

CAMDEN GREENS

POLICY PLEDGES 2022



Green Party
for the common good

We want to thank Camden residents for the many good wishes we have been sent ahead of the council election on 5 May. We are the Green Party's candidates in Highgate ward, which Greens have represented since 2006.

Many residents across Camden have said they're voting Green this time, no matter who they normally vote for, because the Green Party works hardest and because they want to see more Greens elected for stronger principled opposition.

This set of pledges will be our work plan for the next four years and puts forward our ideas for how the council should be run. We are always listening, and will also take action when residents and campaigners ask for our help.

At the heart of this document is our promise to be fearless in our scrutiny of the council, holding Camden's Labour majority to account.

Indeed, over the past eight years as a councillor Sian Berry has been successful in calling for more scrutiny of the Community Investment Programme, and in pushing for bold action on climate change and a fairer, 100 per cent Council Tax discount for people on the lowest incomes.

However, how much we can do when we're elected depends on how many Green seats we can win and your vote can really make the difference.

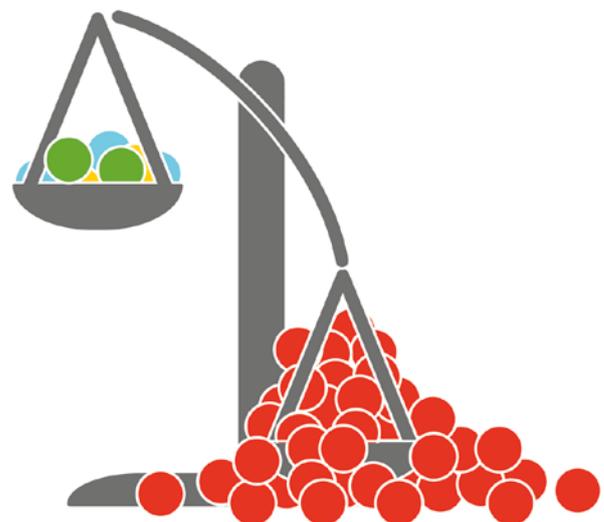


Your choice this year is between a council held to account by a group of hard-working Green councillors, or more Labour councillors to add to their huge majority.

Green votes count.

Lorna Jane Russell, David Stansell and Sian Berry

Highgate ward candidates for the Green Party



**CAMDEN'S LABOUR COUNCIL
NEEDS MORE BALANCE**



KEEPING LABOUR HONEST

Greens will:

- ✓ Be fearless in our scrutiny of the council, holding Camden's Labour majority to account and pushing them to be better.
- ✓ Give citizens a stronger voice in council decision making, by reforming Full Council and committee meetings, so that residents can put forward motions and ask questions directly to the Cabinet.
- ✓ Increase transparency and improve resident involvement in decisions that affect them.
- ✓ Create a new Resident Empowerment Fund to give real power back to the people of Camden.
- ✓ Help to make sure money isn't wasted, and create savings over the longer term and ensure that services are accountable, by bringing more services in-house, such as housing works, parking enforcement and street cleaning contracts.

BOLD MOVES FOR CLEAN AND HEALTHY STREETS

We commit to:

- ✓ Creating more parks and greener street spaces, with places for people to sit and relax.
- ✓ Planting new trees on streets, in green spaces and in parks across every ward in the borough.
- ✓ Building on earlier Green work helping to prevent closures and charges for public toilets, by improving and expanding public toilet provision, and providing more Changing Places toilets in Camden's buildings that are accessible to everyone.

- ✓ Funding more secure bike parking hangars in every ward – our budget plans this year would have funded new secure spaces on the streets for over 1,000 residents' bikes.
- ✓ Making the alternatives to the car quicker, easier and safer, by prioritising road space for buses and bikes in a new investment programme.
- ✓ Standing up against bus cuts and pressing the Mayor of London for safer junctions and better, more accessible stations.
- ✓ Ensuring we cut traffic on main roads by supporting London-wide measures including smarter, fairer road charging, and bringing in fair and effective charges for parking in Camden, including at workplaces.
- ✓ Reducing through traffic on our worst rat runs with healthy streets plans across the borough, designed in collaboration with local communities.
- ✓ Cutting down on dangerous speeding with better enforcement of 20 mph speed limits.
- ✓ Expanding the number of fast electric vehicle charging points across Camden.

NEW IDEAS FOR SECURE HOMES FOR FAMILIES

We will:

- ✓ Commit to a goal of no forced displacement, so that everyone made homeless in Camden has the right to find a new home in the borough, in their community.
- ✓ Use grants, sustainable borrowing and receipts stored from Right to Buy to purchase more existing homes to add to council housing supply, prioritising larger family homes.



- ✔ Cut wasteful demolition and build more genuinely new council homes, by reviewing and reworking the Community Investment Programme and creating plans from the bottom up alongside residents.
- ✔ Create more council-owned homes for key workers and people on average pay at London Living Rent.
- ✔ Ensure that big new developments deliver for our communities and have exemplary green standards.
- ✔ Strengthen our planning laws so they require at least 65 per cent of new homes at either council rents or the London Living Rent.
- ✔ For private renters, we need a borough-wide landlord licensing scheme. The fees from this would increase the number of officers enforcing standards and taking action against bad landlords and homes in poor condition.
- ✔ Greens have always campaigned hard at every level for controls on soaring rents, and we will continue to push London's Mayor to work with mayors of cities across the country to win powers to introduce rent controls.
- ✔ Help private tenants facing difficulties with their landlords, by providing start-up funding and promotion for more renters' unions in Camden.
- ✔ Work with communities to find land and financial support for Community Land Trusts to maximise the number of homes at social and living rents, through transparent partnerships between the council and local groups.
- ✔ Support neighbourhood forums and local planning, and set up a People's Land Commission to find potential new sites for homes, particularly for new council homes and community-led housing projects.

GREEN LEADERSHIP FROM THE GROUND UP

Greens will:

- ✔ Set up a permanent Citizens' Climate Assembly to make bolder plans from the grassroots to meet our climate goals.
- ✔ Transform local planning policies to make it easier to put in energy saving measures for warmer homes, to install solar panels, and to make other green home improvements without fuss.
- ✔ Review and improve all estate heating projects to use modern green heating not fossil fuels, making them fit for the 21st century and bringing down residents' bills.
- ✔ Use an expanded green bond programme to fund zero carbon improvements to all our public buildings, focused first on the council homes, libraries and community centres with the highest heating costs.
- ✔ Set true zero waste targets that don't need huge incinerators.
- ✔ Transform our re-use and recycling services to make them efficient, simple and user-friendly for all households.
- ✔ Reduce single-use plastic in the borough by introducing a takeaway container deposit schemes in our markets, turning Camden's historic drinking water fountains back on and rolling out a public education campaign to enable better recycling. These ideas were proposed by Lorna Jane Russell in her Cabinet report on plastics, but have not yet been taken forward by Camden.
- ✔ Stop the use of toxic pesticides on all council estates, parks and streets.



IMPROVING FINANCIAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We commit to:

- ✔ Supporting residents and businesses to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, including by bringing down energy bills through better insulation of our council homes, community buildings and libraries.
- ✔ Ending child poverty and hunger in Camden by pushing the council and national Government to close all the gaps our children fall through.
- ✔ Making sure all residents can access good, affordable food, with a review of all council and community services that provide and share food, and creating a new Food Strategy at council level, working with community groups, food co-operatives and residents.
- ✔ Making sure Camden does not go back to charging Council Tax to residents on the lowest incomes, after Greens won this reversal in policy in 2018.
- ✔ Setting up a pioneering trial of a basic income to demonstrate the benefits of real financial security to Camden's residents.
- ✔ Introducing a new Transitions Support Fund to cancel the rent arrears of all of Camden's strategic voluntary sector partners and support them with ongoing day-to-day running costs.
- ✔ Making use of Camden's dead spaces – opening up more of the 100+ currently empty Camden-owned buildings, industrial spaces, offices and shops for community use.
- ✔ Supporting Camden's local high streets and community facilities, to ensure that residents can access services and daily needs within a 15-minute walk of their home.
- ✔ Dramatically increasing support for community groups that help people save money and resources, including repair and re-use services and food co-operatives.
- ✔ A diverse mix of jobs is vital for a healthy local economy, including small businesses, skilled and semi-skilled manual work and vital creative jobs in our arts, services and night-time industries. Greens will set up new partnerships to create training places and apprenticeships with small and medium sized businesses who are making and creating in Camden, not just large corporations.



PRINCIPLED SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, SAFETY AND RIGHTS

Greens will use every lever in our budgets to:

- ✓ Bring youth work funding back to at least pre-austerity levels.
- ✓ Make sure the council maintains specific, tailored services for young people, LGBTIQ+ people and women from different minority groups facing homelessness and domestic violence.
- ✓ Refocus Camden's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy on preventing homelessness and ensuring the right support is in place for those who need it.
- ✓ Stand against privatisation within the NHS and support teachers to decide how our local schools are run, not Government ministers.
- ✓ Take a lead within the community on reform of the Met police to ensure we have a police force that Camden's citizens can trust and that re-establishes the basics of policing by consent.
- ✓ Work positively to celebrate all our diverse communities, and to stamp out hate crime against residents facing abuse because of their race, religion, sexuality, age, disability, gender or trans identity. This includes Antisemitism. We will always stand up to abuse and discrimination within politics.
- ✓ In the biggest refugee crisis since World War Two, it is time for the Government to step up with new policies that respect human rights. We will campaign for funds so that councils can support refugees from all current crises, including Ukraine, into new permanent homes and to lift 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) status and employment restrictions, so that all refugees can support their new lives here.

Camden's Green Party candidates have also responded positively to many campaigner pledges, including those from:

Mums for Lungs, London Renters Union, Campaign Against Empty Homes, Camden Cyclists (part of London Cycling Campaign), London's Jewish community groups, Generation Rent, the More Natural Capital coalition (which includes CPRE London, Footways London, London Friends of Greenspaces Network, London Gardens Trust, London Living Streets, London National Park City, London Wildlife Trust, Open Spaces Society, Parks for London, Ramblers, Sustain – London Food Link, Thames 21, The Conservation Volunteers, The Orchard Project, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and the Woodland Trust), as well as Transparency International's 10 point anti-corruption plan for councils, UBI Lab London's pledge to back a basic income, and the London Gypsies & Travellers policy pledges.