



**A Lewisham
THAT WORKS FOR
Everyone**



Lewisham

CGL

LEWISHAM LABOUR MANIFESTO 2026

Contents

Mayoral Candidate Introduction	<u>01</u>
Our Priorities	<u>03</u>
Your Lewisham	<u>05</u>
Your Neighbourhood	<u>06</u>
Your Local High Street	<u>07</u>
Your Home	<u>08</u>
Your Place	<u>09</u>
Your Children's Future	<u>10</u>
Your Free Time	<u>11</u>
Your Security	<u>12</u>
Your Health	<u>13</u>
More of what we want to do	<u>14</u>
Your Lewisham	<u>15</u>
Your Neighbourhood	<u>16</u>
Your Local High Street	<u>17</u>
Your Home	<u>17</u>
Your Place	<u>18</u>
Your Children's Future	<u>19</u>
Your Free Time	<u>19</u>
Your Security	<u>20</u>
Your Health	<u>21</u>
Get Involved	<u>22</u>

Amanda De Ryk

Lewisham is home to so many communities. It is where our families grow, thriving on a rich diversity that makes us stronger. I have lived here for 20 years, raising my family and seeing first-hand the challenges and opportunities we face. This borough has given me so much: a place to put down roots, schools for my children, parks to enjoy and a community that cares for its own.



Leading change in the place I love would be the privilege of my life. I am committed to leadership that listens, acts and delivers. I will tackle real problems head-on, bring people together and make sure every decision we make improves the lives of residents.

After eight years as Cabinet Member for Finance, I know how to keep our council fair, strong and financially secure. We've seen what happens when council finances are not managed properly: councils go bankrupt, rubbish piles up in the streets and ordinary people live with the consequences. We won't let that happen here.

Lewisham Labour has always been a strong local force for change. From trailblazing action to support migrants and welcome 127 refugee families to our borough, to groundbreaking work to divest our pension fund. We have taken bold steps, not because they were easy but because they were the right thing to do. We're not afraid to call out those in power if they're not acting in the best interest of Lewisham. And if elected, I will continue to speak up for our borough and Lewisham's values of fairness, diversity and opportunity.

I'm proud of Lewisham Labour's record. Over the past four years, we have achieved so much. We've topped the tables, with our schools ranked the most improved in England, and our parks and libraries are the best in London. On jobs, we've helped over 1,800 residents into work through our award-winning employment service. On housing, we've brought our housing service back in-house, reduced the repairs waiting list by 70% and delivered over 2000 genuinely affordable homes. We've breathed life into our high streets, investing £24 million to revitalise Lewisham town centre, and brought back Blackheath Fireworks and a cinema to Catford. Real changes, benefiting ordinary people. But there is more to do, and I will lead a council that is ready to act with new ambition and boldness to tackle the issues Lewisham people care about.

There are still too many people in Lewisham struggling to make ends meet. Bills are up and ordinary working families are having to do more with less. That is why making life in Lewisham more affordable is my number one priority. Working with a Labour government, we will lift 8,000 children out of poverty in Lewisham. I will focus on practical solutions to help with the cost of living. From energy bills to rent, childcare to transport, making easier will be central to how I work.

Lewisham is already a place to be proud of, but it can be so much more. I want it to be a place of opportunity, where everyone from young people looking for jobs to older residents looking for support, can live well, enjoy life and thrive. I will invest in culture, festivals and support to bring communities together. I want to see safer streets and healthier homes.

**This manifesto sets out how we're going to do this.
Together, we can make a Lewisham that works for everyone.**



Our Priorities

Lewisham is our home. Lewisham Labour has always protected the essential services residents rely on – clean streets, strong schools, safe neighbourhoods – even through the toughest times. This is how we'll go further.

1. Tackling the Cost of Living

We will tackle the cost of living, supporting the most vulnerable and ensuring that making life more affordable is at the heart of everything we do. We will provide free baby boxes to pregnant mothers living in temporary accommodation, warm spaces for anyone who needs them and cut energy bills by retrofitting more homes and schools.

2. Cleaner Streets

Our streets must be clean and welcoming. Bin collections will be reliable and regular, fly-tipping hotspots tackled, and pavements and roads repaired. Our award-winning parks and green spaces will be protected and improved.

3. Safer Communities

Safety is a key priority. We will target anti-social behaviour and make public spaces more welcoming by funding community enforcement officers to be a visible deterrent to anti-social behaviour. Working directly with the police, as well as housing and youth services, we will make Lewisham safer and more welcoming for everyone.

4. Delivering Decent and Affordable Homes

Everyone deserves a safe, decent and genuinely affordable home. We will stand up for renters, tackle rogue landlords, and enforce housing standards. We will build new council homes and homes at Social and London Affordable Rent, prioritising space, affordability, accessibility and investment in local infrastructure.

5. Backing Our schools and Youth Services

Every child in Lewisham deserves the best start. We are committed to working closely with our inclusive, high-achieving network of local comprehensive schools, in which all our children can succeed. We will ensure our youth services provide safe, inspiring spaces for young people to learn, connect and grow. We will support more young people into employment through the launch of the Lewisham Young People's Trust, bringing together experts and local organisations to support young people to achieve their potential.

6. Open, Inclusive and Proud

We will ensure Lewisham remains a Borough of Sanctuary – open, inclusive and proud of its diversity. We will embed equity, accessibility and anti-racism across all council services and ensure decisions are shaped by lived experience.

Your Lewisham

Tackling the cost of living, inequality and discrimination

We will work to improve life chances for all residents and tackle the cost-of-living crisis head-on. Lewisham is proud of its diversity and we will continue to embed equity, diversity and inclusion into all that we do, tackling discrimination wherever it exists.

Our record

- ✔ We set up a cost-of-living support programme that has distributed £22m into the community.
- ✔ Launched Better Off Lewisham, a benefits entitlement-platform that has supported over 2,300 residents to claim nearly £14m more benefits they deserve.
- ✔ Established the Warm Welcomes programme, with 41 spaces opening their doors to people needing advice, a haven from the cold and social isolation.
- ✔ Resettled 127 refugee families and have been recognised as one of the top councils nationally for our work supporting refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.
- ✔ We led pioneering work to divest our pension fund, including £900m fossil fuel divestment, and have taken decisive action on companies operating in occupied territories or associated with human rights abuse.

Our promises

1. We will expand our cost-of-living support programme, supporting our most vulnerable residents with flexible, practical help.
2. Local authority pension funds have a moral duty not to invest in companies linked to human rights abuses, conflict or genocide. We will continue to lead regional and national discussions to push for urgent changes to ensure pension funds across the country are ethically sound.
3. We will invest in our Warm Welcomes programme, providing hot food and drinks, and support in warm spaces for anyone who needs them, all year round.
4. Remain London's leading borough for supporting refugees, migrants and people seeking asylum, prioritising the voices of lived experience in our policies and securing Borough of Sanctuary accreditation for a third time.
5. We will support disabled residents by gaining Disability Confident Leader employer status by 2030.
6. Mayor and Cabinet will hold regular, accessible public surgeries across the borough, giving residents the opportunity to raise concerns, ask questions and engage directly with decision-makers.





Your neighbourhood

A cleaner, greener and more sustainable Lewisham

We will crack down on fly-tipping and ensure Lewisham's streets are clean and well-maintained. We will cut carbon emissions, improve air quality and reduce energy costs for residents, while expanding biodiversity projects across the borough.

Our record

- ✓ We have invested in our parks and green spaces, which are now rated the best in London.
- ✓ Delivered 68 new pedestrian crossings, making Lewisham safer for residents to walk and cycle.
- ✓ Lifted 1,000 families out of fuel poverty and fixed damp and mould issues for thousands of residents through our ambitious retrofit programme.
- ✓ Opened a brand-new segregated cycling route between Creek Road and Deptford Broadway/Deptford Bridge.
- ✓ We are ranked in the top 2% of councils nationally for climate action.
- ✓ Have overseen a reduction in air pollution of over 14%.
- ✓ We have planted over 7,500 trees, improving air quality and biodiversity.

Our promises

7. We will crack down on fly-tipping. We will install more CCTV at fly-tipping hotspots and fine those who blight our borough, whilst maintaining very low-cost bulky waste charges.
8. We will install insulation and solar panels in schools, community centres and libraries, improving comfort and reducing costs so less money is spent on bills and more is spent on the things that matter.
9. Keep our pavements safe and well-maintained. We will invest in more machinery to repair damage promptly and keep them weed-free and clean.
10. Tackle antisocial behaviour, littering, fly-tipping and street drinking by reintroducing town-centre managers who will work directly with the police to make our town centres safer and more welcoming places to visit.
11. Continue to improve Lewisham's air quality through increased support for EV vehicles, active travel and retrofit work. We will also work with schools and nurseries to improve air quality inside classrooms and in playgrounds. We will continue our School Streets programme to support more children to walk, cycle and scoot to school.
12. We will trial EV charging gullies to help residents charge at home and deliver 750 more public EV charging points.
13. We will actively listen and engage with residents who have vehicle parking issues and work with the community to implement positive solutions.



Your local high street

Good jobs and a strong local economy



Lewisham's strength lies in its creativity, resilience and ability to work hard. We will back our small businesses, invest in our high streets and expand green jobs and apprenticeships for local people. We will champion fair pay and ensure local economic growth benefits everyone.

Our record

- ✓ We have helped over 1,800 residents into employment through our award-winning Lewisham Works programme.
- ✓ Opened the Elevate 100 youth space in Downham, supporting over 150 young people into jobs and improve skills and wellbeing.
- ✓ Received a Creative Enterprise Zone reaccreditation, supporting our creative businesses, protecting local artists, making workspaces more sustainable and creating more jobs.
- ✓ We launched the Youth Trailblazer Guarantee programme, supporting care-experienced job seekers and launched our Connect to Work programme, supporting job seekers with health challenges.
- ✓ We successfully ran the Empty Property Grants scheme for the second time, offering ten more businesses grants of up to £10,000 to revitalise our high streets.

Our promises

14. Our residents enjoy thriving high streets. To support enterprise and local communities, we will use new government powers to auction long-vacant commercial properties.
15. All residents deserve access to good jobs that pay a fair wage. Not only will we continue to implement the London Living Wage in all council contracts, we will create a Fair Employment Charter to encourage and promote businesses offering secure contracts and living wages. We will also produce a Living Wage Tracker to publish data on fair pay in Lewisham.
16. Through our flagship employment service, Lewisham Works, we will set up low-carbon employment hubs to connect residents with green jobs. We will also continue providing sustainability grants for businesses.
17. We will train 200 apprentices, expanding the Mayor's Apprenticeship scheme both within the Council and through our partner businesses, with a focus on opportunities in high-growth sectors.
18. We want Lewisham to be a borough where working people spend their leisure time as well as where they live. To boost our nighttime economy and support creatives, we will deliver a developer-funded, multi-million-pound not-for-profit culture and live music venue right in the heart of Lewisham.
19. Our borough has a strong creative heritage, as shown by our leading our Creative Enterprise Zone in New Cross and Deptford. To continue protecting and promoting this key sector, we'll provide creatives with further start-up funding and green business incentives.



Your home

Safe, secure and decent housing



Everyone in Lewisham deserves a safe, secure, affordable home. We will tackle the housing crisis by building more council, social and affordable homes. We will back private renters by driving up standards, cracking down on rogue landlords and making homes well-maintained and cheap to run. We will continue to improve standards for social tenants, tackling damp and mould and improving repair services, to ensure every social tenant has a decent home.

Our record

- ✔ We have reduced the number of families in temporary accommodation by 500, maintaining our pledge not to place families in B&Bs or hotels.
- ✔ Brought our housing services back in-house, giving residents more accountability and more direct control over their services.
- ✔ We initiated a huge transformation of our housing services, reducing repair waiting list by 70% and call waiting times to from over an hour to 6 minutes.
- ✔ Made services more accountable and accessible by reintroducing face-to-face estate services, creating a new resident engagement framework, setting up a resident-led board and bringing repairs open days to estates.
- ✔ We reintroduced tenancy checks for vulnerable households in social housing, to provide a regular point of contact and support to those most in need.
- ✔ Cracked down on rogue landlords through landlord licensing, meaning every private rented property in Lewisham must now be licensed, giving tenants more accountability and ensuring we push up standards and flush out rogue landlords for good.

Our promises

20. There is no place for rogue landlords in Lewisham. We will protect renters by ensuring higher standards for private landlords through licensing, ramping up enforcement, driving up standards and holding landlords to account for the condition of their properties.
21. Council homes should be warm and cheap-to-run. We will retrofit 1,500 council homes to reduce their energy bills and help residents with the cost of living.
22. We will continue to transform our housing services, ensuring our repairs service delivers for every resident. We will take urgent action to eliminate damp and mould from our council housing and ensure repairs are carried out quickly and effectively.
23. We are committed to improving engagement with social housing tenants. We will ensure every tenant gets face-to-face repairs service to their estate every year and host in-person engagement events to hold housing associations to account.
24. We will campaign for rent controls to make renting in the private sector more affordable.



Your place

Investment, regeneration and planning



Decisions about Lewisham should be made with the people who live here. We will make planning transparent and fair, empower communities and put residents at the heart of regeneration. With thoughtful investment, we will deliver better homes, public spaces and high streets so that no area is left behind.

Our record

- ✔ We have delivered 2,000 genuinely affordable homes giving more families safe, decent housing.
- ✔ Invested £24m in Lewisham town centre to revitalise the high street, library and market.
- ✔ We are ranked among London's top ten boroughs for housebuilding, and have led a government pilot for sustainable, high-quality small-site housing.
- ✔ Lewisham's Local Plan protects communities, supports businesses, tackles the climate crisis and puts families first, earning Gold Standard accreditation and a top three London ranking.

Our promises

25. We will deliver 1,200 new affordable homes, including 800 homes for social rent. By 2030, this will take our total number of genuinely affordable homes for social rent delivered since 2018 to 2,800.
26. Private renters deserve better. We will expand our build-to-rent programme and deliver a council-led, build-to-rent scheme. That means longer tenancies, fair and predictable rent rises, high-quality homes and day-to-day management residents can rely on.
27. Too many homes with planning permission are left unbuilt. We will take a robust approach, pressing for new use-it-or-lose-it powers so land approved for housing delivers homes for residents.
28. We will establish a Lewisham Construction Training Academy, working with colleges and developers to deliver training, apprenticeships and direct routes into skilled employment linked to construction projects.
29. The people who care for Lewisham should be able to call Lewisham home. We will deliver the first key worker housing in a generation, supporting low and middle-income workers, including NHS staff, teachers, firefighters and care workers.



Your children's future

Making Lewisham a great place to grow up



Lewisham is ambitious for our young people. We will continue to work closely with and strengthen our local comprehensive schools. We will create 250 more mainstream school places for children with additional needs and ensure every child – whatever their background – can access culture, sport and enriching learning opportunities. We will invest in playgrounds, youth clubs and cultural activities to give our young people the opportunities they deserve.

Our record

- ✓ We are rated as having the most improved secondary schools in the country based on GCSE results.
- ✓ We have radically improved child protection and support for the most vulnerable families, with Lewisham now helping lead national reform of children's social care.
- ✓ We have rolled out free breakfast clubs and Holiday Activity Food programmes, tackling child hunger during term time and school breaks.
- ✓ Opened 9 Family Hubs across Lewisham, supporting children and families with workshops, mental health support and guidance.
- ✓ We have refurbished Riverside Youth Club and brought our youth services in-house, providing more opportunities, support and fun for our young people.
- ✓ We led anti-racist work with school leaders, governors and stakeholders, with all schools signing our pledge to tackle race inequality.

Our promises

30. Lewisham schools are delivering for our children, and we will continue to work with them to strengthen our inclusive and high-achieving system of local comprehensive schools, trusted by our community, in which all children can succeed.
31. We will support the young people most at risk of being left behind by creating the Lewisham Young People's Trust, working with them to fundraise, coordinate voluntary and charity work and guide young people to the support they need.
32. Deliver the expansion of free childcare for under 2s with up to 570 hours per year to help families with the cost of living and set a strong foundation for a child's future.
33. We will invest in our playgrounds, school yards, estates and parks, through the implementation of a groundbreaking new Play Strategy. We will also invest in our youth clubs, sports courts and adventure playgrounds and expand the number of sports, music and cultural activities for young people outside of school.
34. Create 250 more specialist places in mainstream schools for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We will ensure all schools are welcoming to all children and offer expert additional assistance, including speech and language therapy and mental health support from educational psychologists.
35. We will work with schools to champion responsible smartphone policies, stamp out cyberbullying and provide distraction-free learning environments.



Your free time

An opportunity to thrive



Everyone in our borough should have the opportunity to have fun and thrive. We'll invest in sport, culture and creativity. We will bring people together through festivals, art and shared spaces, from fireworks on Blackheath to new community hubs. We want Lewisham to be an amazing place to enjoy your free time.

Our record

- ✔ We are ranked as having the best libraries in London.
- ✔ We have opened an LGBTQ+ cultural centre and created affordable creative spaces so artists and creative businesses can grow in Lewisham.
- ✔ We celebrated the history, people and place of Lewisham as the 2022 Borough of Culture, delivering over 600 events to 436,000 residents, supporting 8,800 young people and 520 local businesses.
- ✔ Invested in arts that reflect our community, including SEEN, one of the country's largest Black & Asian arts festivals.
- ✔ Developed the Lewisham cultural partnership to strengthen ties between the Council and local creatives.
- ✔ And brought back panto to Catford Broadway, providing an affordable, fun and exciting experience for families across Lewisham.

Our promises

- 36. We will refurbish and build additional basketball courts in the borough. We will supercharge sports in Lewisham through our Sports Development Strategy to make sports affordable, accessible and open to all.
- 37. We commit to hosting Blackheath Fireworks for 2026 and beyond. We brought Blackheath fireworks back last year, with 30,000 people celebrating, and we will work to ensure this outstanding event continues.
- 38. We will remove all 'no ball games' signs on our estates to break down barriers to play for our young people.
- 39. Relaunch Lewisham Library with an £8 million investment, further enhancing our award-winning library services with a new community cafe, business hub, and cultural performance and young person e-gaming space.
- 40. We will cultivate community spirit by rolling out more community festivals across Lewisham. We will make more places for you to meet and connect to your neighbourhood through local festivals on your doorstep.



Your security

Tackling crime and making Lewisham safe



Everyone should feel safe in their home and on our streets. We've already invested in enforcement teams and youth diversion programmes. Now we'll strengthen community-led safety initiatives, tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, and act early to prevent problems before they escalate.

Our record

- ✔ We have introduced a Public Space Protection Order across the borough and funded six additional enforcement officers, targeting antisocial behaviour hotspots and improving enforcement collaboration and reporting for residents.
- ✔ Strengthened support for victims of violence against women and girls by launching a new VAWG Community and Refuge Service with crisis management, advocacy, and refuge access.
- ✔ Maintained Borough of Sanctuary status, supporting hundreds of refugees and asylum seekers to settle and start a new life in Lewisham.
- ✔ Protected access to affordable funerals during the cost-of-living crisis, improved bereavement support and reinvested £13,000 from the metal recycling scheme into local charities.
- ✔ We advanced the Lewisham Disabled People's Commission by creating a resident-led group to guide future policy and service design.

Our promises

41. We will continue to invest in enforcement officers to tackle anti-social behaviour and make cleaner, more welcoming public spaces. We want to make sure our streets and high streets are thriving hubs where residents and visitors feel safe and welcome.
42. We will ensure our housing services effectively support survivors of domestic violence, working towards gaining Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation.
43. Tackle speeding that puts residents at risk by working directly with the police.
44. We will review and strengthen the licensing system to crack down on businesses that do not respect the rules and blight our high streets.
45. Tackle anti-social behaviour and harassment on buses and trains by working directly with the British Transport Police.
46. Take a public health approach to tackling serious violence, including supporting young people most at risk of violence. We will also strengthen our award-winning, trauma informed, anti-racist youth justice support and preventative services to tackle youth violence.





Your health

Improving wellbeing

Health and wellbeing are not luxuries – they are essential. We will tackle health inequalities, focus on prevention as well as treatment and deliver adult social care with dignity and compassion. We will support older people through intergenerational approaches that bring communities together and tailor care to individual needs.

Our record

- ✓ We maximised wellbeing at home by giving residents a choice of care teams and improving staff terms, including occupational sick pay.
- ✓ Launched an action plan to reduce Black African and Caribbean health inequalities.
- ✓ We implemented a groundbreaking autism action plan to support residents and improve health outcomes.
- ✓ Created a food justice action plan to reduce food poverty in partnership with the VCSE and local communities.
- ✓ Improved breast and cervical cancer screening rates through collaboration with the NHS.

Our promises

47. We will provide free baby boxes for care leavers and expectant mothers living in temporary accommodation. We will provide essentials, such as a changing mat, bedding and a thermometer, supporting the most vulnerable with the cost of living.
48. We will address the impact of poverty and the cost of living on health and wellbeing by embedding debt, benefits and financial wellbeing advice within health and social care provision.
49. Form a healthy-living task force, bringing together the NHS, schools, police and social landlords to tackle poverty, housing, education and economic opportunity, to help residents enjoy longer, healthier lives.
50. We will create a new unpaid carers' hub for carers to meet, learn, receive support and connect to our carers' services.
51. Expand our Community Toilet Scheme and create a comprehensive map of publicly available toilets within the borough, to improve access to clean, safe and accessible toilets.
52. We will work with Age UK to bring an affordable and trusted handyman service to Lewisham to assist those who need a bit of help with jobs around the home.





More of what we want to do



Your Lewisham

Tackling the cost of living, inequality and discrimination

1. Enhance our anti-racist practice framework through our youth services and schools to tackle racism in all forms.
2. Work with faith groups, supporting Lewisham's successful interfaith forum and promoting multi-faith events.
3. Put the voices of disabled residents at the forefront of our services by supporting the creation of a disabled resident-led organisation to implement the recommendations of the Disabled Peoples Commission.
4. Use the latest technologies to work with data in smarter ways, so we can better target services at those with the greatest need.
5. Review our equality framework to ensure the council is promoting equality, equity and fairness through our day-to-day operations and provision of services.
6. Increase the involvement of LGBTQ+ organisations in service delivery to support these organisations and the residents that they serve.
7. Companies that provide Council goods and services should also bring wider social, economic and environmental benefit to the borough. We will work to ensure even more of the businesses we work with do this, so we can maximise the value of every pound we spend.
8. Improve accessibility and diversity within the council by conducting a comprehensive review of all councillor allowances, ensuring they better align with established independent guidelines, helping to remove barriers that prevent working-age residents from standing for elected office.

Your neighbourhood

A cleaner, greener and more sustainable Lewisham

1. Get tough on landlords by issuing fines to those who dump tenants' waste on our streets.
2. Continue our program to replace all public bins in parks and streets across the borough, to keep our streets clean and litter-free.
3. Tackle Lime and Forest-bike parking issues to keep our streets welcoming and accessible. We will introduce more parking bays and continue to push providers to reduce incidents of improper e-bike parking. We will also support riders by exploring ways to reduce the cost of hiring e-bikes in Lewisham, and work with new companies who offer cargo bike hire for both businesses and residents.
4. Improve rubbish collection services by introducing timed collections for all high streets, to stop bagged waste lingering on our pavements. And revamping how missed bin collections and other waste issues can be reported.
5. Increase recycling rates by at least 20%, working directly with residents and businesses to increase awareness around what and how to recycle in Lewisham, as well as helping schools and partner charities to reduce food waste and throw away less of the food they buy.
6. Continue to be a groundbreaking local authority for climate action by ensuring that everyone in the council takes responsibility for climate change and that Scope 3 emissions are taken into account and monitored.
7. Help residents to reduce energy bills and carbon emissions, supporting them with the cost of living.
8. We will upgrade street lighting across the borough by installing energy-efficient LED bulbs in all streetlights, saving energy, reducing carbon emissions and ensuring our streets are safer and better lit.
9. Create more walking and cycling routes across the borough as set out in our Active Travel Strategy.
10. Tackle high accident rates, pollution and speeding in residential areas by implementing measures to better manage traffic, helping to save lives and improve the health of residents.
11. Increase the amount of secure cycle parking at major stations in the borough, by working directly with train operators and TFL.
12. Enhance biodiversity and reduce flood risk across Lewisham by integrating rain gardens into all feasible highway projects. We will also enable community groups to adopt rain gardens and support residents in creating pocket parks. We will work closely with the Environment Agency and local charities to protect our rivers, improve water quality and naturalise them where possible.
13. Make Lewisham greener by planting 4,000 new trees and managing existing street trees to prevent excessive damage or obstruction to pavements.
14. Push for better public transport including the Bakerloo Line extension, late night DLR services, a new Surrey Road Canal station, faster bus routes, more night buses, and train station upgrades and accessibility improvements.

Your local high street

Good jobs and a strong local economy

1. We know how tough it can be for entrepreneurs to get their first commercial space and to build community. So, we will ensure that developers build new shops and workspaces that are ready for business to move into.
2. Small businesses within our community work hard and should be prioritised in local procurement. We'll do that by supporting the increased representation of local businesses in contracts awarded across the borough – including within the Council's own supply chain.
3. Families can become trapped in cycles of poverty without flexible opportunities to learn new skills. We'll offer in-work training programmes for low-paid, insecure workers of all ages to help residents gain qualifications and move into better-paid jobs.
4. We understand the importance of protecting the function and character of our town centres. We'll limit low-value high-harm shops, such as betting shops and payday loan stores, especially in more deprived areas.
5. Lewisham is home to an array of historic markets. We'll increase opportunities for small businesses by launching several night markets, broadening Lewisham's nighttime entertainment options. And we'll encourage youth enterprise with regular spots for young traders across our borough's markets.

Your home

Safe, secure and decent housing

1. We will improve engagement with social housing tenants by ensuring every estate receives at least one in-person repairs open day each year, making repair services more accessible. We will also lead face-to-face engagement events for housing association tenants to strengthen accountability and ensure their concerns are heard.
2. Champion the value of social housing and its residents and actively challenge the stigma surrounding it. We will sign up to the tenant-led Stop Social Housing Stigma campaign and embed its principles across our housing services, partner landlords and contractors.
3. Promote better biodiversity within housing and ensure every resident has a right to grow on estate green space.
4. We will reduce the number of families living in temporary accommodation and continue our commitment not to place families in insecure B&B or hotel accommodation.
5. Work with advice services, schools, GPs and local community organisations to ensure our housing services are accountable, accessible and easy to navigate. We will build better referral pathways, info and joint working practices to make sure everyone can access housing services and get the advice they need.

Your place

Investment, regeneration and planning

- 1.** We will help deliver up to 300 new, high-quality homes by making better use of underused brownfield land, including disused garage sites on estates. Lewisham has been selected to be at the heart of the Government's national housebuilding mission, leading innovation in high-quality, small-scale infill development.
- 2.** We will launch a new, large-scale shared ownership programme. With Lewisham Council as the freeholder, residents will benefit from fair and predictable service charges, transparent fees, clear decision-making and strong resident voice built in as standard.
- 3.** We will enforce high standards for new housing developments reject poor-quality proposals that undermine neighbourhoods. An independent, expert-led design review panel, paid for by developers, will assess proposals to ensure developers deliver higher quality designs. And we will strengthen our use of planning enforcement to make developers meet the standards we expect.
- 4.** We will actively steward our high streets, with individual plans for each of our town centres, supporting a strong mix of shops, services, culture, leisure and community uses so town centres across the borough remain lively, welcoming and useful places for everyday life.
- 5.** We will tackle empty commercial units in new developments by requiring developers to offer affordable rents and market units early to local businesses and community groups. Where units remain slow to fill, we will support meanwhile uses and encourage developers through planning to provide a minimum white box fit-out, enabling spaces to be brought into active use more quickly.

Your children's future

Making Lewisham a great place to grow up

- 1.** Support families with the cost of living, mental health and pre- and post-natal needs by delivering strengthened early-intervention services through our Family Hubs.
- 2.** Support the educational attainment of children and young people in care by working closely with schools, social care and safeguarding partners. We will increase the number of foster carers and significantly improve the support available to them, ensuring every child has the opportunity to grow up in a loving and stable home.
- 3.** We will develop additional apprenticeship and vocational opportunities to expand career pathways for Lewisham's young people. We will also launch the Lewisham Careers Fair, connecting young people with a wide range of employment, training and internship opportunities across different industries and sectors.

Your free time

An opportunity to thrive

- 1.** Prevent new housing developments from contributing to the closure of existing music venues by introducing nighttime impact assessments for major development schemes. We will also support the creation of cultural quarters and nighttime economy hubs that bring life, jobs and activity to our town centres.
- 2.** Make our parks more accessible and safer for women and girls by embedding guidance that places their safety at the forefront of all future park improvements.
- 3.** Showcase, mentor and fund local Black and Asian artists by bringing back the groundbreaking SEEN festival in 2027, amplifying Black and Asian-led theatre, music, and dance. We will provide dedicated grants for emerging local Black and Asian artists, helping develop new voices for stages in Lewisham and beyond. We will provide grants specifically to emerging local Black and Asian artists, to help develop new voices for stages in Lewisham and beyond.
- 4.** We will expand our park-based community events programme, building on the success of Blackheath Fireworks and The Winter Gardens in Beckenham Place Park, to bring even more outstanding events to our award-winning parks.

Your security

Tackling crime and making Lewisham safe

- 1.** We will organise regular neighbourhood safety events where residents can raise crime concerns directly with police and council enforcement officers.
- 3.** Reduce theft and violence towards shop workers by strengthening the Safer Business Network and supporting local businesses to better protect their staff.
- 4.** Tackle anti-social behaviour by establishing regular patrols in hotspots across Lewisham. We will continue working to ensure Lewisham is a community where everyone feels safe.
- 5.** Continue to use our Public Space Protection Order to address anti-social behaviour and review the restrictions regularly to ensure they reflect issues raised by local residents.
- 7.** Continue working with partners and the police to tackle all forms of violence, racism, sexism, homophobia and harassment, and to prevent identity-based discrimination.
- 8.** Fund refuge and support services for those experiencing gender-based violence, providing specialist support for women, girls and men experiencing domestic violence.
- 10.** Maintain a 24/7 staffed CCTV control room and use it alongside a strengthened council enforcement team to take a firm approach to issues such as fly-tipping, noise and street drinking.
- 11.** Begin work towards Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation to ensure the council's housing services effectively support survivors of domestic violence and that staff know how to support those in need.
- 13.** Improve our council website to make it clearer how to report different types of crime, ensuring it is easier to navigate and more accessible.

Your health

Improving wellbeing

- 1.** Connect our food poverty work with initiatives to improve children's health, reducing obesity through healthy eating programmes across the borough. Using our parks and outdoor gyms, we will enable more outdoor activities, including walking clubs.
- 2.** Support carers and relatives looking after loved ones with the cost of living by extending our respite provision.
- 3.** Address the impact of poverty and the rising cost of living on health and wellbeing by embedding debt, benefit and financial-wellbeing advice within health and social care services. We will also strengthen links between employment and health, including through our Connect to Work programme, which supports young people who are marginalised from employment.
- 4.** Tackle housing-related health challenges in Lewisham by embedding health and wellbeing practices within our housing services and those of our partners. We will work to better understand and address specific housing needs, including those of older adults, victims of domestic abuse and members of the LGBTQ+ community.
- 5.** Invest in cancer and cardiovascular disease prevention, delivering community-based initiatives through neighbourhood health equality teams. We will support people with multiple long-term conditions to remain healthy and independent for as long as possible.
- 6.** Provide effective and compassionate support to residents living with mental health conditions. We will establish a mental health commission, co-produced with people who have lived experience, which will also seek to improve how Council services support residents living with ADHD and Autism.
- 7.** Continue to tackle health inequalities across Lewisham and address the impact of structural racism on the health of ethnically diverse communities by implementing the opportunities for action from our African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review. We will also campaign to secure long-term funding for the Sickle Cell Unit at Lewisham Hospital.
- 8.** Explore how new technologies, such as smart watches or motion sensor cameras, can help tackle isolation and loneliness and support residents living with memory impairment and maximise wellbeing at home.
- 9.** Improve support for older people through the creation of the Lewisham Charter for Elders, working with the Positive Ageing Council to tackle loneliness among older residents and empowering them to age and live well.
- 10.** Build a Lewisham where residents can grow old with dignity and respect. We will draw on the knowledge and experience of Lewisham's older people by establishing a school visitor scheme, enabling older residents to speak with students and share skills and experience.
- 11.** Develop intergenerational planning policies to improve the adaptability of new homes built in Lewisham, enabling more people to remain in their homes as circumstances change, including through ageing or disability.

Get involved


This manifesto has been shaped by the voices, ideas and experiences of residents, Labour Party members, community organisations and local campaigners across Lewisham. Together, we have set out a clear and ambitious plan to deliver a Lewisham that works for everyone.



Join our campaign

 hello@lewishamlabour.com

 [/lewishamlabour](https://www.facebook.com/lewishamlabour)

 [@lewishamlabour](https://www.instagram.com/lewishamlabour)

Promoted by John Paschoud, Thomas Carter and Will Cooper on behalf of Lewisham Labour, all at 43 Sunderland Road, London, SE23 2PS

Designed by Rav Sokhi

A Lewisham
THAT WORKS FOR
Everyone

LEWISHAM LABOUR MANIFESTO 2026