



Lambeth
Conservatives

Manifesto 2014

**Working for a Better
Lambeth**

Our Vision for Change in Lambeth in the next four years

It is time to transform Lambeth for the better.

This year Lambeth residents have an opportunity to vote for change to our public services and to safeguard our environment. However, change for the better after eight years of Labour control and waste requires a new vision and leadership – leadership only the Conservatives can provide.

Lambeth, in the heart of London, is home to many national and international institutions and companies including Lambeth Palace, Brockwell Park, The South Bank, The Imperial War Museum, Shell, and Clapham Common.

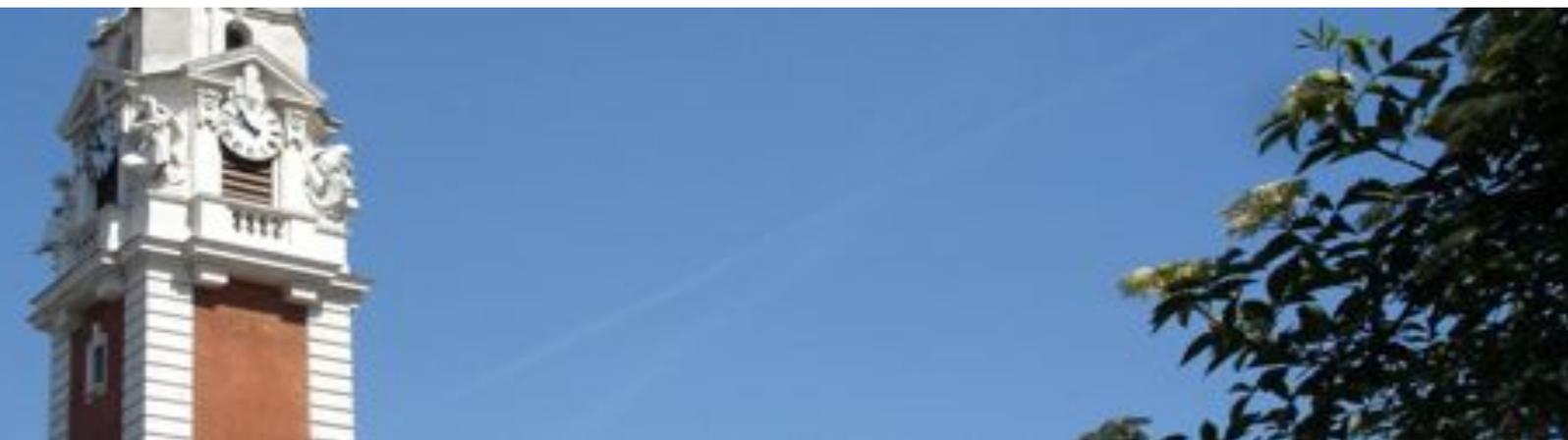
- ▶ *Why is it that a borough that is home to so many talented, public-spirited people is so badly managed by the Labour-run Council in its housing, streetcare, parks and commons, leisure, and schooling responsibilities?*

This manifesto identifies where mistakes are being made, and more importantly it sets out how they can and will be corrected by the Conservatives.

The policies here are based on Conservative principles, namely: fair taxes, transparency, efficiency, tolerance, and community.

We are proud of our borough and we celebrate its strengths and diversity. Our policies will ensure that Lambeth's council deals fairly with every citizen and safeguards the elderly, young people, and the vulnerable. Our policies will unite our communities.

It is time to transform Lambeth for the better.



How Lambeth Has Failed You

In Lambeth, the past four years have been grim.

Under the current Labour administration, Lambeth Council has:

- ▶ **Increased** its debt mountain to £460 million
- ▶ **Delivered** a shoddy service to its tenants
- ▶ **Started work** on planning a new town hall costing £50 million and rising
- ▶ **Wasted** opportunities to share services with Conservative councils
- ▶ **Hammered** leaseholders with inflated repair charges
- ▶ **Doubled** Home Help charges for the elderly and ill
- ▶ **Refused to ring** fence income from events to parks and commons
- ▶ **Failed to collect** £38 million in council tax debts thereby failing all taxpayers
- ▶ **Abandoned** a library in West Norwood now closed for three years
- ▶ **Squeezed** the budget for street cleaning and sweeping
- ▶ **Wasted** £1.5 million a year on propaganda paid for by the taxpayer
- ▶ **Achieved** nothing with its so called “Co-operative Council”

Long suffering Lambeth residents deserve better.

How Lambeth Will Move Forward

In the following pages, Lambeth Conservatives spell out in detail how we will improve our borough in partnership with local residents.

Our overarching policies include:

- ▶ Providing more school places swiftly and in the right location working openly with teachers, governors and parents.
- ▶ Supporting parent-promoted schools, academies, free schools, and faith schools
- ▶ Taking full advantage of the Localism powers introduced by the Government and ending the sham of a “Co-operative Council.”

- ▶ Reducing waste, especially in Council communications and bureaucracy, to reverse Labour's overspend..
- ▶ Providing a greater say for tenants and leaseholders in the running of the council's housing stock and the setting of housing budgets.
- ▶ Ending the scandal of leaseholders being massively overcharged for repairs to the common areas in the block of flats where they live.
- ▶ Reducing Council Tax as in Hammersmith & Fulham, not just freezing it
- ▶ Investing more money in repairing roads and pavements.
- ▶ Improving parks and consulting more fully with Park "Friends" groups.
- ▶ Supporting local libraries, "as libraries" as well as their being community hubs.
- ▶ Ensuring that money raised for events in parks and commons is spent to improve the green space where the event takes place.
- ▶ Enforcing tenancy agreements to combat antisocial behaviour and deter irresponsible dog ownership.
- ▶ Zero tolerance of elected councillors who fail to pay their council tax.
- ▶ Releasing funds so residents can be consulted on extensions to controlled parking zones or the creation of new ones.
- ▶ Minimising rents by moving costs from the Housing budget to the general budget, where it is appropriate to do so.

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Children and Young People

Labour Failed

Lambeth Labour knew about the severe shortage in primary school places but first ignored the problem then delayed taking firm action relying instead on piecemeal temporary solutions.

The situation is particularly acute in the South of the borough where many families cannot get their child into one of their first, second or third preference schools and have been forced to travel long distances to a school even though they have one on their doorstep. Labour has simply not listened to local parents' concerns.

Despite more funding being available Lambeth Labour have let the Youth Service fall into disrepute. There is no even spread of services across the borough and there has been a history of very poor management. This has negatively affected the services available to young people.

More money was spent on the administration of the Youth Mayor scheme than was given to the Youth Mayor to spend on chosen youth projects.

Conservative Solution

The Conservatives are totally committed to providing excellent education for all children and young people in the borough and will focus on achievement alongside the provision of enough places. We will work with head teachers, governors, parents and young people to ensure that they are at the centre of all decisions taken regarding education and we will ensure that as much funding as possible is devolved to schools and not retained by the borough.

Conservatives know that in an age of tight budgets, innovation is essential. Therefore, in Lambeth we will therefore support new funding sources and new ideas. We will support parent-promoted schools, academies, and free schools. We will also support more faith-based schools and recognise the importance of their role in education in a diverse borough.

We want to see more community involvement and accountability in the running of Children and Young People's services and will actively involve young people and members of the community in determining the direction and management of the services in their community.

"Conservatives are totally committed to providing excellent education for all children and young people in the borough and will focus on achievement alongside the provision of enough places."

In control we will:

- ▶ Deliver and support new schools funded by the government.
- ▶ Prioritise and pursue funding for the expansion of existing popular primary schools and secondary schools.
- ▶ Ensure that school entry is based on objective and fair criteria.
- ▶ Work with parents and carers to encourage new forms of school governance that give schools and communities more control over the way their schools operate. They may include more free schools, academies, trusts, foundation and other models.
- ▶ Establish a network of independent parent-advocates, who can give help and advice to other parents who are experiencing problems with their children's education.

- ▶ Reduce the number of school exclusions by expanding the role of the primary and secondary pupil referral units and by setting up a forum and support network for parents whose children are excluded or at risk from exclusion.
- ▶ Bring forward the application date for primary schools so that parents are not disadvantaged in the application process
- ▶ Recognise that the safeguarding of children at risk has to be our highest priority. We will ensure that Lambeth maintains the highest level of service and care to children and families by closely monitoring the work load and performance of social workers. We will also take steps to cut the number of agency staff working in Lambeth.
- ▶ Improve support to Lambeth foster carers ensuring that they are properly supported by the council and have priority access to council services, for example housing and leisure.
- ▶ Establish a professionally run youth service that is accountable to the community and increase provision in Streatham and Norwood in particular. We will set up community forums where young people and members of the community have a say in how local services are run.
- ▶ We recognise the important role undertaken by faith and community groups in this area, in particular providing Saturday school and holiday provision, and will ensure that they are properly supported by the council.

"We will work with parents and carers to encourage new forms of school governance that give schools and communities more control over the way their schools operate."



Housing

Labour Failure

Labour sought to ignore housing problems rather than resolve them. For example, it set up an Arms-Length Management Organisation without achieving tenant support. Labour councillors also wanted to transfer Lambeth's housing stock to an ALMO before the 2006 local elections and deliberately didn't include it in their manifesto because they knew they wouldn't get elected if they told the truth.

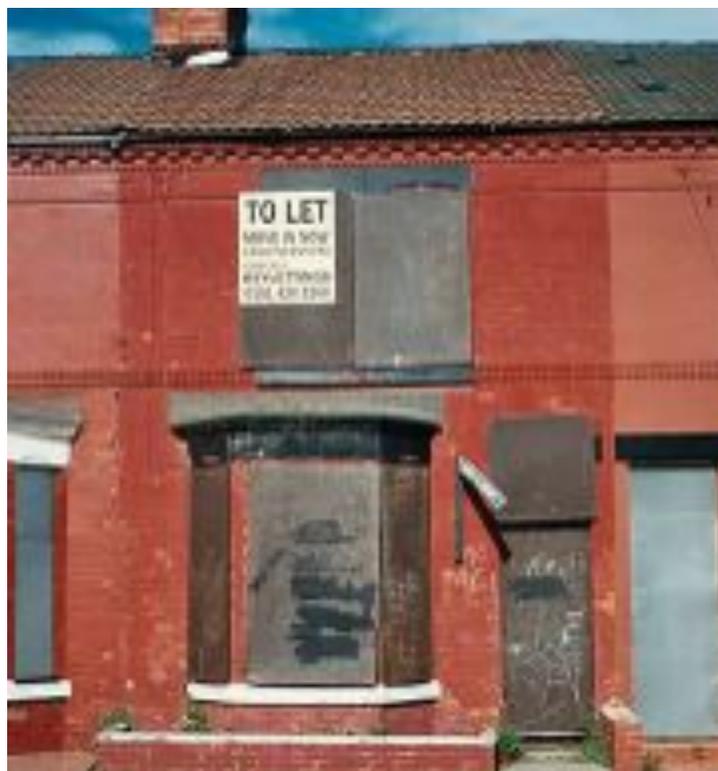
Since then Labour's Lambeth Living chaired by an ex Labour MP has: increased rents, hammered leaseholders, suspended repair work, and increased a variety of leaseholder charges where much needed repairs are being done. It has recruited consultants on more than £800 per day to do quite mundane jobs such as maintaining TV coverage by checking the aerial and other contracts.

Conservative Solution

We will ensure better use of resources by putting tenants and leaseholders in charge of their budgets. Unlike Labour, we will not resort to gimmicks imposed on residents.

In control we will:

- ▶ Establish a "Tenants' Purse" – a pot of money that will be allocated by the recognised Tenants' Council.
- ▶ Create, as finances allow, "Estate Purses" – first on the larger estates, then on all estates. This money will be spent on estate improvements chosen by recognised Tenants' and Residents' Associations.
- ▶ Renovate empty houses across our borough. Houses boarded-up with brown shuttering are a symbol of Labour's failure. We will lease out these properties to "factor" companies: they will invest in the houses, fill them with tenants from Lambeth's waiting lists, take the initial rent and then share the rent with Lambeth. The empty homes — missed rent scandal must end.
- ▶ Evict squatters and allocate the homes to local families. Lambeth has almost 1,000 empty homes awaiting repair or sale - of these around 10 per cent are occupied illegally by squatters. We will put in a hit team to get the empty homes back into use for people on the housing list and reduce the risk of any more squatting by protecting any house or flat that is empty for whatever reason.
- ▶ Carry out identity checks on all tenancies and evict those not eligible to be there. With 16,000 families on the waiting list for housing it is essential that all tenants in Lambeth Living properties are entitled to live there. Sub-letting must be stamped out.
- ▶ Urgently review all excessive estimates for capital repairs to properties being imposed on leaseholders which in some cases are five times the market rate for the work.



"We will work with local businesses and commercial landlords to reduce the number of empty properties blighting the borough and create a thriving local economy."

- ▶ Ensure that complaints about housing association properties are suitably processed by Lambeth Council as it nominates 100 per cent of tenancies to some housing associations.
- ▶ Stamp out the sub-letting of social housing tenancies without consent of the landlord.
- ▶ Review all maintenance and major repair contracts. We believe savings can be found – such as in scaffolding costs – which can be passed on to tenants and leaseholders.
- ▶ Enforce tenancy agreements. Antisocial tenants will face a choice: behave or leave.
- ▶ End over-paid consultancies. Economic recovery is only just beginning thanks to the Conservative led Government: it's time for Lambeth Living to join the real world.





Environment

Labour Failure

Lambeth Labour has cut "green" initiatives to balance its poor financial bookkeeping. Park Rangers have been disbanded, tree officer positions left vacant, and events on commons and parks are being used as a cash cow regardless of the damage to the environment. Labour's commitment to green issues is skin deep.

Conservative Solution

We will place best environmental practice at the heart of everything that we do. This is not just eco common sense – it is good housekeeping too. Landfill taxes and other expenses are likely to rise in future as central government works to cut harmful emissions and reduce waste.

In control, we will:

- ▶ Protect open land and green spaces as a matter of principle by restricting the number of events and ensuring that all money raised by events goes back into improving the relevant park or open space.
- ▶ Invest in and enhance parks and open spaces, maintaining boundaries and investing in appropriate lighting. Events in our parks and green spaces are enjoyed by many residents. We also recognise that the larger events can be disruptive to neighbouring residents. Therefore, there will be no increase in the number of events in our parks and green spaces without full consultation with local residents.

"We will remove dustcart depots from residential areas."

- ▶ Work with Park "Friends" groups to ensure that spending is community led.
- ▶ Ensure more public toilets are available in Lambeth.
- ▶ Remove dustcart depots from residential areas.
- ▶ Invest in clean, renewable energies wherever possible. We will work with our schools and statutory partners to maximise available funding to introduce greater fuel economy measures and renewable energy installations.

"Conservatives will work to reduce expensive waste-to-landfill by rewarding residents for recycling, rather than adopting the Labour approach of punishing residents for failing to meet obscure targets."



- ▶ Work to cut the amount of waste generated in Lambeth by supporting local residents, the voluntary sector, and businesses to do so.
- ▶ Work to increase recycling and reduce expensive waste-to-landfill, including by emulating Conservative councils that have rewarded residents for recycling, rather than adopting the Labour approach of punishing residents for failing to meet obscure targets.
- ▶ Learn from private-sector success stories, whereby companies have achieved zero-net-emissions and zero waste-to-landfill.
- ▶ Re-introduce the free collection of bulky items from private households thus reducing fly-tipping and environmental eyesores.
- ▶ Plant 250 new appropriate trees a year for streets and green spaces. We will improve maintenance of existing trees and encourage citizens to volunteer as tree wardens.
- ▶ Seek new allotment space in Lambeth and actively encourage residents and local groups who wish to grow their own food.
- ▶ Encourage cycling and safe routes to work or school for all residents who use their bicycles instead of motor vehicles.
- ▶ Promote carbon footprint reduction by encouraging owner occupiers to install energy efficient measures in their homes.

Community Safety

Labour Failure

Labour has obsessed about how much money is spent and how many police officers are employed and relies on its cronies in the Lambeth Police Consultative Group. This must change so that the focus is on results and working with neighbourhood policing panels and neighbourhood watches.

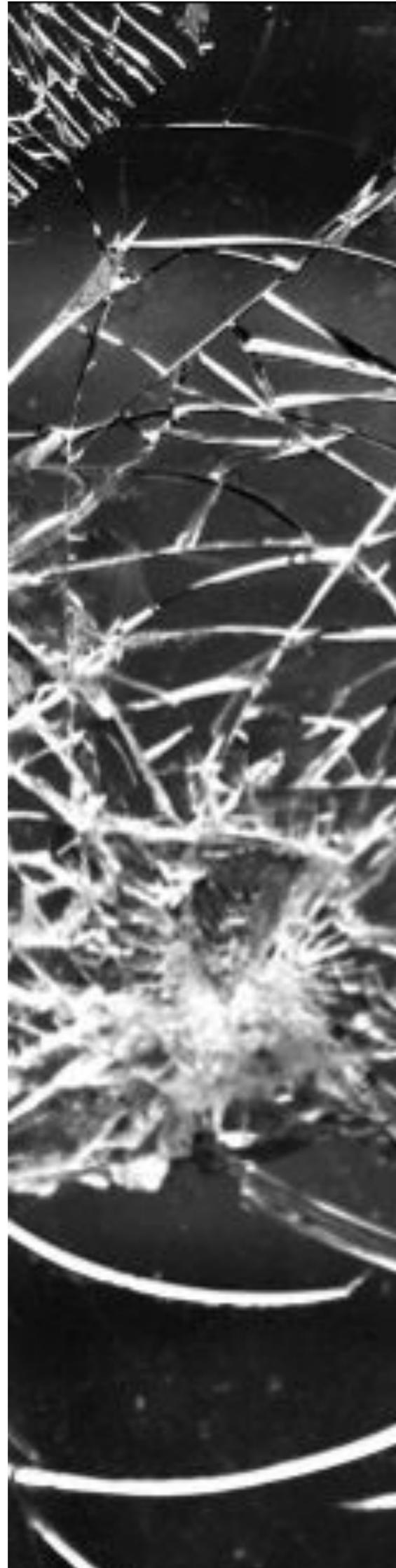
Conservative Solution

Lambeth can only reduce crime in a sustainable manner if it works with the police, the Greater London authority and the Deputy Mayor for Policing.

A Conservative-led council will fight crime as its top priority. Labour's negative attitude towards the twice elected Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, ill-serves Lambeth. We support Boris and his collaborative approach and we agree that police officers and other specialists have to be brought from the back office into the front line. We welcome his approach to tackling crime on the transport system, which must remain a priority.

In control, we will:

- ▶ Enforce tenancy agreements against antisocial tenants.
- ▶ Support more active targeting and enforcement against drug dealing within local communities. We will provide ways to strength the community reassurance presence on our streets by Council employees and Police Community Support Officers.



- ▶ Build on Lambeth and the Metropolitan Police's promising anti-gun-crime initiatives, especially those aimed at youths.
- ▶ Support youth activities that give teenagers options for esteem that do not involve crime. Such support will be for mainly community-led activities, with the council playing an enabling and information-sharing role.
- ▶ Utilise mobile CCTV to identify and prosecute fly-tippers.
- ▶ Close down irresponsible bar owners, including action to reform the noise-nuisance service to better protect and support complainants.
- ▶ Monitor and punish irresponsible dog owners, through greater use of hotlines and problem-area profiling.

"We will enforce tenancy agreements against anti-social tenants."



"We will monitor and punish Irresponsible dog owners, Through greater use of Hotlines and problem-area profiling."

- ▶ Offer greater support – and demand more of – our leaders on the Safer Neighbourhood Panels which must be representative, questioning of partner organisations, and integrated with council activities.
- ▶ Encourage and support neighbourhood watches and local police and ensure that elected Councillors play an appropriate role in the link between the police and the public. We will encourage more local direction over the provision and location of CCTV equipment.

Transport and Roads

Labour Failure

Labour has sought to discourage motorists – through fines, charges and hassle – but has failed to make provision for green transport.

Conservative Solution

We believe in a mix of transport modes to meet diverse needs and resources.

In control, we will:

- ▶ Ensure that fines and "tickets" are only issued for real infringements, and not for money raising purposes.
- ▶ Work with Transport for London to provide better public transport and roads across the borough.
- ▶ Fund public consultation on the extension or creation of Controlled Parking Zones which has been frozen under Labour since 2006.
- ▶ Invest to repair the borough's potholed roads, trip hazards and broken pavements.
- ▶ Freeze residential parking permit charges: Labour's stealth tax
- ▶ Review all existing traffic calming schemes over the next four years to test if they are still fit for purpose or need replacing



"We will ensure that fines and 'tickets' are only issued for real infringements, and not for money-making purposes."



"We will invest to repair the borough's potholed roads, trip hazards and broken pavements."

- ▶ Review all yellow lines to see if more parking spaces can be made available.
- ▶ Scrap the huge, ugly 'Welcome to Lambeth' signs erected by Labour at huge cost and find real ways to engender civic pride.
- ▶ Continue to use the Lambeth crest on borough street signs.
- ▶ De-clutter as many streets and remove as many unnecessary signs as possible.
- ▶ Ballot residents in roads where there are traffic hump schemes constructed more than 10 years ago to see if they need replacing by more modern measures that do not damage property with vibrations.
- ▶ We will make Lambeth safer for all road users, including cyclists and pedestrians.



Labour Failure

Despite the rising number of people aged over 80 Labour has failed to deliver high quality services at an affordable cost for the elderly and disabled to ensure that more people can live independently at home. Labour has driven through a 10-year change programme to sheltered housing that has dismayed and worried many older people.

Conservative Solution

In control we will:

- ▶ Review home care charges for the elderly with a view to freezing the hourly charge for four years. We will revisit the eligibility criteria for home care charges to ensure that the service is aimed at those who need it most.
- ▶ Make independent living an option for everyone, where this is possible, and offer different care options where it is not.
- ▶ Provide more opportunities for adults to experience day care. These facilities can be supplied by all kinds of providers including voluntary, charity and faith groups.
- ▶ Make sure that facilities for people with special needs are widely available and provide the level of care, facilities, and activities required to ensure dignity in old age.
- ▶ Review and enhance the provision of alarms in care homes.
- ▶ Involve residents in sheltered housing in any substantive changes to their homes and abandon any Labour proposals for change where it is obvious that residents want to stay where they are close to local shops, GP surgeries, and public transport.

A stack of copper coins is shown on the left, with a single gold one-pound coin on the right. The background is a deep red color.

Council Tax

Labour Failure

Under Labour Council Tax has been frozen since 2010 thanks to a subsidy from the Conservative-led Government. But under Labour Lambeth has lacked ambition. In Hammersmith & Fulham Council Tax has been cut by 3 per cent a year in successive years and other Conservative councils are offering cash back to their residents provided they pay on time. In the meantime Lambeth has £38 million in uncollected Council Tax arrears and a debt of £460 million – equivalent to £3,000 per resident.

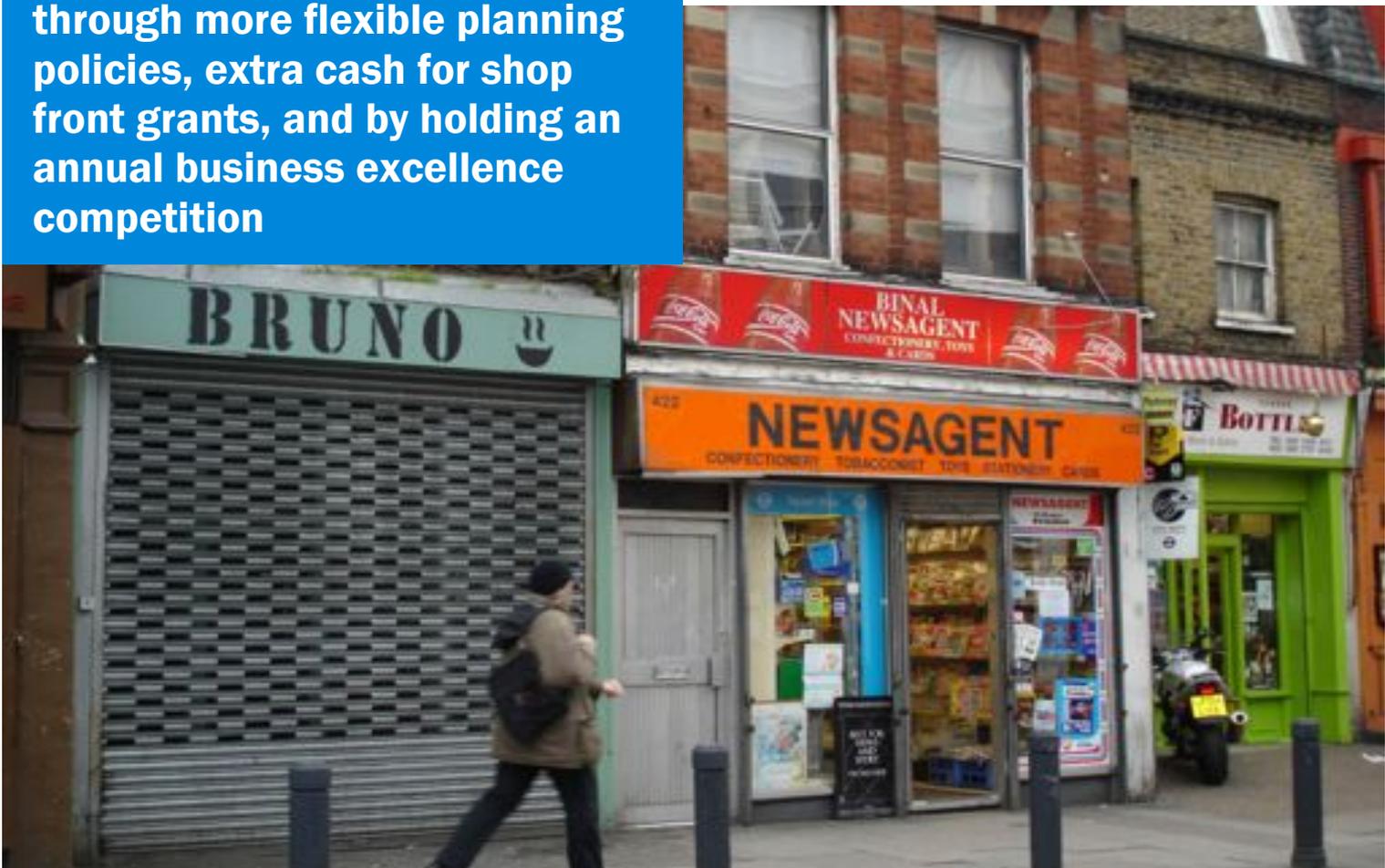
Conservative Solution

In control, we will:

- ▶ Keep council tax down and service quality high, making zero percent Council Tax increases one of Lambeth's top priorities.
- ▶ Seek to cut the Council Tax year on year following the example of other Conservative controlled London boroughs (see above).
- ▶ Support the national Conservative policies since 2010 for greater use of local democracy, including allowing residents to veto high Council Tax rises and instigate local referendums on local issues.
- ▶ Make savings from improved efficiency through new business processes, shared services with other councils, and more use of collaboration technology.

- ▶ Ensure better procurement of goods and services that will also produce savings. Labour has failed to deliver savings by renegotiating major contracts.
- ▶ Support the principle of trusting community interest companies to manage services as not-for-profit social enterprises.
- ▶ Scrap Labour's plan to spend £50 million and rising on a new town hall and use existing council properties more effectively. By consolidating some and disposing of others, we can release cash to invest in the future of all residents of Lambeth and to bring services closer to the communities they serve through greater flexible and home working.
- ▶ Give a 'helping hand' to new businesses seeking to open in our high streets through more flexible planning policies, extra cash for shop front grants, and by holding an annual business excellence competition.
- ▶ Take full advantage of Conservative Government powers nationally to give local authorities a new discretionary power to levy business rate discounts, allowing them to help local shops and services such as post offices.

"We will give a 'helping hand' to new businesses seeking to open in our high streets through more flexible planning policies, extra cash for shop front grants, and by holding an annual business excellence competition"





Health and Community Wellbeing

Labour Failure

Under Labour the health and well being of Lambeth residents have been largely neglected. The new Health and Well Being Board is still in its infancy despite generous funding from the Conservative-led Government

Conservative Solution

In control we will:

- ▶ Support new care packages based around post hospital (intermediate) care, home care, mental health, residential care and 'extra care' housing. Disability home improvements, day care, transport, community health provision and carer respite are all key areas where further innovation and improvement are vital.
- ▶ Ensure people have more control of their own care through direct payments and personalised budgets.

- ▶ Ensure that social care provided by the Council works ever more closely with the NHS and acute hospital trusts to provide an integrated service. We will put a renewed focus on the prevention of illnesses as well as educating our population in healthy lifestyles and eating.
- ▶ Ensure money being spent on 'poly-clinics' does not jeopardise the treatment provided in our hospitals and existing GP practices.
- ▶ Invest in our crumbling libraries. We will identify efficiency savings and add extra cash where appropriate to improve library standards and vary library hours to meet the real lifestyle needs of local communities. It should not cost the Council £28 to buy a book that sells on the Internet for £8.50.
- ▶ Encourage more community involvement in our libraries and reverse the years of Labour neglect in maintenance and repairs. They should be well equipped community hubs with books at the heart of the service to encourage more people to read for leisure and learning.

"We will invest in our crumbling libraries, encouraging more community involvement and reversing the years of Labour neglect in maintenance and repairs."





Democracy and our Town Centres

Labour Failure

Over the past few years Labour has put local democracy into reverse in our town centres. The area committees were scrapped in 2007 but there has been no effective replacement. Some community forums are only representative of the views of Labour activists and there is a growing disconnect with real people despite the best efforts of residents associations and tenants groups.

Conservative Solution

In control we will:

- ▶ Create a new Lambeth where people in communities have a real opportunity to exercise influence over what is important to them and what is less so. In community engagement there is no "one size fits all".

Conservatives want to encourage improved governance at town centre level. We will establish local forums, where residents have a say on how budgets are spent and can challenge council officers.

- ▶ Encourage our schools and colleges to promote courses which are skills oriented rather than just qualification based. We will review Lambeth Council's employment structure to ensure that as many Lambeth residents as possible are aware of potential jobs with the local authority. We will support young people where appropriate to be involved in real apprenticeships in the work place.
- ▶ Encourage opportunities for employment in service industries in Lambeth as well as in leisure and sport, in media, information technology, and creative vocations, all of which are expanding in our diverse borough. We will encourage and support such courses and course providers.

Our Plan for the Future of Clapham

Roads and Pavements

We have already succeeded in getting both Lambeth and TfL to carry out resurfacing work in several streets in Clapham including Elms Road, Turret Grove and Clapham Common South Side.

However much still remains to be done and a Conservative Council will:

- ▶ Make a priority of repairing minor street and pavement defects before they become a major problem
- ▶ Introduce an enhanced programme of road and pavement inspection, maintenance and renewal
- ▶ Partly fund these measures by the subsequent reduction in insurance claims for injury and damage caused by potholes and broken pavements

Safer Streets – Safer Clapham

Everyone should have the right to be able to walk the streets in safety and to expect their property to be safe.

To promote safety in Clapham a Conservative Council will:

- ▶ Work to further reduce the level of car crime in the area
- ▶ Work with residents and the police to establish more neighbourhood watch schemes

- ▶ Clamp down on anti-social behaviour and street drinking caused by the night time economy.
- ▶ Work to eliminate unlicensed mini cabs operating in the area.

Licensing Issues

Whilst most bars and clubs are responsible and add to the area a number behave in a way which causes annoyance and disturbance to local residents. A Conservative Council will:

- ▶ Introduce a general presumption that no new alcohol licenses will be issued for areas around Clapham High Street, Old Town, and Clapham Common South Side.
- ▶ Ensure complaints by residents are investigated in a timely manner
- ▶ Lobby to change the Licensing Act to make it easier for local authorities, on behalf of local people to take action against problem establishments

Traffic & Parking

In certain roads speeding traffic is a problem. A Conservative Council will:

- ▶ Ensure correct and clear signage is erected to indicate speed limits and vehicle actual speeds and encourage the police to enforce existing speed limits on roads like Abbeville Road and around schools which have 20mph limits.
- ▶ Ensure that parking restrictions and yellow lines are only in force where needed and that enforcement is on road safety grounds and not to maximise revenue.
- ▶ Ensure that roads which suffer badly from non-enforcement of double yellow line restrictions such as Bromells Road are prioritised for parking enforcement
- ▶ Where possible ensure parking provision in Clapham is sufficient for the needs of local residents and businesses.
- ▶ Install new zebra crossings on walking to school routes where required.

Support for Clapham Business

Clapham has a strong business community. However, there is much that can be done to strengthen existing business and encourage new enterprise. A Conservative Council will:

- ▶ Fully support the Government's scheme for providing £1,000 rebates to businesses with a turnover of less than £50,000.

- ▶ Encourage and support existing business forums and the creation of new ones.
- ▶ Provide help and support to those wanting to set up new small businesses in Clapham.
- ▶ When there is little prospect of a property being viable for commercial use (offices above shops etc.) we will support the conversion to housing.
- ▶ No new local taxes or charges on small businesses.

CLAPHAM COMMON

A Conservative Council will:

- ▶ Ensure that the performance of contractors responsible for the upkeep of the Common is properly monitored and that their employees have the necessary skills to carry out maintenance work, repairs and improvement projects effectively and without delay.
- ▶ Ensure that a balance is struck between the demand for space for sporting activities and commercial events such as large music concerts and the need to preserve the natural environment from encroachment by those sporting activities and events.
- ▶ Support measures to encourage bio-diversity on the Common.
- ▶ Work with voluntary groups like Trees for Cities and the Friends of Clapham Common to create new wildlife habitats.

Events

We believe Clapham Common is a fantastic resource for the entire community. However all too often it has been exploited by the council as a cash cow to fund initiatives outside Clapham.

Furthermore, many of the most profitable events held on the Common damage the Common itself and the character of the local area. A Conservative Council will:

- ▶ Ensure that money raised from events on the Common, is used for improvements to the Common itself, and not spent elsewhere in Lambeth.
- ▶ Ensure that a Fireworks Display takes place on Clapham Common in November every year.

- ▶ Ensure that disruption to residents from events held on the Common is kept to a minimum, and that events are planned with the views of residents properly taken into account.
- ▶ Improve the diversity of events on the Common so as to offer a mix of commercial events which bring in income and community events run by volunteers and accessible to all.

Our Plan for the Future of West Norwood

AS CONSERVATIVES WILL WORK FOR YOU, PROMOTE THE LOCAL ECONOMY, CUT THE WASTE AND GIVE POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE

WORKING FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

Irene, Luke and Graham as your local candidates get things done in Thurlow Park, for example:

- ▶ Winning agreement for a more frequent P13 bus service
- ▶ Reviving the plan for a Tulse Hill market
- ▶ Petitioning successfully for improved pedestrian crossings on Norwood Road
- ▶ Securing the future for Rosendale Road Playing Fields
- ▶ Winning improved street lighting and getting pot holes filled
- ▶ Exposing council neglect of Norwood's shops and the CPZ rip-off

Following the tradition of outgoing Conservative councillors John and Clare Whelan, we will continue to work all the year around and keep you informed with regular communication.

OPPOSING COUNCIL WASTE

- ▶ The West Norwood Library has been out of action for three years and is heading for a £4 million overspend. Conservatives will appoint a competent project manager and create a community-led library and cinema to be proud of.
- ▶ We will cancel the £50 million (and rising) cost of the New Town Hall in Brixton
- ▶ We will axe the council's £1.5 million a year propaganda unit
- ▶ We will axe the "co-op" political project and return savings to public services
- ▶ We will seek to renegotiate Labour's ruinously expensive "PFI" contracts

GIVING POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE - PROMOTING THE ECONOMY

- ▶ We will allocate budgets to Norwood for local decisions on local services
- ▶ We will insist that Norwood's elected councillors make decisions in public
- ▶ We will consult honestly on council matters with real choices giving costs
- ▶ We will support a Norwood Planning Forum under the Localism Act empowering local people to shape Norwood's future
- ▶ We will create 500 apprenticeships in council departments
- ▶ We will attract inward commercial investment to Norwood