

TIME FOR CHANGE

ISLINGTON CONSERVATIVES
MANIFESTO
2026



Islington Conservatives

Our pledges:

1. Scrap all of Islington's LTNs
2. Protect our environment and boost public health
3. Cut Council Tax by 5%
4. Improve Council Housing
5. Encourage new development
6. Encourage responsible landlords
7. Combat crime in our neighbourhoods
8. Repair our streets and improve safety
9. Create more opportunities for our youth
10. Clean up our streets
11. Encourage local business development

Scrap all of Islington's LTNs:

The Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme introduced by Labour was intended to aid the borough in reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 - This has not worked.

Instead, it has increased pollution and congestion on main roads, isolated the vulnerable and increased response times for emergency services.

We would *scrap* the scheme.

We are the only party with all candidates committed to removing the road closures across the borough. This is a campaign we have been leading for the last two years. It is our central policy, as LTNs increase traffic, delay public transport and worsen our air quality.

If we are not elected to any of the formal administrative roles in Islington Council, then we would simply remove all of the LTNs in the wards in which we are elected.

If we were only elected to selected wards, then as well as removing all LTNs within those wards, we would continue to campaign for local borough wide access through the remaining LTNs, as well as Blue Badge exemptions for all the remaining LTNs.

Our message is clear - only a vote for your Conservative candidates will remove Islington's LTNs.

Protect our environment and boost public health:



We will:

- **Help energy companies identify fuel poor or vulnerable households, so that they can implement energy efficiency measures under the ECO 4 scheme.**
- **Encourage the switch to electric cars by waiving the resident's parking charge and stepping up the roll-out of electric charging points.** This includes ensuring that they are established in all new lampposts installed across the borough.
- **Introduce a car-pooling system** that allows residents to support neighbours and reduce single person usage of vehicles.
- **To reduce our carbon footprint, we would ensure that all new council buildings meet the 'Net Zero' targets** and all older buildings are retrofitted where practical.
- **Increase green space** by introducing more trees, hedges, green walls and vegetable plots alongside our roads, walkways, and housing estates.
- **Mandate green spaces** as part of all new housing developments in the borough.
- **Introduce more solar power and LED lighting** to cut energy usage and improve illumination.
- **Provide more bike storage facilities** to encourage more cycling.
- **Press the Mayor to ban all diesel buses that are routed through Islington and invest in electric and hybrid alternatives.**

Cut Council Tax by 5%:

- **Islington has one of the highest levels of Council Tax in London, about twice what Wandsworth and Westminster charge.** A Conservative administration will conduct an immediate, comprehensive review of all Council spending, applying a business like approach, cutting all unnecessary spending and providing value for money
- **At the same time we will protect the core services which matter to residents,** such as weekly bin collections, street sweeping, fly tipping and graffiti
- All our elected Councillors would reject any increase in the Councillors allowance unless council tax bills came down across the borough. Any increase in allowances should be as a reward for a well-run council passing savings onto residents, not a right of passage for bad administration.

Improve Council Housing:

- **We will end the programme of buying back Right to Buy properties.** While some of the funding for this is provided by the GLA and by national government, Islington has spent £89 million of its own funds on this over the last four years. Buying properties from the private sector does not add a single new home to the borough, it merely moves them from one category to another.
- **Instead, we will focus on the repair and maintenance of the Council's existing stock.** The budget for Right to Buy repurchases will be reallocated to the maintenance of lifts, heating, CCTV etc.
- **Introduce an insulation policy across all Council housing to improve the quality of housing** whilst also reducing CO2 emissions, due to reduced energy requirements for heating.
- As half of Islington's housing is in conservation areas, we would work with the conservation officer to find appropriate green solutions (conservation-grade double-glazed windows, solar panels etc.)

- Ensure that all new Social housing in the Borough was fitted with solar panels to ensure that the properties are as energy-efficient as possible.

Encourage new development:

- Islington's requirement that all new developments should include 50% "affordable" housing sends developers elsewhere. London does not specifically have a shortage of social housing, it has a shortage of housing in all categories.

We would reduce the "affordable" target to 35%, making stalled projects financially viable and making sure new properties are actually built.

Encourage responsible landlords:

- The private rental sector forms an important part of the housing market, and is essential for those not eligible for social housing.

While we will still pursue rogue operators who exploit tenants, our approach will assume innocence until proof of guilt. Aggressive rhetoric and heavy handed licensing can lead to good landlords selling up, to the detriment of the overall housing stock.

- We will set up a dedicated helpline for "accidental" landlords - people who become landlords by circumstance rather than design, and can often be overwhelmed by the compliance and management regulations associated.
- We will introduce a grace period where new single property landlords will be offered a waiver on certain licensing fees while they complete their accreditation.

Combat crime in our neighbourhoods:

- To *combat* crime in our community, we will introduce 'Bobbies on Bikes' who can patrol our neighbourhoods and respond quickly to street crime, such as phone thefts, assaults, muggings etc.

- Take *advantage* of the Government's Safer Streets Fund to improve lighting and CCTV in crime hot spots and areas where people feel unsafe.
- Make sure that residents *know* the name of their local police officer(s).
- Work between the schools and the police to help educate our young people on the perils of knife crime.



We would also install bleed kits on the main streets in Islington to ensure that lives can be saved in an emergency and ensure that residents know how to administer first aid if required.

Repair our streets and improve safety:

To make streets more accessible and reduce accidents, **we would ensure that:**

- **trip hazards such as uneven and cracked paving are *repaired*.** That maintenance companies restore pavements to their original condition after any work; and
- ***Install drop kerbs***, where appropriate, for example, those missing at Highbury Corner. Tackle street clutter (A-frame boards, badly positioned road signs/poles etc), and find solutions to pavements deformed by tree roots.

Create more opportunities for our youth

- Create job opportunities for 16 and 18yr old school leavers by **offering local businesses a discount on their business rates if they hire them and provide training/apprenticeships.**
- ***Repurpose*** existing spaces in our schools, community centres, leisure centres etc. to provide an engaging environment for young people to enjoy leisure activities and acquire skills.
- Introduce **‘Your Future’ careers guidance for all students in year 7 and above**, so that they are better informed from an earlier age as to the diversity of careers and gain insight direct from potential employers.

Clean up our streets

- ***Replace*** the current refuse collection on estates with **deep welled smart bins**, which once they are nearly full trigger a collection.
- ***Re-introduce*** free collection of bulky household items to combat fly tipping and make our streets cleaner.

Encourage local business development

- ***Provide* free parking to less able-bodied residents** and limited free parking to other drivers who want to stop and shop at our local businesses.
- ***Encourage* new business start-ups** by providing access to business coaches, hot desks at underutilised Council owned properties and targeted incentives such as business rate waivers, loans and grants.