader of Waltham Forest Council, with Ed Miliband MP visiting an eco-home in Waltham Forest

## A safer, cleaner and greener Waltham Forest

- 1 Make our streets safer.** Increasing street lighting, installing additional CCTV and launching a new reporting app to tackle street harassment.
- 2 Keep our borough clean and green.** Protecting our parks and green spaces and ensuring our streets and neighbourhoods are kept clean.
- 3 Work with our community on climate action and biodiversity.** Launching the 'Waltham Forest Greener Futures Fund' to help local residents and organisations to invest to deliver neighbourhood climate change initiatives.
- 4 Improve community flood resilience.** Creating more surface water drainage systems, such as rain gardens and supporting residents to introduce flood mitigation measures.
- 5 Build on our London-leading reuse and recycling opportunities by rolling out a separate weekly food waste collection for every household in the Borough, neighbourhood Repair Cafes and 'Library of Things',** as well as a reuse disposal opportunity for basic household building materials at a borough Household Waste & Recycling Centre.
- 6 Prioritise active and sustainable transport infrastructure.** Continue to promote and invest in initiatives that make it easier and safer to walk, cycle and use public transport in Waltham Forest.

# Help you through the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis

- 1 Provide extra support to help you through the cost-of-living crisis in the aftermath of COVID-19.** We will take steps to tackle fuel, food and child poverty in the borough, working in partnership with our community and voluntary sector.
  
- 2 A promise to do everything we can to help local people find the best work in these tough times.** From job creation in a range of growing areas of opportunity like culture, construction, and green jobs, and tailored training, we will support those who need it.
  
- 3 Help all our young people recover their learning, access career advice, work experience, training and apprenticeships.** We will prioritise our care leavers and disabled young people ensuring they can fulfil their potential.



Councillor Grace Williams & Stella Creasy MP speak to Walthamstow Market Traders





Mayor Sadik Khan, Tom Copley, and Sem Moema AM meet with Cabinet members Ahsan Khan and Louise Mitchell, to crack down on rogue landlords

## Ensure a decent roof over your head

- 1 Our most ambitious affordable home building programme.** We are committed to delivering 1000 homes for social rent over the next four years. We will support all rough sleepers in our community into homes.
- 2 Raise standards in the private rented sector with our licensing scheme.** We will crack down on rogue landlords and support improved tenants' rights.
- 3 Take a housing estates first approach to climate action.** We will make our housing estates centres for combating climate change through initiatives, including retro fitting properties, waste management and recycling, active travel and food growing.



# A FAIR DEAL FOR WALTHAM FOREST

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**We will always be on the side of residents, campaigning to improve the quality of life for all.**

## Funding

**We will campaign for fair funding to end the historic under-funding of our borough. We are an outer London Borough with inner London needs. This should be reflected in the level of funding we receive from the government.**

## Health

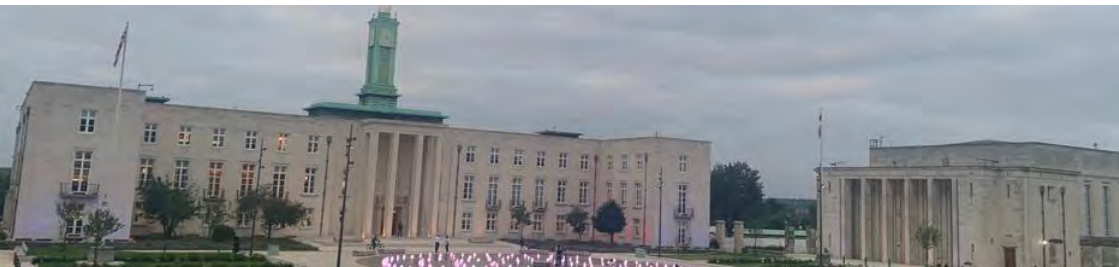
**We will continue our campaign for a new Whipps Cross Hospital that is fit for the 21st Century.**

## Safety

**We will fight for more police on our streets and push for improved community policing and action to tackle violence in the Borough.**

## Housing

**We will campaign for better housing rights for all and national investment in social housing. Lobbying for an end to Section 21 evictions and the benefit cap, a national Private Landlord Licensing Scheme and a rent freeze to protect tenants.**





Waltham Forest's Labour Councillors celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight and campaign for Fairtrade

## Climate

We will continue to call on Government to introduce its long-delayed levy on packaging and for that money to be passed to local councils so we can increase our waste prevention activities and improve and extend borough reuse, repair and recycling services.

## Transport

We will campaign for improved, expanded and accessible transport links in Waltham Forest, including linking Chingford to Stratford with the reinstatement of the Hall Farm Curve (Meridian Line) and for all of our rail and underground stations to have step free access.



Councillor Grace Williams, with Highams Park Councillors, Tony Bell and Rosalind Dore, at Highams Park Train Station, which would benefit from the Meridian Line

# OUR CONTINUED COMMITMENTS TO YOU

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We will continue to be committed to our values to serve our residents the best way we can.



**Net Zero By 2030**



**Keep All Our Libraries Open**



**A Dementia Friendly Borough**



**A London Living Wage Employer**



**Ban On Fast Food Outlets Opening Near Schools**



**Landlord Licensing Scheme**



**No Pension Fund Investment In Fossil Fuels**



**A Fairtrade Borough**



**School Streets**



**Bee Friendly Streets**



**Smallest Things Employer**



**Stand By Her**



**No Space For Hate Ambassadors**



**An Autism Friendly Borough**





## Contact Us Today



walthamforestlabour.org.uk



7 Hatch Lane, Chingford. E4 6LP



@WFLabourParty



WalthamForestLabour

# Vote Labour Thursday 05 May

Promoted by Alexander Holmes on behalf of Waltham Forest Labour Party, all at 7 Hatch Lane, Chingford E4 6LP.