

The background of the entire page is filled with numerous colorful outlines of human heads and shoulders, facing various directions. The colors include shades of blue, green, yellow, orange, red, and purple. In the center, there is a white rectangular box with a black border.

LEWISHAM **FOR THE** **MANY** NOT THE FEW

Lewisham  Labour MANIFESTO 2018



Lewisham for the many, not the few

Lewisham Labour's Manifesto
for the 2018 Local Elections

Lewisham  Labour



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Pictured left, Lewisham Labour members' manifesto workshops



Damien Egan — Building a Lewisham for the many

Welcome to Lewisham Labour's Manifesto for the next four years, on which I as Mayoral candidate and 54 councillor candidates are standing on May 3rd: a platform that offers a bold, radical, socialist alternative.

The elections give us the opportunity to show exactly what our community thinks of the Tory and Lib Dem Coalition Government's massive cuts and how their austerity agenda has failed the country. We are in a fight to protect services for vulnerable residents on a scale like we have never seen before.

This Manifesto highlights the many things that, together, we can do, while highlighting how much more we could do with a Labour government. It outlines what we want to do to make life better for everyone in Lewisham.

That's why it's a huge honour to be selected by Labour's membership as their candidate for Mayor of Lewisham. I love this borough and am proud to have served it as a councillor for the last eight years.

When I was growing up, my mum, sister and I found ourselves homeless, and council housing was our lifeline. So you can see why I am a passionate defender of social housing and understand why it's important that we have a safety net for those in need.

Lewisham's community is strong and we have a proud tradition of coming together to stand up for each other: the Battle of Lewisham, the long campaign for justice for the victims of the New Cross Fire, the successful campaign to save Lewisham Hospital A&E and maternity services. We will continue to need that resolve to take on this Government and fight for the Lewisham we love.

I am proud of Lewisham's community values and will work to protect and promote them. I care about diversity and tolerance.

I've been proud to play a part in our refugee resettlement programme and will make sure Lewisham is open and welcoming to everyone.

Labour has a strong track record in Lewisham, but there is still so much to do. I will be a hands-on Mayor who, with your support, will work with our community to deliver real change and put the interests of our people first.

I will refresh the roles of Mayor and Council to make sure we are more visible and accountable and continue to improve, building on our record over many years, notably those of outgoing Mayor Steve Bullock.

Throughout this Manifesto, Lewisham Labour – myself and all 54 councillor candidates – make key pledges for the Council's priorities over the next four years.

My personal pledges to you as Mayor

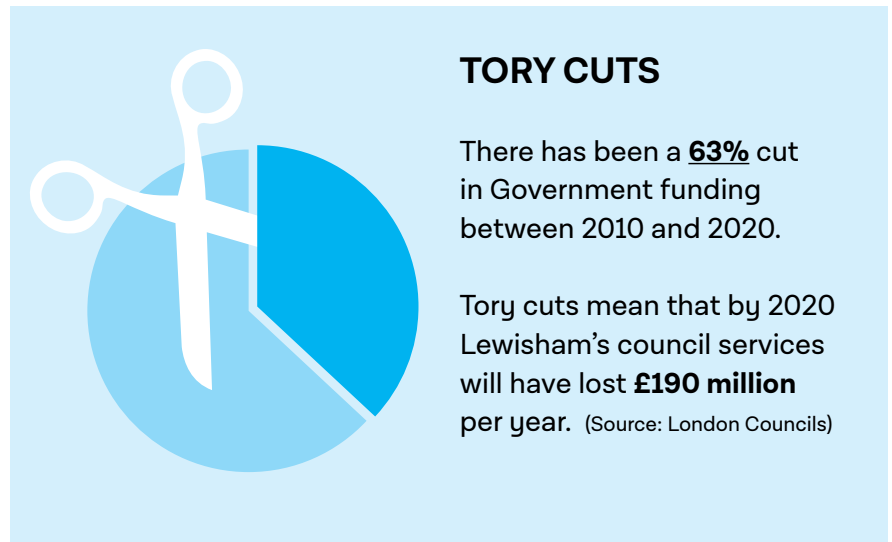
- 1 I will be accessible and hold regular public question times throughout the borough that everyone can attend.
- 2 I will lead a campaigning Council that actively challenges the Tory Government and cuts through with vocal and creative campaigns and legal challenges when we believe the government is acting illegally.
- 3 I will be honest and open about the real impact of cuts in our borough. We will never use terms like 'savings' and 'efficiencies' when talking about job losses.
- 4 In order to make sure Lewisham councillors reflect our diverse community, I will make it my mission to promote and support – through training and mentoring – the election of a truly proportionate number of councillors from Black, Asian or other minority ethnic communities.
- 5 I support a two-term limit for the Mayor to allow fresh talent to come through and will launch a review to make our Council even more democratic, open and transparent.

Looking to the future, building on a strong foundation

Lewisham Council has a long, proud tradition of working alongside local residents who make an extraordinary contribution to life in our borough, a tradition that has been nurtured and extended by our outgoing mayor, Sir Steve Bullock.

After sixteen years of service as Mayor of Lewisham, Steve leaves behind a strong legacy of innovation and inclusion. Our Young Mayor's scheme, brought in by Steve in 2004, gives young people a truly powerful voice and a real stake in the future of the borough. Our Ward Assembly programme, ten years old next year, is a brilliant example of grassroots democracy that has enabled thousands of people to take positive action within their local neighbourhoods. Our ground-breaking Mayor's Apprenticeship Programme has found roles for over 400 young people since 2009.

We've invested in bricks and mortar and infrastructure like schools, pools and homes but what makes Lewisham work is its people.



In this time of enforced austerity and deep cuts to council services, Lewisham is fortunate to have a diverse and dedicated voluntary sector. Unlike other councils, Lewisham has managed to avoid closing any libraries, working closely with community groups to keep our libraries open and thriving. Such partnerships, and the work and commitment that they involve with our community, faith and voluntary groups, are part of what makes Lewisham different.

We call it the 'Lewisham Way', it's been fostered in Lewisham by Labour Council leaders since the 1970s and it's at the heart of what Lewisham Labour values. A community that has a strong sense of democracy, citizenship and social solidarity; a commitment to equality, justice and fairness for all, one that celebrates differences and cultural diversity, and cares for its vulnerable people.

We want to build on Lewisham's historic legacy and the benefits the 'Lewisham Way' brings to our borough and its citizens. We want to make sure that local groups remain independent and tackle a vast range of needs, work alongside our public services to provide opportunities, support our residents in improving their quality of life and offer them the best chance to overcome whatever barriers they may face. If you share our vision and our values, join us and give your support to Labour on May 3rd.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Damien Egan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Cllr Damien Egan
Lewisham Labour candidate for Mayor

Open Lewisham



Open Lewisham

Lewisham's diversity and openness is our greatest strength, recognised by international organisations as one of the most integrated places in Europe. From welcoming migrants from the Commonwealth after the war, to welcoming refugees fleeing war-torn countries and poverty today, Lewisham has always embraced new communities looking to build a better life. Labour is proud of Lewisham's wide-ranging cultural heritage and we will always stand up for diversity and equality.

Our community is not just diverse – it has great solidarity. We have always stood up against intolerance and oppression: from standing up to the National Front in the Battle of Lewisham 40 years ago to tackling anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all other forms of hatred today.

Unfortunately, under the Tories, many parts of our community have been treated with hostility. From the punitive sanctions regime that has hit our disabled residents particularly hard, to the 'go-home' vans and divisive rhetoric on immigration.

In the EU Referendum, Lewisham voted overwhelmingly to remain. Brexit is a threat to Lewisham and to the UK; it is a threat to our economy and to our open society. Since the Referendum, we have seen a growth of intolerance and hate crime across the UK. Since the Referendum, we have seen the Government cave in to their right-wing, hard-Brexit fringe. Lewisham will show that there is an alternative to the anti-immigrant, Tory Brexit agenda.

We value Lewisham's unique diversity and cultural heritage. We will continue to be a borough that shows that communities work best when we come together.



Lewisham has welcomed refugee families fleeing persecution

What we've done

- Led the campaign locally to remain in the European Union, and since the result we have campaigned for the rights of EU nationals in Lewisham.
- Joined the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme and we have led the way in welcoming vulnerable refugee families, helping them rebuild their lives here.
- Given the victims and witnesses of hate crime the high-quality help and support they need.

What we will do

- Campaign to keep the UK as close to the European Union as possible in order to protect jobs and opportunities for the people of Lewisham.
- Lewisham will become a Sanctuary Borough, protecting the rights of all migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees.

Tackling the Tory housing crisis

- Expand Lewisham's refugee resettlement programme, with a target of a further 100 vulnerable families from Syria and other areas of conflict. This will make us the country's lead local authority in refugee resettlement.
- Establish an Accessibility Commission led by disabled people that will make public services more accessible and make it easier to get around our borough.
- Help tackle all forms of hate crime through local awareness campaigns, supporting events that bring our community together, and by working closely with the police so that the perpetrators are brought to justice.
- Work with groups giving voice to Lewisham's diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT+) community.
- Make the Council workforce more representative of our borough's diverse population at all levels.
- Publish a review of the cumulative impact of Council decisions upon different groups in our community.

A Labour Government will

- Tackle discrimination, remove barriers and ensure social security delivers dignity and empowerment, not isolation and stigma.
- Build a close co-operative future relationship with the EU as partners with a customs union to protect jobs and our economy.



Tackling the Tory housing crisis

Housing is a human right. Everyone deserves a decent home that is secure and affordable, a home where they can put down roots.

But thousands of Lewisham residents are suffering as a result of the Tory housing crisis. Tens of thousands of Lewisham households face rocketing rents and insecurity in the private rented sector. For most young people growing up in our community, buying a home here is a distant dream. When the Tories talk of 'affordable' housing, we know that for too many people in our community, this does not mean affordable. And under the Tories, homelessness has rocketed and rough sleeping has doubled.

We don't have to live like this. Tackling the housing crisis means taking bold decisions and having an ambitious approach. We don't accept the Tory definition of 'affordable'. In Lewisham, when we say affordable, we mean creating more social and genuinely affordable housing – set at the Lewisham Living Rent and below. It also means taking on greedy developers and rogue landlords.

We need a housing programme that benefits the many – not the few. We need to make sure that, in Lewisham, we not only build more homes, but that we build mixed communities, and a better place to live.

What we've done

- We are well on our way to building 500 new council homes, which will be on site by the end of 2018.
- We've brought over 100 homes back into council ownership to house homeless families, and we've reduced our use of nightly paid, bed-and-breakfast (B&B) accommodation by 15 per cent in the last two years.
- We have continued our programme of retro-fitting sprinklers



Lewisham Council has just approved our 500th Council Home

to council-owned housing blocks, prioritising those buildings with vulnerable residents. At the same time, we've campaigned for funding from the Government for both the current programme and future extensions.

- We've introduced a targeted landlord licensing scheme to drive up standards in the private rented sector and crack down on rogue landlords.
- Our award winning, pop-up village PLACE/Ladywell provides homes for local families in desperate need.
- Our No First Night Out rough sleeping initiative to stop people sleeping out for the first time has helped up to 300 people at risk of rough sleeping in South East London.

What we will do

- Deliver 1,000 new social homes, the biggest social housing programme seen in decades.
- Build a new generation of council-owned homes for private

rents providing long-term tenancies of up to 10 years, with rent controls.

- Take families out of expensive B&B by building four more innovative housing developments for homeless families like the award-winning pop-up PLACE/Ladywell scheme.
- Support the launch of a new Private Renters' Union to give a voice to tenants living in the private rented sector.
- Seek to deliver a full borough-wide landlord licence to crack down on rogue landlords.
- Introduce ballots on any estate regeneration scheme that includes replacing existing homes and back this up with a Residents' Charter that guarantees all residents the right to remain on their estate, and which guarantees an increase in genuinely affordable housing.
- Not sell strategic council land to private property developers.
- Build housing for adults with learning disabilities to enable them to stay in our borough.
- Our target will be to achieve 50% genuinely affordable homes in developer-led projects.
- Publish all viability assessments so developers have to account to the public when they refuse to meet our target.

A Labour Government will

- Suspend the sale of council homes and free councils to borrow to invest in building a new generation of council homes.
- End insecurity for private renters by introducing controls on rent rises, more secure tenancies, landlord licensing and new consumer rights for renters.
- End rough sleeping within first term in office.

Giving children and young people the best start in life



Giving children and young people the best start in life

Every child in our borough deserves the best possible start in life. That means support in the early years; it means a fantastic education that stretches and inspires, and it means support to maintain good health, mental health and wellbeing.

The Tory Government's failed austerity programme is hitting our young people hard. Cuts to local government have led to the closure of hundreds of Sure Start children's centres nationally. The Tories plan to slash a further £9 million from our secondary schools over the next three years – equivalent to £250 per pupil – and the average young person leaving university faces a debt-mountain of £50,000. We have seen an escalating mental health crisis among our young people.

Labour is ambitious for all of our young people. We need to ensure every family gets the support they need through high quality Sure Start centres and access to affordable and flexible childcare.

We need to improve our primary and secondary schools, and we need to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to continue learning after school and build a fulfilling career. We will continue to give the highest priority to our children and family services, and we need to ensure all our young people – no matter what their background or challenges – achieve their potential and thrive.



Labour are fighting back against Tory cuts to our schools

What we've done

- Kept our Sure Start children centres open while Tory cuts have forced other councils to close theirs. Lewisham's children do as well as those from any area in the country at age five.
- Lewisham has some of the best primary schools in the country, with sixteen outstanding schools, and we have set up the Lewisham Secondary Challenge to drive improvement in our secondary schools.
- Rebuilt and renovated our schools over the last 15 years, investing £230 million through the Building Schools for the Future programme to provide the schools our children deserve.
- Protected our youth service while many councils have been forced to close theirs and created a mutual – Youth First – to work in partnership with the Council.
- In its fourteenth year, the Young Mayor Programme continues to be a pioneering exercise in democracy, young people's participation and service delivery. It is the longest-running programme of its kind in the UK.

What we will do

- Protect our Sure Start Centres, help every family access their entitlement to free childcare, and continue to provide high quality early years education so that parents and children can get the support they need.
- Continue to support our primary schools to maintain their high quality, and we will work with our secondary schools to ensure that all our schools are rated good or better by Ofsted.
- Support improvements in the assessment of special educational needs of children, and we will increase the provision within Lewisham to meet a wider range of learning difficulties that children experience.
- Support the adoption of a Lewisham Fair Workload Charter,

Building an economy for the many

working with unions and teachers to attract and retain the best teachers.

- Build on the strength of our existing school governors, and we will recruit more Black, Asian and minority ethnic governors to better reflect our diverse borough.
- Support and improve the Lewisham family of schools, opposing all forms of selection and will provide the knowledge and support to parents, teachers and governors who are fighting academisation in their schools.
- Work with parents and schools to reduce exclusions as they impact disproportionately on black pupils. We will review the strategies in place to narrow the achievement gaps that affect minority communities and poorer pupils.
- Promote more high-quality mentoring by working with community and voluntary groups, and businesses to help our young people increase their resilience and open access up to employment opportunities.
- Promote the ArtsMark scheme which requires schools to offer music, art, drama and dance, as we believe every child should have access to the arts.
- Ensure that our care leavers take up their education maintenance allowance at 16 so they stay in education. And we will continue to exempt care leavers from Council Tax altogether.
- Fight against Tory cuts to our schools which threaten to reverse the progress our schools are making.

A Labour Government will

- Increase funding for Sure Start centres and extend entitlement to free, high-quality childcare.
- Reverse the Tory cuts to our schools and invest in continuing to improve our school buildings.
- Scrap tuition fees and introduce a National Education Service with education free for all.



Building an economy for the many

Nobody should have to live in poverty. Good work, with decent pay and security, is vital to strengthening communities and helping people build better lives for themselves and their families. In order to provide high quality jobs and opportunities, we need a thriving and inclusive local economy. And for those who are unable to work, we need to provide dignity and security.

While London is one of the wealthiest cities in the world, it is scarred by inequality. Under the Tories, we've seen the longest squeeze on wages in a century with one in four people working in Lewisham earning below the Living Wage. We've seen a huge rise in insecure and exploitative work, with 100,000 Londoners on zero-hours contracts. Tory/Lib Dem benefit cuts have victimised the vulnerable, pushing thousands of people in Lewisham further into poverty.

We need to build a strong and vibrant local economy that works for the many. Labour was founded by the trade unions to fight for working people and to ensure dignity at work. We need to tackle exploitation at work and fight for fair pay and the Living Wage. And we need a social security system that protects and supports people, ensuring everyone can live a decent life.

What we've done

- Lewisham was the first Living Wage council in the country and we have increased the number of Living Wage employers in the borough by 800% since 2015.
- Our Mayor's Apprenticeship Scheme has supported over 150 residents into apprenticeships since 2014.

- Unemployment has halved since 2013 and our Pathways to Work service has supported over 600 residents.
- We have created three Lewisham Dek's – high quality enterprise hubs – and our Dek Business Growth programme is supporting small and medium enterprises to grow.
- Lewisham Council has strong track record on gender equality; women employees are paid on average more than men and most of our senior managers are women.

What we will do

- Double the number of Living Wage employers in Lewisham by rolling out our business rate discount for employers who pay fairly.
- Work with trade unions locally to tackle exploitation at work, including zero hour contracts.



Lewisham was the first Living Wage Council in the country

- Ensure that Lewisham Council leads the way in flexible working, including through becoming an accredited Timewise employer, and we will work with other employers to reduce the gender pay gap in Lewisham.
- Require all large contractors to provide high-quality apprenticeships for local residents and support an extra 250 people through the Lewisham Mayor's Apprenticeship Service.
- Create more enterprise hubs and expand our Business Growth programme to reach 300 small businesses by 2020, giving Lewisham's start-up businesses the help they need to grow and become sustainable.
- Review Lewisham's public sector procurement to maximise investment in local independent businesses and support local inclusive growth, building on the Labour 'Preston model' that prioritises local ownership and spending.
- Enrich our local culture by developing a Night-Time Strategy focused on our arts and music spaces, and enable more cafes and restaurants to stay open in the late evenings to bring our town centres to life.
- When commissioning services we will have an assumption that the Council is our preferred provider, in-sourcing our contracts.

A Labour Government will

- Introduce a real £10-an-hour Living Wage to tackle poverty pay once and for all.
- Scrap the public sector pay cap, giving our public sector servants the pay rise they deserve.
- Transform our social security system from one that demonises people not in work to one that is supportive and enabling. Scrap the Bedroom Tax and benefit sanctions.

Protecting our NHS and social care



Protecting our NHS and social care

The NHS is Labour's greatest achievement, and it has protected and improved the health of residents since 1948. Gone are the days when people can no longer afford to see a doctor.

Under this Tory Government, our NHS is on life-support. Since the Tory/Lib Dem coalition came to power in 2010, the NHS has seen the longest funding squeeze in its history. As a result, there has been the worst winter crisis in living memory, and the worst A&E waiting times on record. Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, as a whole, hasn't met waiting times target in two-and-a-half years, but Lewisham Hospital has, and we have worked hard on the discharge times against a backdrop of severe Tory underfunding.

Tory cuts to local government have hit social care, too. Lewisham Council has had its budget reduced by over £160m and this has had a big impact on social care.

We have seen a developing mental health crisis, particularly among our young people. We need to ensure both parity of esteem and parity of funding. But Tory cuts have hit mental health services hard, leaving people in desperate need waiting for the treatment they need.

Labour is the party of the NHS. We are the party for cradle-to-grave health, mental health and social care. Only a Labour council can deliver on fairness and equality by investing in the life chances for all our community.

What we've done

- When the Tories tried to close Lewisham A&E, Labour-led Lewisham Council worked with the Save Lewisham Hospital



The Tories tried to close our A&E, Labour and the community fought back and won

campaign, taking the Government to court and keeping Lewisham A&E and maternity services open.

- Supported the integration of health and social care locally in order to reduce hospital admissions and help people stay as independent as possible.
- Protected adult social care as much as possible, ensuring that the most vulnerable residents in our community get the support they need.
- Continued to put resources into supporting those who are lonely and isolated, with schemes like Meet Me at the Albany.

What we will do

- Continue to resist any attempts by the Government to close or downgrade Lewisham Hospital, its A&E and maternity services.
- Establish a new publicly-owned community based care service to provide dignified and compassionate care services that put people before profits.

- Sign up to Unison's Ethical Care Charter to provide home care workers with the London Living Wage and better working conditions.
- Do our utmost to defend health and social care services that protect the most vulnerable communities in our borough.
- Promote healthy lifestyles by protecting free swims and gym for the over-60s, supporting 'The Daily Mile' initiative for all our school children and sign up more local businesses to reducing sugar in their meals.
- We need genuine parity of esteem for mental health services. Inspired by the Black Thrive model we will ensure that Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups gain appropriate access to mental health services and we will campaign for fair funding of mental health services for all.
- Continue to promote Lewisham as a dementia friendly borough and get more residents signed up to become dementia friends.
- Make our sexual health services easier to access, offering choice and quality throughout the borough. And we will work with schools and other providers to encourage accessible relationship advice and support for our young people.
- Oppose US-style privatisation of the NHS and support the NHS Reinstatement Bill.

A Labour Government will

- Give the NHS the funding it needs, paid for by increasing income tax on the richest in our society and taxing private medical insurance.
- Invest in adult social care, and promote health and social care integration.
- Transform mental health services, by focusing support on children and young people, and on prevention and early intervention.

Making Lewisham greener



Making Lewisham greener

The Labour Party believes that access to green spaces and a healthy environment are everyone's right, and not the preserve of a privileged few. We are committed to protecting and improving our environment. This means looking after our local environment and protecting our planet too.

Lewisham is a green borough with lots of beautiful, award-winning open spaces. Being able to enjoy parks and healthy outdoor spaces is essential to our physical and mental health. Clean streets, free of litter and fly-tipped waste, create a sense of pride in our borough and encourage each of us to take personal responsibility for the places where we live, work and learn.

The Council needs to keep our streets clean, make it easier for residents to recycle, and improve public transport. But we all have to do our bit, and take responsibility for keeping our borough clean and improve our environment.

Human-made global warming is the greatest single threat facing our planet. We have a duty to protect our environment and our planet for our children and for future generations. This means that we need to cut carbon emissions, reduce waste and pollution, and ensure we limit the impact of our actions on the environment.



Local residents and Labour members enjoying the Lewisham 3 Peaks Challenge

What we've done

- Promoted cycling across Lewisham, including working with Transport for London (TfL) and residents to develop Cycle Superhighway 4 and one of the first and highest quality Cycling Quietways.
- Introduced a borough-wide 20mph speed limit – making streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists, and reducing air pollution.
- Transformed our waste collection by introducing food and green waste collections to increase recycling and saved money to re-invest in vital services.
- Worked to improve air quality by introducing air quality accreditation for schools, rolling out a Lewisham Air app, and supporting low-emissions bus routes.
- Improved our parks and green spaces by working with park users' groups and securing external investment.

What we will do

- Make cycling safer and more attractive. We will work with TfL to provide a new segregated cycle route connecting Downham to Deptford, provide secure cycle storage in every neighbourhood and support a new affordable dock-less bike hire scheme.
- Establish a new, ring-fenced 'greening' fund to support the work of local community groups, already doing so much to protect and enhance our green spaces, which will be paid for by a levy on developers.
- Address the barriers that stop people disposing of household waste responsibly and work with the police to target professional fly tippers with prosecution.
- Support extending the Ultra-Low Emission Zone so that it covers Lewisham and beyond to the whole of London. We will help residents and businesses adapt to this positive change, which will lead to cleaner air for all, by increasing the amount of

Building safer communities

electric vehicle charging points, and opening up opportunities for local business owners to access discounted electric vehicles.

- Work with parents and schools to protect our children from toxic air. All Lewisham children will be encouraged to walk, cycle and scoot to school away from main roads. We will provide interventions to protect our most polluted playgrounds and build on our anti-idling schools programme to reduce emissions in the vicinity of our schools.
- Continue to campaign for more low emission buses throughout our borough, work with TfL to extend the Bakerloo line and we will support local groups fighting to hold private rail companies to account.
- Maximise opportunities for energy efficiency in all council buildings and new developments, and will explore working with publicly owned not-for-profit energy suppliers that do not penalise poorer residents using pre-pay metres.
- Ban single-use plastics from council buildings and provide water fountains in parks and public spaces to reduce plastic waste.
- Support a move of the Council's pension fund away from fossil fuels-linked investments in response to climate change and to protect our investments from volatile energy markets.

A Labour Government will

- Support the creation of publicly-owned, locally accountable energy companies and co-operatives, making energy cheaper for all and providing investment to our growing renewable energy sector.
- Insulate four million homes as an infrastructure priority to help those who suffer in cold homes each winter. This will cut emissions, improve health, save on bills, and reduce fuel poverty and winter deaths.
- Commit to renewable energy projects, and work against fracking which is not compatible with tackling climate change.



Building safer communities

Lewisham's community is something to be treasured and protected, and every resident should feel safe and secure living here. Working with the Metropolitan Police, the voluntary sector and other stakeholders in Lewisham, we will work towards a borough both free from crime, and the fear of it.

Savage Tory and Lib Dem Government cuts have led to a massive fall in the numbers of police across London. Since 2010, the Met's budget has been cut by over £700 million, and reductions are due to increase to £1 billion by 2021. As a result, we've seen a rise in crime across the capital, and a particularly worrying rise in youth and violent crime.

We need to do more to tackle the causes of crime. Government cuts have hit programmes that stop people getting into trouble and help them out of it through rehabilitation and skills training that opens up job opportunities and can break the cycle of re-offending. We want to do more to support those who suffer as a result of crime, but cuts have hit support for victims, too.

Across the country, two women a week are killed by a current or former partner, and 750,000 children each year witness domestic violence. Tory-imposed austerity has drastically reduced support for services that support survivors of domestic violence and abuse, as well as victims of sexual assault.

We need to tackle the deep institutional biases against Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, which lead to worse outcomes at every point of the criminal justice system. This is not just a great injustice – it is corrosive to police-community relations and community cohesion, which are vital to tackling crime.

Labour believes British policing is at its best when it is rooted in local communities, when it is visible and when it is trusted. We want to bring the police and our community closer together to



The Tories have cut £700 million from policing in London

build that sense of trust. We need to tackle crime, but we also need to tackle the causes of crime and support the victims of crime, too. Together, we can ensure every person in our community feels safe and secure.

What we've done

- Worked with community groups and the police to reduce crime through the Safer Lewisham Partnership.
- Supported the innovative RedThread programme, to divert young people away from gangs and knife crime.
- Ensured that Lewisham's Hate Crime Third Reporting Sites network has been re-established and revised. This delivers a coordinated response to hate crime, combating and reducing it.

What we will do

- Develop a public health approach to youth violence and knife crime that looks at tackling the root causes. We will ensure all agencies – social services, schools, police and our NHS work together while involving parents and local communities.
- Seek funding from The Mayor of London's £45 million 'Young Londoners Fund' to support youth services that turn children away from crime and provide early interventions.

- Further our work to combat sexual violence and domestic abuse. All survivors who are able and choose to flee domestic abuse and violence situations will be supported through our work with the voluntary sector, and given priority in social housing allocation.
- Continue with efforts to combat child sexual exploitation and peer-on-peer abuse.
- Work with local retailers to tackle underage purchasing of knives by supporting more businesses in Lewisham to sign up to our Responsible Retailers Agreement. We will campaign for national legislation to make this guidance compulsory, so there is stricter guidance on the sale of knives.
- We understand that stop and search remains a serious concern for Black African and Caribbean communities. We will work with the Police to ensure that stop and search is used in a responsible intelligence-led manner – holding the police to account through regularly monitoring their effectiveness, and challenging them when it's not.
- Publish an annual Modern Slavery Statement outlining our actions to tackle slavery and forced labour. We will work to eliminate modern slavery from our supply chain by requiring all companies in receipt of public funding or contracts from Lewisham to have a Modern Slavery statement.
- Continue to support the Lewisham Safer Neighbourhood Boards, to ensure police are serving the needs of your local community.

A Labour Government will

- Recruit more police officers to work on community beats.
- Establish a National Refuge Fund to support rape crisis centres.
- Work to eliminate institutional biases against Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

Your Lewisham Labour Candidates



Your Lewisham Labour Candidates — Standing up for the many

On 3rd May 2018, you will decide who will be the next Mayor of Lewisham, and who will be your local councillors. Damien Egan is standing alongside 54 hard-working Labour Council candidates. To get in touch please see email, phone and Twitter details below:

Mayor



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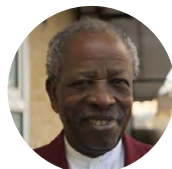
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Get involved

This manifesto was written together with hundreds of local Labour members and community activists, in one of the most collaborative and democratic consultations of its kind (pictured right, and page 4). To join our growing movement or support our campaign, please get in touch:

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For upcoming campaign sessions

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