



Vision 2022

*Labour's Vision to Deliver
Results for Redbridge*

2018 Local Election Manifesto



Contents

In February 2018, Redbridge Labour held a policy development conference to which all local Labour Party Members were invited to submit suggestions for policy priorities that would form the basis for the 2018 Redbridge Local Government Manifesto. This document has been produced to outline our vision for Redbridge over the next four years, and the priorities of the Labour administration in Council.

- **Setting the Scene**
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Redbridge Labour Members at the Borough Policy Conference, February 2018

Foreword by the Leader

The last four years have been tough on the borough and tough on residents. Cost of living has skyrocketed because of the Tory led Government hitting our hard-working residents hard, in particular our most vulnerable people.

However, despite this, your Labour Council have delivered on our key priorities in holding a Fairness Commission which has highlighted some of the areas where inequality existed within Redbridge. The Commission brought with it a range of new targets, goals and objectives that needed to be considered when developing policy and delivering on our 2014 election promises. Equality is at the heart of all we do. Tackling deprivation, child poverty, unemployment and supporting the disabled is a key priority for Labour.

We have also been working hard to increase civic pride and reduce antisocial behaviour across the Borough by reviewing the enforcement services undertaken in Redbridge. We have introduced easier reporting methods for fly-tipping and free bulky waste collections to complement a new team of enforcement patrols on the streets of Redbridge.

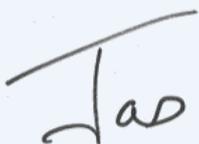
I am proud that we have achieved so much already despite central government cuts. We have achieved this by tackling issues head on, continuing to be ambitious and innovative, while also focusing on what is most important to residents and businesses. Whilst there have been good results the challenges we face have not gone away, in many ways they are more significant, we need to work harder still on the areas in which we need to improve.

In Redbridge, cuts from the Tory government have been particularly savage.

Our budget has already been cut by £132m with more likely for the foreseeable future.

Despite these savage cuts, however, your Labour Council have been delivering the services residents say they want and need.

If you value what we do, vote for it by voting Labour on May 3rd.



Cllr Jas Athwal
Leader of the Labour Group



Setting the Scene

For 52 years, the London Borough of Redbridge has offered our residents the promise of green space, affordable housing, great schools and the chance to build a successful life within easy reach of the opportunities of London.

It is a promise that has drawn generations of people to our borough. For some, this meant escaping run down inner cities. For others, it meant travelling half way across the world in search of a better life.

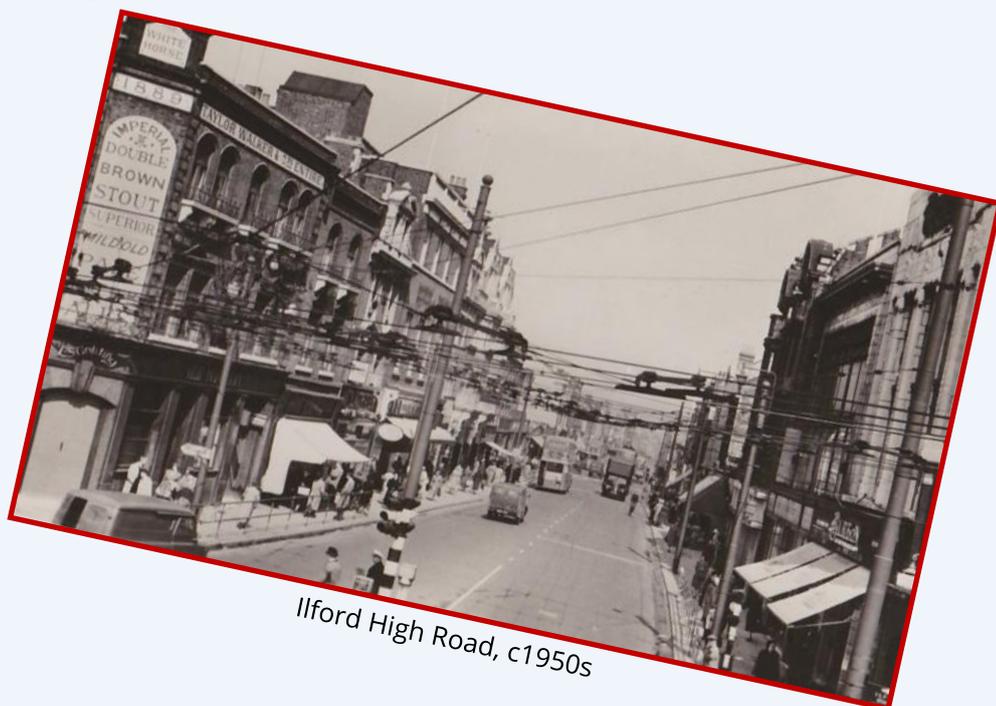
But somewhere over the last 52 years, the borough lost sight of this ambition. During years of Conservative control, our high streets fell into disrepair. Our streets became dirty and unsafe, and Westfield replaced Ilford as East London's premier shopping district outside the city centre. Unlike the Conservative administrations who oversaw this decline, Labour will not stand by!

Labour was elected in 2014 to restore that 'Redbridge Promise' and be ambitious for our residents and our Borough through opening up opportunities to more people than ever before. We promised to build a borough that was clean, safe and vibrant - and we are delivering on that promise.

This has involved unravelling many, many years of neglect and decay from those in opposition, in particular the last years of the Liberal-Conservative Coalition administration.

Although a lot has been achieved over the last four years, we know there is more to do and we will rise to the challenge.

The vision and commitments outlined in this manifesto form the basis of how we will continue the journey to restore the Redbridge Promise and complete the job of delivering **Results for Redbridge**.



Ilford High Road, c1950s

Investing in Our Community



Cleaner Redbridge

Creating a cleaner Borough is one of our biggest priorities, Redbridge Labour have invested millions each year to keep our streets clean, including removing litter, and cracking down on fly tipping, graffiti and fly posting.



We are one of the greenest boroughs in London and we want to continue providing a sustainable and suitable waste programme.

Balancing much loved services against the ongoing costs required to provide vital care to the elderly and vulnerable, against the backdrop of continued government cuts, is challenging and means we must consider innovative changes to every service we provide.

We've listened to resident feedback and carefully reviewed all elements of the green garden waste service and reintroduced a free fortnightly green garden waste service which we are committed to continuing into the future.

We delivered a free bulky waste collection to prevent illegal dumping – one of the best offers in London. We are committed to the continued delivery of weekly bin collection, recycling and free bulky waste collection.

We are tackling the blight of illegal dumping, we have issued over 700 fixed penalty notice fines of £400 each so far, and will continue to educate residents on ways to reduce their waste without resorting to dumping on our streets. We can't do this alone.

We have already invested in high tech methods to improve street cleaning and will continue to invest in these technologies to make our streets cleaner.

We've already reversed the Conservative cuts to weekly street cleansing, and we are pledging to invest an additional £300,000 in the service. This is equivalent to 90 cleansing rounds per week.

We are creating new neighbourhood teams with a neighbourhood manager and engagement officers to make sure you know your local cleansing teams, making it easier to keep the borough cleaner. This shows our commitment to working with the community so that our role isn't just about enforcing but enabling the community to work with us in making Redbridge cleaner and greener.

Redbridge Labour will also bring back cleansing services in-house from private contractors to improve service quality, save tax payer money and improve the conditions of those employed in the service.



Greener Redbridge

We all want to protect our surroundings and sustain a safe, green and pleasant environment in which to live, work, and raise our families.

We believe that in order to best support Redbridge residents lifestyles, it is essential to both enhance and protect the green spaces in our area, as well as reducing pollution, cracking down on environmental crime and looking after our planet overall.

We need to ensure that the growth we're delivering makes Redbridge a better place to live, with more of the green space and amenities that residents care about.

We know residents are concerned about pollution and air quality – we want to work on ways and incentives to do this – residents with electric cars will park free in resident permit zones, we will increase cycling routes and continue developing our cycle renting scheme, and more.

We will be tackling air pollution in the borough through working with local schools to create 'clean air' zones – protecting children from the harmful pollution caused by car traffic. We will also work to roll out these zones around our parks and children's play areas.

So far Redbridge Labour have invested £1 million, with the assistance of the Mayor of London, into greenifying our borough and creating a Green Garden Gateway between Redbridge and Newham. These investments can be seen in our parks and outdoor play facilities.

We have protected and promoted environmental well-being, helping three new parks gain 'Green Flag' status, which is an internationally recognised mark of quality. This is important not just for the environment but also for our quality of life and health.

We have secured funding of £4.5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund for Hainault Forest

Country Park, one of our blue flag parks, and we will invest a further £1.5m to restore the historic landscape of the park and help create a family friendly wooded environment with first class visitor facilities.

In order to tackle environmental crime, we have tripled the Redbridge Uniformed Enforcement Team since 2014. The Enforcement Officers are cracking down on environmental blights such as illegal dumping and vandalism, to help us create a cleaner, greener borough.

We conducted the 'Our Streets Commission' where an independent group of residents made comprehensive recommendations to improve our streets and services – We are committed to delivering on these recommendations and to improving the look and feel of the street scene in Redbridge.

We have an ambition to secure a 50% recycling rate in the borough by 2022 helping protect our environment and preserving it for future generations. We will provide educational material to every household in the borough to maximise recycling potential across Redbridge.



Better Redbridge

We believe that Redbridge has a bright future. We are a growing community, benefitting from the amenities of being a London Borough, whilst also enjoying the open green spaces being on the outskirts of the city provides.

We want to make sure our borough expands harmoniously, providing the infrastructure our communities need while also ensuring that development is both in-keeping with our values and with our environment.



We want to make the most out of Crossrail. We will ensure the related investment is carried out thoughtfully and with our residents at its heart. We are committed as a Labour Council to working with Crossrail to ensure the expansion benefits everyone in the borough.

We have already begun investment in Ilford town centre, launching the Manifesto for Ilford Town in partnership with local people and businesses to enshrine our commitment to Ilford's future as a buzzing London Town. We will continue this investment, boosting our local economy and working with residents to make Ilford an even better place to live.

We can't forget our other 'regional' town centres – we need to ensure we invest to regenerate and activate our other town

centres, including Barkingside, Hainault and Wanstead

We will begin the 'Revitalising Redbridge' programme of smartening up our high streets, with local businesses helped to upgrade shop frontages, roads and pavements renewed, and obstacles, such as phone boxes, lamp posts and signs, relocated or removed altogether.

We will commit to working with a range of groups to return Woodford Town Football club back to its ancestral home in Redbridge.

One way we will support local businesses is by doubling free parking on Redbridge high streets to one hour. This will enable shoppers adequate time to visit local businesses whilst also ensuring there is a good level of turnover in parking bays.

We are also committed to supporting residents as our borough grows and so we will also halve parking rates in Controlled Parking Zones to £20 for the first car – a reduction of £25.



Building and Shaping Our Future



Healthier Redbridge

We believe that it is important for the Council to work to improve our residents quality of life, as well as overseeing and providing the vital services they deserve.

We created a health and wellbeing agenda in order to invest in our community's future and ensure Redbridge families live happy and healthy lives within the borough.

We believe that by building new sports and recreation facilities we can both help to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents, and create inclusive community hubs where residents can connect with their bodies, their health and importantly their communities.

The previous administration left our borough with a one pool, meaning families often had to travel to neighbouring boroughs to take their children swimming.

So far in our first term we have opened four new swimming pools across Redbridge for public use.

We have provided free swimming for our younger and older residents across the borough and we remain committed to continuing this service.

We plan to invest in further leisure facilities to help encourage young children and families to engage in a healthy lifestyle and to improve the quality of life in Redbridge.

Redbridge Labour are also continuing to deliver on our promise of health and wellbeing projects in the borough.

We've already delivered the Loxford leisure centre and the Goodmayes centre is expected to be complete in May 2018; and works will begin on the Wanstead public pool later in 2018.

We will build a new Leisure Centre in Ilford Town Centre, ensuring there is an adequate level of service across the whole Borough.

We will install life-saving defibrillators in key areas across the borough - tripling the chances of survival for heart attack victims.

We recognise that health is not just about living longer, but extending the length of good quality living. We believe that the Freedom Pass makes a

significant contribution to improving the quality of life of our older residents. We will continue to fully fund the Freedom Pass providing free travel on public transport including buses, tube, trains, and DLR.

In addition to physical health, we recognise that mental health is a huge issue facing families across the country. We are experiencing a mental health crisis thanks to years of Conservative cuts to mental health funding and we are determined to work to correct this pattern of neglect.

Over 50% of mental health issues begin before the age of 14, and so we believe supporting young people during childhood and adolescence is crucially important in tackling this issue and improving mental wellbeing overall.

We will encourage and work with the National Health Service Clinical Commissioning Group to introduce an innovative, integrated youth mental health service to assist schools in mental health counselling, preventative support and mental health resilience education in all of Redbridge's state schools.

Redbridge has the lowest GP and Practice Nurse ratios in London. We will continue to work with the NHS and actively campaign for more GPs and will support all efforts to improve the vital key health service for our residents.

We have placed a significant focus on supporting people to stay healthy and well and in supporting people with health conditions to prevent the escalation of need. We will continue this commitment to delivering on the health and wellbeing of our residents and in addition will continue to develop a 'health in all policies' approach to all aspects of the Council's work.

We will ensure that our duty to promote the health and wellbeing of our residents is not just rhetoric and is a reality.



Happier Redbridge

Redbridge has officially been described as “the happiest place to live in London”. future proof their important place in our community.

We already have an excellent record on housing, having already built the first new Council houses built in Redbridge in over a decade. We want to promote the exceptional cultural offer we have – this will complement our recent borough of culture bid, and our successful bid funding bid of £1.8m to support ‘The Spark’ which is central to the

We will continue to shape the future of Redbridge by building over 1000 new affordable homes over the next 5 years, helping Redbridge people to buy or rent in the borough. vision for the creation of an vibrant Cultural Quarter in Ilford Town, bringing together business, creative enterprise and cultural and leisure experiences.

We will work with neighbouring boroughs on an ambitious project to maximise the ability to provide council supported housing across East London and ease the strain on the housing crisis. We’re investing £1.6m over four years into our boroughs 29 parks and open spaces by providing new or revitalised play equipment to continue our health and wellbeing agenda, and help local children develop social and creative skills.

Our ambitious plans to work across sectors to raise the quality and quantity of homes will mean we are in the best possible position to tackle the London housing crisis, while also providing a wider choice to residents. We will work with the City of London Corporation to ensure the provision of appropriate play equipment and facilities in Corporation locations around the borough.

Redbridge Labour made a commitment to have no families with children in bed and breakfast beyond six weeks by the end of March 2018, as of Thursday 22 February we have achieved this goal. We want to continue this commitment to help our residents in need. We want to make the Oakfield Playing Fields a world class Hub of Sporting Excellence to progressively enhance major sports facilities in the borough. Creating the Hub would open the doors to funding opportunities to enhance those facilities and to establish stronger strategic partnerships with a range of sporting associations at a regional and national level and result in more sports development activities and competitive events to be held here in Redbridge.

We are tackling rogue landlords by setting up a Borough-wide Licensing scheme. The scheme is already active in Valentines and Clementswood and we are working to extend it across the Borough. This scheme will help us to drive up standards and improve the management of private rented accommodation as well as protecting residents from anti-social behaviour. We want to remove the reliance on cars and easing congestion on public transport can only be achieved by becoming a model cycling friendly borough – we are already working with ofo and Urbo and launched a 12-month pilot dockless bike sharing scheme across the borough with 250 bikes in total – but we want to see more residents getting involved in cycling.

Libraries are a community hub providing educational, social and health and well-being benefits to our communities. We will develop a plan to ensure our libraries continue to meet the wider needs of our residents and



Safer Redbridge

We are committed to keeping our streets safe by tackling crime brought on by £1bn of Conservative government police cuts.

We are working with the Mayor of London and Metropolitan Police to ensure adequate policing resources are available in Redbridge.

We are continuing to invest in a borough wide programme replacing all our old street lights with new LED lights which brighten our streets, improve safety, reduce electricity costs and help to prevent antisocial behaviour.

We are investing £1.5m in new high-tech CCTV and Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras, creating a 'ring of steel' around the borough – improving safety and tackling crime. As a vehicle passes an ANPR camera, its registration number is read and instantly checked against database records of vehicles of interest. Police officers can intercept and stop a vehicle, check it for evidence and, where necessary, make arrests.

The use of ANPR in this way has proved to be important in the detection of many offences in other boroughs, including locating stolen vehicles, tackling uninsured vehicle use and solving cases of terrorism, major and organised crime. The cameras allow Police

Officers' attention to be drawn to offending vehicles whilst allowing law abiding drivers to go about their business unhindered.

We are investing in our uniformed Enforcement Team and will be tripling officers to 30. These officers will play a key role in tackling fly tipping and Antisocial Behaviour.



We have created a £50,000 Community Safety Fund to support neighbourhood watch schemes and community groups. This fund will help to promote good citizenship and support those in our community who feel they can assist in crime prevention and keeping an eye out for their neighbours.

We will also launch the first of its kind independent Redbridge Crime Commission, working in partnership with our community to fight crime and implement change which may lead to lower insurance premiums.

We are committed to keeping local policing at the heart of our community, we will continue to work with the police to crack down on crime in Ilford Town Centre and oppose the police station closures started by Conservative Mayor Boris Johnson and supported by the Conservative Group

We are also committed to better road safety and will introduce and work with police to enforce speeding restrictions including 20mph zones around the borough.



Protecting Our Vital Services



Kinder Redbridge

Redbridge is on its way to being the kindest borough in the capital. We've been working hard over the past four years to ensure this despite severe cuts from the Conservative Government.

We are committed to making Redbridge the perfect place to live, work and raise a family.

We are already a UNICEF accreditation "baby-friendly" borough and have achieved a 100% Good or Outstanding easily years provision; and we will work quickly following the election we are committed to achieving UNICEF "child-friendly" accreditation as well.

We will continue to support Children and families through our children's centres, recognising their achievements in improving outcomes for children and their parents.



We will continue to support our schools, ensuring all our children and young people are educated in good or outstanding schools.

We will continue to support the Dubs Amendment provisions for vulnerable unaccompanied children. We have so far

hosted five children and we want to do all we can to help vulnerable children.

We believe that London shouldn't just be seeking to address street homelessness, but to end it. This is happening in other cities like Adelaide, Chicago, Detroit and New Orleans. We have an ambition to wipe out rough sleeping in Redbridge. We will seek to work with the Institute of Global Homelessness to develop a strategy to make this come to fruition.



We are working closely with the community groups, faith groups and business' to provide a brand-new shelter for rough sleepers in Ilford Town Centre – this facility will take vulnerable people off the street, get them into employment enabling in self-sufficiency, reconnect to country of origin or gain leave to remain, ensuring they are eligible for support in mainstream services.

We want to continue the Council's record of Children's safeguarding which are rated as Good under the new, more demanding OFSTED framework.

We want to ensure the provision of our local Foodbank is secured for the future and to ensure we work with RedbridgeCVS to ensure a longer-term solution for accommodation for third sector organisations in the borough.



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Fairer Redbridge

We've spend the past four years making Redbridge one of the fairest places in London.

We undertook a wide-ranging fairness commission and are now implementing many of its recommendations worked key volunteer organisations to make our borough the best in London.

We are committed to supporting all of our residents in Redbridge. Working to ensure fairness and equality are at the heart of everything we do and the basis of everything we achieve.

Since 2017 the Council has been integrating our adults' social care with the NHS community health services. Integrated teams now operate out of four localities, meaning better and simpler patient pathways to the care that they need.

We are proud to be a Living Wage employer. Redbridge Labour has further aspirations for the borough to become fully London Living Wage accredited in 2019/20 through all the council's contracted services and we are well on track to achieve this goal.

We will encourage other employers within Redbridge to pay at least the London Living Wage, ensure equal pay for equal work, and demonstrate integrity in all aspects of their business.

We will seek funding for a Redbridge Women's Resource Centre, which will promote health screenings, provide support for single mother and signpost to learning opportunities, including ESOL training.

We will continue working to support locally delivered domestic violence advocacy services, and will promote this through our Women's Resource Centre.

We will continue to promote women and encourage representative diversity by ensuring all Wards have at least one woman Labour candidate, and ensuring women are promoted and supported within the Labour Party and within the Council.

We will work with local businesses and employers to encourage job sharing and flexible working initiatives to make it easier for parents, carers and those with other needs to better support themselves and their families.

We will continue to connect local people with genuine employment opportunities in the borough, across the capital, and beyond through the Work Redbridge initiative. Supporting people into good quality employment is key to addressing poverty and promoting the health and wellbeing of individuals.

We have continued our support for Work Redbridge as a key catalyst for supporting people on that journey. We will use the opportunity of regeneration and development within Redbridge to seek opportunities for good quality apprenticeship and jobs for our residents.

Working with all our residents, in particular our most vulnerable and the groups that support them we will co-produce a report exploring the impact of national and local changes to services and support on their lives. We will use this report as the basis of our advocacy with central Government and informing local policy and practice. We will seek to make all aspects of living in Redbridge fairer for disabled people using the opportunities of regeneration and development in the Borough.

People who work in social care undertake some of the most important roles in community taking care of our loved ones. This role is often undervalued not being appropriately paid or supported. All social care staff working for the Council receive the London Living Wage and we are well on our way to ensure that this is the case for all social care staff working in Redbridge. We will also sign up to the Unison Ethical Charter making sure that these key workers are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

We will start an annual awards ceremony celebrating the contribution of social care staff to our communities.

Efficient Redbridge

We are committed to getting the best value for money from your council tax and ensuring we are delivering what you want.

Redbridge Labour's 2018/19 Budget met the financial challenge created by conservative austerity head on. We both continue to invest in our borough and also save £50m through delivering services in a more creative way and efficient way.

We are committed to ensuring the Council works for you as effectively and efficiently as possible – so far we have made an astounding £19.5m in savings by cutting red tape and reducing bureaucracy in the Council

We appointed a new chief executive and established a whole new management team to support the political leadership on this exciting journey of renewal. We've also reduced the Council's annual payroll spending, taking into account all forms of employment by over £12m per annum.

We made savings by cutting Councillors' allowances from the inflated Tory Council rates; and reduced the number of Special Allowances which some Councillors received for serving on service committees.

We will review the council's decision-making processes to ensure that they offer residents the opportunity to effectively participate in local democracy. We have already streamlined the Council's Governance structure, but we will continue to review and make the Council more citizen participatory

We will look at different ways of consulting residents on changes to the council – making Redbridge a more participatory democracy which will enhance our representative democracy.

We want to continue to increase voter registration and participation levels. We want to see at least 50% of enrolled voters participate at local elections.

We know we can only achieve Results for Redbridge by working in partnership with our communities and a strong voluntary and community sector.



We will develop a new strategy to explore how the council can use its resources to further strengthen civil society, for instance through asset transfer, open data, procurement and commissioning, and sharing the benefits of regeneration and growth.

We will introduce a 'Fund my Neighbourhood' website which will allow residents to submit proposals for Community Infrastructure Levy funding and vote for the projects they want in their neighbourhood.



Redbridge
 Labour

FOR THE MANY
NOT THE FEW

#ResultsForRedbridge

www.redbridgelabour.org.uk