

## Labour Motion: Working with a Labour Government

Proposer: Cllr Luke Cawley-Harrison

Seconder: Cllr Pippa Connor

### **The Council notes that**

Following a General Election held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the Labour Party formed a majority government following a landslide election victory in which 412 Labour MPs were elected to Parliament, and 72 Liberal Democrat MPs were elected to Parliament.

Haringey now has 4 Labour MPs representing the borough in Parliament: Tulip Siddiq (Hampstead and Highgate), David Lammy (Tottenham), Catherine West (Hornsey and Friern Barnet) and Bambos Charalambous (Southgate and Wood Green).

The new Labour government's has committed to fixing the damage caused by the Conservative Party's mismanagement of our economy and neglect for public services.

The Labour government has committed to being fiscally responsible and has pledged to implement polices like the Fiscal Lock and spending rules as a means to ensure public finances are protected, spent effectively and not wasted.

The Labour government has promised to rethink Council funding by exploring multiyear funding settlements, end wasteful competitive bidding and overhauling the local audit system, which has been reiterated by newly installed ministers.

The Labour government plans to work in closer partnership with nations, regions and local authorities and widen devolution to more areas, encouraging local authorities to come together and take on new powers.

The Labour government have committed to asking local authorities to begin preparatory work to join together on economic geographies and take on a new suite of powers through an enhanced devolution framework to benefit local residents.

The Labour government has already scrapped the inhumane Rwanda Plan and begun work on overhauling the planning system to help speed up an ambitious house building programme of building 1.5m homes over this parliament and introduced mandatory housing targets for local areas.

Local authorities are still under severe financial pressure, facing a funding gap of nearly £6bn over the next two years and in January 1 in 5 local authorities in England said they were at risk of being served Section 114 Notices in the following 15 months.

Despite years of underfunding from central government, Haringey Council has achieved and delivered on many key commitments through the Haringey Deal & Corporate Delivery Plan by working with residents to co-produce and co-design a fairer, greener Haringey.

Haringey Council had to make use of £19.25 million from its reserves to balance in the books in the last financial year, a practise this council's Cabinet recently agreed was "unsustainable" and if it continues could lead to a serious reduction in services, or even bankruptcy.

### **The Council believes that**

The Labour government offers a welcome change in governance from one of the worst and damaging governments in history.

We know our local communities and our borough best and welcome the government's plans to devolve further powers so that we can work to deliver for and with local people.

The Labour government faces an uphill challenge in power as a result of the Conservative government's failed legacy, with public services struggling, demand for services rising and a stagnated economy.

The Labour government's commitment to being fiscally responsible is the right thing to do at this time of economic instability and will ensure any use of public money is used responsibly and is focused on supporting the most vulnerable, and that Haringey Council should follow these same practises locally

The Labour government must tackle the funding crisis facing local authorities as an absolute priority, including by providing multi-year settlements, boosting the supply of social housing, and forging a long-term, cross-party agreement on social care – some of which the new government has already committed to, and some of which they still need to be pushed on

Given the state of local government finance, the government must prioritise increasing funding levels to local authorities as a matter of urgency.

**This Council resolves to:**

Work collaboratively with our new Labour government and Labour Mayor of London to deliver change for residents in Haringey.

Write to the Prime Minister congratulating him and his government on winning the election and reaffirm our commitment to working with the government to deliver for residents in Haringey.

Write to the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, congratulating her in her new role, reaffirm our commitment to work collaboratively with her department on issues that impact Haringey, request an urgent increase in the level of funding received by local government, and invite her to visit the borough and discuss the funding support we need from the government to make Haringey a fairer, greener borough.

Write to our 4 Members of Parliament to congratulate them on their elections and reaffirm our commitment to working with them to support and deliver for all our residents.