

OUR MANIFESTO FOR LEWISHAM | 2026

**DELIVERING
HOPE
TO LEWISHAM**



Lewisham
Green Party



A BOLDER, GREENER FUTURE

LEWISHAM IS A PLACE WE ARE PROUD TO CALL **HOME.**

We are blessed with diverse communities, thriving culture, music and creativity, incredible food, beautiful parks, and unrivalled community spirit.

But it is also a borough facing serious challenges. Too many people are struggling to make ends meet, to pay rent and energy bills, living in substandard housing, or unable to provide food for their families.

Years of Tory and Labour austerity have left public services overstretched and seen inequality deepen.

Lewisham Council now faces £35million in planned cuts over the next three years, as successive administrations chose slow, managed decline rather than a serious plan for change.

Every year, the council spends hundreds of millions of pounds on services and infrastructure, a powerful lever that could support local jobs, strengthen communities and build a fair, green economy. But too often money flows out of the borough, with no clear strategy on how to keep wealth locally.



LEWISHAM GREENS WILL TAKE A **DIFFERENT** APPROACH.

The question is not whether change is possible, but whether we have the political leadership ready to deliver for the people of Lewisham.

Lewisham Greens will treat council spending not simply as a cost to be reduced, but as a tool to create the opportunity, jobs and infrastructure needed for our communities and nature to thrive.

We will protect Lewisham's green spaces and land for Lewisham residents, deliver new affordable homes, care homes and Temporary Accommodation, building an Economy of Care that keeps wealth in Lewisham.

By listening to, valuing and energising our communities, we will tackle the biggest social and environmental challenges we face, together.

It will take leadership, strategy and time to turn around broken and complex systems. But it will also require decisive action. Lewisham already has the people, resources and power to build a fairer, greener future. Lewisham Greens are ready to deliver it.

We are ready. Will you join us?





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SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOMES

The housing crisis has reached breaking point. Too many Lewisham residents simply cannot afford to live here, and those wanting to put down roots find themselves forced to leave the borough. People are trapped in the precarity of the private rental sector, where rising rents and insecure tenancies push many into homelessness.

A skills shortage and housing market failure has seen an alarming growth in developments that deliver little or no affordable housing, driving up land values, and making it harder to deliver genuinely affordable housing over the long term.

At the same time, the Housing Ombudsman report on Lewisham Council exposed serious failures in how homes are managed. Long term estates management has been replaced with short term fixes by unaccountable contractors, as residents are forced to live in hazardous conditions.

The Greens will take decisive action on the housing crisis, laying the foundations for a more resilient housing system that puts people over private profit. We will drive an ambitious social house building programme, expand retrofit to fix disrepair and improve environmental standards.

We will build on Lewisham's proud history of community-led housing, working with co-operatives and community groups to deliver new high-quality, genuinely affordable homes.

We believe housing is a human right, and together we will build a better system for everyone.

Lewisham Greens will

01 Deliver genuinely affordable homes

- Deliver 1,000 high quality, energy efficient homes for social rent, build more family homes and expand retrofit of existing council homes to improve energy efficiency
- Launch a community-led housing strategy, partnering with co-operatives, Community Land Trusts and residents to deliver new affordable homes

02 Take control of land, assets and supply

- Bring empty homes back into use for local residents and support tenants' rights to manage their homes
- Support community groups to access land and ethical finance for housing and community spaces

03 Increase local capacity to build and maintain homes

- Establish Lewisham Community Builders, a repairs and construction co-operative to deliver retrofit, new homes and trusted services for older residents
- Expand the in-house repairs service, reducing reliance on unaccountable contractors and improve long-term estate management

04 Enforce standards and take action on homelessness

- Campaign for rent controls, enforce the Renters' Rights Act, establish a Rogue Landlord Taskforce and drive compliance across the private rented sector
- Meet legal obligations under Awaab's Law, improving response times and repair standards to tackle damp and mould
- Work with grassroots organisations to take a caring, practical approach to preventing and addressing homelessness

CLEANER STREETS, **GREENER** NEIGHBOURHOODS

Lewisham has award-winning parks, beautiful biodiverse woodlands, community food growing networks, and residents that care for green spaces and the people around them.

But too often, the basics are not working. Fly-tipping, poorly managed waste and neglected spaces make neighbourhoods feel unsafe and uncared for. At the same time, streets are not designed well enough for wheelchairs, walking or cycling.

Lewisham Greens will take a practical and coordinated approach. We will deliver a smarter anti-fly-tipping strategy and hold e-bike operators to account for well managed streets.

We will give communities a direct say in how funding is used to create greener

neighbourhoods, champion food growing through the Right to Grow, protect green spaces, and boost urban biodiversity. We will expand renewable energy and reduce emissions across the borough.

We will make it easier to move around safely and sustainably, expanding School Streets, walking and cycling networks, improving pavement accessibility, and delivering infrastructure for electric vehicles and cargo bikes.

Together, we will create a Lewisham that is clean, safe and green, where nature thrives and that people are proud to call home.



Lewisham Greens will

01 Clean up our streets

- Deliver an innovative anti fly-tipping strategy and improve estate waste systems, organising community skip days, beautifying problem areas and increasing enforcement at hotspots
- Hold dockless e-bike companies accountable for proper parking and storage

02 Make neighbourhoods greener

- Facilitate resident decision-making through participatory budgeting on Nature Towns and Cities and Carbon Offset funding, to enhance green spaces, safeguard Local Wildlife Sites, and increase tree cover
- Make Lewisham a Right to Grow borough, supporting food growing on public land and expand allotment access
- Engage residents to create the most beautiful and biodiverse council estate gardens in London
- Work with Global Majority climate leaders and local organisations to cut emissions and drive environmental action
- Expand renewable energy across the borough

Support greener, safer travel

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- Expand School Streets, walking and cycling networks, and cargo bike infrastructure, tackling air pollution in partnership with residents
 - Upgrade streets with safer crossings, drop kerbs for prams, wheelchairs and powered wheelchairs, and expand cycle parking
 - Improve electric vehicle infrastructure, including more EV charging points and pavement EV charging gullies so people can access low cost energy at home

AN ECONOMY OF CARE

Lewisham has the resources to build a fairer economy, but current plans fall short of creating real change.

Despite hundreds of millions of pounds in public spending each year, wealth flows out of the borough; to large contractors, private businesses and landlords, while inequality is unchecked and services remain under pressure.

We need an Economy of Care: care for people, and care for the planet.

An Economy of Care means standing shoulder to shoulder with our trade union family to tackle exploitation and improve working conditions.

An Economy of Care means growing the skills and industries to meet our social

and environmental needs. It means using council spending power to support ethical businesses, stronger local supply chains and decarbonised local industry.

With £270 million spent annually on social care, this approach brings major strategic opportunities. Nationally, 83% of children's social care homes are run for profit. Locally, we can do better: rebuilding services from the ground up, identifying assets and developing flexible, high quality council and cooperative-led provision.

An Economy of Care means seeing investment in housing, retrofit, renewable energy and repairs as a driver of the local economy to secure jobs, build long-term resilience, and retain wealth in our borough for the people of Lewisham.

Lewisham Greens will

01 Take control of public resources

- Review how council land and buildings can be used to in-source services and reduce long-term spend in social care, temporary accommodation and housing
- Establish a Popular Assets Commission, supporting residents into common ownership of public assets like community centres and pubs

02 Build a green, cooperative economy

- Develop an Industrial and Skills Strategy for Lewisham, to support enterprise in retrofit, green energy, construction, care work, and digital and creative sectors
- Establish a co-operative development alliance and training centre at Lewisham Library, supporting businesses to deliver social and environmental impact

03 Activate high streets and local opportunity

- Use new powers to bring vacant high street units back into use, fostering a repair, re-use and circular economy
- Improve training opportunities for young people, ensure Section 106 agreements deliver jobs and apprenticeships in retrofit, construction and renewable energy
- Support the food sector and night-time economy, champion pubs, commercial kitchens, hospitality and cultural spaces

04 Strengthen accountability

- Work with trade unions to improve working conditions, tackle exploitation, and promote Living Wages and Hours
- Strengthen Trading Standards and prosecute offenders to crack down on scams, illegal vapes, contraband tobacco and toxic cosmetics

HEALTHIER, HAPPIER COMMUNITIES

Lewisham has incredible networks of people, volunteer groups, social enterprises, health organisations and cultural institutions. But systems are under pressure from stretched resources, and residents often experience a reactive model that prioritises profit over people.

Lewisham Greens will take a holistic approach to health across the life course. As a systems leader, we will convene partners around a shared purpose to tackle the root causes of inequality through prevention and opportunity.

We will strengthen the everyday conditions that keep people well: clean air, social connections, active lives and access to nutritious food. We will take a community response to the mental health crisis and target prevention of chronic illness. We will expand opportunities for sports and physical activity, and champion our libraries and cultural spaces.

Lewisham has brought its Youth Service back in-house. We will go further, connecting young people and schools to real opportunities, building the confidence and skills they need to live fulfilling lives. And we will protect and revitalise our treasured adventure playgrounds as centres of wellbeing and play.

We will expand flexible, council-run social care, giving staff and those receiving care a real say while delivering dignified, cost-effective services.



Lewisham Greens will

01 Prioritise prevention in healthcare

- Expand flexible, in-borough social care provision, delivered by the council and cooperative partners, with a focus on independence, dignity and choice
- Address the root causes of poor health, including air pollution and access to healthy food
- Expand sports provision and working with schools to tackle vape use
- Support preventive public health programmes addressing chronic disease and long-term health conditions
- Protect and enhance Lewisham's incredible food justice networks by leveraging council assets and infrastructure

02 Strengthen disability rights and SEND provision

- Improve SEND provision by working with parents, carers and advocacy organisation to make the SEND service more responsive to the need of the users and improving communication for children, young people and families
- Support mainstream school SEND inclusion and increase specialist places
- Work with the Lewisham Disabled People's Commission, ensuring disabled people shape decisions and delivery

03 Champion local culture

- Reintroduce Lewisham People's Day - Bring it back! Celebrate young people, workers, and our amazing independent food traders and businesses
- Champion Lewisham's cultural and arts spaces and protect libraries as essential community hubs for learning, creativity and culture

04 Invest in young people's future

- Reverse Labour's £200k cut to youth services, formalise a youth volunteer network, connect youth service to the Creative Enterprise Zone, creating clear pathways into creative and digital careers
- Protect and revitalise our adventure playgrounds to become vibrant, inclusive and welcoming spaces that promote play, learning, wellbeing, food growing and skills development
- Ensure looked after children have access to high quality advocacy, and support our foster carers' wellbeing
- Work with schools to identify ways to ease financial pressures, become more financially resilient and minimise impact to education and learning
- Work with the Young Mayor's programme, Young advisors, the Youth Service and voluntary sector to give young people a real input on decision making in services they use



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JUSTICE, SANCTUARY AND CARE

With the normalisation of far-right rhetoric, and Labour's complicity in a dangerous culture war, we must stand shoulder to shoulder in defence of migrant, trans, disabled and Global Majority communities. We must make Lewisham a genuine borough of sanctuary for all.

Lewisham residents deserve a council that will speak up on national issues, not one that buries its head in the sand. While Labour have ignored the pain of residents witnessing the genocide in Palestine, Lewisham Greens will take decisive action to meet our legal and moral duties, doing everything in our power to divest from companies complicit in human suffering and illegal war.

Sanctuary starts at home, and in the sixth largest economy in the world, austerity is a

political choice. Lewisham Greens will join forces with progressive councils to challenge austerity, economic mismanagement, and performative attacks on disabled people.

Migrant communities face disproportionate homelessness and unsafe living conditions. We will ensure dignified temporary accommodation for all residents, oppose immigration raids, and refuse data-sharing with immigration enforcement.

We will phase out predatory enforcement, ensuring people can access financial support early, and are treated with dignity at all times.

With Greens in power, Lewisham will govern with courage and care - fighting against local, national and global injustice. **Because injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.**



Lewisham Greens will

01 Defend justice and sanctuary

- Lead opposition to Labour austerity, and demand fair funding for councils
- Lobby the London Collective Investment Vehicle to divest from companies complicit in violations of international law, twin Lewisham with a Palestinian town, and take a clear stance against UK complicity in genocide and illegal war
- Refuse data-sharing with immigration enforcement and support migrant communities and businesses targeted by raids
- Defend LGBTQ+ rights and declare Lewisham a Trans Friendly Borough, with proactive outreach and support

02 Be a council of care

- Expand in-borough temporary accommodation and introduce a Charter of Rights, guaranteeing the Five Basics: kitchen access, laundry, Wi-Fi, storage and clear information on housing options and move-on timelines
- Introduce a cash-first approach to the Crisis Resilience Fund and a support-first council tax collection approach that reduces use of bailiffs
- Ensure Borough of Sanctuary principles and commitments are embedded across council services

03 Build trust, accountability and truth

- Challenge the police to improve trust and outcomes, particularly for Black communities who are over-policed and under-protected
- Support victims of the Windrush scandal by setting up a Community Advisory Panel and sharing best practice and advice to ensure affected residents access compensation
- Acknowledge Lewisham's links to the transatlantic slave trade, decolonise public spaces and education, and work with local historians to establish a slavery museum in North Lewisham
- Hold the police accountable for tackling organised crime that drives phone-snatching, parcel theft and grooming



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