

LONDON 2016 GREEN PARTY MANIFESTO FOR SOUTH EAST LONDON



Green candidates for the London Assembly

People in South 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 South 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 South East London a better

GREENS IN CITY HALL HAVE ALREADY

- Provided crucial support to the campaign that scrapped the Thames Gateway Bridge in East London.
- 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 to set up the London Living Wage Unit which has already put £60 million in the pockets of low paid workers.
- Supported campaigns to save libraries under threat from Government and Council cuts.

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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 Greenwich and Lewisham now, 49% of the average take-home pay goes on rent, and it's barely lower in Bexley at 39%, and Bromley at 40%.¹

Anything over 35% of your take-home pay (after tax) is considered to be unaffordable. And a city that is affordable only for the very well off is a broken city.

With a huge amount of development planned across the South East of London, we run the risk of being left with beautifully landscaped 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.
- End rough sleeping, with practical help for people to find secure homes.
- Ensure that new developments are backed up by sufficient transport infrastructure and other amenities, including schools, health, leisure facilities and green space.

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

OPPOSING GOVERNMENT CUTS

Green Party Councillors in Lewisham have been at the forefront of attempts to save local libraries and maintain a professional library service.

John Coughlin was the only councillor to vote against the Labour Council's Budget. John said in his speech:

"Local government is under a relentless and implacable attack from a philistine pirate government, for whom the very concepts of local government and of sensible, sustainable public service provision are anathema. If we lose Lewisham's libraries now, we will never get them back."



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 the Silvertown Tunnel, which will increase congestion and pollution in Greenwich and Lewisham. Instead, our investment plans will concentrate on new river crossings for pedestrians and those using bikes and public transport.
- Fair charges for motoring, to reduce congestion and pollution and help pay for improvements to public transport, including a levy on workplace parking spaces to help pay for local transport improvements, such as the Brunel Bridge from Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf and bringing forward the Bakerloo Line extension and the extension of the Overground to Abbey Wood.

- 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. More than 17,000 people have already signed a petition to bring Southeastern franchise under public control:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/114277/>

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 Crystal Palace by **£338** by 2020, and save commuters from Bexley **£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

GREENS TAKING ACTION ON CLEAN AIR - A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Lewisham and Greenwich Assembly candidate Imogen Solly says:

“Greens across South East London have been monitoring air pollution. At sites across Lewisham, we have been focusing on schools and community centres set a block or so back from the busiest main roads.



“In Crystal Palace, local Greens found pollution at Central Parade was way above acceptable legal limits, and we believe that our results will show the problem is not confined to areas with busy roads but affects everyone in our area.”

PUBLIC HEALTH AND CLEAN AIR

Air pollution causes more than 9,500 premature deaths in London every year. Across Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham the total number of early deaths per year calculated by King's College London for the GLA is 1,430.²

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.

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.

OPPOSING BEXLEY COUNCIL'S PLAN TO SELL OFF GREEN SPACES

Roisin Robertson, Green Assembly candidate for Bexley and Bromley, joined campaigners and residents this year to oppose the sale of green spaces in Bexley.

She says: "This decision by Bexley Council is in line with the Conservative government's aims for local authorities to sell off these green sites.



'All the health studies quoted in reports to councillors say that green spaces are invaluable for mental and physical health. Childhood obesity is on the rise too, yet the council is selling-off valuable local amenity spaces which local people, especially children, need for their physical health.'

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->

- 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.
- Withdraw permission for the deeply unpopular Enderby Wharf cruise terminal in Greenwich unless the developers agree to install clean onshore power for the hotelling ships.

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.

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.
- 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.

RESISTING TOXIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Greenwich Greens have been at the forefront of opposing two major infrastructure projects, heavily promoted by the local Labour council, that present a major health threat to local residents.

“I would put a stop to the huge mistake of the Silvertown Tunnel,” says **Sian Berry, Green candidate for Mayor**. “Building new roads to create more traffic is the last thing London needs. Instead of a £1 billion crossing for cars and lorries, we need to invest in ways of getting more people across the river on foot, on bikes and on the DLR and the London Overground.



“I also congratulate the brave resident who has secured a judicial review of the proposed cruise terminal at Enderby Wharf. The Labour local authority and the Conservative Mayor have ignored pleas for the hotelling ships to use clean onshore power rather than dirty diesel fuel. I will rectify this mess so that local people – not to mention the occupants of the new homes being built next to the terminal – are not put in danger.”