

**AMBITIOUS**  
**FOR**  
**ALL**

Wandsworth  Labour MANIFESTO 2022



# Ambitious for all

Wandsworth Labour's Manifesto  
for the 2022 Local Elections

Wandsworth  Labour



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## Same low Council Tax – better local services

**Wandsworth is a fantastic place to live. Its strong, diverse communities represent the best of modern Britain. But with Boris Johnson's Conservatives in charge locally as well as nationally, people are starting to feel the strain.**

We deserve a compassionate council that truly listens. That creates genuinely affordable homes and safer, greener neighbourhoods. Only Labour can deliver this.

Wandsworth Labour will cut your Council Tax this year – saving you money in the Conservative cost of living crisis.

We will keep your Council Tax low for the long term by making the council's assets work harder. We'll open up the books, cancel wasteful contracts and spend every pound of your money wisely.

Labour stands ready with a principled and experienced team – and a fresh vision built on fairness and common sense. Ambitious for all.

The choice is clear. Vote Labour on May 5th to get the same low council tax, with better local services.

*Simon Hogg*

**Councillor Simon Hogg  
Leader, Wandsworth Labour**



# HOMES FOR ALL

## Homes for all

**A decent home is the foundation of a good life. That's why our top priority is making sure all local people have a genuinely affordable place to call home. We will stand up to defend the rights of renters, tackle our homelessness crisis – and build the kind of homes that local people really need.**

### **Genuinely affordable homes for local people**

Our first act will be to build 1,000 new council homes – guaranteed for local people and their sons and daughters. We'll make developers build homes which meet the needs of our residents, not overseas investors. We'll set an ambitious target of 50% affordable housing on all new developments. No Labour councillor will accept hospitality or donations from property developers.

### **A fair deal for renters**

We will drive out the worst rogue landlords and we will drive up standards across the borough with a landlord licencing scheme. We'll inspect properties and have an in-house service to make sure repairs get done and you get your deposit back. We will make sure that all rented homes meet the minimum energy efficiency standards and create a Renter's Charter for the borough. We'll campaign for London-wide rent controls so renters can save up for a place of their own.

## Delivering for our council tenants

A rent freeze next year will help tackle the cost of living crisis – and Labour councillors have voted for energy bills to be frozen for tenants too. We will make sure that there is accountability on repairs and cleaning, and that they are done promptly and to a high standard. We will ballot residents on all regeneration plans: **your** voice will be central to how **your** estate is developed.

## Standing up for leaseholders

We will offer extended repayments terms to resident leaseholders of four years for bills of £3,000 and above. We will bring back leaseholder major works panels so that residents are consulted during the process. We will guarantee transparency on service charges and management fees.



## Tackling homelessness

No one should be homeless in our society. We will build on the successful 'Everyone In' programme that gave all rough sleepers a safe place to stay during the pandemic. It's a scandal that more than 3,000 children woke up homeless this morning in Wandsworth council temporary accommodation. By expanding our prevention team we will reduce this number for the first time in a decade.

## A listening council that gives you control

You will decide what housing is built in your neighbourhood, not property developers. A resident-led repairs board will make sure that work is done promptly and to a high standard. You will be guaranteed the highest levels of service, from both council staff and external contractors, who we will require to pay the London Living Wage. Every property deal will be made public and all planning meetings broadcast live.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

**FOR  
ALL**

## **Sustainability for all**

**Labour's green policies will be win-win. We will help people save cash on energy bills and, at the same time, tackle the climate emergency by putting the environment at the heart of everything we do. We'll make sure the council is carbon neutral by 2030, treasure our green spaces and tackle litter and pollution.**

### **Keeping Wandsworth clean**

Wandsworth Council under the Conservatives is at the bottom of the league with the sixth worst recycling rate in the country. We will fix this and bring in food waste collections borough wide as soon as possible. We guarantee your weekly bin collection will continue and we'll introduce monthly 'Mega Skips' for bulky items. We will put more bins on our streets and bring in more collections where needed. Plus more CCTV cameras to catch fly-tippers.

### **Reducing air pollution**

We will make walking and cycling much easier and safer by maintaining pleasant pavements and safe, joined-up cycle routes across the borough. We will crack down on car idling and work closely with the Mayor of London to decarbonise transport and deliver more zero-emission buses across the borough.



## Net Zero by 2030

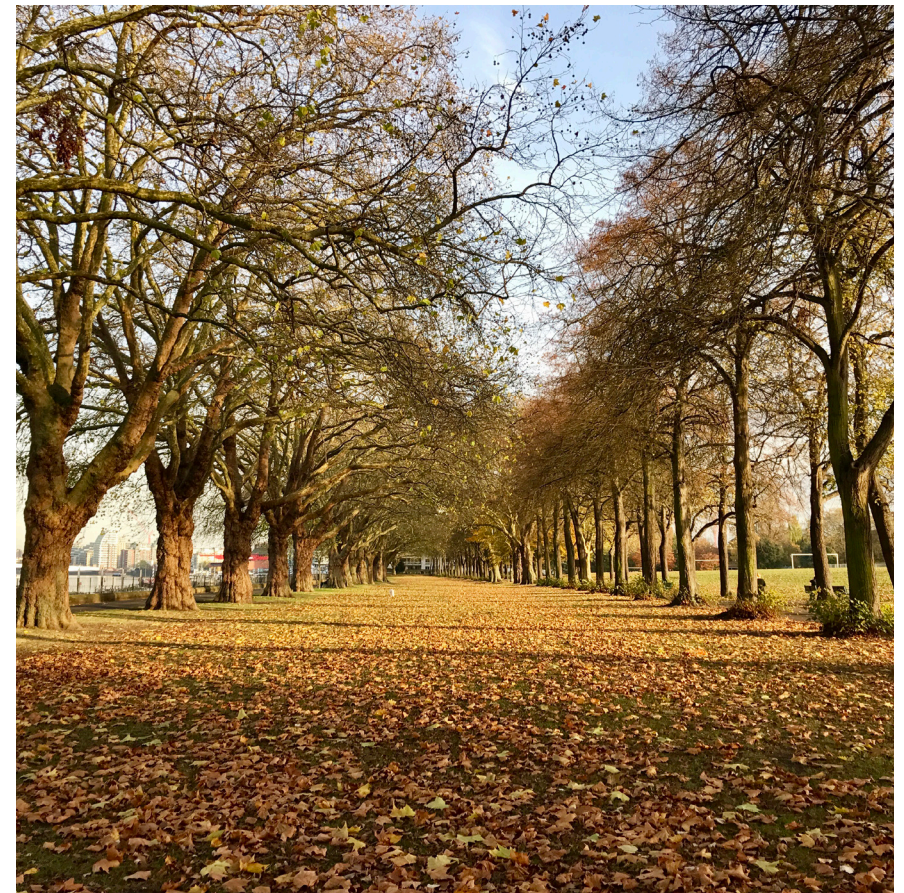
Wandsworth Council will be carbon neutral by 2030. Getting to net zero is the mission of our generation. We can only do it with public support. We will hold a Citizens Assembly so Wandsworth residents can help us create and deliver our plan. We will support our residents, schools and businesses to reduce emissions. All council vehicles and buildings will be carbon neutral by 2030 and we'll take ambitious action to decarbonise the council's pension fund by 2030.

## Treasuring our green spaces

Our borough is blessed with brilliant green spaces. We will cherish them and create more pocket parks and community gardens. Parks are for people, not corporate events. The Tories turned Battersea Park into a race car track for Formula E, Labour will instead welcome a free Battersea 'Park Run' which everyone can enjoy. We will plant more trees and flowers, protect biodiversity and promote a plastic free Wandsworth.

## Doubling bike hangars & expanding EV charging

We will expand the roll-out of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points and make sure they are spread into all neighbourhoods. Council staff will respond in a timely way to requests for EV points. We will double the number of bike hangars in the borough – adding more than 1,000 new bike storage spaces. Your requests for bike hangars will be dealt with swiftly by a dedicated member of staff who will keep you informed.





# PROSPERITY FOR ALL

## Prosperity for all

Wandsworth is a fantastic place to live. Its strong, diverse communities represent the best of modern Britain. This is an exciting place of hope and opportunity. Unfortunately our community remains divided, with life expectancy nine years shorter for those born in the most deprived areas. We want a borough where everyone has the financial security to thrive in this cost of living crisis.

### We will cut Council Tax

Labour supports low Council Tax – which is why we’re backing a 1% cut this year. It’s right to keep Council Tax low in this Conservative cost of living crisis. We believe in fairness, that means a modest reduction in Council Tax because any increase will hit those already struggling to pay their bills.

### Paying the London Living Wage

A hard day’s work deserves a fair day’s pay. We will pay all council workers – whether on our staff or with a contractor – at least the London Living Wage of £11.05 an hour. This means a real pay rise for people who cook school dinners, care for older people and sweep our streets. We’ll encourage other employers in Battersea, Putney and Tooting to follow our example.

## A better recovery from Covid

The pandemic showed what the council could achieve when it focussed on supporting and protecting local people. We will keep in place successful schemes to make sure all children have the laptops and data they need to learn – and enough to eat during the school holidays. We'll make sure the borough adapts to support working from home – and we'll work hard to get more businesses to relocate from central London to Wandsworth. Sadly, the virus hasn't gone away: a Labour council will fund free Covid tests so frontline workers on lower incomes don't have to pay.

## Saving you money

Wandsworth Labour voted to freeze council rents, along with heating and hot water charges for tenants. We will extend the repayment time for leaseholder major works up to four years. We support plans for a windfall tax on the profits of energy companies to cut household gas and electricity bills by up to £600. Advice services such as Citizens Advice, do a crucial job and will get extra support from a Labour council.

## Action on the Cost of Living Crisis

Property developers have made windfall profits from the weak planning policies of Wandsworth Conservatives. We will raise £1 million a year in levies on developers to fund Wandsworth housing hardship payments for local families. A Cost of Living Commission featuring senior councillors and council staff will sound out the voices of residents and drive a relentless search for every possible action we can take to support local people in these tough financial times.



## Investing more wisely

We will make the Council's assets work harder. Wandsworth Council has more than £700 million in its reserves and yet this year will make overall returns of less than 1%. We will improve these returns and use them to fund much-needed frontline services. The council has been run by the same political party for more than 40 years – it's only natural that there are inefficiencies and cosy relationships that need to be shaken up. Labour will open up the books, cancel wasteful contracts and spend every pound of your money wisely.

## Making Wandsworth a sanctuary for refugees

Wandsworth has a proud history of welcoming refugees fleeing persecution. We are a diverse borough with a rich cultural heritage. We know refugees are keen to work and contribute to their new community. Labour will make Wandsworth a Borough of Sanctuary with a Refugees Champion to help refugees access housing, education, healthcare, jobs and language training.

# SECURITY FOR ALL

## Security for all

**Everyone should be able to feel safe walking down the street. We will create a borough where communities feel confident and protected. Where it is safer and easier to travel to work, visit friends and take your children to school.**

### Robust action on crime

We'll put more law enforcement officers on the streets, double domestic violence support, install more CCTV and fund more youth workers – paid for by levies on property developers.

### Delivering School Streets

Children should be safe to walk, cycle and scoot to school. A School Street means no cars at drop-off and pick-up time. The result is a safer, healthier and pleasant environment. We will deliver School Streets to all schools where possible. Across the borough, we will ensure that convenient zebra crossings and safer junctions make for better journeys to school.

### Improving our roads

We will work in partnership with residents to create roads which are safer and greener, ensuring that those who want to cycle feel safe to do so in protected cycle lanes. We will make it easier for you to report potholes and pavement defects and reduce repair times. Where changes are proposed to roads, we will ensure that this is done in a holistic way, ensuring all local residents are consulted and do not feel that one group of people is prioritised over another.

## Clapham Junction on the Tube

We will review all of the council's major transport schemes. We will start feasibility work on our ambition to bring the Northern Line to Clapham Junction. This extension from Battersea Power Station will unlock the benefits of the new Tube line for all Wandsworth residents. After decades of Tory inactivity, we will drive forward change on the congested and polluting Wandsworth One-Way System.



## Tackling violence against women and girls

We will make sure Wandsworth is a safer space for women and girls. Most importantly, we will make sure survivors get help when they need it and have access to specialist services. We will double the support for domestic abuse services, increase the number of refuge spaces and develop a new waiting time target for trauma informed support. We will appoint a Domestic Abuse Champion to work alongside survivors to oversee a plan and track progress.

## Better youth facilities

Every young person needs somewhere to go, something to do and someone to speak to. Our vision for early help services is focused on delivering more outreach services, mentors for at risk young people as well as more universally accessible play sessions for under-fives at local children's centres. We will listen to the lived experience of children, parents and carers and give them a seat at the table to decide what services are right for their area. We will work with the police to ensure that young people aren't unfairly targeted and build trust between the police and local communities.

# OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

## Opportunity for all

**Our children deserve the best start in life and the chance to fulfil their potential. Wandsworth should be the best place to grow up, get a job and start a family. We want to remove barriers to success – and create a fairer borough where talent can shine and hard work is rewarded.**

### Outstanding schools, with extra support

We will work closely with our fantastic family of local schools. We'll fund more extracurricular activities such as breakfast clubs, early years stay and play sessions, and work with youth clubs to deliver more activities. All primary school children eligible for free school meals will have free council-funded Breakfast Clubs each morning and full access to food and healthy activities during the school holidays.

### More jobs and apprenticeships

Labour will expand the council's Work Match scheme to make sure local people are ready for the jobs of the future – including the Apple HQ at Battersea Power Station. We'll encourage all employers in the borough to pay the London Living Wage and work with local contractors and employers to create 1,000 new apprenticeships by 2026.



## Sport for all

We will support the development of Park Runs, community football and other activities on our commons and parks so that exercise can be free and community led. A Labour council will reduce the costs related to renting our sports pitches across the borough so that everyone can afford to take part in sport. Healthy sporting activities will be accessible by children right across the borough each day of the summer holidays.

## A world-class voluntary sector

At the heart of our community is a vibrant voluntary sector. We will make Wandsworth the best place in London to start and run a charity. We'll provide free and low-cost meeting spaces, create a new Voluntary Sector Council to be a voice for the sector – and set up a Volunteering Centre for Wandsworth to give support to organisations that involve volunteers.

## Inclusive education

We will promote equality and greater inclusion in our schools. Local support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) will be improved by increasing the number of SEND hub places in mainstream schools. We'll address inequalities by developing, in partnership with local schools, a borough-wide 'no exclusions' vision and strategies to promote racial equality, LGBTQ+ rights and the safety of girls.

## Mental health services for all who need it

Our mental health plan will address the current crisis in mental health services, which has been made worse by the pandemic. We will tackle the agonising waits for children's mental health services by providing school-based counselling services in all schools, to support students and resolve problems before they escalate. For older adults, and those Wandsworth residents who are more isolated, we will tackle loneliness by supporting a lunch club in every community. This is prevention in action.





## Have your say or get involved ...

What are your priorities for our community?  
Please scan the QR code or visit:

- 🏠 [www.wandsworthlabour.com/survey](http://www.wandsworthlabour.com/survey)
- ✉ Email: [action@wandsworthlabour.com](mailto:action@wandsworthlabour.com)
- 📘 Facebook: Wandsworth Labour
- 🐦 Twitter: @WandswrthLabour



# Vote Wandsworth Labour 5th May

Promoted by Luke Place on behalf of Wandsworth Labour candidates, 177 Lavender Hill SW11 5TE. Design by [www.openeyedesign.org](http://www.openeyedesign.org).