

## Appendix – Building a Fairer Newham

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## 1. Championing you and your families in these uncertain times

When elected Mayor in 2018, I promised to work hard for the people of Newham so that our borough becomes a place where children, young people, families and local businesses can flourish, thrive and be supported in these uncertain times.

I said that I would improve the Council, so that every penny and pound is used to deliver all those vital frontline services such as supporting our elderly and making our borough cleaner, greener and safe. I pledged to invest in homes our people can afford, services for our young people, and to ensure that residents are involved in the decisions we make here at the Council so they can shape the neighbourhoods they live in.

Over the past four years, we have shown what Labour in power at a local level can do for all our people and that we are on your side.

Newham is the place where I live. I've grown up here and love how brilliantly diverse our borough is. Through our people, we have connections to all parts of the world. We are a great example of people coming together to help each other, as we saw during Covid-19 and through our support for refugees fleeing conflicts such as Syria, Afghanistan and now Ukraine. Our people and our communities make our borough, Newham so special.

We have the youngest population in the country. We want a bright future for them and everyone else that makes Newham their home.

That's why everything we have done since 2018 is about investing in our people and our borough to make it the best place to live. We are addressing poverty and inequality, tackling the housing crisis, health inequality and food insecurity. There is still much more to do.

Newham has some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country: 67 percent of Newham's households live in poverty. 30 percent of pupils in our schools are eligible for government funded free school meals. In Newham, some 24 percent of households are reliant on more expensive pre-payment meters for their gas and electricity. The cost of living crisis is going to make poverty in Newham worse.

As your Mayor, leading Newham Council, I've been delivering Community Wealth Building and Inclusive Growth locally to address these challenges head on. This is my moral drive for social and economic justice so that we can tackle poverty and the exploitation many of you face in work or from landlords.

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My anti-poverty and fairness resolve means we have protected universal free school meals for all nursery and primary school-aged children, saving families £500 per year in these hard times.

By making health, well-being and happiness the primary measure of economic success at the Council, we are focusing on fair and just outcomes for all our people, regardless of their backgrounds.

We are building our response to the Climate Emergency across all aspects of our work in the Council to achieve net zero by 2045.

We are also protecting the health of our children and people by tackling the air pollution caused by vehicle emissions. We have increased the amounts we spend on fly tipping, street cleaning and recycling and brought the street cleaning service back in house to provide you with a better service in future. We have already invested an extra £1m each year into this service. As part of £18.8 million of investment this year, we are spending an additional £9.5m in children services and adult social care as well as support for families facing homelessness or who face destitution, such as refugees.

During Covid-19, we provided thousands of our residents' £3.5 million worth of food and other essential household items through our Help Newham programme and the Newham Food Alliance. We pioneered the Covid-19 Health Champions working with local residents as we faced the biggest public health emergency of our lifetimes and it has now been rolled out nationally. We were the only Council in the country to support residents isolating with Covid-19 by offering them hotel accommodation. This was one of the most outstanding frontline responses of any Council to stop the spread of the virus in our community.

Newham was hard hit by Covid-19 and through our rapid testing centres, the Covid-19 helpline, supported isolation plans, ground breaking work of our Covid-19 Health Champions and Vaccine Peer Support volunteers, we worked hard as a Council to save lives.

Newham is changing, and people can see this. We have been awarded the highest allocation of Levelling Up grants in London. We have secured £40 million out of £65 million allocated to the Capital for two major programmes to improve our neighbourhoods.

Over the past four years much has already been done to sort out the Council and deliver for our people during the difficult times we have been facing. With the cost of

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living crisis facing us all, creating fairness in Newham and ensuring the Council spends money wisely in vital public services for you will be our focus.

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As we look ahead to the next 4 years this manifesto sets out our promises to you. We will continue to support you and our communities in Newham across so many vital areas including:

1. **Delivering 1,500 new Council homes for Newham residents and their families.**
2. **Investing £40 million to keep our streets and neighbourhoods clean and cut reported fly- tipping by 50 percent.**
3. **Delivering 1000 Electric Vehicle charging points and 500 cycle hangars across the borough.**
4. **Paying the London Living Wage to all Council staff and specify that all our contractors do likewise, and campaign for the London Living Wage to be paid to all employees in Newham.**
5. **Campaigning for affordable care costs that meet the needs of our elderly residents to age well in comfort and with security.**
6. **Holding the police to account so that they work for our residents to make Newham safe and especially for our women and young people.**
7. **Supporting all our people and local businesses facing the Cost of Living crisis.**

**Rokhsana Fiaz OBE**  
**Mayor of Newham**

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## 2. A healthier Newham and ageing well

Our three highest priorities over the last 4 years have been tackling health inequalities, dealing with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic; and making sure that we support our elderly residents better so that they live independently and well by starting to address the historic under investment in Adult Social Care.

People in Newham have poorer health outcomes than the population overall with shorter life expectancy and they live in good health for less time too. These health inequalities are rooted in poverty and economic inequality and also influenced by other factors including race and ethnicity which impact the health outcomes of many of our residents. These inequalities have been highlighted by Covid-19 where the combination of factors have put Newham's communities at significant risk from the worst outcomes of the pandemic.

### **Over the next 4 years we will:**

- Continue to pay the London Living Wage to all our care workers, which will also cover their travel time; and campaign for the London Living Wage to be extended to all workers in Newham's social care sector.
- Explore new models of care delivery for social care, including cooperatives, and engage with our residents and providers on the services they want to receive and provide in the future.
- Establish a Centre of Excellence on Race Equality in Health and Social Care, as well as an Adult Social Care Citizens Assembly for residents with learning needs and disabilities so that they are involved in the design and delivery of services aimed at them.
- Launch Newham's first Social Prescribing pilot as part of plans to embed a preventative health approach across the borough. This will accelerate health promotion and prevention and improve physical and mental health outcomes for all Newham residents in all our neighbourhoods.
- Change our 0-19 years health provision model so that it responds flexibly and able to more effectively support our young people and families most in need.
- Oppose any further privatisation of NHS Services and hold health partners to account on provision and funding for children with special educational needs and disabilities through Newham's Health and Wellbeing Board as part of our

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ongoing drive to improve health outcomes for all Newham Residents.

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### 3. Newham's inclusive economy to support you in these hard times

We are creating an inclusive local economy which works for local people, supports their wellbeing and their financial security. Our pledge in 2018 was to transform Newham into a beacon of Community Wealth Building by using the Council's purchasing power to keep wealth in Newham to benefit our residents.

We want to achieve inclusive economic growth locally to improve the quality of life of all Newham residents so that they can get decent and secure jobs and earn sustainable wages to provide a good life for themselves and their families.

We have worked to achieve this through championing fair pay and conditions, supporting low income families with additional financial support, supporting affordable local business options and creating accessible learning opportunities to secure higher skilled jobs and greater earning potential.

That is why Newham Council is a London Living Wage employer. We champion good employment practices and the London Living Wage in Newham through our Community Wealth Building pledge which so far has been adopted by 102 businesses locally. Through our Employment Rights Hub we are helping our residents know their rights at work and safeguard them from exploitation by bad employers.

We have established the Council's Our Newham service to help our residents to find work and to stay in work as well as supporting local businesses. Working with a range of statutory and voluntary sector partners we also help residents facing financial hardship.

We have put in place plans to direct investment coming into our borough to support jobs and opportunities for our residents. We welcome investment and innovation that supports our agenda for a fair employment and supports inclusive growth locally. We are already increasing the amount the Council spends as a purchaser of goods and services locally and we are widening opportunities to benefit our small businesses in Newham.

A quarter of Newham residents have no formal qualifications which is why we are ambitious in creating high quality learning, training and skills opportunities so that they can access high skilled and higher paid jobs.

Through the Council's Our Newham service we are supporting residents, including those with complex needs, to fulfil their potential. Our ambitious lifelong learning

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agenda is supporting residents to access a range of skills and training courses to get higher paid jobs and benefit in their career progression.

Working in partnership with local colleges, universities, local businesses and our collaboration with the GLA through the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone and Good

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Growth programmes, we are addressing the skills gap holding our residents back and hampering the growth potential of our local economy.

We know that residents and families will be facing significant financial pressures because of the cost of living crisis and we will continue to support them in these hard times as part of our plans to build a fairer Newham through our inclusive economic growth agenda.

**Over the next 4 years we will:**

- Campaign for the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone to become the Capital's first London Living Wage neighbourhood, using our and the GLA's purchasing power, and for all businesses in Newham to become London Living Wage employers.
- Specify that all contractors doing business with the Council pay their staff the London Living Wage and support local suppliers, so that more of the money we spend as a Council stays in Newham to directly benefit local businesses. This has the potential to unlock £150 million each year to help their businesses thrive and create more jobs for our people.
- Use Council owned land and buildings to provide work spaces for Newham residents to develop business ideas, promote entrepreneurship and support micro and small business start-ups by lowering the risks and barriers locally.
- Undertake a review of all outstanding Council services privatised before 2018 to scope out how these services can be brought back under the Council's direct control.
- Develop planning policies by the end of year one of our next term for the neighbourhood in Stratford to become the borough's first Green Zone by 2024, as part of our Climate Emergency response. It will be an example to the rest of London of how to implement a fair and green economy locally through high quality and sustainable development to create healthy and safe neighbourhoods, as well as a range of social and economic opportunities.
- Extend the Green Zone model to all the borough's neighbourhoods by May 2026 as part of our response to the Climate Emergency and public health crisis caused by poor air quality.

- Ensure all aspects of our work in the Council support plans to achieve Net Zero by 2045, and we will introduce a Green Budget by the end of the first year of our next term.

- Develop a gold standard across the Council's Adult and Skills Learning Hubs which are inclusive and where people feel inspired to succeed and enabled to access a range of full-time jobs and career opportunities in the green economy, data and technology, science and the creative sectors.
- Transform East Ham Town Hall to become the Council's first Data Economy Campus, as part of a network of data economy hubs which will include one located in the Council's Royal Docks building. These data sector hubs will bring innovators, starts ups and training providers together to unlock the potential of Newham's people and to make our borough become the home of London's data economy.
- Continue investments in skills and training, with plans to increase the Adult Education Budget by £4 million through strengthening our collaborations with Adult Learning Colleges as part of a refreshed Lifelong Learning strategy to prepare residents for the jobs of the future.
- Work with the Women's Resource Centre, a national umbrella organisation of 800 women led organisations, to establish a dedicated Women's Hub in Newham. This hub would house specialist organisations which support women with skills, training and routes into employment.

## 4. Your neighbourhood

Air pollution in Newham is worse than anywhere else in London. Less than half of Newham residents have access to a private car. Air pollution kills 115 people each year while hospitalising 4,500 children with severe respiratory conditions like asthma and other illnesses.

Our borough is a through route for commuter traffic. In 2019, 666 million vehicle miles were driven in Newham, an increase of an extra 86 million vehicle miles since 2014. The Silvertown tunnel will bring even more pollution into our borough which is why we will continue to oppose it.

We want to reduce traffic in our neighbourhoods and streets, cutting down on rat-runs that drivers use in our borough to get to their destinations quicker without regard for the health or safety of our residents.

We want to tackle dangerous driving which is a risk to the lives of pedestrians and cyclists. We are determined to make our roads safer for everyone, especially children, the elderly and parents; and we want to reduce accidents and injuries. This is why we have introduced a number of people-friendly schemes to improve our streets including managing parking based on emissions, introducing electric vehicle charging points, healthy school streets and people friendly streets with low traffic neighbourhoods.

We will work with residents and communities across Newham to make their residential roads quieter, safer and cleaner. We want to improve all our neighbourhoods for residents so that Newham becomes a healthy place to live and work.

We are also pressing ahead with our response to the Climate Emergency through a cross-Council Taskforce which has initiated a range of programmes to achieve carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2045.

We are supporting sustainable transport, and the switch to cleaner vehicles, with 150 Electric Vehicle charging points already installed across the borough, and another 400 to be installed by the summer of 2023.

### **Over the next 4 years we will**

- Consult and work with residents to identify residential roads and areas in the borough that are affected by dangerous driving, rat-runs and traffic congestion

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to design schemes to make these roads safer, quieter and healthier for all our residents, including wheelchair users and those with visual impairments and disabilities.

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- Make our roads safer places by continuing to target dangerous driving and enforce parking rules across the borough, as well as launch a safety awareness campaign about electrical scooters and bikes.
- We will continue to work with residents and Transport for London on accessible streets, public areas, improved green spaces, public transport facilities, and a 20mph speed limit with a focus on making all residential streets safer.
- Continue to work with our schools and parents on the introduction of Healthy School Streets schemes across all schools in Newham to protect our children going to school.
- Implement the greening of the Council's vehicle fleet with 50 percent of vehicles are clean by 2026 with a target of 100 percent by 2030.
- Continue to invest in our road and pavement resurfacing and repair programmes; investing at least £10 million a year. This will deliver a programme of resurfacing and patching works, pavement upgrades including those damaged by overgrown tree roots.
- Continue with a borough-wide programme to repaint road markings and zebra crossings, alongside improvements to our streets with more trees.
- Spend £40 million over the next 4 years to keep our streets and neighbourhoods clean and cut reported fly-tipping by 50 percent.
- Encourage more recycling through a 50 percent increase in recycling opportunities across our neighbourhoods and invest an extra £600,000 in recycling, including the introduction of weekly re-cycling collections.
- Install at least 1000 Electric Vehicle charging points across the borough to support the transition to cleaner vehicles, alongside 500 cycle hangars and the expansion of our cycle hire scheme with to encourage more cycle usage.
- Work with Transport for London to expand our cycling facilities and cycle routes as part of our plans to create a borough-wide cycle network, including good quality cycle provision for Romford Road and Barking Road.
- Introduce a food waste recycling pilot scheme as part of our Climate Emergency response to reduce methane gas and support Newham's circular economy.

- Implement a new food hygiene and quality strategy to improve food retail standards across the borough to support local high streets, street markets and Newham's night-time economy.



- Launch a Newham High Streets improvement and investment strategy to support our plans to create thriving local 15-minute neighbourhoods.
- Work with residents and local community groups to deliver more community gardens, with at least one community garden in each of the borough's neighbourhoods.
- Continue the investment in our parks so that at least 10 parks in the borough are awarded the nationally recognised Green Flag by 2026.
- Expand adult leisure facilities, training equipment and accessible activities across our parks and open spaces in all our neighbourhoods to promote the health and wellbeing of Newham residents. This will include a facility for urban street sports modelled on the StreetMekka project in Copenhagen to support access and participation in basketball, parkour, skateboarding and rollerblading for our young people.
- Invest in all children's play areas across the borough by 2026 so our children have access good quality play areas, including dedicated facilities for children with special education needs and disabilities.
- We will also invest in SEND play for children and young people; working with specialist partners, and co-designed with futures users, parents, carers and residents to create a dedicated facility.

## 5. Safer Newham

Over the last 4 years we have pressed our police hard to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Newham, but we know that not all of residents feel safe on our streets. This has to end. We want to see a Newham where all our residents feel safe and secure when out alone at night and where women, younger and older people do not feel at risk of harm when using our parks and open spaces. More CCTV alone is not the solution though it has a role to play.

We believe that unless we address the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities we will fail to improve the lives of our residents when they use our streets and open spaces. At the same time we must also ensure that our police respond quickly to anti-social behaviour and resolve resident concerns in an efficient and timely way.

There are particular issues that women in our Borough face because of the reality of misogyny and harassment in all aspects of their life. Violence against women and girls has been a key priority and we are addressing this through community conversations with women, developing a new Domestic Abuse strategy and we launched our Women's Night Safety Charter in 2021.

Police reform is also urgently needed so that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) regains the trust and confidence of women and communities in Newham facing racism, Antisemitism, Islamophobia and LGBTQ+ hate crimes. We will work with our police partners as their critical friend and advocate for reforms to strengthen confidence in policing by consent.

The Council cannot solve these issues on its own so will work with the community to make Newham a safer place and ensure that we work with our police so that they effectively tackle crime experienced by Newham residents.

### **Over the next 4 years we will**

- Hold our local police to account through the Newham Crime and Community Safety Partnership to reduce and prevent violence in the borough, increase trust and confidence by building stronger relationships with our residents, and ensure that they protect people from exploitation and harm.
- Increase the number of the Council's Community Safety Enforcement officers over the next 4 years to tackle ASB on our streets, environmental crime such as fly-tipping and enforce Public Space Protection Orders when they are

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breached.

- Increase the number of Anti-Social Behaviour officers to respond to nuisance neighbours, noise and to tackle ASB hotspots with multi-agency action plans

to achieve sustainable outcomes. This will include using our network of CCTV cameras to identify perpetrators of crime and take enforcement action.

- Launch a Hate Crime Strategy and Action Plan to map the scale of hate crime in Newham, and increase awareness and reporting through building a community coalition against hate. This will include a hate crime reporting line in partnership with Stop Hate UK and our local police where residents will be supported and action can be taken against perpetrators.
- Implement high quality support in collaboration with our police and Victim Support, including training for Council's front line staff on how to support victims of hate crime.
- Continue with our public health approach to youth safety in collaboration with the young people in the borough, the Council's Youth Safety Board, MOPAC, schools, health partners, the voluntary sector and the wider community. This will include a borough-wide anti-knife crime campaign and ongoing work to reduce the exploitation of our children and young people from county lines.
- Launch a zero tolerance campaign against misogyny and street harassment experienced by women and girls in Newham to address problematic behaviours. This will include an app to support the reporting of street harassment that occurs in public spaces.
- Improve the safety of women in the borough through encouraging more local businesses to sign up to the Women's Safety Night Charter so that women and girls in Newham are confident that their concerns or experiences of harassment in the places they visit will result in a supportive and positive response, including from the police.
- Develop an Open Spaces Action Plan, in collaboration with women, young people and communities facing hate crimes, so that our public spaces and high streets are safe places for all.
- This will include a Women's Safety Audit across all the borough's neighbourhoods, as well as investments in 'smarter' infrastructure in our parks, open spaces and streets such as smart lighting, clear sightlines, improved pedestrian pathways and the use of data and technology.
- Introduce a range of preventative measures as part of a new Domestic Abuse Strategy to stop domestic abuse and violence against women and girls happening in the first place. Services will also be commissioned to ensure that

they are culturally responsive to the diversity of women and girls that need our vital support and protection.

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- Introduce a Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse programme to help people who have been abusive towards their partners or ex-partners to change their behaviour and develop respectful, non-abusive relationships.
- Reduce the stigmatisation and exploitation of street and off-street sex workers through a new strategy which sensitively acknowledges the complexity of prostitution and the diversity of people involved who are at risk of harm. As well as catching and convicting perpetrators, including those who traffic vulnerable people, the strategy will support those involved in prostitution to report crimes to the police, provide access to specialist Sexual Assault Referral practitioners and help individuals.

## 6. Homes for our residents

Newham's housing crisis is now 50 years old. It continues to exist because Government has never provided the Council with the resources needed to build the homes we need. Instead it has promoted the Right to Buy. It has also encouraged the scourge of the private rented sector which offers its tenants no security of tenure and high, often unaffordable, rents. Some 35.5 percent of all homes in Newham are now owned by private landlords. Many of these homes also suffer from overcrowding, disrepair and have poor standards of amenity and thermal efficiency at a time when energy costs are heading skywards. Their rental payments are largely lost to the Newham economy.

In consequence, there are 32000 households on our housing register and 5,700 households in temporary and non-secure accommodation, the highest in the UK. Because of the rent cap and non-availability of homes in Newham we are forced to house many of our homeless households outside Newham, a long way from their families and social networks. Our Local Plan, inherited from the previous administration, and now being reviewed, specifies only 35 percent affordable housing in new build schemes.

The remaining housing stock that we own, some 17,000 homes, needs significant investment and much improvement to bring it up to modern standards of repair, amenity and energy efficiency in particular. A stock condition survey to give us accurate costs and accurate programmes of work is now being carried out.

### **Over the next 4 years we will**

- Provide at least 1500 more new homes, through starting our own homes, acquisitions and enabling other providers to develop. 1000 of these homes will be let at social rent levels; the remaining 500 will provide long term sustainable rented housing for homeless households and be let at Local Housing Allowance rent levels as an alternative to Temporary Accommodation.
- Provide 2175 new and improved homes at Carpenters Estate by 2037; we will complete 132 renovated homes at social rent levels at James Riley Point by 2026.
- Complete the Custom House and Canning Town Masterplan in participation with residents and hold a residents' ballot on Phase 1 by the end of 2022.

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- Start at least two innovative roof-space development schemes, building at least 20 new homes on top of existing buildings.

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- Build all new homes to at least Government level space and technical standards. This will include high standards of energy efficiency to tackle the climate emergency, fuel poverty and housing need.
- Our policy objective is that all our new homes shall be carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2045 and this will constrain the absolute numbers we can build. That is why we will campaign to get Government to provide the resources we require to make all our homes carbon zero.
- Review our local Development Plan so that it specifies 50 percent homes for social rent are built on all development sites. This will need Government approval.
- Employ our own viability assessor to forensically scrutinise developer proposals.
- Review our Local Development Plan to maximise the number of new homes to be built at social rent levels, in particular on smaller sites which the Council owns. Our target is 50 percent.
- Continue to develop Community Land Trust schemes in the borough. We have already identified the borough's first site in Custom House and we will identify at least one more site elsewhere in Newham by 2026.
- Over the next 4 years we will attempt to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation from the current 5,700 households, but this is dependent on the financial resources available to the Council and many other factors outside of the Council's control, such as the cost of living crisis.
- Increase the percentage of homeless households rehoused in Newham over the next 4 years to 70 percent from the current level of 63 percent target as a priority.
- Improve the quality of our remaining Temporary Accommodation by working only with landlords whose homes are of a decent, habitable standard and which meet Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C where practical, cost effective and affordable.
- Minimise the use of nightly paid Temporary Accommodation so that it is only used when no reasonable alternatives are available.
- Inspect all new homes prior to purchase or letting, subject to staff resources

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and ensure that residents continue to receive support from the Council until they are permanently rehoused.

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- Re-establish Tenants and Residents Associations on all estates where the residents want to have one and establish a Newham wide Tenants and Residents Panel.
- Produce in collaboration with our Council tenants a best practice consultation and engagement policy, which will clearly set out the stages and ways in which residents will be fully consulted and involved especially when work takes place to their homes.
- Open up to six housing hubs across the Borough where tenants and residents can access in- person help and advice on housing services.
- Implement a full digital repairs offer for our own tenants, giving them the ability to report, track and change repairs online.
- Improve our key performance indicators for repairs including first time fixes, appointments kept, and repairs satisfaction to all exceed 90 percent within the next 4 years. They are now in the range of 70 - 80 percent.
- Employ at least 30 new apprentices from Newham in our Repairs and Maintenance Division. This is over 10 percent of the Division's core establishment.
- Implement the findings of the Grenfell Part 2 Enquiry and undertake any immediate remediation work required across our housing portfolio. Our programme already includes 5000 new fire doors and replacement cladding to 7 tall blocks.
- Create a new Housing Repairs and Building Safety Division in the Housing Service to procure, client and manage our repair and improvement work across all the Council's homes including that needed in response to the new Building Safety Act and Grenfell Enquiry.
- Seek Government approval to extend the private landlord registration scheme for an unprecedented third term of 5 more years. It will include all Temporary Accommodation.
- Introduce an enhanced inspection regime for the private rented sector in Newham, zero tolerance of poor landlords and provide the staffing resources needed for rigorous enforcement activity.
- Set clear property standards so that landlords have to provide high quality

housing that has good space standards, is safe and well managed.

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- Place particular emphasis on establishing minimum standards of energy efficiency so that private rented homes meet EPC Band C where practical, cost effective and affordable and also have high standards of security.
- Campaign for Government to introduce both rent controls and security of tenure, subject to cause, for private rented sector tenants.

## 7. Support our young people

We want to give all of our children the best start in life and for Newham to be the most child friendly borough, enabling all our children and young people to reach their potential, be safe, happy and healthy regardless of their background. We want them to be ready for school, achieve good educational outcomes, get a good job and feel secure about their futures. That is why in 2021, we launched the Newham Year of the Young Person to celebrate the brilliance of all our children and young people in Newham.

Since 2018, we have started an ambitious agenda for them, through significant investments in children services in response to the Ofsted Inspection which rated the service we inherited as inadequate.

This reflects the chronic under investment by the previous Council which we are reversing, including in our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision which also requires improvement.

We are committed to driving significant change to raise standards to provide the best, timely and responsive support for our SEND children working with parents, carers and partners as part of a process of rebuilding trust and providing an excellent service with health partners.

Over the past 4 year, we have invested an additional £40 million across all our children and young people services provision. The most recent Ofsted visit in early 2022 has confirmed that there has been 'tangible and visible signs of improvements'.

This includes increasing investment in Youth Service provision with a £19 million injection over 4 years to reverse the disinvestment in our young people.

We have also launched a Youth Empowerment Fund enabling young people to access £500,000 to enable them to reach their potential. We have increased from 4 to 43, the number of full time equivalent of which 9 operate a detached engagement approach working on prevention and youth safety across our neighbourhoods in Newham. We are also funding a further 120 youth workers in the voluntary sector. Our focus on prevention and early intervention means that we are setting the conditions for which our children and their families can have the best opportunities. Our approach is universal and inclusive, always focusing on the specific and complex needs of young people, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.

**Over the next 4 years we will**

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- Embed a child first and child rights environment in Newham to support all our young people.

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- Continue with our Eat for Free programme for all nursery and primary school children and address food security facing young people in secondary education.
- Campaign through the Newham Food Alliance and Social Welfare Network, for wider food security for all children and families on low incomes.
- Work closely with school leaders and governors to ensure a continuing reversal of exclusions as part of our wider strategy of addressing systemic racism, inequality and disproportionality in education participation and achievement of ethnic minority young people.
- Invest an initial £1.2 million in the first year of our next term so that our children with SEND are given the best education and development opportunities. This will increase the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) support workers from 3.5 to 5.5 in the independent SENDIASS service to help parents and carers. To accelerate the Council's Education and Health Care Plans assessment process, the number of case officers will increase from 11 to 20 and 500 plans per year over the next 4 years will be completed.
- Establish a temporary team of 5 SEND case officers, 2 Education Psychologists and a SEND manager to tackle the current backlog of assessments and plans so that the existing backlog will be cleared in the first year of our next term.
- Expand the Council's Education Psychology service team from 8 to 14 FTE posts, including an assistant and trainee. As part of our commitment to co-production, appoint a dedicated officer to work with parents and carers to improve the SEND service, and a principal SEND Practitioner to set a gold standard in SEND practice and quality.
- Direct money from the Schools High Needs Funding Budget to fund specialist teaching services, speech and language therapy and support our SEND children and young people for adulthood.
- Establish a Centre of Excellence in SEND Practice to ensure that schools, health partners and the independent SEND Parent and Carer Forum better involve families in the education and social care of their children, as well as adopt exemplary practice.
- Appoint an expert Commissioner for SEND and Inclusion in Education to help support improvements required in SEND provision over the next 4 years by



the Council, schools and health partners. The Commissioner will act as an advocate for SEND children and their parents or carers and will report directly to the Mayor and the Cabinet member who has responsibility for Education.

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- Work with arts, culture and creative partners to launch a Culture Passport for all young people between the ages of 10-18 years (and up to 25 years for young people with SEND) to access enrichment and learning opportunities for free as part of our recently launched Building Newham's Creative Future cultural strategy to widen participation and support enrichment opportunities.
- Strengthen the Council's Prevention and Early Help Services for children and young people from 0-25 years so that every child or young person and their families can access multi-agency support and provision within a 15-minute walk or cycle from where they live.
- Further develop the Council's Youth Citizens Assembly so that it provides leadership across all the Council's youth participation activities, so that young people are involved in decision making, increase their influence in shaping the future of Newham and hold the Council accountable. The Youth Citizens Assembly will be supported by an investment of £50,000 per year to be used for projects and initiatives co-produced with our young people. It will be enabled to co-design and make recommendations on the services young receive, which will be considered by the Mayor and Cabinet, as well as be presented to Full Council.
- Invest a further £50,000 per year in the Youth Empowerment Fund, which we launched in November 2020 with seed funding of £500,000 to support the ambitions of our young people.
- Continue with a public health approach to youth safety, in collaboration with young people and the wider community by strengthening early intervention and preventive offer which includes advice and information.
- Enhance our children's health offer, ensuring that all parts of the Council work with the Public Health team in health promotion and disease prevention for our children and young people, with a specific focus on oral health, childhood obesity and asthma.

## 8. People powered Newham and widening participation

A referendum was held in May 2021 which confirmed the future of the Mayoralty. We will build on the recommendations of the independent Democracy and Civic Participation Commission, adopted by the Council in October 2020, to increase citizen participation in the life of the Borough and the work that the Council does.

### Over the next 4 years we will

- Continue to develop the now established permanent Citizens' Assembly which has the remit to make recommendations to the Council twice a year on topics aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan. These recommendations will continue to be formally considered by the Mayor and Cabinet and presented to Full Council.
- Consult with residents involved in our Citizens' Assembly and Neighbourhood Assemblies in the development of the Council's evolving Towards a Better Newham outcomes-based key performance indicators. This will enhance collaboration and involvement of residents and enable better scrutiny of how the Council is performing against its Corporate Plan and Financial strategy targets and outcomes, and will supplement assessments of the Council's performance by the Audit Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Allocate each Neighbourhood Assembly a budget for projects in their area to be chosen by the Assembly and local residents. This currently stands at £100,000 per year for each Assembly. We will seek to increase this amount over the life of the next Council to at least £3.2 million subject to budget considerations, the Council's good governance processes and legal requirements about how Community Infrastructure Levy money can be spent.
- Consult with local residents via the Neighbourhood Assemblies on the review of the Local Plan presently underway and its provisions for their local areas
- Extend strategic and long term policy making in Newham through the better use of the scrutiny process to include pre-scrutiny of decisions and policy, joint working with the Executive and the involvement of the residents from the Citizens Assembly, Neighbourhood Assemblies, Youth Citizens Assembly, Adult Social Care Citizens Assembly as well as the voluntary, community and faith sector in Newham.
- Enhance the involvement of marginalised communities in the policy making and consultation processes of the Council, including young people, those with

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special educational needs and disabilities.

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## 9. A campaigning Council

Campaigns are an essential part of the work of the Council where we work to change the views of the Government and other organisations so that Newham gets more money from them or changes the policy or legislative framework within which the Council works.

Over the last 4 years we have campaigned with success to reduce the financial cost of the Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loans taken out by the previous Council administration, saving Newham millions in interest payments. We have lobbied successfully for government to give us more money to help with the impact of Covid-19 to keep our residents safe, and continue to lobby them to give us the money to cover the £29 million that the pandemic has cost us.

We continue to campaign for re-imbusement of all the costs arising from the Grenfell enquiry on building safety and against the Silvertown Tunnel which will needlessly and adversely affect the Silvertown area of our Borough and the health of our people.

### **Over the next 4 years, we will campaign:**

- For an end of the Right of Council Tenants to Buy their own homes, as well as rent controls and security of tenure in the Private Rented Sector.
- For the funding needed to deal effectively with the Climate Emergency and in particular that funding needed to bring all existing Council owned homes up to a high standard of energy efficiency.
- For the full re-imbusement of the cost of building defects arising from the Grenfell Enquiry, which is causing anxiety and financial hardship for our residents living in the Private Rented Sector.
- Proper funding from Government for refugees, asylum seekers and those without recourse to public funds and a change in the law so that they can work.
- Against the Silvertown Tunnel for its adverse impact on air quality and the extra traffic that it will bring to Newham.
- Against the MSG Sphere by urging the Mayor of London to re-consider the scheme when it comes to him for final approval because of the detrimental impact it will have on the wellbeing and health of our residents in Stratford

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who will have to live with this for years to come.

- For more Police accountability and improved Women's safety in Newham.

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- For a change in our Local Plan to provide 50 percent social rented homes in all new housing schemes.
- For the Government to fully fund the infrastructure costs of the proposed Beckton Riverside DLR Station, the expansion of Stratford Station and the proposed works at Lower Leaside.
- For Government support to make the Royal Docks London's first Living Wage neighbourhood.
- For universal open-access and quality youth service provision to be a statutory requirement for all Councils in England with proper funding from Government. This will require an amendment of Section 507B of the Education Act (1996) and reflects our enduring commitment to the children and young people of Newham.