

# A Taste of Change

An aspirational, green, new  
deal for Hertsmere



Labour's manifesto for Hertsmere  
May 2023

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# Preface

Labour has a plan for Hertsmere. This manifesto, the most comprehensive ever produced here by any local political party, sets out the contours of that plan. I am particularly proud that it is the result of extensive consultation with local people and includes the thoughts and ideas of more than 120 Hertsmere residents of all political persuasions who responded to our consultation as well as feedback from over 2500 doorstep conversations with residents over the past nine months. This is truly a people-powered manifesto.

This year's local elections come at a critical juncture. The Tories crashed the economy, and they are making working people pay the price. PM Rishi Sunak is doing what he always does: make working people pay with higher taxes and cuts to services. Both Sunak and his cheerleaders in Hertsmere have records of failure. He failed to grow the economy, failed to curtail inflation, and failed to help families during the Tory cost-of-living crisis. Our local Tory Council has failed to revive our local economy. Hertsmere's health and transport infrastructure is crumbling.

The gap between rich and poor in Hertsmere continues to grow, and the Tories are in the pocket of wealthy developers, whom they allow to ravage our local green belt. Last year, our residents protested in great numbers against the failed Tory Local Plan. This May, it is time to finish that job.

No one voted for all of this. The Tories are treating this borough like their personal plaything with no consideration for what people want and no contrition for the chaos they have created.

This manifesto is an opportunity to compare the Tories' chaos with Labour's plans to sort out their mess, grow the local economy, and rebuild our borough for a fairer, greener future. Hertsmere must have a chance at a fresh start. This people-powered document gives you a taste of what that might look like.

**Councillor Jeremy Newmark**  
**Labour Group Leader,**  
**Hertsmere Borough Council**



# Introduction

I am very proud to present our manifesto for Hertsmere. Like many of you, I am increasingly worried about the future of our country and our borough. The current government has no direction, plan, or vision for the future. Locally, our Conservative administration has shown that it too is exhausted and out of ideas.

We all deserve better. Our country and our borough face serious problems. The cost-of-living crisis foments fear and deprivation as public services are collapsing. We can get through this, but we need a new approach. If elected, a Labour administration in Hertsmere will put people first. The policies set out below demonstrate that we believe we can really make a difference. We can foster a greener, fairer Hertsmere that listens to and understands the struggles of its residents.

We in Hertsmere Labour have also worked hard to ensure that our policies are realistic and costed. We are committed to freezing Council Tax for the year 2023/2024. We want to use Council resources more efficiently and target them for the best outcomes for Hertsmere residents. Our policies will deliver a better Hertsmere and preserve the green belt for this and future generations. We will provide new public bus routes, and we will ensure that Hertsmere's new Local Plan delivers new, additional GP provision to rectify the existing deficit and meet the demand of any proposed new development.

We are excited to be delivering all of this to you. We are on your side. If you put your faith in us, we won't let you down. Together we can make Hertsmere an even better place. I hope that after reading our manifesto, you will agree and lend us your vote in May.

**John Doolan**  
**Chair, Hertsmere**  
**Labour Party**



Hertsmere has been left vulnerable to speculative applications to build all over local green belt land since the shelving of the Council's failed Local Plan in 2022. Seven years of work and resources were wasted. Labour will deliver a resident-led planning strategy that prioritises protecting the green belt, delivering much needed infrastructure and fighting unrealistic housing targets set by the government.

- We will deliver a new people-powered local plan within six months informed by the 20,000 responses from local residents and businesses during the 2022 Regulation 18 Consultation process. Work on this new blueprint for Hertsmere will be paid from existing budgets and supplemented by curbing the use of highly paid agency staff in the Council's planning department.
- We will end the current practice of local policies playing second fiddle to central government guidance. We will ensure that strong local policies prioritising local wishes always take precedence over national planning policy framework guidelines.
- We will double the Council tax levy on empty homes annually and cumulatively to incentivise owners to free up space in Hertsmere. Funds raised from this policy will be used to ensure that inappropriate developments are challenged in court when needed.
- We will protect green belt land as our top planning priority. We will safeguard over 99% of Hertsmere's green belt by increasing the number of homes in the planned new garden village on the edge of the borough and by bringing more empty homes back into use. When government policies leave us no choice but to develop green belt land, we will ensure the lowest grade green belt is used.
- We will deliver 'Business Improvement Districts' in the centres of Borehamwood & Elstree, Potters Bar, Radlett, and Bushey to regenerate the local economy and provide income to be reinvested in our town centres.
- We will restore the 'Nolan Principles' of public conduct to the work of Hertsmere's Planning Committee. This will end the persistent conflicts of interest and put a stop to developers' undue influence over the councillors whom they finance.

- We will enable greater, more meaningful public contact with planning officers by restoring regular planning surgeries both in-person and on-line that will be funded by increasing the costs levied on developers in the pre-application and early phases of major developments.
- We will implement national Labour Party policy to insulate 19 million homes by working with energy providers to establish a local fund to subsidise this drive. The funds for this are available and earmarked, but in 2022 the Council had to return a portion of them because they were unused.
- We will bring a new ethos to Hertsmere's planning service. Officers' performance will be measured using new indicators based on the provision of affordable homes and critical infrastructure for local people.
- We will help protect pubs, sports clubs, playing fields, and community centres by providing greater assistance and support to those wishing to list them as Assets of Community Value. We will ensure that community groups seeking to list such assets have access to the business, planning and financial expertise to utilise the legislation successfully.



Hertsmere faces a severe local housing crisis. Put simply, there is a huge deficit in the decent, affordable housing that local families require. We will deliver a paradigm shift by investing in a modern form of Council housing and by improving circumstances for the growing number of private renters in the borough.

- We will close the failed Council subsidiary, Hertsmere Development Limited, that has become a net cost to the Council. We will use the money saved to develop innovative partnerships and provide seed funding to joint ventures with non-profit providers to develop a genuinely affordable stock of 'modern council housing'. We will pump prime this initiative with £2.5m of reserve funding (taken from the current balance of over £63m) to be repaid from rental yields over 25 years.
- We will utilise best practices in modern construction and cutting-edge design techniques to maximise the use of existing space for housing without increasing densification around the borough to dangerous levels.
- We will introduce regular 'inspection tours' of housing association properties by ward councillors, council officers, and housing association representatives. These on-site visits will identify faults, needed repairs, and other concerns and set agreed timeframes for rectification. A new dedicated Council officer will coordinate this work. These inspections tours and their administration will be funded with income from the new housing partnership initiatives.
- We will get tough on rogue landlords to ensure residents get the service they deserve. We will serve improvement notices on homes with severe hazards and enable rent repayment orders when landlords fail to comply. We will also enforce the ban on letting agent fees by proactively issuing fines to criminal letting agents.
- We will act on overcrowded homes through an improved licensing regime and increased frequency of inspections. These initiatives will be funded from the fines issued to rogue landlords.

- We will implement a Private Tenant Engagement Charter to improve and formalise communication through initiatives by:
  - Establishing a Private Renters' Forum for tenants;
  - Publishing a Private Renters Information Pack;
  - Community drop-in sessions for private renters;
  - Updating the Council's website to include a dedicated section for renters' resources.
- We will undertake an annual Hertsmere private renter's survey to establish a borough-wide picture of rental costs, housing conditions, and landlord management. The data will be used to further improve the sector.



Labour appreciates that people around our borough are feeling increasingly vulnerable as a consequence of growing anti-social behaviour and the perception of increased crime. At the centre of our community safety plans is a move away from talking towards acting. This shift in approach will be led by an innovative, new uniformed, Council law enforcement team.

- We will change the Council's Neighbourhoods & Community Safety Team to a new "Community Safety and Enforcement Team." This shift will signal our move away from empty talk toward concrete, definitive action.
- We will introduce an innovative scheme to employ our own uniformed law enforcement officers who will work alongside the police to drive down environmental crime and antisocial behaviour and to better protect local people. Their powers will include:
  - obtaining details of offenders;
  - deterring public drink or drug use;
  - patrolling drug affected areas;
  - issuing fixed penalty notices for littering;
  - tagging abandoned cycles and similar items for removal;
  - assisting rough sleepers & beggars off the streets;
  - enforcing by-laws and public space protection orders;
  - supporting local businesses subject to threatening antisocial behaviour;
  - locking major public spaces in evenings when necessary and enforcing against those gaining unauthorised access;
  - deterring anti-social behaviour in the public realm, i.e., parks, open spaces, high streets, town centres & housing land.
- We will fund these Council law enforcement officers in partnership with corporate sponsors, town and parish councils, the repurposing of existing community safety budgets and income from Council subsidiaries. We will also downsize the Council's wastefully large office block to free up funds to enable future expansion and development of this initiative.
- We will work to procure new and enhanced CCTV around shopping parades worst affected by crime, littering, and graffiti. We will fund purchase by ensuring proper value from the county-wide CCTV Partnership.
- We will end Hertsmere's boycott of Hertfordshire's Protocols for the Removal of Flytipping and sign up as active supporters.

- We will establish regular community safety forums in localities around the borough that promote collaborative thinking and action to tackle crime. These forums will be organised in partnership with local residents, neighbourhood watch groups, local community groups, and the police and will be supported not only by Council officers, but also by funding that will be allocated to town and parish Councils and community groups to service these forums.
- We will apply sustained pressure upon the Hertfordshire County Council to ensure adequate, energy-efficient street lighting for footpaths, cycleways, and parks. We will ensure that key areas are lit later into the night. We will seek funding for this initiative from the Police and Crime Commissioner, whom we believe must listen to local people and take responsibility for this .
- We will deliver an investment of at least £1 million per year over the next four years into play centres, skate parks, football pitches, cycle tracks, and basketball courts to help promote positive outcomes for young people and families. This investment will be funded from Community Infrastructure Levy income.
- We will bring the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd, to the table and press him to work with the Council to develop and implement strategies to tackle cybercrime, fraud, and scamming within his Police and Crime Plan.
- We will work with the police to ensure detailed and accurate recording of all hate crime around the borough. We will make Hertsmere a Beacon Council in recognition of its promotion of positive community relations and equality for all. We will work with the local community and such partners as the Community Security Trust (CST) to guarantee the protection of minority groups in Hertsmere, to oppose misogyny, and to raise awareness on how to report hate crimes.



These are difficult times for high streets around the borough. We need to reverse the decline that accelerated during the COVID years. Labour will deliver radical action to secure a vibrant future for local high streets and ensure that they contribute to broader local economic wellbeing. Our plans will deliver increased investment, local economic growth, and a brighter future for local businesses.

- We will appoint a town centre manager to oversee economic development and environmental improvements and work in partnership with retailers and local stakeholders. This post will be funded through the new business improvement districts. Recommendations from the town centre manager in consultation with local businesses will be funded using the Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 funds.
- We will restore, renew, and revamp Borehamwood Street Market based upon local needs. This will include semi-permanent all-week stalls at key locations. Community Infrastructure and County funds will pay for necessary capital infrastructure. The new market will generate not only sufficient revenue to cover its own costs, but also generate additional income.
- We will clear the huge backlog of environmental health inspections of food outlets across the borough by introducing improved service standards for this key function that helps protect public health.
- We will introduce changes to enable street traders to pay licence fees in instalments to drive investment, support small local business, and foster growth.
- We will deter non-essential curbside parking and work toward increasing accessible disabled parking access. We will provide a free hour in all Council-owned car parks near high streets and use national grant funding to deliver demand responsive micro-public transport links to town centres.
- We will actively support Labour Party policy to scrap business rates and replace them with a fairer tax. Online giant retailers should pay their fair share.

- We will prioritise the development of a thriving and vibrant night-time economy around the borough's main high street locations. This work will be led by a new task force of business leaders. We will also invest in making our high streets more accessible for all.
- We will work with local businesses to develop a 'Your Hertsmere' app with key information, discount schemes, and other incentives to encourage local people to spend more in their own community. The development of this app will be funded by reducing the frequency and delivery of the current paper-based Council newsletter.
- We will address the ongoing closure of our high street banks and promote financial inclusion by ensuring the continued provision of free-to-use cash machines.



Labour will reverse the decline of Hertsmere into a high-tax, low-growth economy. Our approach to growth will focus on making decent jobs available locally, setting an example as a public sector employer, and incentivising locally based businesses to employ local people. We will also take immediate steps to help people through the current financial crisis. We appreciate that Hertsmere residents pay London-level prices and that we should aspire to London-level wages.

- We will help local people through the current financial pressures by refunding the Borough Council element of the 2022/3 Council Tax increase. We will pay for this with the unspent portion of the COVID contingency reserve.
- We will freeze Council Tax for the financial year 2023/4.
- We will commission an independent review of the entire Councillor allowance scheme to ensure that local people are getting value for money.
- We will ensure that Hertsmere Borough Council becomes a full London living wage employer. We will work with local employers to ensure that local jobs are well paid and productive. We will fund this by ending the reliance on highly paid temporary agency workers and consolidating the Council's oversized and expensive-to-maintain headquarters.
- We will end the costly Hertsmere staffing merry-go-round by investing the retention and development in the Council's existing staff. We will align remuneration more closely with those neighbouring councils to whom we regularly lose our experienced staff.
- We will encourage Council employees to join a union and rebuild partnerships with local union branches to benefit the local community. We will provide endorsements to those local businesses that meet union recommended benchmarks.
- We will introduce legally compliant ethical investment standards for all future investments involving public funds without compromising returns.
- We will establish a small business incubator to provide advice, guidance, and affordable co-working spaces to support new local businesses.

- We will work to provide enhanced support for small businesses and the self-employed in Hertsmere through Community Development Finance Initiatives (CDFIs) and mutual guarantee schemes.
- We will introduce new procurement guidelines that prioritise local businesses for Council contracts and supplies. We will also provide training to help local small businesses meet the criteria to become approved suppliers.
- We will further support small businesses and sole traders that are the foundation of our high streets by establishing co-operative small business clusters and mutual guarantee societies to pool expertise and cost overheads.
- We will establish satellite sites of publicly owned Elstree Film Studios specialising in high-tech production, gaming technology, and innovation. These organisations will provide local jobs and generate income to reduce the burden on taxpayers.
- We will introduce an independently assessed value for money standard that will prevent wasteful expenditure at all levels in the Council.
- We will create a task force involving officers, councillors, local businesses, and other agencies to source opportunities and apprenticeships for young people, including those with disabilities. This task force will initially focus on the creative arts sector.
- We will establish local film and TV heritage attractions around the borough to generate tourist income and local employment.
- We will ensure regular assessments and reviews of all Council property assets. Council-owned shops will be rented to tenants whose businesses are aligned with local policy and need.



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A climate emergency has been declared in Hertsmere, but the Council has been slow to act. Our children and grandchildren's future is at stake. A new green agenda is at the heart of Labour's plans.

- We will lead from the front by drastically reducing the carbon output of the Council itself with a new focus on green standards, a transition to sustainable energy, and the decarbonisation of Council vehicles and practices. We will track and reduce all CO2 emissions linked to Council spending.
- We will increase the number of charging points for electric vehicles in the borough at least tenfold utilising grant funding and commercial partnerships.
- We will improve air quality in areas with higher levels of CO2 by:
  - educating drivers to keep a 2m gap when cars are at a standstill
  - creating 'No Idling Zones' with the support of volunteers to discourage cars keeping their engines running when stationary especially around schools and health facilities.
  - expanding the cycle hire scheme from Borehamwood across the entire borough and introduce full linkage with the Watford scheme.
- We will deliver a shared electric car scheme.
- We will establish a sustainable public transport company as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council together with local town and parish councils. This company will deliver an effective, affordable, green local transport network and operate on a non-profit basis.
- We will work toward a zero-waste policy.
- We will provide a community skip service to discourage fly tipping. We will clean up Hertsmere with a robust anti-litter campaign and regular action clean up teams to tackle litter hotspots with full support from the Council. The new 'Your Hertsmere' app will make it easy to report litter.
- We will introduce an affordable full business recycling service.
- We will work with Hertfordshire County Council to introduce wild flowering sites.

- We will ensure at least 10,000 new trees are planted in Hertsmere every year. We will also introduce a scheme to plant at least one additional tree for every child in the Borough over the next decade. We will ensure that developers are bound to replace every felled tree with 5 new trees.
- We will introduce new planning policies that set improved minimum energy efficiency standards for all new build properties.
- We will enable people to come together to control where their energy comes from, contribute to a sustainable future, generate local benefit for their neighbourhood, and create jobs and training opportunities for young people. We will accomplish this by supporting and investing in renewable community energy schemes with seed funding and start-up loans and by making leases available for publicly owned land and roof space.
- We will publish a full list of which local authority or private entity owns each grass verge across the borough. We will guarantee a reliable timetable for grass cutting of Council-owned verges and ensure that contractors undertake this work to a suitable standard.
- We will introduce a Climate Action Forum of local residents to focus on creating initiatives to tackle climate change.
- We will introduce a 'Farmer's Forum' of agricultural leaders, including the local equestrian community, to consult on rural issues.
- We will work with local schools to foster engagement between students and local climate initiatives.
- We will introduce micro-funded local climate bonds using the model proposed by the Green Finance Institute.
- We will encourage community food gardens and planters to increase food sustainability and explore ways to increase allotment spaces across Hertsmere.
- We will launch a Hertsmere charter of footpaths, bridleways, and walks.
- We will expand the borough's Green Flag Award status portfolio by investing in local parks and green spaces and adding a new park to the portfolio every year.

Public health has sat on the margins of the Council's agenda for too long. Labour plans a massive shift in priority that places health back at the top of the to-do list and leads the fight against the deterioration of local GP and dental provision.

- Leisure provision in Hertsmere has stagnated at best since it was outsourced to an external company without sufficient checks and balances. Labour will reinvigorate this provision and insist that our contractor focus on this area with enthusiasm and innovation.
- We will continue to fight for a new GP surgery in Borehamwood South and explore opportunities to expand provision and popup services elsewhere in the borough. We will hold the new Integrated Care Board accountable to local people.
- We will ensure that developers contribute toward local health provision via Section 106 agreements during the planning stage for all large developments.
- We will ensure that Hertsmere's new Local Plan delivers new, additional GP provision in tandem with proposed new development. No more new homes without increased GP provision.
- We will ensure the provision of free leisure access to armed forces personnel and veterans. This will be funded from the interest paid on the massive Council loans to Inspire All.
- We will enhance the funding and support of such parent and child services as baby, toddler, and child support across the borough.
- We will significantly expand additional health and fitness support to vulnerable groups by lowering costs, increasing accessibility, and provisioning session specialists.
- We will work with Age UK to support older residents tackling isolation and to boost mental and physical health and wellbeing. We will use income from the interest on the existing leisure loans to provide investment generating match funding for this work.
- We will improve general accessibility and support funding for more water safety classes and swimming lessons.

- We will collaborate with our leisure providers, health providers, and local employers to deliver free local health screening for cholesterol, blood pressure, and glucose levels once-a-month across the borough. We will divert resources from 'information-based' public health schemes to fund these more meaningful and effective measures.
- We will introduce new performance indicators for our InspireAll contractors to press them to focus on ensuring that local facilities are accessible to and used by local people.
- We will introduce youth-only allotted time slots in parts of Council-owned gyms and introduce weekend fitness in the park sessions for this age group.
- We will develop the 'Your Hertsmere' app as a central online portal that collates borough-wide health and wellbeing opportunities.
- We will support such public health campaigns as smoking cessation, tackling obesity, promoting healthy eating, walking or cycling to reduce car usage, and maintaining good mental health and wellbeing.
- We will provide a drainage system on the King George V playing fields in Potters Bar funded through community infrastructure contributions.
- We will work with the creative arts sector to establish a £500k fund dedicated to supporting Hertsmere's existing theatres in our post-COVID world.
- We will ensure that the funds earmarked for refurbishments of the Wylllyotts Centre & Theatre in Potters Bar are used for this purpose and end the scandal about how they have sat unused for years.
- We will identify sites to relocate and, where appropriate, consolidate our underused museums to better promote the proud history of Hertsmere.



Local transport in Hertsmere is broken. Our roads are constantly congested. Our train services are among the most expensive and worst performing in the country. Bus provision around the borough is patchy and poor, and key routes have been cut by a third over the past twelve years. Labour has a plan for decent, integrated, affordable public transport that minimises the need for unnecessary car journeys and provides better connectivity around the borough.

- We will establish a multi-agency Hertsmere Sustainable Public Transport Committee involving borough, county, town and parish council, and key operators. This will forge the 'missing link' and enable the improvement of cross-borough links and the elimination of gaps in provision. This Committee will also address the need for greatly improved cycle networks using the CILIP funding process.
- We will provide new public bus routes and expand existing routes linked to new developments funded by Section 106 agreements at the planning stages.
- We will deliver affordable, frequent, and efficient electric shuttle buses between key locations around the borough and work with major employers and developers to subsidise initial schemes. This initiative will fill gaps in provision created by such recent cuts as those to the 84-bus route between Potters Bar and Barnet.
- We will apply Community Infrastructure funds to reverse reductions in services that TFL or Hertfordshire County Council will not fund.
- We will work with Hertfordshire County Council and TFL to fund and introduce a "Freedom Bus Pass" for senior citizens living in the borough and finally giving them access to provision in parity with neighbouring boroughs.
- We will no longer ignore the strong community and economic links between Hertsmere and London. We will establish a 'duty to cooperate' task force for transport coordination between Transport for London, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, and its town and parish councils.

- We will work to ensure that local students who travel into London from parts of the borough in the Oyster Card zones are eligible for a student Oyster Card.
- We will work with the third sector and target grant funding to support community bus services.
- We will introduce clear, generic Hertsmere branding for Hertsmere-licensed, private hire vehicles and taxis. This will be funded through license fees.
- We will tackle the proliferation of potholes in Hertsmere by proactively pressing the County Council to fix major potholes within an agreed timeframe and using license fee income to directly act on smaller potholes.
- We will support the 20's Plenty initiative. There is staggering evidence that lower vehicle speeds reduce casualties, encourage walking and cycling, and make neighbourhoods quieter, cleaner, and more liveable. We will introduce a process whereby residents can trigger an application for a 20mph speed limit in their neighbourhood. Where this change is supported by over 50% of residents, we will take this application to the County Council.



Hertsmere thrives upon its diversity. We are proud to be home to one of the largest Jewish communities in the UK as well as growing Muslim and Hindu communities. The borough is known as a safe and welcoming safe harbour for genuine refugees from oppression in Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, and elsewhere. This diversity not only has the potential to bring huge benefits to our area, but also must also be carefully nurtured to ensure that extremists of any persuasion are not able to fuel the flames of tension and unrest.

- We will instigate equalities impact assessments for council policies and projects related to equalities and publish a regularly updated action plan to report and address any failings. We will also assess the distribution of Council grants and ensure regular reviews that publish all findings in full. We will be more transparent because we are not afraid of being held accountable for our actions.
- We will launch an annual Hertsmere Pride celebration, expand the Mayoral flag raising ceremony for Pride Month, and support the founding of a Herts Young Pride group. We will also promote International Women's Day and Black History Month through community outreach, a full cultural programme, and Council communications. We will help expand Borehamwood's annual Diversity Festival to become a borough wide event.
- We will work with partners to instigate a programme of civic educational visits to the sites of Auschwitz and other former concentration camps. These visits will involve local school children, students, councillors, and council officers as well as other key public servants.
- We will introduce enhanced training for councillors on equalities, safeguarding, and the 'Prevent' duty. We will ensure every worker on a Council-owned facility has the relevant DBS certification.
- We will replace the unfair requirement that community groups match half of the value of their community project as part of the funding application in favour of a fairer, more accessible model that does not discriminate against poorer areas and less affluent community groups.

- We will support reforming of the Gender Recognition Act and banning conversion therapy for all.
- We will press the County Council for more education targeted to equip young people with the skills they want.
- We will build upon the Council's support for the Modern Slavery Charter by ensuring it is fully integrated into all contracting and procurement processes.



Over the past decade, the Conservatives have eroded local democracy to discourage resident participation and obscure the political plurality of our borough. Local people showed their appetite for fighting back when over 18,000 objections were registered to the failed Draft Local Plan. Labour will restore public confidence by improving the Council's connection with the full range of local people and community groups.

- We will establish a process for regular, institutionalised lines of communication with resident groups, campaign groups, and pressure groups. We will invest in staying in touch with the local community.
- We will support the establishment of democratic, representative residents' associations and street/neighbourhood groups. We will ensure they are consulted on matters impacting their area.
- We will host regular, open, public consultations for each Council service area led by an executive member and senior officer.
- We will end the practice of hiding behind email. Every issue-specific public Council consultation will offer both online and in-person options.
- We will utilise the latest technology to webcast all possible meetings of the Council, committee, panels, and forums. We will ensure they are publicised and that all supporting papers and simple explanatory notes are available. We will fund this by bringing the webcasting provision completely in-house and ending the current expensive and wasteful external contract.
- We will expand the time allowed for public participation at Council meetings. We will provide technology to guarantee that public questions can be asked both at home and in the chamber. We will also expand public participation to overview and scrutiny committees.
- We will create a new format for Council meetings to end the waste of time and resources when meetings are ended early for political reasons. We will improve transparency and value for money by using the existing electronic voting system and publishing voting records for every Councillor.

- We will involve residents more closely in setting the Council's budget by introducing annual participatory budgeting consultation exercises and opening budget panel meetings to public participation.
- We will enhance the roles of opposition members at scrutiny committees to end the process of the ruling party 'marking their own homework'.
- We will introduce a Hertsmere Youth Council and create an elected youth mayoral role.



# Hertsmere



# Labour

and **co-operative**

