

LONDON 2016 GREEN PARTY MANIFESTO FOR EAST LONDON



Sian Berry and Green candidate for Havering and Redbridge Lee Burkwood pledging fair fares for Upminster

People in East London are bursting with ideas to solve our problems. The Green Party manifesto for 2016 sets out plans for the Mayor and Assembly that build on these ideas.

Greens put fairness at the heart of all our policies for East London: building more homes with co-operatives and smaller companies not big developers, funding experts to help communities defend their estates and helping private tenants with rent controls and a renters' union so they can organise and stand together.

A Green Mayor and Assembly Members will make East London a better

GREENS IN CITY HALL HAVE ALREADY

- Provided crucial support to the campaign that scrapped the Thames Gateway Bridge.
- Secured cross party support for the Low Emission Zone and other policies to keep the most polluting vehicles off our streets.
- Revealed the loss of lower cost police community support officers and civilian staff that will put the officers back behind their desks.
- Exposed the loss of space and rising costs for small businesses and creative industries, forcing the Mayor and Transport for London to rethink policies redeveloping light industrial sites.
- Secured funding for the London Living Wage Unit which has put £60 million in the pockets of low paid workers.
- Won support for the East London Green Grid, helping with flood prevention as well as supporting wildlife and nature corridors.

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place to live by reducing traffic, improving public transport and helping people walk and cycle on safe streets to nearby shops and services.

Above all we will make sure City Hall listens to Londoners and involves them more directly in the decisions that affect our city.

HOUSING FOR ALL

A decent, affordable home is a basic human right and should be at the heart of any civilised city. However, London's housing is in crisis.

Most young people can't buy their own home and millions of us pay a huge proportion of our wages in rent. In Tower Hamlets now, 67% of the average take-home pay goes on rent, and it's barely lower in Newham at 58%, Barking & Dagenham at 52%, Waltham Forest at 49%.¹

Anything over 35% of your take-home pay (after tax) is considered to be unaffordable. Even in Redbridge (42%) and Havering (37%) people have to pay more than that. A city that is affordable only for the very well off is a broken city.

With a huge amount of development planned across East London, we run the risk of being left with luxury developments being marketed at people outside the area, if not outside the country, where any 'affordable' housing is not within reach for those in need of housing.

Greens in City Hall will take real action on housing:

- 200,000 new homes, half of them built by smaller developers, communities and housing associations to provide truly affordable housing.
- Renters' rights supported, with a London Renters Union and an investigation and campaign for the power to bring in rent controls.
- No more estate demolitions, protecting often vulnerable residents in places like the Holland Estate, the Carpenters Estate and Balfron Tower, and giving expert help for communities to make their own plans.
- End rough sleeping, with practical help for people to find secure homes.
- Call in or oppose developments like the Pontoon Dock towers and Bishopsgate Goodsynd that encroach on public space and block the light for local residents.

¹ See our map of rents with the latest data for each borough at <http://www.sianberry.london/rents-map-london/>

THE FUTURE OF BISHOPSGATE - COMMON SENSE MUST WIN

Greens in Tower Hamlets and at City Hall have stood up against a proposal for a massive high-rise development on the site of the Bishopsgate Goodsyards.

Boris Johnson called in this planning application for tower blocks of luxury apartments, as high as 48 storeys, after both Tower Hamlets and neighbouring Hackney councils rejected the scheme due to its likely negative impact on local residents and businesses, and the lack of affordable housing in the scheme.



Green Assembly Member Jenny Jones challenged the Mayor on the decision to call it in, and **Green candidate for Mayor Sian Berry** welcomed the recommendation from the Mayor's own planning officers that the scheme should be rejected. The decision has now been deferred and will fall to the next Mayor to make the right decision.

Sian says: "This is a scheme with little or no apparent benefit to the local community, which will instead be forced to put up with construction-related air pollution and congestion. It was therefore an extraordinary move on the Mayor's part to bypass local accountability in this way."

TRANSPORT THAT WORKS

Londoners need to be able to get around easily on a transport system that is fairly priced and works for everyone

It's not fair that people in outer London pay so much more to get to work or that part-time workers pay more per day than those using monthly travelcards. And it's not fair that if you need to take two buses, or change from a bus to the tube on the way you pay more than one fare for one journey.

Greens in City Hall will make transport work for Londoners:

- Fair fares for commuters, with lower costs for outer London, flat fares by 2025 and change between buses, tubes and trains at no extra cost.
- Cancel plans for all new road-building schemes, including new motor vehicle-only river crossings and plans for new road tunnels. Instead, our investment plans will concentrate on new river crossings for pedestrians and those using bikes and public transport.
- Fair charges for motoring, including a levy on workplace parking spaces, to reduce congestion and pollution and help pay for improvements to public transport such as the proposed DLR extension to Dagenham Dock, a pedestrian and cycle bridge from Canary Wharf to Rotherhithe, and a new river crossing from the Royal Docks to Charlton.
- People-friendly streets, with big ticket projects in every borough to support walking and cycling.
- Bring privatised trains back into public hands under the wing of Transport for London.

Our plans for reducing fares and investing in healthier ways to travel in every area of London - not just the centre - will help South East Londoners break free from their cars and save them money too.

Our plan to flatten fares will reduce the total cost of monthly travelcards for people in Barking by **£1,835** by 2020, and save commuters from Upminster **£3,084**.

Everyone in zones 3-6 will save under our plan. Even in zones 1 and 2 our ONE Ticket will save you money every time you need to change between buses, tubes, trams and trains.

Find out more and see how much you will save at www.sianberry.london/fairfares

AIR POLLUTION - LET'S START BY NOT MAKING IT WORSE

Green candidates have pledged to block two major developments that will make air pollution in East London worse.

The proposed Enderby Wharf Cruise Ferry Terminal will increase pollution across a wide area including the Isle of Dogs, with cruise ships allowed to run their huge diesel engines constantly



to power themselves. Instead, the development must be blocked unless the ships are required to run from onshore electricity supplies while docked.

The Silvertown Tunnel will double the road space at Blackwall, bringing more traffic to already congested and polluted roads across the area.

City and East Assembly candidate Rachel Collinson says: “Building new roads to create more traffic is the last thing London needs. A Green Mayor will cancel these plans and invest in ways of getting more people across the river, on foot and bikes and public transport, not inviting more cars and lorries into our city. Greens at City Hall would put a stop to the huge mistake of the Silvertown Tunnel and provide the kind of transport people really want in East London.”

Green Assembly Member Darren Johnson has supported campaigners opposed to the tunnel for many years. He says:

“In 2007, citizens and campaigners managed to get the last proposal for a new motorway bridge in this area rejected by a planning inspector at a public inquiry and the case for this proposal is even more shaky. We need to say a resounding ‘no’ to the toxic air pollution and traffic it will produce.”

PUBLIC HEALTH AND CLEAN AIR

Air pollution causes more than 9,500 premature deaths in London every year. Across Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest the total number of early deaths per year calculated by King's College London for the GLA is 1,690.²

Sixty years after the Clean Air Act helped put an end to the deadly smogs that came from coal fires and power stations we need a similar level of urgent action now.

Greens will stop the half-hearted efforts to clean up our air and make comprehensive plans to bring pollution below legal limits by 2020 at the latest.

Our policies for cleaning up London's air have been rated a perfect 10/10 by the influential Clean Air in London campaign.

² Borough tables from Understanding the Health Impacts of Air Pollution in London report: <http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/understanding-health-impacts-of-air-pollution-in-london->

Greens in City Hall will:

- End the crisis of filthy air, bringing pollution below legal limits by 2020 at the latest.
- Get the most polluting vehicles off the road, and switch all buses and taxis to zero emissions.
- Tell Londoners the truth, with clear, consistent warnings about polluted air days.
- Create a London not-for-profit energy company, under Transport for London's wing, which will generate enough solar energy to power crossrail and provide an alternative to the 'big 6' energy suppliers, reducing energy costs and fuel poverty.

A NEW QUARTER FOR LONDON ON THE CITY AIRPORT SITE

City & East Assembly candidate, **Rachel Collinson**, gathered more than 13,000 signatures for her petition calling for an inspiring change of use to provide new homes and businesses on the site of London City Airport.



A study by the New Economics Foundation has shown that the area, which covers half a million square metres, could be used to create at least 16,000 more jobs and add an additional £400 million to the UK's economy if it were freed up for other uses.

Rachel says: "The size and potential of the airport – and the massive waste of space involved in using it for such a polluting and noisy neighbour – is obvious. Once Crossrail opens with a fast connection between Canary Wharf and Heathrow we can put this plan into action.

"The airport is undermining the existing enterprise zone here in Newham, and causing untold health and environmental problems to thousands of local residents. We could create thousands of new homes within easy reach of central London, easing both the housing crisis and pressure on our transport system.

"If this prime piece of the land were used sustainably for innovative businesses, residential areas, leisure, cultural facilities and shops, it would go a long way towards solving many of London's problems at the same time."

A STRONGER, MORE EQUAL COMMUNITY

More equal societies are healthier and happier, with lower levels of violent crime. We must address the damaging concentration of wealth we have in our city.

We can make London a city where no parent needs to choose between seeing their children in the evening or having a second job to stave off poverty and where our public services help everybody flourish regardless of their gender, race, age, ethnicity, sexuality, disability, faith or any other aspect of their identity. East London boroughs including Barking & Dagenham, Newham and Tower Hamlets are among the most deprived in London and indeed England.³

We will ensure the Metropolitan Police service gets the resources it needs to tackle crime and increase community cohesion and safety in the most effective ways. We will set new priorities in collaboration with the community.

London's young people will get the skills and training they need for a wide range of fulfilling opportunities, and our support of workers in their efforts to win fair wages and decent working conditions will also continue. Most of all, we will listen to South Londoners and involve them in more decisions that affect them.

Greens in City Hall will bring equality in London a step closer:

- Fight for the London Living Wage for the one in five working Londoners who are still paid less.
- Better part-time jobs, with 1,000 new employers signing up to truly flexible working.
- Focus more police time on community policing, tackling hate crime and supporting young people.
- Involve communities in addressing extremism, rethinking the flawed and discriminatory Prevent strategy.
- Create at least 150,000 high-quality apprenticeships.
- Make sure London remains a leader in LGBT+ rights and culture.
- Establish a London Youth Assembly drawn from Young Mayors and Youth MPs across London to scrutinise the work of the GLA.

³ Map of the most deprived boroughs in London:

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/business/supporting-local-communities/Documents/london-map-deprivation-improved-accessibility.pdf>

- Appoint a representative in City Hall with the task of monitoring and co-ordinating the effects of all the Mayor's policies on older people.

COMMUNITY CHEST - MAKING THE BEST USE OF PUBLIC LAND

Greens in Tower Hamlets set up the Community Chest campaign, aiming to safeguard the London Chest Hospital site in Tower Hamlets for the greatest community use.

They have held public meetings and consulted with the developers, and are continuing to press them on their plans, in order to prevent the former hospital from becoming a soulless development of luxury homes.

The group wants the site to be primarily used for genuinely affordable social housing, with a portion exclusively available to groups in particularly desperate need or defined as vulnerable by the council. It is also calling for the integrity of the buildings to be maintained as much as possible, and for space to be reserved for the benefit of local residents.

