

The background of the slide is a collage of British currency, including banknotes and coins, all rendered in a semi-transparent, reddish-pink color. Visible elements include a £10 note, a £50 note, and several coins such as the 10p, 20p, and 50p denominations. The text 'Delivering Value for Money' is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font.

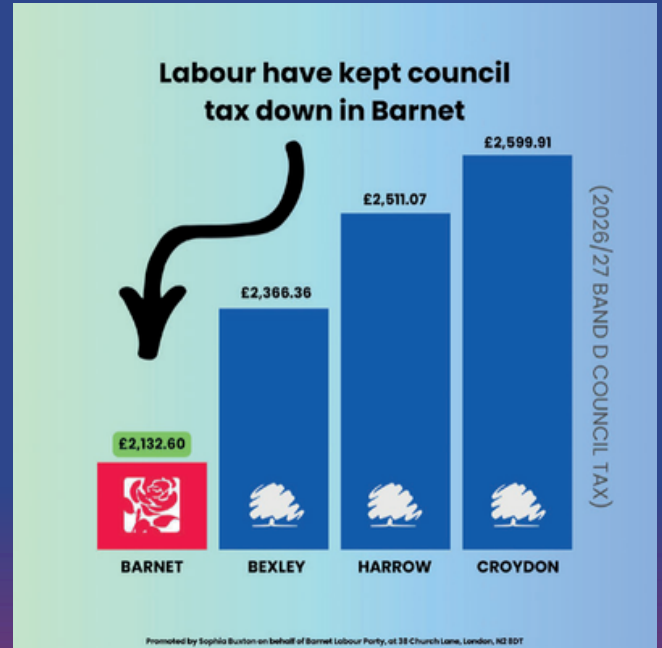
Delivering Value for Money

An effective and efficient Council working for a fairer borough

The Conservatives left Barnet Council in a state—the result of spending hundreds of millions of pounds of your money outsourcing services to private companies to run the council for them. We cannot return to the days of the “Easy Council”.

Barnet Labour has taken responsibility for the Council, streamlined the Council’s decision-making, opened-up meetings to the public and, despite the huge growing demand for services the Council has a legal duty to provide, set us on course for financial sustainability while keeping council tax lower than all our neighbours.

None of this has been easy. Decades of funding cuts under the Conservatives have effectively halved the Council’s budget, leaving the borough with insufficient funding to meet long-term growing demand for services.



To make matters worse, the Barnet Conservatives committed the Council to millions of pounds in capital projects with no realistic plan to fund them without raiding reserves, leaving the Council without a safety net. And, in September 2022 – just four months after we won the local elections – the disastrous Conservative Liz Truss ‘mini-budget’ sent interest rates and inflation into the stratosphere. The cost of providing statutory social care, homelessness and other services sky-rocketed, and the impact on household budgets means demand for these services has also shot-up.

But Labour is turning the page on Conservative chaos.

Since taking control of the Council in May 2022, Labour has been systematically fixing the problems left by these two decades of local Conservative control, and 14 years of national Conservative recklessness.

Locally, we have put stringent council spending controls in place, delivered over £74million of savings, cut the Conservatives' unaffordable capital programme – a saving of £98million – and developed a comprehensive transformation and innovation plan to help prevent growing demand for high-cost services.

We have been helped by our Labour Government who have increased Barnet's core funding by £37million over the next three years. Recognising the scale of the financial mess the Conservatives left, the Government have also granted us over £134million in 'exceptional financial support'. More than a quarter of London boroughs are now in receipt of 'exceptional financial support', showing that this is a structural issue across local government.

The situation continues to be very challenging, but we have a plan to get us to financial sustainability, including by investing in digital, AI and prevention.

The Barnet Conservatives' proposal is to increase your council tax by more than 50% over the next three years. This is before they have done the hard work to cut costs and transform the Council's services and budget.

Barnet Labour puts fairness and equality at the heart of our work, be it tackling poverty, supporting education, delivering children's and adult's social care or promoting better health for all. Our focus is on doing all we can to help residents live well throughout their lives, in places they are proud to live in.

The Labour Party was built on the bedrock of fairness, and only a Labour council can be trusted to hold these principles at its very core.



For a fairer Barnet where services are protected, improved living standards are invested in, and costs are kept down,

Labour is the only credible choice.

Promoted by Sophia Buxton on behalf of the Barnet Labour Party, both at 38 Church Lane, London N2 8DT.

A lot done already

Here's just a few key things we've delivered:

- Set **lower council tax** than any of our neighbours for four years running.
- Introduced **weekly reviews** for spending decisions to make sure every penny of council tax payers' money counts and is spent wisely.
- Saved more than £2.2 million from **tackling tenancy fraud**.
- Brought **Trading Standards** back in-house, delivering real results through seizures of illegal goods.
- Established a £2m **resident support fund** to help families struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.
- Introduced our '**Money Worries**' campaign and Financial Calculator which has been used more than 25,000 times by residents to identify more than £20million in financial support residents are owed.
- Introduced '**Connect Barnet**' - an in-person service to help residents who need support to access key council services.
- Opened-up council meetings so residents can make their voice heard and introduced **Barnet Question Time** where residents hold leading councillors to account.

Lots more we will do

- We will always do the hard work to find efficiencies and savings to **keep costs down** and make sure council tax increases are minimised.
- We will **give you regular updates** on how we're keeping costs down and what your council tax is being spent on.
- We will continue to **crack down on fraud and waste**.
- We will continue to work to **bring services back in-house**, prioritising shared services and other best practice models over privatisation.
- We will **support Barnet's small businesses** by providing and signposting to useful resources, keeping money in the local economy and good jobs in the borough.
- We will **support local communities** to bid for Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure funds to help their neighbourhoods.
- We will continue to **tackle inequality** by developing our fairness and equality strategy – '*Towards a Fairer Barnet*' – with improving living standards, addressing the cost-of-living, reducing poverty, rooting out racism, tackling health inequalities and putting an end to gender based violence at its heart.

Lots to lose under the Conservatives

- They have proposed to **increase council tax** by more than 50% over the next three years if they get back in, before doing the hard work to try and cut costs.
- They overcommitted to building projects that **depleted our financial reserves**.
- They brought back in an out-of-date governance system for making decisions which meant **less transparency and slower decision-making**
- They outsourced most of what the council does – sending taxpayer's money to external companies for **private shareholder profit**.