

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT BUDGET AMENDMENT

Proposer: Cllr Ed Butcher, Seconder: Cllr Robert Gorrie

Action on Crime

The Liberal Democrats want to make Haringey safer. We will create six 24 hour Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the wards that are worst affected by crime.

Revenue cost: £912,000.00

Helping Residents out of Recession

Local residents have been hit hard by the economic downturn. The quickest and fairest way for Haringey Council to help is by taking less money out of residents' pockets. Therefore, we propose a one year freeze on all charges paid by residents.

Revenue cost: £700,000.00

Young people have been amongst the hardest hit by the recession. We want to help them gain the experience that will give them the edge in a difficult jobs market. We propose 125 paid internships.

Revenue cost: £750,000.00

Action on the Environment

Labour's record on the environment is poor. The threat of climate change demands action now.

We propose a ten-fold increase in invest-to-save environmental projects. We will invest £5m in green projects that will pay back their costs in an average of 5 years.

Revenue cost: neutral

Batteries are one of the most toxic household waste products. Haringey Council only has two sites for people to safely dispose of batteries. We propose 100 new sites in schools, libraries and community buildings, improving local residents' opportunity to recycle batteries.

Revenue cost: £10,000.00

We believe Haringey Council should do more to encourage local residents to make the greenest choice. Therefore we propose abolishing all residential parking charges for the greenest cars.

Revenue cost: £750.00

Helping the Local Economic

Local businesses have been badly hit by the economic downturn. Haringey Council needs to do more to help them through, and reinvigorate our local economy.

Haringey Council is one the borough's largest landlords of commercial property with a high vacancy rate. We propose offering genuine start-up companies 12 months rent free in vacant properties. This would be carefully managed to prevent unfair competition to existing businesses.

Revenue cost: £188,000.00

Haringey Council can support businesses in way that benefits local residents. We propose expanding business subsidies for companies that offer free public access to their toilets. Labour has failed to successfully implement this scheme.

Revenue cost: £20,000.00

For many small traders the cost of parking adds significantly to the cost of doing business in Haringey. We want to ease this burden and at the same time incentivise local business to be greener. We therefore propose reducing traders' parking fees for the greenest vehicles.

Revenue cost: £10,000.00

Securer Funding Future for Children Services

The Liberal Democrats are determined that financial uncertainty does not prevent Haringey Council from protecting our borough's most vulnerable children. To provide more financial security we will ring-fence the Children Services' safeguarding budget for five years and protect the department's ongoing budget from any future reductions forced by any cut in central government funding.

Action on Labour's waste

Labour mismanagement of Haringey Council's finances cost local residents dear. Labour councillors have spent too many years lining their own pockets and using taxpayers' resources to their own end.

We think it is wrong that almost every Labour councillor receives an extra allowance on top of their basic allowance. We propose cutting the number of Special Responsibility Allowances and the number of member and committee support staff.

Revenue Saving: £250,000.00

We think it is wrong that Labour campaigns at the taxpayers' expense. We will end expensive and unnecessary council propaganda. Advertising should be focused on the needs of the residents, such as fostering and community notices.

Revenue Saving: £513,450.00

Haringey People is excessive and unnecessary. We would reduce it from ten to four editions a year.

Revenue Saving: £120,000.00

We think councillors should share the burden of the recession and accept a freeze on their allowances.

Revenue Saving: £12,000.00

Balancing the budget

Liberal Democrats know that staff are our greatest asset in achieving a more effective and efficient council for local residents. Redundancies must be avoided and only considered as a very last resort.

Non-redundancy savings can be achieved through a combination of increasing the delay in recruiting new non-frontline staff by four weeks and holding a higher vacancy factor for current back office posts.

Revenue saving: £1,156,000.00

In difficult times, we would ask those who earn the most to forego their bonuses. We also propose negotiating a review of the staff bonus scheme, for future years that better rewards and incentivises our best performing staff.

Revenue saving: £209,016.00

We think it is wrong that, under Labour, Haringey Council hold a £1m redundancy reserve. This money can be more efficiently used to help residents through the recession. We will draw down on this reserve to fund these measures.

Contribution from reserve: £330,284.00

Total growth:	£2,590,750.00
Total savings:	£2,260,466.00
Contribution from reserve:	£330,284.00
Net balance:	nil

Laying a Foundation for the Future

Labour's lack of planning for future savings is putting Haringey Council's frontline services at risk. Labour is ignoring the crisis in public finances. A Liberal Democrat administration would be committed to:

- Doubling the size of Haringey Forward drawing an additional £2m down from general reserves with a target of an additional £5m of savings.
- Improved partnership working to carry out shared services at reduced cost.
- Working with social enterprises to run services more efficiently.
- Different approach to budgeting – zero-based budgeting of key departments.