

# Making a Difference



## Our Vision for Harrow

A Manifesto for the People of Harrow 2014 - 2018







## The Harrow Labour Group – Manifesto & Vision 2014-2018

### Preface and Context

We are proud of Harrow with its vibrant and diverse communities but levels of inequality exist.

The £75 million recklessly slashed from Harrow by the Conservative Government, at the same time as demand for our services is rising, has hit residents hard.

We believe that it is fundamentally right that we ensure that the Council's priorities are underpinned by fairness for all in these tough economic times.

We have spoken and listened to the people of Harrow before publishing this manifesto. It is important that we continue to work together with the community to improve the quality of life for all our residents, our families and our young people.

If we win the local Council elections in May 2014 we give a commitment to you all: we will help families with the 'Cost of Living Crisis' and stand up for Harrow, its businesses and residents.

We will use our position within Harrow to support the creation of jobs and apprenticeships, and to support our young people into work. To deal with our housing crisis we will build more affordable homes and tackle rogue landlords. To support local businesses we will provide a period of free parking in our District Shopping Centres. To help clean up Harrow we will introduce on the spot fines for littering in our streets.

We will give our absolute commitment to focus all our efforts on tackling the disparities that exist, in particular, in terms of economic achievement, child poverty, health and well being. We will stand up for those in need by targeting more support towards carers and tackling the increase in domestic violence across our Borough.

We will change the way we deliver our services - critically evaluating everything we do and finding new, innovative solutions with our partners. We will take a leadership role in ensuring key public sector organisations, residents, businesses, community and voluntary groups in the borough work together for the benefit of the residents. Crucially we will work with our valued voluntary sector and seek to empower and inspire local people to build upon the many assets that exist at the heart of all our communities.

**Harrow Labour Group serving our residents with openness, honesty and pride.**



**Councillor David Perry**  
Leader of the Labour Group



**Councillor Margaret Davine**  
Deputy Leader of the Labour Group



## Introduction

The Conservative Government has unfairly and recklessly targeted local councils for the biggest cuts. This has made many of the Council's services unsustainable. The next administration will inherit from the current Tory run Council a budget deficit, over four years, of around £80m.

In developing this manifesto, Harrow Labour Party has listened to many people, from community groups, women's groups, businesses and trade unions, we have cast the net wide to make sure we set out a manifesto that is rooted in the values and needs of the people in Harrow.

Our 4 year plan is all about making a difference

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for local businesses and
- Making a difference for families



**Councillor Sachin Shah**  
**Harrow Labour Group**  
**Manifesto Coordinator**

When we spoke to people across Harrow, they told us they wanted a council that was on their side, that helps them and does not put barriers in the way. After 4 years of Labour control, Harrow Council will be a more open and transparent council.

Our manifesto shows that Labour has a positive vision for Harrow, a vision deeply rooted in the values of Harrow residents. If you agree with our vision for Harrow, then vote for your three Labour Party Candidates on Thursday May 22 2014.

The Harrow Labour Group running Harrow Council will introduce our vision for Harrow with the following;

## Our Commitment to the People of Harrow

**We will help families with the Cost of Living Crisis and stand up for Harrow, its businesses and residents.**

### Our five key pledges

**We will;**

1. **Build more affordable homes and tackle rogue landlords to deal with the housing crisis.**
2. **Provide a period of free parking in our district shopping centres to support local businesses and residents.**
3. **Invest an extra £1m to tackle domestic violence, support carers and stand up for those in need.**
4. **Introduce on the spot fines for littering in our streets to help clean up Harrow.**
5. **Create over 500 jobs and apprenticeships in Harrow to support our young people into work.**



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## Our first year in administration

### In the first month, a Labour Harrow Council will have:

- Launched a review into the management structure of the Council, after the damaging void left by the Tories.
- Launched a review on how the Council works with and engages with the Voluntary Sector.
- Re-launched the Council's campaign for a fairer grant for Harrow's residents.

### In the first 100 days, a Labour Harrow Council will have:

- Allocated additional resources to local organisations who help deal with the consequences of domestic violence.
- Used our resources to help protect those in need due to the cruel and unfair cuts to benefits by the Tory government.
- Allocated more resources to the sports network, ensuring that sport and physical activity plays its part in bringing communities together whilst helping to keep Harrow healthy.
- Started a programme of consultation and engagement with all of Harrow's communities and local residents about the choices we face and the decisions we will have to make in dealing with unnecessary Tory government cuts to Harrow Council.

### In the first year, a Labour Harrow Council will have:

- Promoted an energy cooperative in Harrow.
- Built on the Harrow Help scheme we created, making sure that people always have support when they need it.
- Worked with the NHS, voluntary sector organisations and carers themselves to develop and strengthen appropriate support for carers
- Promoted the Harrow credit union including allowing all Harrow Council staff to receive their salary in a credit union account.
- Provided skips and other materials to help residents who want to get together and clear up areas in their communities such as back alleyways.
- Replaced neighbourhood champions with community champions, making sure the community is at the centre of everything we do.
- Introduced on the spot fines for littering, spitting and urinating in public.
- Made affordable housing the main consideration in terms of 'planning gain' when approving planning applications for new developments.
- Banned pay day loan websites from all our libraries and properties, ensuring they can't prey on Harrow's most vulnerable residents.





## **We'll be there for you when you need our help**

### **If elected on 22<sup>nd</sup> May a Harrow Labour Council will:-**

- Work to improve the energy efficiency of the homes of Harrow's poorest families and will promote an energy cooperative.
- Ban pay day loan websites from all libraries and council properties, ensuring they can't prey on Harrow's most vulnerable residents.
- Use our resources to protect Harrow's most vulnerable from the cruel and unfair cuts to benefits
- Work with our Children's centres to introduce a scheme to reduce childcare costs for residents and council employees.
- Build on the Harrow Help scheme we created, making sure that people always have support when they need it.
- Bring together autism support from across the whole borough to create a strong, coherent package of support and advice to all those that are affected by, or care for someone, on the autistic spectrum.
- Work with the NHS, voluntary sector organisations and carers themselves to develop and strengthen appropriate support for carers - Carers provide an excellent service to Harrow residents, but at times it can be hard to navigate the support available to them.
- Use its powers to restrict the growth of fixed odds betting terminals in Harrow, and work with a Labour Government which has committed to giving councils the powers to do this.
- Promote the Harrow credit union and make sure it's available to everyone, including allowing all Harrow Council staff to have the ability to have their pay paid directly into a credit union bank account.
- Help residents get fitter by introducing a green gym in every park.
- Increase the money available to organisations who deal with the consequences of domestic violence - Domestic violence needs to be tackled in our society.
- Ensure that all our policies take the view of the family who play an important part in providing mutual help and support in hard times.
- Build on the fantastic work of the Council's adult's early intervention team, saving money in the long term.
- Work with our schools and further education colleges to help share best practice in our quest to raise educational standards across Harrow.
- Start preparing for the massive changes to the way the Council assess and meet the needs and challenges coming out of the Care Bill currently before Parliament.





## We'll help Harrow residents live in decent homes

If elected on 22<sup>nd</sup> May a Harrow Labour Council will:-

- Restart a council house building programme.
- Tackle the growth of 'beds in sheds' and rogue landlords who fill homes with too many people in substandard accommodation.
- Continue to licence HMOs and make sure resources are put in place to ensure that conditions are enforced.
- Look into full licensing of all homes in the private rented sector to stop unscrupulous landlords making money out of exploiting some of the most vulnerable people in Harrow.
- Encourage all landlords to sign up to a landlord and tenant charter.
- Make affordable housing the main consideration in terms of 'planning gain' when approving planning applications for new developments.
- Invest in enforcement against homes that are turned into flats without planning permission.
- Grow Help2Let with the aim of making it a market leader in the private rented sector.
- Work towards the redevelopment of the Grange Farm Estate.







## We'll stand with you when you want to work together for your community

### If elected on 22<sup>nd</sup> May a Harrow Labour Council will:-

- Make sure the Council does all it can to support the Harrow residents who show great community spirit in the thousands of hours they give up to volunteer for local charities and community groups.
- Provide skips and other materials to help residents who want to get together and clear up areas in their communities such as back alleyways.
- Appoint a member from the voluntary sector, as a non-executive member of the Cabinet and other major council committees, to make sure the voluntary sector is at the heart of all decision making in the Council.
- Provide grit and other materials to people who are willing to spread grit on their pavements in icy weather.
- Make it easier for residents living in areas where speeding is a problem to get 20mph limits installed.
- Consider adding a voluntary levy to the council tax bill which would go directly to Harrow's voluntary sector.
- Commit to all Labour Harrow Councillors being required to carry out at least 1 hour a week of volunteering with a Harrow charity or community group, making sure they understand the needs of the sector.
- Replace neighbourhood champions with community champions, making sure the community is at the centre of everything we do.
- Create a cultural strategy for Harrow, filling this important gap.
- Designate a weekend each year where communities can get together and have street parties. We will waive all fees for road closures.
- Set up park user group forums to give greater powers to local residents to decide how their local park is used.
- Ensure that all 4 years of the centenary of the First World War is commemorated each year.





## We'll stand up for Harrow, its residents and businesses

### If elected on 22<sup>nd</sup> May a Harrow Labour Council will:-

- Introduce short term free parking to all our district centres.
- Work with all organisations in Harrow to encourage them to pay the London living wage to all their staff.
- Ensure that all its major contracts will include training and apprenticeships to Harrow residents and employees, providing opportunities to Harrow young unemployed.
- Hold a regular business forum, to ensure that businesses have strong voice at the Council.
- Create a distinct and clear section of the Council's website to promote local businesses.
- Campaign to keep all Harrow's tube and train stations fully staffed at all times.
- Campaign for full accessibility of all tube stations, starting with Harrow-on-the-Hill and Rayners Lane.
- Campaign to get a fairer grant from Government - Harrow gets just half the grant compared to Brent Council and only £40 for every £50 Hillingdon Council gets. **This is not fair.**
- Campaign to stop the unfair cutting of social security benefits for the poorest in Harrow.
- Campaign against the dangerous disbanding of safer neighbourhood police teams by Tory Mayor Boris Johnson.
- Continue to invest in the town centre and our district centres to attract jobs and investment into Harrow. We will start a consultation with residents about the future of the town centre and its future development and regeneration.
- Introduce a simple and easy to use Harrow card, helping local business and incentivising Harrow residents to shop locally.





### **We'll be on the side of residents who face anti-social behaviour**

#### **If elected on 22<sup>nd</sup> May a Harrow Labour Council will:-**

- Introduce on the spot fines for littering, spitting, dog fouling and urinating in public.
- Consider introducing a 'late night levy' on all premises that sell alcohol after midnight to pay for the cost of antisocial behaviour.
- Invest in a larger team of investigators and will prosecute those people who fly tip and leave Harrow looking untidy.
- Take action against people that engage in anti-social parking, particularly around schools. We will ensure our parking enforcement team focuses on dealing with people who block other people's driveways.
- Aim to get more hours of "community payback", to make sure that all Harrow's residents benefit and for those that do wrong to payback to society.



## We'll make sure the Council is an efficient and well run Borough,

### If elected on 22<sup>nd</sup> May a Harrow Labour Council will:-

- Launch an immediate review into the structure of senior management and the layers of management. The current Tory leader of the Council has recklessly created a void in the Council's management.
- Put consultation at the heart of everything the Council does as we fervently believe that great decisions come from great engagement with the people of Harrow.
- Learn from best practice on cutting costs and making the best use of our assets.
- Aim to reduce the cost of running the Council by better procurement and being more commercial.
- Reshape the way the Council runs to make it more outcome focused.
- Reduce the number of buildings the Council operates out of.
- Cap the salary of the highest paid staff member to 12 times the lowest paid, ensuring fairness in what we pay our staff.
- Ensure zero hours contracts will only be used where necessary, not where it is just convenient for the Council. We will never force our staff who are on zero hours contracts to work exclusively for Harrow.
- Recognise that council staff are our best asset and we will develop more training opportunities for them.
- Encourage flexible working so parents and carers can fit work around their family life. Harrow Council's staff are the life blood of the council and a flexible workforce is a happier and more productive workforce.
- Look at opening up the democratic structures of the Council, including better use of the website with more and better opportunities for residents to influence decisions. By doing this we will be able to devolve more of our budgets to a local level ensuring that residents have a real say in how their money is spent.
- Will always look to finding efficiencies in making these cuts.
- Aim to be the leader in cross council working in west London - working with other councils is vital In times of these savage budget cuts.
- Promises not to increase Council tax above inflation.





**Harrow Labour Party – Council Election Candidates**

<b>WARD</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>WARD</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>
<b>Edgware</b>	Chika Amadi Barry Kendler Nitin Parekh	<b>Marlborough</b>	Varsha Parmar David Perry Antonio Weiss
<b>Canons</b>	Howard Bluston Yogalingam Dayanamby Anjali Raval	<b>Greenhill</b>	Sue Anderson Keith Ferry Ghazanfar Ali
<b>Kenton East</b>	Niraj Dattani Mitzi Green Aneka Shah	<b>Harrow on the Hill</b>	Glen Hearnden Raj Pudasaini Sadiqur Rahman
<b>Queensbury</b>	Michael Borio Kiran Ramchandani Sachin Shah	<b>Headstone South</b>	Simon Brown Pamela Fitzpatrick Sasi Suresh
<b>Belmont</b>	Farhan Ahmed Dean Gilligan Nishit Patel	<b>West Harrow</b>	Kareema Marikar Christine Robson Adam Swersky
<b>Stanmore Park</b>	Ernie Selby Laura Stackpoole Lesley Stackpoole	<b>Headstone North</b>	Keir Anderson Roger Mark Bill Phillips
<b>Harrow Weald</b>	Peymana Assadullah Shohidul Choudhury Jim Lockie	<b>Roxeth</b>	Margaret Davine Jerry Miles Primesh Patel
<b>Kenton West</b>	Mrinal Choudhury Angelina Lynch Ajay Maru	<b>Roxbourne</b>	Bob Currie Jo Dooley Graham Henson
<b>Wealdstone</b>	Phillip O'Dell Rekha Shah Anne Whitehead	<b>Rayners Lane</b>	Jeff Anderson Owen Fields Krishna Suresh
<b>Pinner South</b>	Ash Dharmasingham Jane Massey Benjamin Young	<b>Hatch End</b>	Samir Juthani Matthew Lloyd Bill Stephenson
<b>Pinner</b>	Jeff Gallant Ertugral Kaya Timothy Oelman		