

## **HARINGEY 2035: OUR VISION**

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## **Introduction from Cllr Peray Ahmet and Andy Donald**

This document sets out a vision of what we want for Haringey by 2035: *A place where we can all belong and thrive*. We know that positive change happens when people work together and that as a Council, we don't have all the answers. Therefore, this vision has been developed in dialogue with residents, communities and our partners – large and small. But we also hope that by having a shared vision we can galvanise the – too often – scarce resources at our disposal, to achieve our common aims. Together we are greater than the sum of our parts in terms of our reach and resources; and at the heart of this vision is genuine co-production and partnership.

Haringey is an incredible part of London. It has so many assets – our world class cultural and sporting institutions, our innovative businesses and entrepreneurs; our great parks, our brilliant schools and nurseries; and most importantly our people. It is the cultural heart of North London - a place where people come together; where difference is celebrated and where anything is possible.

But despite all this, we know Haringey can be even better.

Talking to residents, community groups and voluntary organisations we have heard so many fantastic aspirations for our great borough. We have tried to distil all this down into a simple vision which we believe speaks to those ambitions. In essence, what we heard is that we want a Haringey where all our residents can have the opportunity to thrive and enjoy the best possible version of their life; where the quality of life in every part of the borough is as good as it is in our cleanest, greenest and safest neighbourhoods; and at a time of insecurity and change Haringey is a place where people feel that they really belong. That is why we have put these three ambitions right at the heart of this vision. We hope you agree.

We want this vision to be grounded in what is distinctive – and special – about Haringey and through working with a broad set of partners we believe we have achieved this. We are a 'Rebel Borough' that is proud of our heritage. We stand against oppression of any nature and remain welcoming towards one and all. This is reflected in our aim to focus on belonging and opportunity. It inspires our commitment towards driving up quality of life, thereby tackling inequality through unlocking opportunity.

This Vision is just the start in setting out a longer-term direction of travel and we look forward to working with our residents and partners to deliver this on our journey to 2035.

## **About Haringey**

Haringey is fantastic – the world in one borough. A place brimming with creativity, vibrancy, personality, radicalism, diversity and community. It is a place where we stand up for each other. A place that is proudly distinctive.

For centuries people have come from all over the world and made their home here. They have been welcomed by our communities and in turn have enriched daily life in the borough. Our streets buzz with culture, from food markets to street art, roller discos to Nigerian tapas. Culture and community are in our DNA – it's our greatest strength. Haringey is the London Borough of Culture for 2027, and we are planning a year of opportunities to celebrate our 'Rebel Borough'.

Our working-class history champions change-makers and everyday rebels; revelling in our differences, battling discrimination, championing equality and doing things our own way. We speak 180 languages and are home to many communities. Our incredible and renowned food culture is on show from Green Lanes to West Green Road.

Haringey is a special place. We have great schools, wonderful libraries, green flag parks; thriving shopping centres and high streets brimming with independent shops. We are proud to be home to the renowned Alexandra Palace; historic Bruce Castle Museum; beautiful Finsbury Park; and the world-class Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. As well as to ground-breaking artists, entrepreneurs, activists, educators; and thousands of dedicated and committed key workers.

There is a lot to look forward to over the next decade. Haringey will be London Borough of Culture and in 2028 Tottenham Hotspur Stadium will host European Championship\_football fixtures - showcasing Haringey to the world.

This vision is about harnessing all this opportunity and building the best possible version of Haringey in ten years' time.

## **How we developed Haringey 2035**

This vision for Haringey 2035 has been developed in partnership between Haringey Council and our residents, communities, partners, council staff and visitors. The process included surveys, workshops and focus groups aimed at understanding our existing strengths and assets; our challenges, and our priorities. This vision is a product of those conversations and aspirations. It recognises that a strengths-based approach with collaboration and partnership will be at the heart of our success.

Our process involved around 2,000 individuals and organisations via:

- Workshops with partners
- Online survey – residents, businesses, students and visitors
- Workshops with Haringey Council staff
- In-person focus groups to ensure the voices of those too often overlooked were heard. This included:
  - ✓ Young people across different educational settings
  - ✓ Faith-based groups
  - ✓ Older people in the borough
  - ✓ Communities based on national identities
  - ✓ Individuals who are homeless or rough sleeping in the borough

The result of this process is a vision which is deeply rooted in our culture and values in Haringey. This is a borough that is ambitious for its future but has a clear sense of self. The vision was developed following the principles the council committed to through the Haringey Deal: listening to residents, prioritising relationships and sharing power. We have also drawn from the vast array of feedback the council has received through major engagement processes that have taken place over the last couple of years. This was important to maximise the impact of feedback provided. Some of these recent engagements include:

Wood Green Voices

Tottenham Voices

Your Bruce Grove

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Community Safety Strategy

Local Plan

Hate Crime Strategy

Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

## **What Residents Told us**

**What people like most about Haringey**

- Our local parks and green spaces
- Haringey's diversity of communities
- Our arts, culture, shops and diverse offer from restaurants
- Haringey's location, transport connections to central London

#### **The issues people would like to be prioritised**

- Housing conditions and the availability of more affordable and family-sized homes
- Challenges around social isolation and cost of living pressures
- Inclusive public spaces that foster interactions and cultural exchange
- Reduction in crime, violence, and anti-social behaviour
- Equitable and improved opportunities in education, employment and skills
- Reducing inequalities in health through better access to primary healthcare and mental health and wellbeing
- Fair access to local opportunities for young people in the East and the West of the borough
- Sharing the benefits from regeneration, growth and economic opportunities
- A celebration of the diversity, cohesion and welcoming spirit of our communities
- Facilitating a just transition towards making greener and cleaner choices

*A place where we can all belong and thrive.* Our vision for Haringey in 2035 is a place where all our residents have the opportunity to thrive and enjoy the best possible version of their life; where the quality of life in every part of the borough is comparable to our cleanest, greenest and safest neighbourhoods; and that at a time of insecurity and change, Haringey is a place where people can put down roots and feel they really belong.

To achieve this vision, we have identified six 'Calls to Action'. These are the priorities that our residents, communities and partners have indicated are the foundations of the future that we want to build. It is through securing progress in these fundamental areas that we will create opportunity, a great quality of life and sense of belonging for all.

At its heart, this vision is about tackling inequality. Only through creating a greater equity of experience can we hope to ensure that everyone in Haringey can share more equally in all that life here has to offer – today and in the future. So, equality and equity will be at the core of our approach to achieving this vision.

Haringey is also in a unique position in London – we enjoy excellent transport links to central London. Through 'telling our story' and maximising our existing assets, we aim to deliver economic growth and ensure that we are a desirable destination for visitors, businesses and development. A key part of this ambition is addressed through our calls to action - developing opportunities for thriving places, good skills, secure income and a shared prosperity for all.

In most of the conversations we had about this vision, one message that came through consistently was the desire to shift and re-frame the narrative about Haringey. Residents and partners alike felt that Haringey is a hidden gem, which doesn't currently garner the positive attention it deserves. We believe that with growth, opportunities and better quality of life, over the next decade Haringey will be further established as a desirable destination to invest in, visit and live. As with other aspirations in this vision, this isn't something that the Council can achieve by itself. Therefore, alongside working in partnership to deliver our Calls to Action, we want to mobilise everyone in the borough to join hands and speak up – telling the story of our fantastic, welcoming and fearless borough to the outside world.

## **Our Framework for Change in Haringey**

Across Haringey's communities and neighbourhoods, residents want improved opportunities and equity of experiences for everyone. During discussions, they highlighted inequality in opportunities to access healthcare, secure housing and employment. They also shared their struggles with affordability of life in Haringey accompanied by the diminishing sense of belonging in the borough. We therefore developed our 'cross-cutting outputs' of opportunity, quality of life and belonging to address these challenges.

We believe that these outputs would directly result from prioritising the six fundamental areas in our 'Calls to Action'. We know that these areas of intervention are fundamental for moving the dial on outcomes in the borough – ultimately reducing inequalities, improving our standard of living and creating the conditions for everyone to feel a deep sense of belonging in Haringey.

The language 'Call to Action' has been chosen deliberately in the hope that everyone in the borough – residents, community groups, faith groups, businesses, statutory partners – will adopt this document and commit to act and help achieve these goals.



## **Our Calls to Action**

London's housing crisis, the post-pandemic cost of living pressures and austerity driven funding cuts have all impacted life in the borough negatively.



As living in London and Haringey has continued to become less affordable, housing and the need for secure jobs has emerged as a key challenge. Resident feedback has highlighted unprecedented mental health struggles, social isolation and homelessness for the most vulnerable. Tackling antisocial behaviour and its impact on young people has also been identified as a top priority by residents.

Despite the best endeavours of the council, partners and communities to address these issues over many years, they remain stubbornly challenging. Galvanising co-ordinated activity through our Calls to Action offers a chance to make progress on them for the future and over the course of this vision we will continue to widen and review stakeholders who can help deliver this vision.

At present our Calls to Action are set out in high level terms. Each will be further defined working with partners and communities. For more detail see the 'How we will work together' section. However, through workshops with partners we have identified some initial priority areas that we think can contribute to each Call to Action and ultimately the realisation of the broader vision. These are set out below.

We hope that communities and partners will use these Calls to Action to consider how best they can contribute and help deliver on our common ambitions.

### **Call to Action 1: Safe and Affordable Housing in Haringey**

The foundation of a good quality of life and a sense of belonging is a decent, safe and affordable place to call home.

Over the last decade, in common with the rest of London, Haringey has experienced rapid increases in rents in the private rented sector and house prices. Alongside that, many residents have reported declining standards of property maintenance in the private rented sector and in social housing, including damp and mould. Homelessness and rough sleeping have also been on the rise across London. It is apparent that the current housing crisis cannot be tackled through local action alone – it warrants a national and London-wide approach. However, there are actions that can be taken in Haringey, some of which is already underway. They include:

- The council's significant council house building programme which has committed to deliver 3,000 new council homes. Aside from that, across all tenures the council has a target to deliver at least 15,000 new homes within the timeframe of this vision, including affordable housing.
- Significant investment in existing council homes to improve quality and energy efficiency.
- HMO and landlord licensing, which is helping to drive up standards in the private rented sector.
- Maximising the use of our existing housing stock e.g. through efforts to reduce the number of empty homes in the borough
- Our partners and teams continuing to provide crucial advice to residents about their housing rights.

### **Initial priorities:**

**Greater availability of high-quality advice:** Adopting a partnerships approach towards early intervention with the objective of improving housing outcomes and preventing homelessness.

**Challenging those who break the rules:** Working together to put a stop to low standards, subletting, and rule breaking by unscrupulous landlords

**Influencing the policy context** – We will work together to make the case for national and regional policies that allow us to deliver locally to:

- Boost the supply of new homes to meet demand
- Invest in existing housing stock to drive up standards
- Deliver planning policy that ensures safe and affordable housing for our residents

### **Call to Action 2: Thriving Places**

Haringey is a place where people take pride in their local heritage. We have a history of being a welcoming borough and our diversity is reflected across communities. We know that when they come together, shared experiences build on the strength of our civic and community spirit.

Residents identified parks as one of the key assets in Haringey – areas that kept the community spirit alive during the difficult pandemic years when indoor interactions were severely restricted. Haringey is also blessed with vibrant and busy high streets; thriving markets and a major Town Centre in Wood Green. Our voluntary and community sector; faith groups and a wealth of local social action play a crucial role in making this borough the place it is. By working in collaboration with our Voluntary and Community Sector we can leverage additional funding into the borough. Our Haringey Community Collaborative supports grassroots organisations and underserved groups to build capacity, raise funds and increase impact. We are proud of our high streets which still retain a huge proportion of independent shops unlike in many other areas in London today.

However, increasingly some residents lament the lack of accessible community spaces where social, sports and other cultural activities could be pursued. Young people wish to have access to youth hubs where the offering is driven by their needs and older residents would like free activities that could help tackle increasing social isolation. Businesses desire more opportunities to tap into the potential for growth within London's wider economy. Meeting those needs requires a partnerships effort making creative use of existing spaces, encouraging even more neighbourhood resources for shared use and strengthening social networks.

We also envisage improved opportunities for residents and businesses to participate in place-based growth and economic development, especially through London wide initiatives. Our Shaping Tottenham vision highlights our ambition to make North Tottenham an international destination for sports, culture and entertainment, set within a vibrant town centre with a proud local identity. Our Borough Vision highlights that Haringey is a place to invest in.

Listening to our communities' immediate place-based needs helped us identify some initial priority actions. The council is committed to working in collaboration to support and enable shared and collective action around these priority areas playing to our existing strengths as a borough.

### **Initial priorities:**

**Maximising the use of our existing assets:** maximising community and public spaces in the borough to support economic growth, social cohesion and activities driven by community needs

**Creatively sharing spaces and strengthening networks:** utilise the available spaces to facilitate community use, strengthen our community networks through providing platforms for information and cultural exchange

**Highlighting the role of green spaces to improve outcomes:** strengthening the positive impact of green spaces in social isolation, health and wellbeing and social cohesion

### **Call to Action 3: Supporting children and young peoples' experiences, and Skills**

Haringey's young people are vital to shaping our future. We have some of the most civic minded and inspirational young people enriching our culture and our communities. We have fantastic schools and colleges, and our young people thrive in the strong community spirit in the borough.

During our engagements young people shared some of their everyday challenges. These range from the negative impact of insecure housing to lack of accessible sports facilities for those who are economically disadvantaged. Availability of safe spaces, the need for more diverse role models from the borough and more local opportunities were felt to be particularly relevant for most of them. They were frustrated about the existing inequalities in the borough between the East and the West and witnessed firsthand the impacts of divergent health or educational outcomes. Our young people have been disproportionately affected by the knock-on effects of the cost-of-living crisis – their ability to socialise, find safe and adequate spaces after school for studies and afford activities that positively help their development.

We also heard from adults who were keen for more upskilling opportunities and the ability to maintain employment in an increasingly competitive world. We want to work together across employers, voluntary and community sector, authorities, schools, colleges and communities to improve access to employment and lifelong learning opportunities for everyone in Haringey.

We are keen that our interventions for young people in the borough prioritise their education and social development but are also linked to developing long-term skills, economic stability and community safety. We want to put young people at the heart of our efforts to develop community cohesion and cultural exchange. And we want to tap into London-wide growth programs to catalyse even greater local economic development in Haringey. Over the course of the next decade, we want to make Haringey an even better place to grow up and fully unlock the potential of our young people through giving them the environment and skills they need to succeed.

#### **Initial priorities:**

**Supporting children and families:** Working together to ensure every child gets a great start in life - with a focus on tackling the inequalities associated with child poverty, childhood obesity and mental ill health

**Driving opportunities and bridging skills gaps:** Identifying skills needs and bridging gaps through training, apprenticeships, work experience and the joined-up provision of information about opportunities

**Facilitate high-quality activities and spaces for young people:** to meet the diverse range of interests, needs and experiences that our young people have

**Hearing young people's voices:** Encouraging young people's participation in decision making, cultural exchange and civic and democratic life in the borough

#### **Calls to Action 4: Feeling safe and being safe**

Haringey residents take pride in their neighbourhoods and diverse communities. Over the last few years, residents have reported an increase in feeling unsafe in public spaces. This could be a knock-on effect from the London wide trend of increased anti-social behaviour and knife-crime as well as a periodic increase in hate crimes related to geopolitical events.

During discussions, residents and partners indicated that we would all feel safer with improved and visible enforcement in our high streets and initiatives for community policing. Voluntary organisations highlighted the relevance of CCTV and lighting on streets and improving safety through 'designing out crime' in public spaces. Our communities sometimes feel discriminated against due to a lack of cultural competency among staff in certain public services and therefore highlighted the need for co-producing solutions to improve trust and confidence.

There is a broad recognition that there has been a decline in feeling safe in the borough, especially for women and girls and ethnic minorities. Our discussions have highlighted the need to prioritise safety – both being safe and feeling safe through initiating the following priority actions.

##### **Initial priorities:**

**Improved public confidence and trust:** Improve public trust through community policing, just enforcement actions and co-designing solutions with communities

**Multi-agency approach to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour:** improving multi-agency action against gun violence, knife crime and violence against women and girls in the borough; and tackling antisocial behaviour through innovative solutions like designing out crime.

**Tackling hate and violence in the borough:** Utilising community resources and strong partnership action to tackle racism and hate crimes including Islamophobia and Antisemitism.

#### **Call to Action 5: Tackling Inequalities in Health and Wellbeing**

Good health and wellbeing are fundamental to us leading productive and fulfilling lives and it is our ambition to make this possible for everyone in Haringey. The gap in healthy life expectancy is approximately 10 years between the East and West of the borough; child obesity in Haringey is significantly higher than the London average. These are outcomes we are committed to improve for everyone in Haringey.

Inequalities are also reflected in a wide range of health outcomes, where our poorest communities and those from Black, Asian and mixed-ethnic backgrounds currently have the worst health outcomes. We saw evidence of that during the Covid-19 pandemic where these communities suffered disproportionate exposure to and impact from the virus, as a result of health demographics but also socioeconomic factors.

This Call to Action includes adopting a holistic approach by promoting active and healthy lifestyles, supporting healthy choices and improved mental health for everyone. We know that good health and wellbeing is a product of better healthcare interventions but also of tackling related issues like air pollution, unsafe streets and homes, employment security etc. Most public health models recognise that 80% of health outcomes are socially determined. Therefore, we must recognise the need for a systems approach to tackling inequalities in health and wellbeing in Haringey.

Improved access to primary care, increased inclusive spaces for people to connect on health and wellbeing, implementing preventative approaches and working with community leaders and our voluntary and community sector to share information will be at the heart of our efforts. We shall work collaboratively, drawing our shared intelligence across the borough and adapting the following priorities to suit the diverse needs of different communities and areas.

### **Initial priorities:**

**Reducing inequalities in health outcomes:** tackling inequalities in healthy life expectancy, mental health and infant mortality.

**Focusing on preventative pathways:** improving access to preventative services and support for children and adults within their neighbourhoods.

**Reducing barriers to accessing primary care:** adopting a partnerships approach towards reducing barriers through digitisation and implementing national standards in access to primary care

### **Call to Action 6: Supporting Greener Choices**

Reducing our energy use, minimising our carbon footprint, choosing greener transport options are all becoming an ever more urgent necessity. However, the transition into these changes is not easy nor possible without recognising the different circumstances and resources available to our residents.

We recognise that knowledge, affordability and individual needs all play a crucial role in facilitating a just transition. We are committed to considering how a broader range of residents, communities and businesses can contribute to the conversation about the changes that the climate crisis demands. We know that this won't succeed if large parts of society feel excluded or dictated to about the choices and changes we all need to make.

Supporting everyone to make greener choices is also complementary to desirable outcomes in health and social justice. We believe that by supporting residents and businesses to make greener choices we can improve quality of life whilst also doing our bit to tackle the climate emergency. Therefore, we have chosen to prioritise these cross-cutting interventions to support a positive change in attitudes towards nature, resources and consumption.

### **Initial Priorities:**

**Taking action:** Taking strong action to tackle the Climate Emergency as a key social justice issue, mitigate climate risks and create opportunities for everyone to make greener choices and be climate resilient.

**Connecting communities with nature:** Increasing opportunities for nature-based approaches and activities to deliver improved well-being e.g. food growing

**Empowering communities and businesses:** improving wellbeing through greener choices, harnessing the potential of the circular economy and energy transitions

### **A mission-led government**

Our six Calls to Action focus on local action based on a partnerships approach. However, at the time Haringey 2035 was drafted, the national government set out its 5 key missions. There

is a lot of common ground between the two. Within that context, where there are opportunities for us to influence government policy so Haringey benefits from the national agenda, we shall do so.

The delivery of the Vision's calls to action will require partnership working with partners like GLA and national government to align and adapt to their policies or make the case for change in some areas. The development of the Vision over the next ten years needs to evolve to respond to the changing policy of central and sub regional government.

<b>Borough Vision Call to Action</b>	<b>Government's Missions</b>
Supporting young people, education and skills	Kickstart economic growth
Supporting Greener Choices	Make Britain a clean energy superpower
Feeling safe and being safe Thriving Places	Take back our streets
Supporting young people, education and skills  Safe and Affordable Housing in Haringey	Break down barriers to opportunity
Tackling Inequalities in Health	Build an NHS fit for the future

### **The Future: Our principles, ways of working and partnerships in the borough**

*'The success of the Borough Vision must not only be measured through what we do but how we work together in collaboration to achieve those common goals!'* – participant, 3rd workshop for the Borough Vision

When Haringey Council adopted the Haringey Deal in 2022, the council challenged itself to a new way of working with our communities. This included making important decisions about the borough with active involvement from our residents, communities and partners. For the Borough Vision therefore, the process began with invitations to a very broad group of stakeholders to collaboratively chart out this journey towards a 10-year vision.

Over the course of the year from September 2023, Haringey residents, VCS, businesses, Councillors, Council staff and statutory services worked together to seek a common goal for everyone in Haringey. Although we have now developed the vision, its publication is just the beginning of this longer-term partnership journey..!

In July 2024, partners agreed that the delivery of our priorities would require further thinking into creative approaches to partnership-based delivery. However, they co-developed a broad set of guiding principles to underpin our collaborative efforts and delivery action.

1. **Governance** - We shall use existing governance arrangements in each sector to progress the Haringey 2035 objectives. Where existing structures are not working, we shall fix them rather than create new ones.
2. **Strategic Action** – We shall explore setting up working groups or community forums for each Call to Action. The group would set goals, monitor progress on each area and report to the whole partnership periodically. Where there are developing or new strategies the Borough Vision will influence them.

3. Stakeholder participation – Stakeholders felt that each group working on Calls to Action would discuss and volunteer their contributions towards the priorities and thereafter report progress to the group. This would contribute towards an accountable and measurable system within each area.
4. Council's role – Haringey Council would best serve as the partner creating spaces for conversation and collaboration among other partners - i.e. convening, facilitation, linking, infrastructure provision. It should not dominate or lead all of the work.
5. Enable more partnership work – All partners will explore creative avenues for collaboration in their individual areas of work – e.g. venues, community access, knowledge sharing, staff networks, translation services, joint healthcare signposting.
6. Commitment – All partners would adopt a transparent 'we said, we did' approach towards their contributions to each Calls to Action.

Covid-19 and service delivery in its aftermath has highlighted the need to be adaptable and pragmatic in our approach to tackling the biggest challenges. Our stakeholder group wish to remain flexible in adopting bottom-up solutions. Working groups will be set up to deliver on the calls to action as well as using existing and emerging partnership bodies.

Each year, Haringey Council plans to convene all partners and stakeholders at a yearly summit to share their creative solutions, feedback on delivery of the vision. Each working group would be encouraged to report on progress and learnings with the wider partnership group and discuss opportunities for partnership working. Working groups would be encouraged to track measurable indicators and record case studies as the partnership progresses towards achieving these priority actions over the next decade.

### **How Haringey 2035 relates to other strategic documents:**

Haringey 2035 sets out a borough-wide, partnership framework, where every stakeholder is encouraged to contribute and play their part towards achieving the 10-year vision. The Vision therefore would set the context for future decision-making, policy development and resource allocation. It is linked to other key strategies which is outlined here:

