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FOREWORD FROM ZOË GARBETT, GREEN CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF HACKNEY

Hackney is a wonderful and unique place to live, strengthened by its diversity and deep-rooted sense of community. As a resident, I am immensely proud of our borough, from its cultural venues and independent shops to its wonderful teachers, carers and night-time workers that keep Hackney thriving around the clock.

Yet Hackney is also a borough of deep and worsening inequality, and one which far too often has been left behind by a political elite who are more interested in serving the interests of private corporations than of the people that call our borough home. As your Mayor, I will stand up to these powers in Westminster by leading a national, cross-borough anti-austerity cuts campaign, demanding that local council funding is fully restored, so that we can deliver the essential services - from youth clubs to adult social care - that our communities so desperately need and deserve.

I spent over a decade working in the public sector and NHS, tackling health inequalities, transforming services, and leading on care and safeguarding for people let down and

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I'm driven to action by the worsening inequality I see every day...I'm standing to do all that I can to make a difference.

”

Zoë Garbett, Green Candidate for Mayor of Hackney and Green Councillor Dalston

excluded by institutions. I've brought this experience to Hackney since I was elected as a councillor in Dalston in 2022. I've supported the Save Ridley Road Market campaign, protected Dalston's independent bars and clubs economy, fought school closures, and stood shoulder to shoulder with tenants and trade unionists.

In the two years that I've been an elected member of the London Assembly, I've challenged the over-policing of Black communities, the suppression of Palestinian solidarity, and planning approaches that only benefit private developers.

As a Green Group Leader on Hackney Council, I've overseen the transformation of the Greens from a small opposition voice to a serious political force, fighting for transparency and action. Hackney Greens have the knowledge, experience, and compassion to truly run the council for the people of Hackney - not for big corporate interests or billionaires. With your support, I know we can win in Hackney.

I'm excited for you to see our plan in this manifesto, which was created alongside many of the incredible community organisations and leaders we have here in Hackney. It has been created in direct response to what we hear residents say they need - from food co-operatives and expanded family hubs to cleaner streets and more of a say in how the council operates. This manifesto has been developed with you and for you, and I am ready to deliver it as your Mayor of Hackney.

I have the experience to lead and I will work tirelessly alongside our hardworking Green councillors to fix what's broken, get the basics right, and push for a more affordable Hackney for everyone.

**With love, and in solidarity,
Zoë Garbett**

FOREWORD FROM DYLAN LAW, GREEN NOMINEE FOR DEPUTY MAYOR, COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE IN HACKNEY DOWNS



I was born in Hackney and have spent my life here. Hackney is the only place I recognise - it is my home. I'm standing to be a councillor and I'm Zoë's nominee to be Deputy Mayor, so that I can help make Hackney the best it can be.

People my age and race, and who've had a similar upbringing to me, have been repeatedly demeaned by the national and local government and our state institutions. On every level - whether it's housing allocations, school exclusions, or how we're spoken about in the media - we're always left behind and too often blamed for problems not of our making.

With my experiences of growing up in Hackney, and after sitting on Hackney's Youth Parliament, in early 2025 I looked to who controls our borough and in effect my community. That's what led me to standing as a candidate to be a councillor in Hackney Downs. The council implements the majority of things in Hackney that impact our day to day: from planning permissions to education and healthcare plans, but they also have a special ability to resist when national decisions aren't in the community's best interests.

As a councillor and Deputy Mayor in Hackney, I will stand up for my community, and for all residents in Hackney. I will work with Zoë and other councillors to fix what's broken. For me, this will start with an audit of every council estate in the borough, to log all the problems neglected by the previous Labour-led council. I will get the basics right by bringing my recent experience of being a Hackney academy student to make education a more positive experience for every young person. It is my wish to change the false narratives that our people have faced over generations by being a young, Black leader in Hackney.

I'm ready to work side by side with our community and fellow Green councillors to create a better future for Hackney.

**In solidarity,
Dylan Law**

**FOREWORD FROM
ZACK POLANSKI**

**LEADER OF
THE GREEN PARTY**



“We could not hope for a more passionate and committed team to champion our borough.”

Zack Polanski, Leader of The Green Party

The Green Party winning in Hackney will ensure a place that welcomes everyone. We will always stand up against discrimination and the rise of fascism.

We will work hard every day for a borough where people don't just survive - we can all thrive.

People are suffering with the costs of higher bills and a government that feels like it just doesn't care. That means the ties that bind us become dangerously frail.

We all want to live in a place where people are cared for, where our environment is looked after and where our many amazing local businesses and community groups can thrive.

Our vision for Hackney mirrors our vision for the country. We want Hackney to be a place where everyone has access to genuinely affordable, good-quality housing, sustainable and accessible public transport with safe and healthy public spaces. We will defend the rights of migrants and stand up against the Hostile Environment created by politicians in Westminster.

These are our values as a borough and we will protect them.

Westminster is only five miles from Hackney, but decisions made there are often so distant and removed from the realities of our borough. This is why it's so important to have great local representatives who will stand up for their residents.

With the Hackney Greens we'll keep pushing the government for better standards of living for all: from proper housing support and an end to no recourse to public funds for migrants, to properly funding the NHS and care services, and demanding a fair tax on the ultra rich so that we tax wealth and not work. And of course, serious and urgent action to tackle the climate crisis.

I know that Zoë and Dylan, as our Mayor and Deputy Mayor, alongside a big team of Green Councillors, will work day in and day out to improve the lives of everyone in Hackney. We could not hope for a more passionate and committed team to champion our borough.

**Yours,
Zack Polanski**

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Every commitment in this manifesto has been created on the foundation of these core principles. As a Green-led council, we will demonstrate and live these principles every day, in how we interact with the community, develop policy, and deliver programmes and services. These principles are at the heart of Hackney Greens.

DEMOCRACY & POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

- The council is for everyone. We will bring greater participation, transparency, communication and accountability back to Hackney's local government.

ETHICAL USE OF COUNCIL MONEY

- We understand the responsibility of managing Hackney's budget and pension funds, and we will ensure the council's funding is not being used to fund genocide.

ANTI-AUSTERITY

- We reject the ongoing cuts to council budgets by the central government and will lead calls and action for a national, cross-borough, anti-austerity campaign, demanding a full restoration of funding. This will support and build on existing community organising.

WORKERS FIRST

- We know that Hackney is nothing without the people who keep our council, public institutions and beloved local businesses running. We will stand shoulder to shoulder with workers and the trade unions that represent them, demanding greater rights and respect.

ANTI-FASCIST

- We reject the rising far-right rhetoric that is enabled and pedalled by the central government and far-right political figures. We will stand side by side with our community in Hackney, particularly marginalised communities, and keep our borough as a place that welcomes, respects and supports our neighbours.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

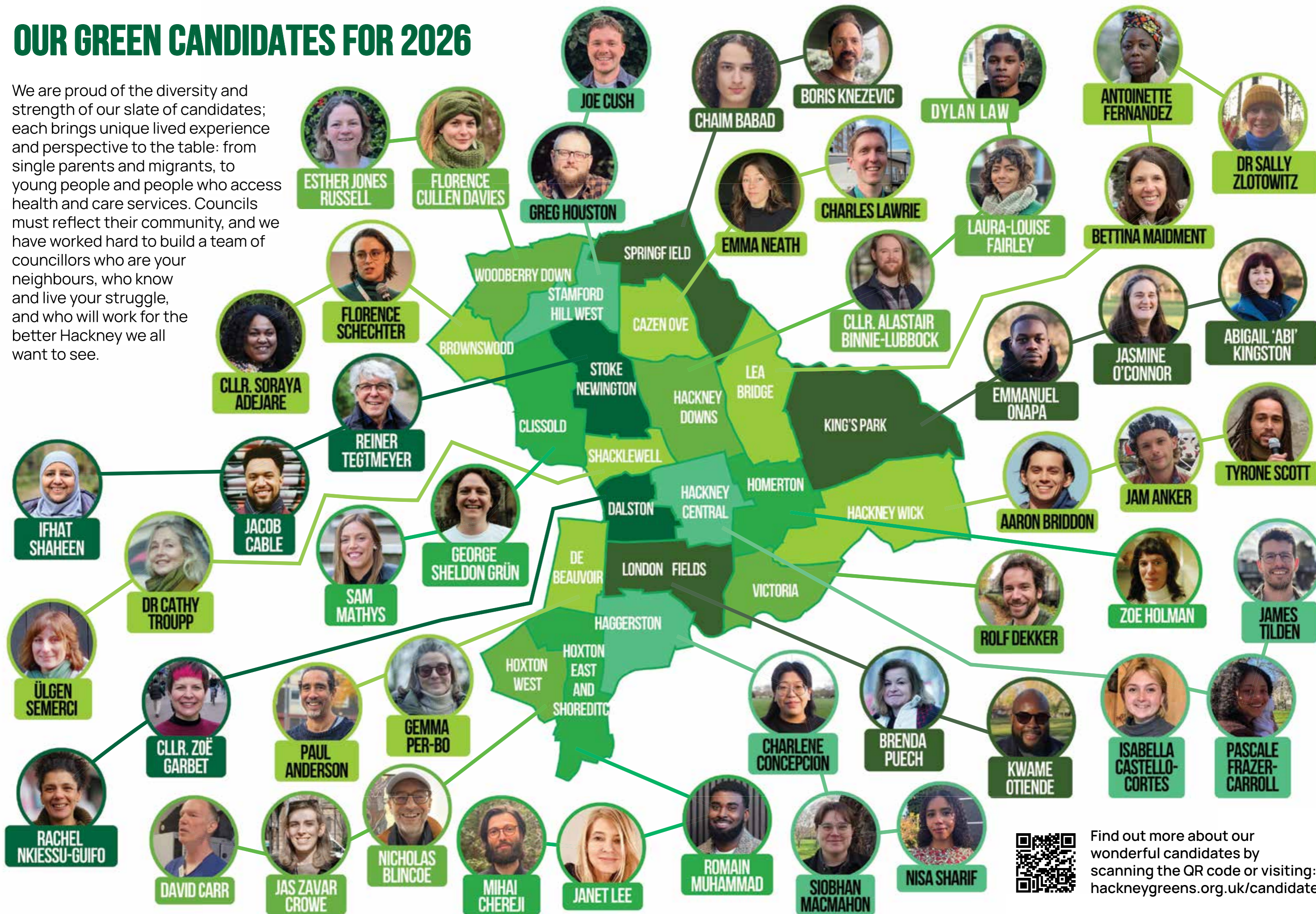
- We love and celebrate the diversity and vibrance of Hackney's community. We will always stand in solidarity with Black, racialised, LGBTQIA+ and Disabled communities and women, and centre their inclusion and rights in all that we do.

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

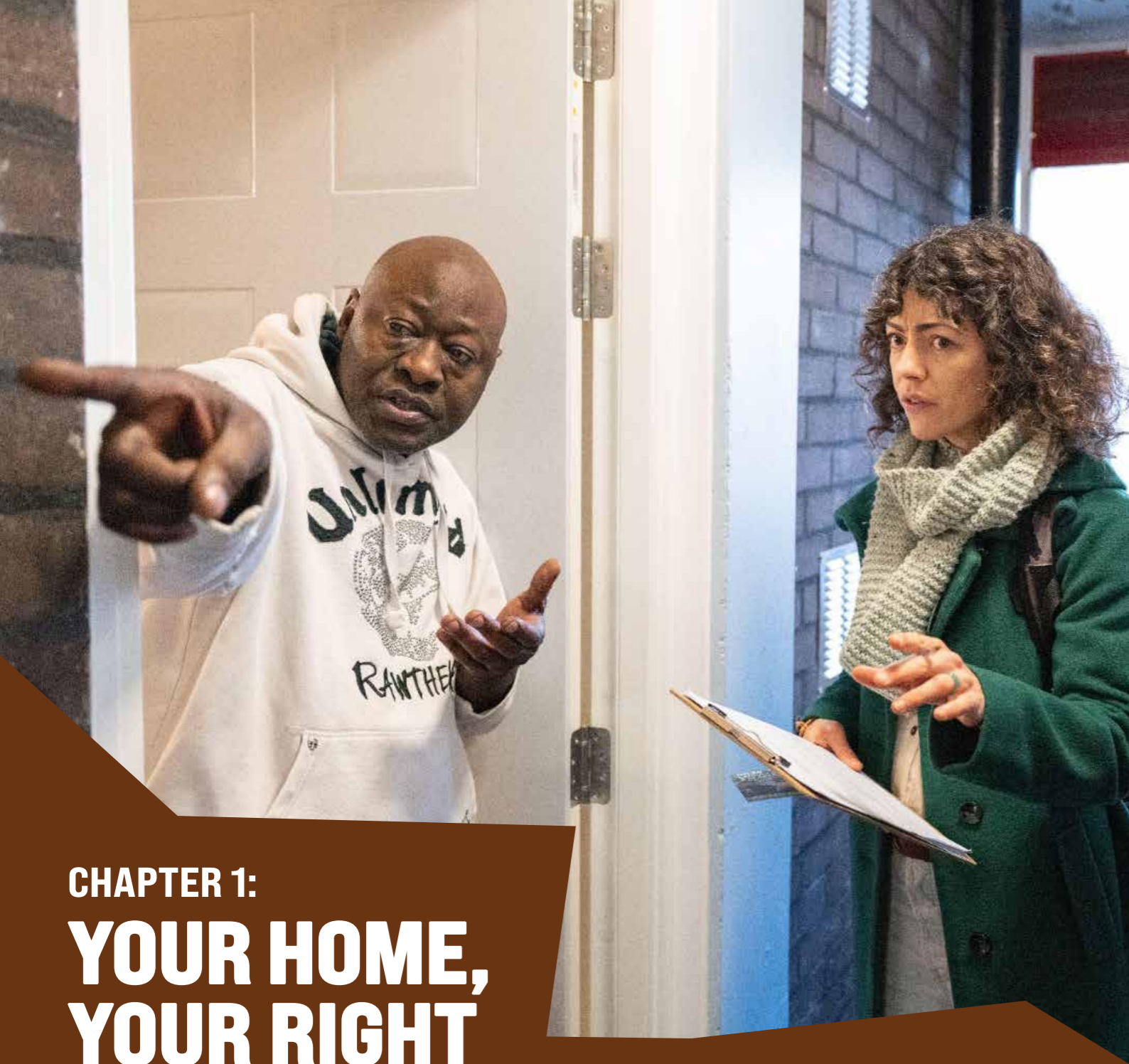
- We will transform Hackney for the benefit of its residents, future generations, and the planet as a whole. We understand that the threats to our community and environment are part of the same problem, and recognise that solving one cannot be achieved without solving the other.

OUR GREEN CANDIDATES FOR 2026

We are proud of the diversity and strength of our slate of candidates; each brings unique lived experience and perspective to the table: from single parents and migrants, to young people and people who access health and care services. Councils must reflect their community, and we have worked hard to build a team of councillors who are your neighbours, who know and live your struggle, and who will work for the better Hackney we all want to see.



Find out more about our wonderful candidates by scanning the QR code or visiting: hackneygreens.org.uk/candidates



CHAPTER 1: YOUR HOME, YOUR RIGHT

Everyone deserves to live in a home where they feel safe, comfortable, dignified and proud. In Hackney, this is not the reality for many of us and our neighbours.

We are determined to combat the greatest housing challenges facing Hackney residents, acknowledging that housing instability is one of the core drivers of poverty and social need. Our vision is for an affordable Hackney that everyone can call home.

DELIVERING THE HOMES WE NEED

Hackney residents face some of the longest average waiting times for council housing, particularly for family-sized houses. What Hackney urgently needs is affordable council housing, available to everyone who needs it, ensuring that residents can afford to stay in their borough. This requires the central government to rapidly invest in a mass programme of public housebuilding, refurbishing and retrofitting, and granting councils the power to locally end the Right to Buy scheme that has seen thousands of Hackney council homes sold since it was introduced.

But, while Labour stalls, the Greens will engage by all means possible, reviewing the council's Local Plan for Hackney to the benefit of our communities, not private developers. Crucially, we will expand Hackney's housing stock, cut waiting times for council housing and ensure access to housing that meets residents' needs.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Make building new council homes a core priority, using council-owned land and every available delivery route to increase supply of safe homes residents can actually afford.
- Push for Hackney Council pension funds to be used to purchase or buy-back many

of the council homes Hackney urgently needs.

- Work with neighbouring boroughs to establish a 'Housing for London' building company to build new, quality council homes and create local jobs.
- Deliver a new high-quality Traveller site and a negotiated stopping site.
- Work with Canal & River Trust to explore introducing Hackney's first community eco mooring. Permanent moorings will provide services, workshops and activities for the local community and will develop and maintain the area, and temporary moorings would be available for boaters in need.
- Commit to increasing the proportion of family-sized (3+ beds) and fully accessible council housing.
- Deliver a functional council home-swapper service to support residents to find homes that are the right size for their needs. For those downsizing from large council homes, we will provide a cash incentive, as well as dedicated staff time and digital assistance.
- Identify sites for new community-owned housing developments like community land trusts and cooperative housing.

FAIRER AND SAFER HOUSING

We all deserve a home that is safe, accessible and meets our needs. Yet many people in Hackney are trapped in homes that are cold, damp, or otherwise unsuitable, unable to access repairs.

In 2025, the Housing Ombudsman found that in almost 4 out of 5 cases, Hackney Council handled complaints poorly, with repeated instances of underestimating the urgency of service requests. Tenants deserve better and shouldn't have to live with unresolved issues like damp and mould, or have to make time for repeat visits for the same complaints. We want repairs to be completed right first time and to ensure that work is efficient and convenient for tenants.

We know that marginalised members of our community - especially disabled people, people fleeing domestic violence, and those struggling with debt - experience increased barriers to accessing suitable housing. We will address these barriers to accessing housing. The Greens will rebuild the council's relationship with tenants, ensuring we demonstrate best practice in the handling of complaints and delivering the right homes to those who need them.

Green councillors successfully pushed the council to introduce borough-wide landlord licensing in 2026, requiring landlords to register with the council, thereby improving standards through regulation.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Support and encourage the establishment of Tenants' and Residents' Associations (TRAs) on every estate in Hackney by 2030, to ensure residents' voices are heard.
- Phase out the use of bailiffs to collect council tax debt.
- Ensure that debt is not a disqualifier in applying for council housing, particularly for survivors of domestic abuse who are trying to find a safe home.
- Set a target of inspecting council homes within one week of a tenant repair request, group repairs for efficiency where possible, and implement an improved system for informing residents when to expect surveyors and repair teams.
- Review how long scaffolding is left up after works are completed to avoid unnecessary negative impacts on residents and cost to the council.
- Implement all recommendations from Housing Inclusion Hackney to improve housing allocation for families of children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).
- Ensure regular inspections and audits of temporary accommodation (TA), to mitigate safety risks and ensure good standards. Allow TA tenants to safely have visitors for improved care and

wellbeing.

- Bring more TA provision in-house, improving council oversight on quality and saving on outsourced provision.
- Review funding for rough sleeper support to identify direct grants for rough sleepers.
- End the practice of providing chairs in place of beds to rough sleepers during extreme weather.
- Lobby the national government to increase Local Housing Allowance and council funds for emergency housing support to help prevent homelessness.

SUPPORTING PRIVATE-SECTOR RENTERS

Private renters in Hackney are paying eye-watering sums in rent every month, while too many landlords are failing to maintain safe, decent homes, leaving our residents to pick up the bill. We must put an end to this. A Green-led Hackney Council will take a robust, zero-tolerance approach to tackling bad private landlords and will make improving private rented sector enforcement in Hackney a top priority.

As a London Assembly Member, Zoë Garbett held a Rent Commission to consider how rent controls would work in London, and she has relentlessly pushed the Mayor of London to back rent controls and fund renters unions.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Use the voice of the Mayor of Hackney to push for local rent control powers.
- Seek to expand landlord licensing to cover the whole borough, making sure renters in all areas of Hackney are protected from rogue landlords.
- Press the Metropolitan Police to provide better training for police officers on the law regarding renters' rights, so that officers are able to identify and stop unlawful evictions.
- Support leaseholders to hold managing agents to account, including setting up Right to Manage companies. Where the council has influence, we will set clear expectations of managing agents, challenge poor practice, and take action when standards are not met.
- Work with private landlords to make more rental properties fully accessible.

PLANNING WITH COMMUNITIES AT THE CENTRE

New developments in Hackney should be for the benefit of local people, yet communities are often excluded from planning and decision making. Too often, housing is built in the interests of developers and investors, not in the interests of the local community. Consultations frequently occur only after big decisions have already been made, and 'regeneration' has become another word for gentrification.

A Green-led Hackney Council will work to strengthen the council's planning department to enhance scrutiny of planning applications, keep a closer eye on private developers and hold them to account on their contractual obligations, and make sure residents have a say in the changes to their neighbourhood.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Ensure developers follow through on commitments to provide affordable homes, workspaces and community space, and take action against those that don't.
- Enshrine resident participation in new developments and council plans, such as by implementing resident-led plans for the future of our housing estates.

- Review and monitor 'partnerships' between the council and property developers, including all estate regeneration projects, ensuring the needs of the community are always the priority.
- Launch an accessible design review panel of Disabled residents.
- Support Community Right to Buy whereby social landlords and community-led housing organisations are given the right of first refusal on poorly maintained and empty homes.
- Support Zane's Law, legislation which would protect public health by mandating a public register of potentially contaminated land.
- Work with developers to ensure sufficient housing stock for larger families, including reviewing provisions around double-dormer extensions.

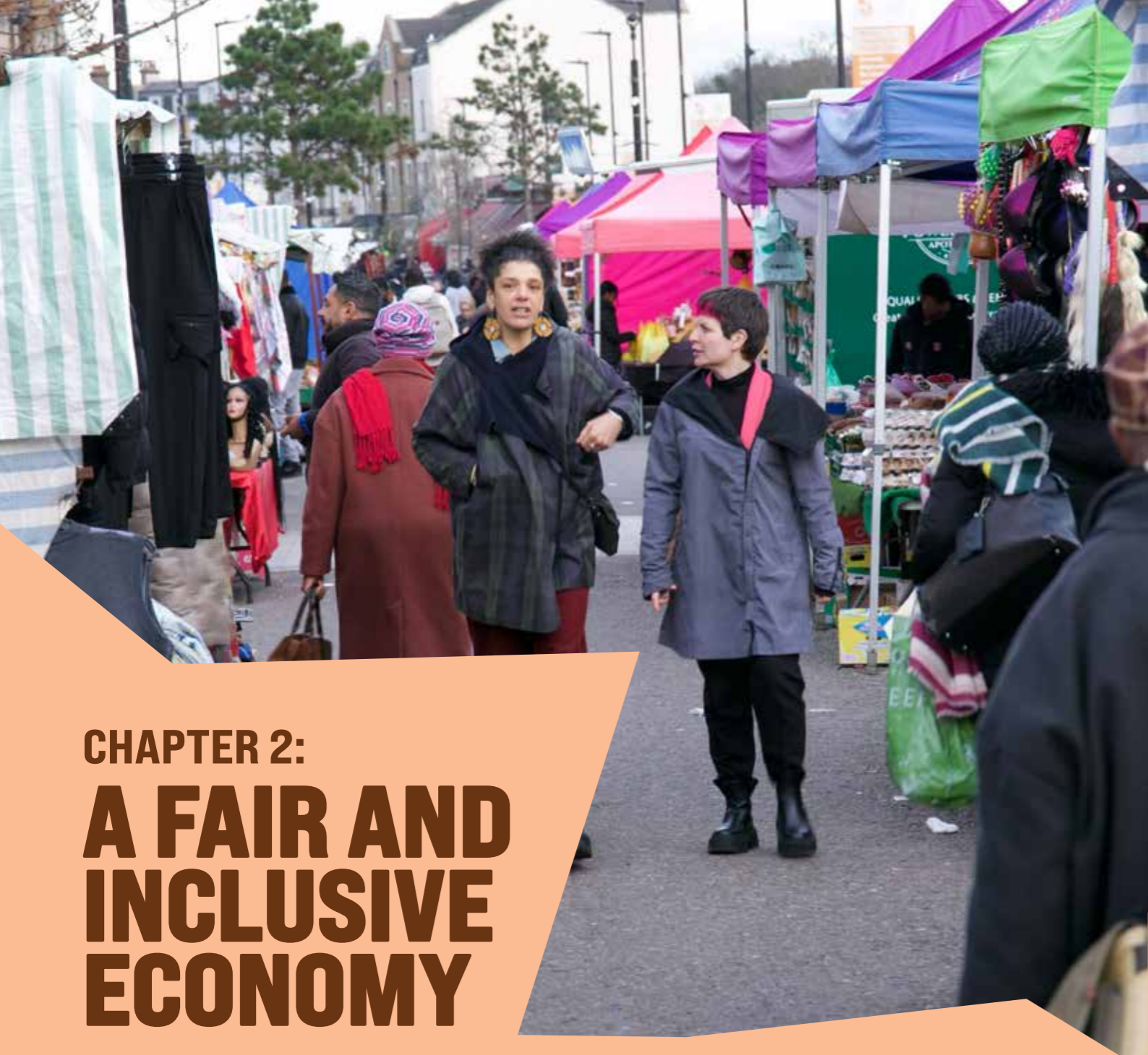
HOUSING FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Extreme weather caused by the climate crisis is already here. Summers are getting hotter and flooding is becoming increasingly common. We urgently need to prepare and adapt our homes and buildings to ensure they can withstand the realities of a changing climate and volatile energy costs, particularly for older residents, children, Disabled people, and those living in higher-risk homes.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Commit to adapting and retrofitting council housing stock to improve energy efficiency and make Hackney homes more resilient to extreme weather, such as by increasing heat pump provision in council housing.
- Provide a free retrofit advice service for the private sector to help people find trusted suppliers and navigate planning regulations.
- Prioritise the refurbishment of buildings over demolition, to protect our environment, use what we have, and avoid the increasing gentrification of our neighbourhoods.
- Introduce higher standards for energy efficiency and climate resilience in new developments through planning regulations, prioritising nature-based methods.
- Allow for more energy-efficiency retrofitting of homes in conservation areas.
- Lobby the national government to expand the funding and eligibility for the Warm Homes Local Grant to encourage the replacement of gas boilers with heat pumps in the private sector.





A MORE AFFORDABLE HACKNEY

Hackney residents are being priced out of the borough. With 40% of our community living in income-deprived households and food poverty at record levels, we can't afford not to act.

A Green-led Hackney Council will tackle the borough's cost of living crisis at its root by addressing the cost of housing, food, prescriptions, and other essentials. We will safeguard Hackney's vital services by supporting our trade unions and providing them with representation on key committees, and will campaign hard against continued top-down government austerity.

Our goal is simple: a Hackney you can afford to stay in.

A Green-led Hackney Council will host a summit of anti-cuts councils to coordinate a nationwide campaign to pressure the central government for overhauled local government fiscal powers and funding that truly meets need.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Phase in a 100% council tax relief to Hackney's lowest-income residents.

- Work to increase take-up of key benefits like Pension Credit and Attendance Allowance and other financial support, especially for residents without internet access, so that everyone is receiving the help they are entitled to.
- Support the establishment of resident-led food co-operatives on every major Hackney estate by 2030, bringing down the cost of food through bulk-buying.
- Explore the introduction of financial support for prescriptions for residents with lifelong health conditions not covered by national exemption rules.
- Expand apprenticeships and practical training routes by working with local businesses and community organisations so that more Hackney residents - especially young people leaving education - can access meaningful employment in the borough's local economy.
- Enable residents to access affordable credit by partnering with a London-based credit union and avoiding profit-hungry multinational banks.

CHAPTER 2: A FAIR AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

Small businesses and market traders have been the backbone of Hackney's economy for generations. But in recent years, our high streets have been taken over by major corporations that extract wealth from our communities to generate profit for the super rich. We need a local economy that prioritises the working class, protects the independence of our local high streets and markets, and keeps wealth in Hackney.

BACKING HACKNEY'S INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES

The cost of living crisis has laid bare how large corporations cash in while everyone else struggles to pay for the basics. The best defence against this is a stronger local

economy run by and for the people of Hackney.

Hackney Council has a vital role to play - it is a major local spender, landlord, employer, and convenor. A Green-led Hackney Council will use this power to shift the balance away from multinational corporations and towards local businesses, social enterprises, co-operatives, and community organisations. We will prioritise local, ethical procurement so that, wherever possible, public money works harder for residents, supports decent work, and keeps the money spent here circulating here. We will encourage and support the borough's largest employers to take the same approach.

Markets such as Ridley Road reflect Hackney's long history as a borough shaped by migrant communities and independent traders. These markets should be recognised as vital economic and cultural infrastructure for Black and global majority communities, and protected from displacement and increasing running costs.

Hackney's markets and high streets are a vital part of the borough's local economy and provide accessible routes into small business and entrepreneurship. We will build a thriving ecosystem of local businesses and make Hackney a place where it is affordable to start and run a viable business, with opportunity rooted in every neighbourhood.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Convene a summit of independent businesses and provide targeted rate relief for small local businesses and voluntary and community organisations,

to help protect them from being priced out of the area by large corporations.

- Develop a long-term plan to increase footfall and sustainability across the borough's markets, improving infrastructure, affordability, trader support and logistics of Hackney's markets to properly meet the needs of traders.
- Launch a night market by 2030.
- Work with small and independent businesses to create a 'Hackney Cooperative Buying Network', a council-facilitated, democratically governed bulk-buying scheme that reduces overheads by pooling demand for commonly used products and materials, prioritising local suppliers.
- Use any and all new powers granted to local councils by the government to prevent the establishment of new gambling shops on our high streets.
- Ensure strong enforcement of the council's sustainable procurement strategy, maintaining its focus on insourcing, buying from local and socially minded businesses and challenging spending on external consultants wherever possible.
- Transfer all public services currently outsourced to extractive, for-profit companies to locally owned businesses and community enterprises wherever possible.

BRINGING HACKNEY BACK INTO COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

Over decades, land and property values in Hackney have soared as gentrification has spread. Too often, the benefits have flowed upwards and outwards, while local people are left paying the price.

Profiteering landlords and developers extract wealth from our neighbourhoods, while tenants are pushed out, community spaces sit underused and potential development sites are left empty.

We will prioritise the needs of residents when it comes to ownership and the use of land in Hackney. We will reassess how we use council space to ensure equity of access amongst voluntary organisations and community groups. We will protect Hackney's heritage by supporting the conservation of community assets and local landmarks, including Ridley Road Market.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Commission a public, borough-wide investigation to find out 'Who Owns Hackney'. This investigation will bring to light the reality of how our land and buildings are used, and in whose interests, and will inform our plan for how we give communities a say in the use of space in Hackney.

- Supercharge efforts to see our community halls used by the communities around them and bring community spaces back into use with an 'Alive and Flourishing Strategy' - a borough-wide plan to map, reimagine and reactivate the underused or overlooked parts of Hackney, prioritising fair and equal access to space.
- Support community groups to use Community Right to Buy powers and community asset transfer to protect valued local buildings and spaces, and enable greater community use.
- Make use of Compulsory Purchase Orders to buy long-term empty shopfronts, bringing them back to life and utilising them to support local businesses and community groups.





CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY SAFETY, HEALTH & WELLBEING

Hackney can be a borough where everyone lives safe, healthy and thriving lives, supported by services that meet their needs. We will take a care-centred approach to crime, safety and public health. By providing residents with tailored, holistic, social care, drug services that focus on prevention instead of punishment, and community-led public safety solutions, we can transform our borough into one where everyone is safe, healthy and cared for.

CHALLENGING DISCRIMINATORY POLICING

The current model of policing doesn't work. When government ministers and the Mayor of London throw more money at the Metropolitan Police, it props up a failed system. For decades, the current system has led to the over-policing and under-protection of Black communities, and empty words about reform have led to no meaningful improvements; Black people are still up to 48 times more likely to be stopped and searched in wealthy neighbourhoods in London.

The 2023 Casey Review confirmed what many communities already knew: the Metropolitan Police is institutionally racist, homophobic, sexist and misogynistic. Our residents and schoolchildren have experienced this institutional, intersectional discrimination and what it means in practice. We cannot accept this system.

Successive governments have created an economy, housing market, justice system and education sector that pushes those already at crisis point into debt cycles and disempowerment that often lead to crime. We need evidenced-based, community-led solutions that are proven to keep people safe and out of cycles of crime. We need the police to be broken up into smaller, localised units which are accountable to our communities, and for funding to be diverted away from the police and towards preventative, community safety schemes.



Our candidate for Mayor of Hackney, Zoë Garbett, has challenged the Metropolitan Police forcefully, at every opportunity. As a Councillor in Dalston, Zoë has stepped into frontline situations with market traders and food delivery drivers, to challenge their treatment by the police. As a London Assembly Member at City Hall, Zoë has also challenged the Met Commissioner in person, asking why his promised reforms keep failing to materialise and questioning if they ever will.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Adopt a holistic approach to safety and crime-reduction that acknowledges structural inequalities as a major driver of crime and prioritise funding for prevention and early intervention services.
- Demand proper funding for community solutions and youth support organisations with recognition of the

special role for Black-led organisations and advocates, as well as a reform of youth justice and education to serve our communities.

- Listen to and work with community organisations raising concerns about policing practices to address challenges in a community-centric way.
- Push to end the 'prostitute caution' which is discriminatory and harmful to sex workers and back calls to decriminalise sex work.
- Work with the Metropolitan Police to pause the use of Live Facial Recognition technology in Hackney and advocate for its use only in narrowly defined circumstances.
- Push to end the discriminatory policing of delivery riders and drivers, recognising that many are migrants facing exploitation, harassment and unjust enforcement.

YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST

Peaceful protest is a cornerstone of democracy and social justice. The right to peaceful protest has been under attack, and our candidate for Mayor of Hackney, Zoë Garbett, has relentlessly held the Metropolitan Police to account by challenging their misuse and abuse of powers, and disproportionate use of force against the pro-Palestinian movement.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Defend the right to peaceful protest and champion Hackney's long history of non-conformism and peaceful protest.
- Respect peaceful protest on council land in visible places, such as in front of Hackney Town Hall.
- Use council buildings and communications to celebrate our history of peaceful protest.
- Defend London citizens' right to protest from encroachment by the Metropolitan Police and the government, and explore how to foster advocacy of social justice throughout our borough through partnerships with diverse community organisations.
- Support schools and youth clubs to create spaces where younger generations can explore important causes of social justice and gain political education, such as in libraries, schools and the Hackney Museum.

TAKING A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO DRUG REGULATION

Despite billions of pounds being spent on drug enforcement every year, deaths are rising and the supply of illegal drugs is

becoming increasingly unpredictable and deadly. Nationally, drug deaths have increased every year for the last 13 years and still, the government puts up barriers that prevent local areas from delivering the services that we know reduce harm.

We know that drug laws are used as a tool to over-police Black and Brown communities. The Mayor of London's drug commission reported last year that Londoners of Black heritage are three times more likely to be stopped and searched on suspicion of cannabis possession than white people, despite being no more likely to be found in possession of the drug.

If we are serious about saving lives, we must challenge archaic and ineffective drug laws that continue to criminalise people, and the stigma, scaremongering and misinformation that prevents public health approaches from being properly adopted.

Our candidate for Mayor of Hackney, Zoë Garbett, with her background in the NHS and public health, has worked on reducing drug harm for over a decade. Zoë has pushed the Mayor of London to use his powers and platform to save lives and reduce harm, such as by delivering his drug commission report, supporting safe drug consumption rooms, and pushing police to carry naloxone (a counteractive tool for opioid overdoses).

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Ensure that council officers working in appropriate public-facing services have access to harm reduction tools including naloxone.
- Protect funding for alcohol and other drug treatment services and support further harm reduction measures like Heroin Assisted Treatment.
- Work with the police to deprioritise the policing of cannabis possession, in line with the Mayor of London's drug commission.
- Push for the Metropolitan Police to conduct an evidence-based review of stop and search as a tactic to evaluate its effectiveness and the impact it is having on people in Hackney.
- Work with other cities leading harm reduction efforts to lobby the government to allow local areas to set up safe consumption rooms (overdose prevention sites), like the Thistle in Glasgow.
- Call on the government to deliver a genuine public health approach to drugs, that includes a safe supply, legal control and regulation, access to care, and policies rooted in evidence.

PREVENTING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SUPPORTING VICTIM-SURVIVORS

Hackney Green Party stands with and supports victim-survivors of all domestic abuse. We understand that domestic abuse often escalates over time, meaning that early action is key to preventing further harm. We will move away from a system that centres risk assessment on victim-survivors and instead focus assessment on perpetrators – the source of harm. We will prioritise providing victims with access to safe, community-based spaces to disclose their experiences and rebuild independence.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Look to commission community-based domestic abuse services.
- Ensure strategic alignment with children’s services and early intervention of domestic abuse.
- Work with the police to identify and stop the most prolific offenders.
- Advocate for a firewall to be established between the police and the Home Office to prevent the sharing of victim-survivor immigration status, a practice often used by perpetrators to stop victims speaking out.

CARING FOR OUR RESIDENTS

Adult social care is a vital and substantial part of Hackney Council’s services. Our aim is for everyone to be able to live their lives their way and have sufficient support to do the things that make them happy. In line with our ethos of empowering local residents as experts in their own lives, we want to focus on how we can create a collaborative, community-led approach to social care. This approach is more holistic, and allows for the delivery of support beyond just those who meet statutory eligibility for support.

We want adult social care to serve all residents and we will address the current gap in provision by empowering working age Disabled residents through improved training for council staff and better communication with working-age Disabled residents.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Expand our approach to adult social care to encompass a broader range of community partners and non-profit organisations, and proactively connect residents with a wider range of local resources and support.
- Establish community-led support hubs across the borough, where people can access social care support in a non-institutional setting.

- Encourage, promote, and support non-profit organisations to provide care such as care cooperatives, social enterprises or community interest companies, ensuring good working conditions for workers and personalised, considerate care for service users.
- Work with the local NHS trust to support and extend social prescribing capacity, and ensure coordination and joined-up working across the different services for countering loneliness and isolation.
- Work with Disabled residents to identify gaps in provision and, building on feedback and experiences of our residents, help identify any training and development needs of the Adult Social Care workforce.
- Explore ways to improve access to independent living options for working-age Disabled residents in Hackney.
- Fully support the Changing Places campaign and aim to provide a changing places toilet in every council building, as well as developing a Changing Places and Accessible Public Toilet Strategy for Hackney to ensure the needs of all our residents are met.

MAKING SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

Sport and physical activity should be part of everyday life in Hackney – boosting our health, wellbeing, and community ties. But many people do not have access to the space they need to get active. Local organisations like Hackney Women’s FC and Hackney Wick FC lack dedicated pitches in Hackney and are having to train and play matches out of the borough.

Increasing access to space for sports and exercise benefits everyone. A Green-led Hackney Council will unlock more places to play and exercise by transforming disused council sites and reimagining estate greens as potential spaces for sports, and will make sure our leisure centres are as accessible, affordable and sustainable as possible. Our vision is for healthier residents, stronger communities and an accessible Hackney where everyone can thrive.



A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Use planning powers to push developers to include more accessible sports facilities and recreational space in new developments.
- Help identify training grounds and club space for local football teams either in Hackney or a nearby borough through partnership with neighbouring councils and organisations.
- Work closely with Disabled residents and advocates to understand opportunities and gaps in provision in accessing sports and wellbeing facilities in the borough, as part of our inclusive approach.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Protect our libraries from further cuts, reinvest in library staffing and stock to meet demand, and improve accessibility of the buildings. Library staff and unions must be at the heart of these decisions.
- Work to enhance our libraries' events and activities, in collaboration with local partners.
- Create designated 'friendship spaces' in each library, where people can come to connect with neighbours and members of the community, to help tackle loneliness and isolation in the borough.

PROTECTING OUR LIBRARIES

Hackney libraries are a vital part of our community life, offering people warmth on a cold day, quiet when home feels crowded, and connection when life feels isolating. We want libraries to be spaces that give every resident the chance to learn, grow and belong. Our libraries provide the foundation for a friendly, more connected borough. We will champion them, invest in them, and reimagine them as the social hubs our communities deserve.



CHAPTER 4: GROWING UP IN HACKNEY

It takes a village to raise a child, and in Hackney, our village is made up of families, carers, teachers, youth workers, health and social workers, community organisations, faith groups, neighbours and young people themselves. But Hackney families are facing enormous challenges and we want to work to fix what's broken, get the basics right, and ensure every child can thrive.

GIVING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THE BEST START IN LIFE

Hackney has one of the highest rates of children growing up in income-deprived households in the country. For children and young people from marginalised communities, support is needed even more to overcome the deep inequalities entrenched in our society. Yet funding for youth services has almost halved since 2010 and spaces available for our young people are rapidly diminishing. This has been a false economy. For every £1 invested in youth work the community gets up to £6.40 back. We will aim to increase funding for youth services and lobby the national government to properly fund councils to provide a comprehensive programme of youth centres and more youth workers to meet local needs.

We will prioritise building children, youth and family services around strong, consistent, trusting relationships, and embed trauma-informed, anti-racist, and anti-poverty approaches across all services, enabling better outcomes for all.

Every young person in Hackney deserves a trusted adult in their corner, a safe place to go, and opportunities to grow and thrive.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- **Grow our Children and Family Hubs and transform two into Neighbourhood Care**

Hubs where both children and their carers can access support, activities, advice and respite. We will consult residents, carers and young people, especially those from marginalised groups, in decision-making about our care hubs.

- **Review recent nursery fee rises and work with families and providers to implement alternative fee structures. We will continue to lobby the national government for free, universal, high quality early years care.**
- **Work to keep children in care in the borough so they can stay at their school, keep their friends, and remain close to the people who support them, minimising the placement moves as much as possible.**
- **Commit to involving young people, especially those from marginalised groups and who have spent time in care, in decision-making about children and youth services.**
- **Fight for youth workers to be treated like other public sector professions - with fair pay, good supervision, secure jobs, and improved professional recognition.**
- **Support the long-term sustainability of youth and community organisations, particularly Black-led organisations and their provision of community-led approaches.**

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO THRIVE AT SCHOOL

Our vision is for a nurturing education system that puts wellbeing first and supports students and teachers alike, whichever school they are in.

Poverty and hunger remain some of the most urgent challenges facing our children, with the National Education Union warning how deeply these issues affect children's ability to learn. Yet our education system still takes too narrow a view on 'behavioural or learning issues' often disregarding the links between these underlying issues and the stress felt by children at school. Inspired by organisations like No More Exclusions, we're committed to a new vision for education - one that puts care, wellbeing, and a true sense of belonging at the heart of every classroom.

We will strengthen partnership and accountability with students, families, schools and communities in addressing concerns raised by students and families, and ensuring every child is supported to remain in education. We will put in place the support and training needed to make all our schools safe places for learning and where the needs of all our children are identified early and are met consistently and reliably.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- **Ensure all post-16 education providers working with the council carry out**

robust Equality Impact Assessments to demonstrate how they are improving equal opportunities, taking real action to tackle racial and socioeconomic disadvantage, and making sure schools are safe and empowering for LGBTQIA+ children.

- **Improve access to early, independent advice for families navigating school exclusions and education decisions, including through strengthening local advice services, so concerns can be addressed early and fairly without unnecessary escalation.**
- **Lobby central government to reduce pressure and stress on pupils and teachers by ending high-stakes formal testing in primary and secondary schools, in line with evidence from the National Education Union.**
- **Lobby for the end of the Prevent duty, part of the central government's counter-terrorism strategy, which has been found to perpetuate discrimination against Muslim students.**

PROPERLY SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Far too many children and young people with SEND in Hackney are being let down by a system that is often slow, fragmented and difficult to navigate. When support is not in

GROWING UP IN HACKNEY

place early, needs escalate and children can become more vulnerable in school.

SEND provision is not just about specialist school places. It depends on the wider system working properly - including timely access to speech and language therapy, mental health support, and strong coordination between education, health and care. When this breaks down, support comes too late and the impact is felt beyond the classroom.

We want a system, informed by families' lived experience, that works with children and young people and those around them, providing timely, joined-up support so every child can thrive, feel safe, and be supported to remain in, or access, education. The council has a key role to play in preventing the failures of services that are causing harm, and must take all available steps to enact its duty of care to keep children and young people with SEND safe, and meet their needs fully.

We are standing candidates with lived experience of raising children with SEND in Hackney. Parents who are already actively engaged in improving outcomes for these children and young people. If elected, they will work closely with council officers and lead committees to drive meaningful improvements in SEND services.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- **Strengthen Hackney's SEND Information, Advice and Guidance Service to help resolve issues early and ensure families understand the support their children are entitled to.**

- **Strengthen the independence and influence of Hackney's Parent Carer Forum and ensure it has a clear role in raising systemic issues, informing council decision-making and ensuring services respond where support is not being delivered properly.**
- **Expand high-quality SEND provision, including within mainstream schools, so children don't have to go out of borough for their education. We will also ensure families are clearly informed about local education pathways, including post-14 and post-16 options.**
- **Strengthen inclusive practice in schools to improve support and ensure the provision set out in Education Health and Care Plans and Special Educational Needs plans is delivered.**
- **Improve transparency and accountability in SEND services so families know how decisions are made and services are performing; feedback from families must directly inform service improvement.**
- **Ensure any new national government education strategy is implemented equitably and where decisions need to be made, we will make them in partnership with pupils, school staff, parents and families.**



CHAPTER 5: MOVING AROUND HACKNEY

In Hackney, high density, limited street space combined with a cost of living crisis makes everyday mobility a question of opportunity and fairness. The Green ambition for transport is straightforward: prioritise safe, reliable, affordable options that enable people to move around Hackney without needing to own a car.

A Green-led Hackney Council will be ambitious on climate, ecology and air quality, and will take bold action to reduce traffic, decarbonise our transport system and tackle air pollution in Hackney and beyond.

CREATING SAFER AND GREENER STREETS

We want every resident to feel safe walking around our borough, yet people are hit by cars in Hackney at a higher average rate than other inner London boroughs. We fully support Vision Zero: no one killed or seriously injured on our roads by 2041. It should be neither inevitable nor acceptable that people are killed and seriously injured on Hackney's roads. But neither London nor Hackney are currently on track to meet that target.

We need to take radical steps to end road death and serious injuries, underpinned by an equalities-first approach - this means designing and monitoring our schemes with transparency so that they work for everyone.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- **Improve pedestrian safety by installing safe crossings around our borough, particularly along journeys to key places, such as markets, schools and hospitals, to ensure communities are well served.**
- **Partner with Transport for London (TfL) to ensure there are formal or informal crossings every 100 metres along streets across the borough, and programme eligible traffic lights at standalone crossings to allow pedestrians to cross immediately.**
- **Make school crossings a top priority, starting with the seven primary schools**

that currently have no safe crossings, and will create traffic-free School Streets for all eligible primary and secondary schools, as well as introducing them at colleges.

- **Fast track the delivery of the council's Main Road Strategy, ensuring everyone benefits from quieter streets, improved safety and cleaner air, sooner.**
- **Prioritise protected and fully accessible cycle lanes and networks of low traffic streets and publish an implementation plan for a cycle network that allows all Hackney residents to live within 400m of a high-quality cycle route.**
- **Increase cycle training provision for global majority and Disabled residents, through partnerships with schools, charities and local businesses.**
- **Seek funding to significantly increase cycle hangar provision throughout the borough.**
- **Negotiate improved deals with dockless hire bike companies to ensure that the £93 million dockless hire bike market in Hackney brings greater benefit to residents and the council, to improve affordability and reduce pavement clutter that can interfere with Disabled residents' mobility.**
- **Design and implement a Kerbside and Parking Strategy to bring new life to kerbside spaces for safer crossings, greater accessibility, public seating, climate resilience and increased urban biodiversity.**

- **Demand that any roll-out of driverless cars is highly regulated, with full accountability for corporations, and lobby for maximum local control over driverless cars.**
- **Lobby for the national roll-out of road charging on electric vehicles to be smart and fair.**

AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Many people in Hackney are, understandably, frustrated by our transport system; buses are unreliable, the tube is expensive, Disabled people face access barriers, and cycle and car hire schemes are often inaccessible due to cost or location. When public transport is unreliable, inaccessible or unaffordable, people lose trust in it and some turn to private cars instead. This creates a vicious cycle of more congestion, slower journeys and less safe streets.

The size of cars on our streets is growing exponentially, and the increased number of SUVs on our roads increases collision risk, worsens injuries outcomes and creates pinch points that slow down traffic, including for emergency vehicles, as well as causing additional wear and tear to the roads. Our aim is a 30% reduction in miles driven on Hackney roads by 2030.



A Green-led Hackney Council will lobby TfL for fully accessible public transport infrastructure, including more lifts and improved maintenance at Underground and Overground stations, better enforcement of travel hierarchies for disabled spaces on buses, and increased step-free access at stations across Hackney. We will also lobby the Mayor of London to commission an investigation into a free public transport pilot scheme in London. Making it easier to choose safe, accessible, affordable and space-efficient travel – walking, wheeling, buses, trains, cycling and car clubs – will reduce congestion and help everyone get where they need to go.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- **Partner with neighbouring boroughs to apply to the Mayor of London to create a Road Safety Premium for the largest cars driving into Hackney. The charge will not affect commercial vehicles and will only apply to vehicles entering the borough.**

This bold action will deter the use of oversized cars on main roads and any excess revenue will be invested back into local mobility.

- Introduce new car parking permit structures that reflect vehicle size, weight and emissions, to deter the use of SUVs and ensure people pay their fair share to improve the safety and accessibility of our roads.
- Work with neighbouring London boroughs, councils and TfL to expand a sustainable system of car-share clubs, suitable for large families, and look for ways to provide child seats, adequate storage, as well as fully accessible options.
- Work with TfL to investigate new bus priority measures on council-run roads, allowing buses to move reliably through our borough, and lobby to change bus lane operation to 24 hours a day and remove all car parking from bus lanes.
- Investigate a sliding-scale workplace parking levy for businesses that provide a substantial number of employee parking spaces, with exemptions for Blue Badge bays.

a meeting for residents to discuss their local LTN with council officers, and got improvements implemented.

Dalston Councillor Zoë Garbett has supported residents concerned about HGVs and road collisions, as well as residents on boundary roads, to call for funding for more crossings.

CREATING LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Hackney has one of the highest road casualty rates among London boroughs. It is unacceptable and heartbreaking that people can go out to run a simple errand and end up injured or worse, never returning home.

Congestion is rising and in an inner London borough like Hackney there is not enough road space for everyone to get around by car or even to park a car. We need streets that feel safe and convenient for more people to walk, wheel and cycle or catch the bus.

In Hackney, many measures have worked well in practice, including Stoke Newington Church Street and Lea Bridge's Leagrave and Hillstowe gate. But we recognise a hard truth: some Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) have not yet delivered fair outcomes everywhere. We've listened to residents, and we know that many people, especially Disabled people, carers, and low-income households have felt penalised by the rapid expansion of LTNs, and we understand how these changes may feel

Hackney Greens are already making our streets work better for residents.

Hackney Downs Councillor Alastair Binnie-Lubbock secured

rushed to people who need to use a car every day.

In particular, we recognise that the Chatsworth Road changes have become a flashpoint in the community, not because residents don't want safer streets, but because this is a particularly sensitive location with the river, hospital, and busy roads nearby.

But whilst rollout of recent schemes by the Labour-led council has been rushed, reactively scrapping schemes can recreate the original problem - bringing rat-running and road danger back, once again threatening the communities we want to keep safe. Our approach is to fix what's broken, and put safety, health and mobility at the heart of our work.

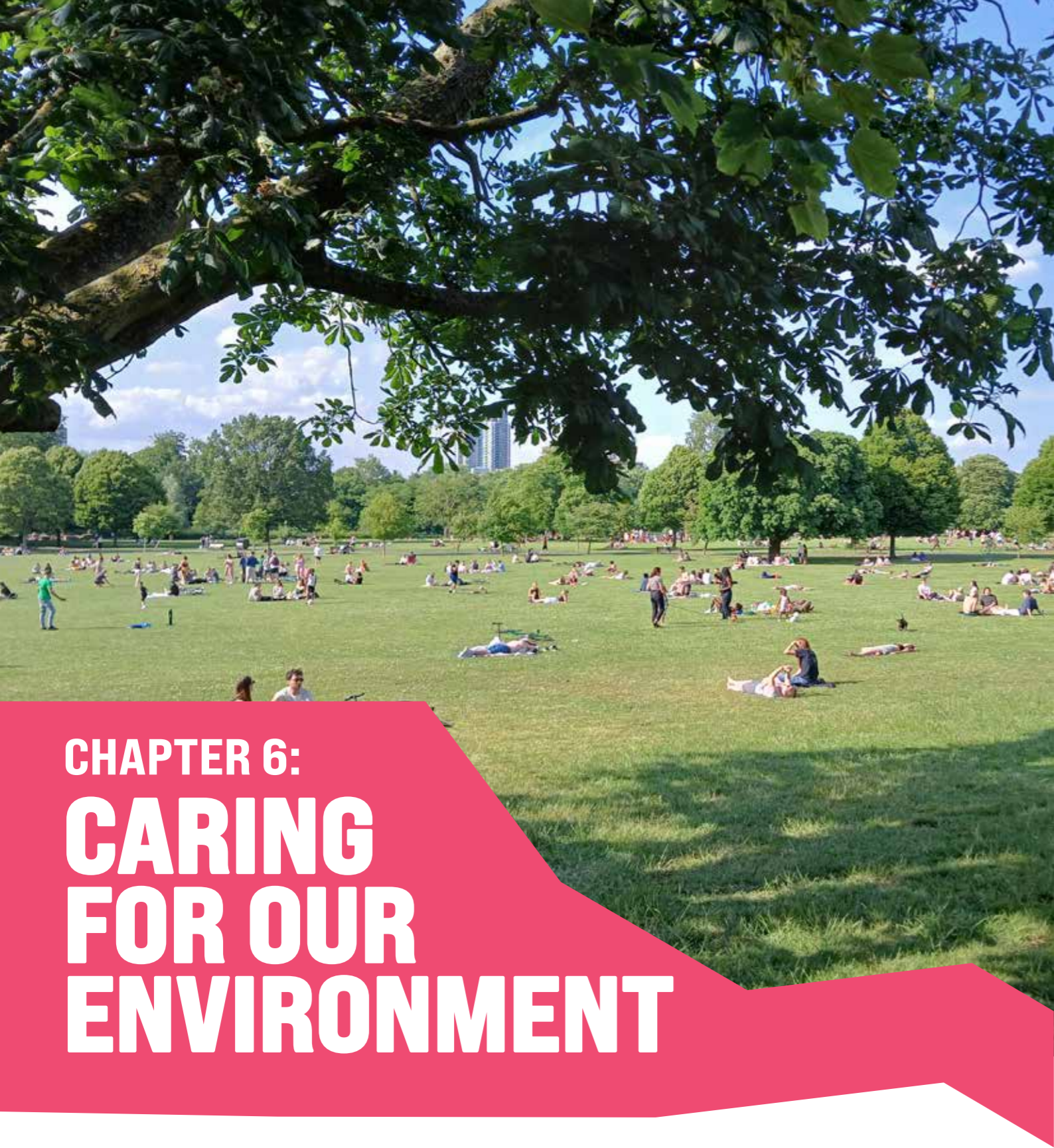
We won't compromise on our aims: fewer deaths and injuries, cleaner air, accessible neighbourhoods, better public transport and reduced car use. But we will commit to ending one-size-fits-all rollouts, inadequate engagement and patchy transparency.

This is our Green approach: community-led design, fair impact assessments, full data transparency, and scheme-by-scheme decisions.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- **Commit to improving the Chatsworth Road scheme. We will hold listening sessions, publish data, and keep adjustment options on the table, such as bus gate timings and locations, and expanding exemptions.**

- **Relieve bottlenecks on main roads through reduced parking and our new Road Safety Premium for the largest non-commercial through traffic.**
- **Not rush promises before the facts are clear. We will not reactively scrap schemes for the sake of making driving easier, as doing so may expose pedestrians on residential streets to fatal risk.**
- **Be fully transparent in evidence-gathering about LTNs, increasing the amount of data collected and making data fully accessible to the public, so we can make decisions together.**
- **Where we find disproportionate equalities impacts in LTNs, we will explore a fairer system of exemptions at bus gates and LTNs for Disabled residents, carers, social care staff and families of children with SEND.**
- **Develop a dedicated plan to help local businesses and charities adopt e-cargo bikes, expanding the network of cargo bike hire schemes across Hackney and advocating to the Mayor of London to adopt a system of targeted subsidies to aid this transition.**



REPAIRING OUR FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS

Whilst Hackney has benefited from an extensive tree planting programme over recent years, much more needs to be done to repair our wider ecosystems. Often, new initiatives aren't sustained, and there is not enough focus on protecting what is currently already there. A Green-led Hackney Council will take decisive action to rebuild our ecosystems and enhance local biodiversity.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Embed biodiversity across council plans by assigning a lead to co-ordinate action across departments.
- Prioritise ecosystem repair and create more diverse, resilient habitats in parks and public spaces, including ponds, dead wood, varied planting (prioritising native species) and connected green corridors.
- End routine pesticide use, including glyphosate and other herbicides, across council-managed land wherever possible.
- Safeguard local trees by maintaining up-to-date records of all ancient, veteran and notable trees in the borough, encouraging resident participation in suggesting trees to be protected, and use Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate.

- Protect and reconnect Hackney's ecosystems, such as by supporting the Rights of the River Lea campaign, strengthening wildlife corridors, and requiring biodiversity lost to development to be replaced on-site.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP AND ACCESSIBILITY OF GREEN SPACES

Access to nature should not just be the privilege of those who have the time and money to travel to it. We believe everyone should have the opportunity to be involved in stewarding the natural spaces around them and building a connection with the ecosystem on which we depend and are a part of.

When our natural environment is controlled from the top down, local people are deprived of agency in their green spaces, creating a disconnect with where they live. This affects feelings of community and has detrimental impacts on mental and physical health. We want residents to be involved in decisions that shape their local environment.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Train local biodiversity champions, and support community groups, Tenants and Residents Associations and schools to enact long-term environmental

CHAPTER 6: CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

We want to empower our communities to take the lead in protecting and nurturing the natural environment they live in. Our vision is for green spaces in Hackney to be cared for through community-led initiatives and partnerships with the council, allowing residents to have stewardship over local green space and get involved in efforts to protect nature and biodiversity. Through these efforts, we hope to improve residents' mental and physical health by enabling more time spent in greener, wilder spaces, and rebuilding a deeper connection between people and the ecosystems we are part of.

stewardship and build understanding of biodiverse spaces.

- **Reform green space maintenance in conversation with communities. We want community input on initiatives such as ending unnecessary leaf removal, defaulting to raking rather than leaf blowers, and piloting the transformation of plain lawn space in council housing into more wild and exciting accessible green space.**
- **Institute a 'garden buddy' system to connect people with green space they aren't able to look after with those who don't have green space but would like to do some garden work.**
- **Mark International Mother Earth Day 'Pachamama' (22 April), as a borough-wide week of climate action and learning, highlighting global majority and Indigenous perspectives on environmental stewardship.**

COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING AND INNOVATIVE USE OF LAND

People should have more control over where their food comes from, either through access to local food growing programmes, or by purchasing locally produced, healthy food at a reasonable cost.

We want to support community food growing, particularly by expanding 'right to grow' - an initiative whereby the council

makes land available for community gardens and food growing. This will increase access to affordable, locally grown food while strengthening community connections and food sovereignty. We will also ensure that any 'right to grow' is prioritised for those with least access to any growing space.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- **Connect schools with local food growing and nature access initiatives.**
- **Support the development of a multi-sector Hackney Food Partnership, in line with guidance from the national Sustainable Food Places partnership programme.**
- **Develop a borough-wide Food Strategy and Action Plan, setting out how we will achieve a vision of a healthy, sustainable and fair food system for Hackney.**
- **Use our Alive and Flourishing Strategy to unlock underused space for community gardens, biodiversity initiatives and food growing.**

KEEPING OUR STREETS CLEAN

Everyone deserves clean streets and neighbourhoods, but we know the current system isn't working. We want to work with residents to create local, tailored plans to reduce fly-tipping and littering in our borough, moving away from punitive measures

and instead focusing on innovation and collaboration.

We are committed to making Hackney a zero-waste borough by supporting residents and businesses to consume less and reuse and recycle more. Not only will the reduced waste help keep our streets clean, but consuming less will help us save energy and resources.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- **Establish a community skip which is moved around the borough, allowing residents to conveniently dispose of bulky items for free.**
- **Expand and improve awareness of reuse and repair hubs across the borough, ensuring that all residents have easy access to facilities for borrowing, reusing and repairing items.**
- **Work with local residents to workshop new and innovative ways of preventing fly-tipping and littering in their local area.**
- **Increase the size of street cleaning teams in the borough, providing local jobs that support our borough to look its best.**
- **Explore every option to cancel the rebuilding of the Edmonton incinerator and press for investigations into using the site for alternative, greener waste-management solutions.**
- **Seek to bring Estate Managers back**

to large Hackney estates, responsible for organising repairs and estate maintenance, supporting residents in removing bulky waste and keeping estates clean.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET, PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

We are facing a climate and environmental catastrophe, driven by the greed of fossil fuel giants and government inaction. We must act now, and take decisive and ambitious steps to protect our planet before it is too late. A Green-led Hackney Council will use every tool available to cut pollution, protect nature and accelerate progress towards climate goals.

This is not just an environmental issue, it is also a cost of living issue. The same fossil fuel companies destroying our planet are profiteering off the cost of living crisis while our energy bills soar. Investing in affordable, renewable, community-led energy programmes isn't just good for our planet, it's good for people too. Protecting nature and adapting our homes can support our local economy and create jobs in Hackney.

A Green-led Hackney Council will take bold steps to tackle the climate crisis and support local green business and suppliers diverting money away from fossil fuel companies and putting it back into the pockets of Hackney residents.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Commit to achieving the most ambitious World Health Organisation targets on air quality through our bold plans to tackle congestion, encourage active travel and lobby for national action to tackle domestic wood burning pollution.
- Work to expand the network of e-cargo bike hire schemes across Hackney.
- Create a borough-wide master plan for electric vehicle charging, ensuring a well-planned rollout of convenient and accessible charging points.
- Support and empower local community energy projects, which help lower energy bills for residents and businesses, as well as reducing carbon emissions.
- Support residents to access retrofit schemes, helping Hackney's housing become more energy efficient and future-proof.
- Introduce higher standards for energy efficiency and climate resilience, and aim for no natural gas in new developments, until the Future Homes Standard comes into effect.

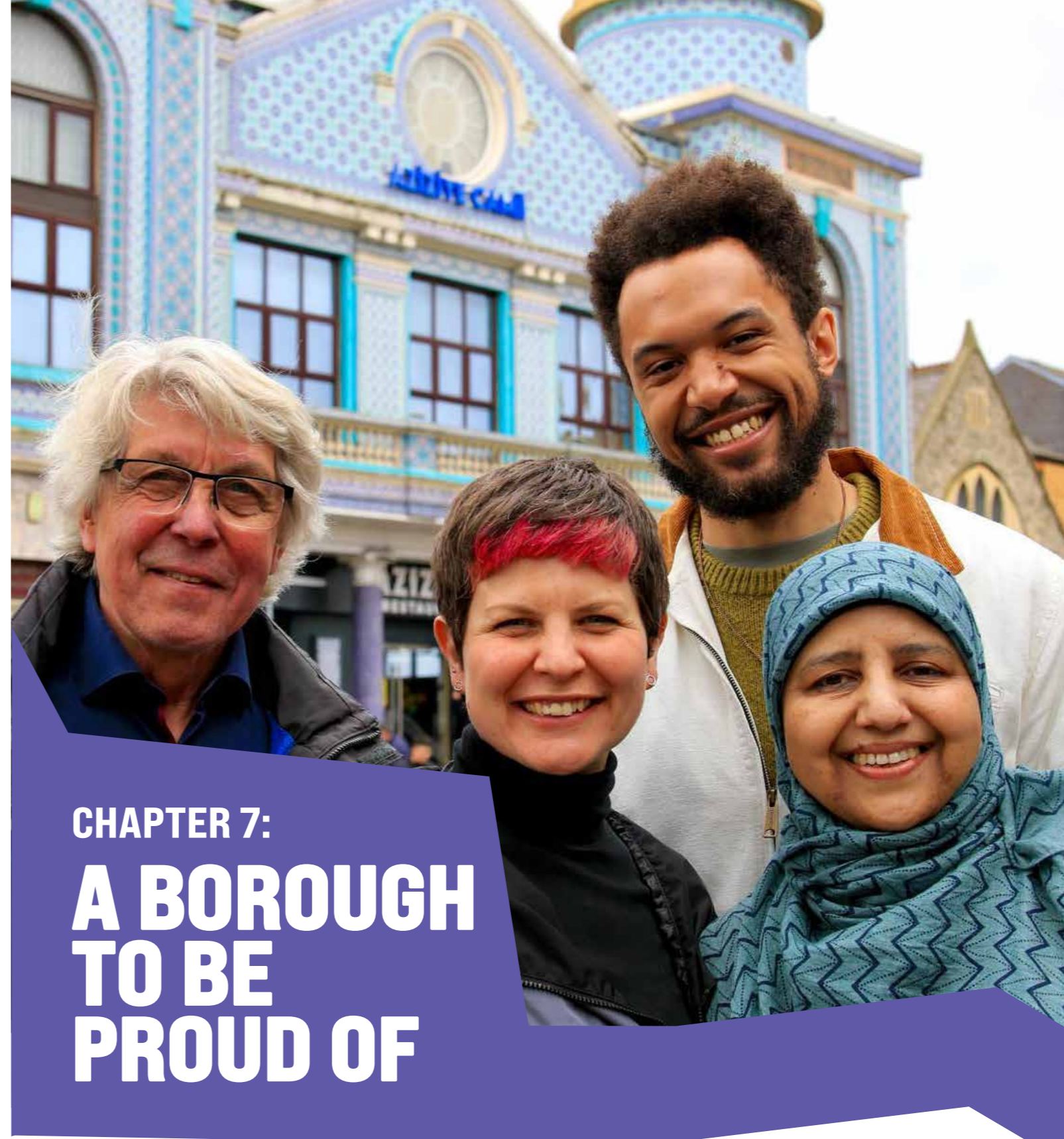
wetter winters. A Green-led Hackney Council will ensure we are doing everything we can to adapt our spaces to this more extreme weather - prioritising innovative nature-based solutions to reduce flood risk and help keep the borough cooler.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Support households to de-pave and re-green their gardens, both to encourage wildlife and ecosystem repair, but also to act as a natural defence against flooding and help reduce street temperatures.
- Continue expanding the use of rain gardens, making sure that native species are used as the default and always exploring including opportunities for other habitats.
- Explore where concrete in public areas can be replaced by green spaces to reduce flooding risk in high rain and increase water retention in hot weather, plus help to reduce street temperatures.
- Increase use of green roofs to contain rainwater and reduce temperatures of buildings and the area around them, in conjunction with solar panels.

ADAPTING TO OUR CHANGING CLIMATE

As the effects of the climate crisis worsen, we are expected to see hotter, drier summers and



CHAPTER 7: A BOROUGH TO BE PROUD OF

Hackney has a long and proud history of welcoming everybody, regardless of their background, especially those fleeing conflict, violence or the destruction of the climate emergency, in hope of a better life. A Green-led Hackney Council will uphold Hackney's welcoming and compassionate spirit, ensuring that our borough always stands for peace, justice and solidarity.

OPPOSING ALL FORMS OF HATE AND DISCRIMINATION

Greens oppose racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, misogyny and sexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, disablism, ageism and hate speech and actions of all kinds against any marginalised group. We will use every power at our disposal to challenge hate and discrimination at every level.

We commit to collaborating with diverse community partners, to draw on lived experience to understand and challenge structural racism, so that our work starts from an anti-racist position and acknowledges that residents are experts in their own lives. We will use every power at our disposal to tackle misogyny and sexism within council services and across the borough, as part of a broader campaign to prevent gender-based violence and discrimination in all its forms.

We will defend and protect the rights of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and continue to campaign for full legal rights and equal access to services for trans people, particularly in the wake of the 2025 Supreme Court ruling.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- **Defend LGBTIQ+ rights and make sure the borough is welcoming and safe.**
- **Work to tackle all forms of racism,**

discrimination and misogyny within the council and across the borough.

- **Expand the Youth Parliament’s leadership roles with elected Anti-Racism and Anti-Sexism Representatives and Disabled Advocates.**
- **Work to make sure trans residents can access all areas of public life. We will provide support for organisations to invest in inclusive facilities, such as accessible, gender-neutral toilets, and we will lobby nationally for the Code of Practice to be rewritten to allow for trans inclusion in single-sex services.**

SUPPORTING MIGRANTS IN HACKNEY

We welcome all the contributions that migrants and refugees make to British society and which help make Hackney the wonderful place it is today.

The current national Labour government has introduced policies that cause untold harm to migrants and their families, and have used inflammatory rhetoric against migrants, emboldening the far-right to the point where we now have fascists marching on our streets. This is unacceptable.

We are proud that Hackney is recognised as a Borough of Sanctuary, but this can only be upheld by ensuring that positive words become real actions that can make a difference in people’s lives.

The Green Party seeks to establish a system that promotes social cohesion, and supports and encourages all migrants to put down roots in their new home. We want a Hackney where people from all walks of life can be part of a thriving and caring community, and we are proud to stand with migrants and refugees.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- **Continue to invest in Hackney’s vital immigration advice services, and seek additional funding to support the expansion of this service.**
- **Ensure that those without documentation are given the help and support they need to regularise their status, and take steps to extend council services such as rough sleeping and domestic violence support so that immigration status isn’t a barrier.**
- **Proactively work to increase awareness of immigration advice services and ensure that immigration services are accessible to all, such as by integrating childcare facilities with free English for Speakers of Other Languages classes, and providing more opportunities for migrants to access services in their own languages.**
- **Ensure that people accessing our services can do so knowing that their information will not be shared with immigration enforcement agencies.**
- **Invest in training for residents who**

want to become migrant advisors, to help residents provide trusted advice to migrant neighbours in a non-institutional setting.

- **Appoint a councillor as a Migrant Champion to act as an advocate for migrant residents, and for migrants’ rights issues within the local council and as part of the Migrant Champions Network.**
- **Lobby the government to end ‘no recourse to public funds’, and in the interim fill this gap in service wherever possible, including through access to free school meals, healthcare services and education.**

BECOMING A BOROUGH OF PEACE AND JUSTICE

Hackney’s communities are proudly global. From Jamaica to Nigeria, from Kurdistan to Spain, from Vietnam to Bangladesh, our residents’ ties reach across the world. We will act in solidarity with all those struggling for freedom, dignity and self-determination. We will oppose all forms of apartheid, militarism and occupation around the world, and call for an immediate end to arms exports, especially to regimes committing human rights abuses, war crimes, genocide or apartheid.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Declare Hackney a Borough of Peace and Justice.
- Support community-led campaigns in Hackney opposing the UK and international arms trade, including local groups campaigning against the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) London Arms Fair.
- Refuse any council data-sharing, joint commissioning or partnership arrangements with companies like Palantir, where technologies are derived from or linked to military intelligence, and press our NHS Trusts to do the same.
- Promote peace education in Hackney's schools and youth programmes wherever possible, working with local groups to build global citizenship, human-rights awareness and anti-racist solidarity.
- Campaign to revive and expand the 'Knowledge is Power' programme - a leading anti-colonial Black-history course previously taught at Hackney's BSix College - across Hackney's education system wherever possible.

ETHICAL TWINNING AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Despite repeated, mass community calls for de-twinning, the Labour-led Council has

consistently refused to cut ties with the Israeli city of Haifa under the twinning (aka 'sister cities') scheme. In Haifa, Palestinian people live under occupation and apartheid by the Israeli state; this is not a city that reflects Hackney's values. Hackney's current and future twinning relationships should reflect our values, rather than undermine them.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- End Hackney's twinning with Haifa at the earliest opportunity.
- Undertake a full and continual review of all existing twinning relationships and oppose relationships where the partner fails to uphold equal human rights or participates in apartheid, systemic oppression or genocide.
- Explore new twinning models rooted in solidarity - partnering with municipalities engaged in peacebuilding, climate justice, and local democracy movements, particularly in the Global South.



CHAPTER 8: CELEBRATING ARTS AND CULTURE

SUPPORTING ART AND CULTURE IN COMMUNITIES

Arts and culture are the lifeblood of community, and we want to champion, celebrate and empower Hackney talent and cultural diversity across the borough. We want a vibrant, community-led arts scene where residents have a say on public art, where our events reflect the diversity of our borough, and where everyone is welcomed, valued and able to participate.

We've listened to Hackney creatives; they need more affordable space to create and share their work. Meanwhile, countless council-owned and commercial properties

are lying empty. Filling commercial space with creative organisations boosts the local economy and creates opportunities for community engagement. Using our 'Alive and Flourishing' strategy to identify underused spaces in Hackney, we will solve two problems at once – properly utilising disused council space and providing more creative hubs for Hackney's iconic creative community.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Connect arts organisations and music groups with underused spaces in Hackney and link communities with local artists to transform empty community halls into inclusive arts spaces.

- Explore business rate relief to properties being used for arts and cultural activities.
- Commit to the Arts Council's 'All In Accessibility Standards' and explore grant funding for grassroots venues to improve accessibility.
- Use existing planning powers to push for better affordable workspaces for creatives, ensuring they meet community needs, as well as consideration for cultural and sports venues in new developments.
- Make arts careers sustainable by encouraging venues to pay London Living Wage.
- Continue to celebrate Hackney's diversity through celebrations, festivals and days of commemoration, and begin raising the Irish Traveller flag at the Town Hall on the 25th of July to mark International Irish Traveller Day.
- Bring back Hackney Carnival, including to Ridley Road. We will work with carnival groups to cut costs, boost funding, and tap into new income streams like local sponsorship and community crowdfunding.
- Establish a new Carnival Hub in Hackney to support carnival groups who provide vital activities all year round.

PROTECTING HACKNEY'S ICONIC CULTURAL VENUES

Hackney's nightlife, arts and culture are part of what makes this borough feel alive. But many independent venues, pubs, clubs, grassroots music spaces and community cultural hubs are under growing pressure from rising costs, redevelopment, licensing and little protection from noise complaints.

These spaces are community infrastructure; they create jobs, platform local artists, give young people somewhere to belong, and sustain the social and cultural life of our borough.

We want to think differently about local funding, partnerships and support models for grassroots venues, prioritising supporting spaces at risk of closure and venues provide clear community value. In particular, we will stand up for venues and spaces disproportionately at risk, such as Black-led venues and other grassroots cultural spaces that are central to Hackney's identity and community life.

Our candidate for Mayor of Hackney, Zoë Garbett, has a track record of supporting venues at risk of closure, including those which are vital for queer communities in Hackney. As Mayor of Hackney, Zoë would continue to prioritise our thriving nighttime economy.



"Dalston Superstore is proud to support Zoë Garbett's candidacy for Green Mayor of Hackney. Zoë is our ward councillor in Dalston and has been an incredible advocate for Hackney's independent venues. Zoë came to Dalston Superstore to talk to us about the aims of their Mayoral campaign. We spoke about affordable housing, support for trans people in the borough, and ways in which Hackney can financially divest from genocide."

Endorsement from Dalston Superstore

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Continue to support the fantastic work of Hackney Nights, and seek to model future initiatives on this success, finding new ways to grow our night-time economy sustainably, safely and responsibly.
- Bring Stoke Newington Town Hall back to life as a major cultural and arts venue, championing creativity, community and inclusivity.
- Review how the council could use licensing, planning and procurement powers to ensure we are supporting

grassroots and independent venues.

- Protect longstanding venues by ensuring developers take responsibility for mitigating potential complaints from new developments.
- Demand that the Mayor of London stand up for local music and cultural venues with improved night-time travel plans and licensing.





CHAPTER 9: PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

PEOPLE-POWERED GOVERNMENT

Residents tell us they don't feel listened to, and that even when they participate in a consultation, they don't feel it makes any difference. Residents feel that politicians have become too far removed from the voters they represent, and many of our citizens have lost trust in 'politics-as-usual'.

For years, we - as Hackney community members - have been knocking on doors and talking with our neighbours to understand their concerns and champion their needs in the council chamber. There's a unique sense of pride and belonging in Hackney, and we listen to and respect residents as experts in their lives and communities.

As you'll have seen across this manifesto, we are already working to make sure diverse community groups play a greater role in

local decision-making. We are committed to delivering a truly people-powered government led by residents, so that we can create a better Hackney together.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Give residents real power to influence decisions by setting up a permanent and powerful Citizen's Assembly, bringing representative groups of people together, like a jury, to deliberate on specific issues, find common ground and make actionable recommendations to the council.
- Bring greater transparency to the council by publishing all meetings and activities of the Mayor of Hackney in a publicly available Mayor's diary.
- Establish a forward-looking strategic

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advisory group to give local Hackney-owned businesses a meaningful role in forging a shared vision for our borough.

- Democratise our council's systems by introducing participatory budgeting in Hackney to give people real power over how public money is spent in Hackney.
- Prioritise meaningful engagement in local politics for younger generations from diverse local communities by engaging with and empowering Hackney's Youth Parliament, including by enabling them to propose budget amendments.
- Demand that the national government legislate to allow committee systems of governance for local councils again, to provide greater democratic involvement of all councillors in decision-making, rather than concentrating power in the hands of the Mayor.
- Move to a single Deputy Mayor and review cabinet costs and work patterns.

WORKING BETTER WITH COUNCIL STAFF AND TRADE UNIONS

We've listened to the unions to build a vision for a Green-led Council. A Green-led Council will do things differently in partnership with our council officers. We will work collaboratively, consult meaningfully on workplace matters and give staff a real role in shaping decisions that affect their work. Beyond the council, we see workers across sectors - from healthcare

to libraries - demanding proper funding for their services and better working conditions. A Green-led Hackney Council will be honest and transparent with council staff, not least about the financial position of the council. We will treat recognised trade unions as experts and partners and work to strengthen trust between staff, unions and senior management. We will respect frontline staff, recognising that many are deeply rooted in Hackney and proud to serve the borough.

Without a council workforce and union movement that feel heard, respected and supported, we cannot expect services and local government to operate in the best possible way for Hackney's residents.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Introduce a Workforce Partnership Agreement between the council, its staff and recognised trade unions, setting out rights to voice, consultation, deputation and representation.
- Begin the preparatory work for a four-day workweek pilot to improve council staff wellbeing, increase staff retention and reduce reliance on costly agency staff.
- Stand in solidarity with workers engaged in disputes and fight nationally alongside unions for greater workers' rights.
- Reform the existing union-management liaison committee so it is truly independent, balanced and effective by creating an impartial independent chair and ensuring equal representation

between unions and management.

- Ensure unions are not discouraged from raising concerns through fear of losing space, funding or access.
- Introduce twice-yearly Mayor’s staff forums, giving council staff a direct route to raise questions and concerns with the Mayor.
- Phase out use of zero-hour contracts for leisure centre staff.
- Tackle pay inequality across Hackney Council, especially racial pay inequality.

ETHICAL INVESTMENT AND ADVERTISING

Hackney Council currently invests, through its pension fund, in global markets and funds that include companies profiting from genocide, war, occupation, environmental destruction and social degradation. This must end.

Hackney Green Councillors, Hackney Independent Socialist Collective Councillors, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Hackney for Palestine and so many other campaigners and activists have worked tirelessly to get the current Labour-led council to withdraw the council’s pension funds from complicit companies (a process known as divestment).

At almost every opportunity, the Labour-led council has blocked debate or a vote on this, despite council staff and pension recipients clearly stating that they want to see ethical

investments of their pension money. A Green-led Hackney Council would take action at the earliest opportunity.

A GREEN-LED HACKNEY COUNCIL WILL

- Initiate a full ethical divestment process from companies complicit in genocide, apartheid or ethnic cleansing in Gaza, the West Bank, and other occupied Palestinian territories, as well as in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and other regions facing genocide, conflict and exploitation.
- Work with other London boroughs and the London Collective Investment Vehicle (which holds Hackney’s pension funds) to establish new, transparent and genuinely ethical investment funds with no ties to the arms trade, corporations complicit in genocide, fossil fuels, or gambling and tobacco companies.
- Lobby nationally for local government pension scheme regulations to enshrine the right of councils to fully divest from companies complicit in human-rights abuses and other social and environmental harms.
- Build on the Hackney Green success in passing a local ethical advertising policy prohibiting high-carbon advertising on council sites by extending this to meat and dairy adverts. We will also lobby the national government to legislate to give councils more powers to block and remove advertising sites.

VOTE GREEN

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