

Foreword by Cllr Barry Rawlings, Leader of Barnet's Labour Council

Green spaces, fabulous parks, great community spirit, buzzing high streets: Barnet Labour's mission is to protect and strengthen the Barnet we love.

We were elected as a majority Labour council for the first time in May 2022, following decades of austerity under the Conservatives.

We have always held an **ambitious vision for our borough:**

- A focus on **community** engagement, participation and tackling the cost of living crisis and inequality.
- A borough where **safety** is prioritised, with more CCTV and tough action on enviro-crime and anti-social behaviour.
- A **greener** Barnet on the road to Net Zero, with parks protected and invested in.
- A plan to build more council and affordable family **homes**.
- A place where **arts, culture, faith and diversity** are celebrated.
- A relentless drive to keep costs down and **council tax low**.

We have worked hard to achieve that vision. We've **upgraded the council's CCTV network**, that was left broken under the Conservatives, to a state-of-the-art effective system with a proactive community safety approach and summer park patrols with powers to issue fines for anti-social behaviour.

We've secured delivery of **1,000 new council homes, fixed over 16,500 potholes** and repaired 39 miles of road and 16 miles of pavement.

We brought back the popular **free community skips service**, planted nearly 5,000 trees and worked with residents towards Net Zero through our Citizens' Assemblies on Climate Change. And with the cost-of-living crisis still biting, we put in place an **extra £2m resident support fund for struggling families** and helped thousands of residents to access support they are entitled to with our award winning 'Money Worries' campaign and financial calculator.

We have done all this and much more while keeping council tax below the maximum for four years running - one of only four London boroughs to do so this year. We continue to have the lowest council tax of all our neighbours.

To see what we have delivered over the last four years, visit the Barnet Labour website.



But following decades of Conservative mismanagement of the economy, culminating in the disastrous Conservative Liz Truss 'mini budget' in September 2022, it's no secret that the financial and economic landscape has been difficult.

Inflation and interest rates are still reeling from the impact of the Conservatives, and this has, of course, made delivering our 2022 manifesto very challenging.

But we have got on with it, whilst strengthening the council's decision-making processes and setting out a roadmap to get the council to financial sustainability.

**We want to continue the flying start we've made.
To go further and faster in our second term.**

To continue to collaborate with residents with compassion and commitment.

To protect and improve everything we all love about Barnet – a green and connected borough that cares for all our communities and puts people at the heart of services.

In Barnet it's a straight choice between Labour's ambitious vision for the borough or a return to chaos with the Conservatives.

With lots done, and lots more to be ambitious about, there's a lot to lose if the Conservatives get back in power.

With your support in the local elections on 7 May, we can achieve even more together.

Yours,

Cllr Barry Rawlings
Leader of Barnet Council
and the Barnet Labour Group

