

NEWHAM INDEPENDENTS POLICY MANIFESTO



**Newham
Independents**

**Fairness, Stability
and Practical
Change for
Newham**

2026



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Foreword from the Party Leader

CLLR. MEHMOOD MIRZA

Newham stands at a crossroads shaped by structural pressures that extend far beyond any single administration. Rising housing costs, widening inequality, demographic change and the long shadow of national fiscal constraints. Over the past decade, local government has been required to do more with less, often forcing difficult trade-offs between financial sustainability and social justice.

This manifesto is grounded in a simple premise: public policy must restore balance between residents' daily realities and the way local decisions are made. Rather than presenting isolated pledges, the Newham Independents propose a coherent framework built around three principles:



HOUSEHOLD RESILIENCE

easing the everyday financial pressures residents face.



ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SERVICES

ensuring council policies are practical and usable.

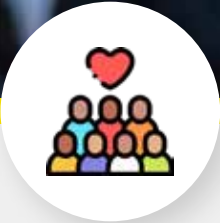


CIVIC INCLUSION

Recognising the full diversity of Newham's communities in how services are designed.



MIRZA
FOR NEWHAM



Newham is one of the most diverse boroughs in Europe, but diversity alone does not guarantee fairness. Policy must respond to lived experience: families navigating rising living costs, young people needing opportunity, small traders facing regulatory burdens, and communities seeking recognition within local infrastructure.



The measures proposed here are not ideological abstractions. They are grounded in local government finance, statutory duties, and measurable outcomes. Each policy recognises that public resources are finite and that good governance requires transparency about trade-offs, opportunity costs, and implementation risks.



This manifesto therefore aims to move beyond political slogans and instead offer practical, accountable interventions – policies that can be costed, scrutinised, and delivered within the realities of municipal governance.

OUR POLICY FRAMEWORK

1

Supporting Household Finances



FREE FIRST RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT

The Newham Independents propose introducing a free first parking permit for households.

POLICY RATIONALE:

Parking costs form part of the cumulative financial pressure on residents. Removing the cost of the first permit recognises that many households rely on a vehicle for work, caring responsibilities, or accessibility needs.

Expected Outcomes

- Reduced cost burden for residents.
- Simplified parking policy structure.
- Increased transparency around council revenue from subsequent permits.





COUNCIL TAX FREEZE

Newham Independents will Freeze your council tax.

Household budgets remain under strain from inflation and rising living costs. A freeze provides short-term respite from rising costs while longer-term structural reforms are explored to transform council services whilst saving money at the same time.



Education & Young People



UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Extend free school meals to all secondary school children within the borough. Many of Newham's young people do not always have access to the nutritious food that they require as growing young people.

Newham independents believe that it takes a village to raise a child, we believe that by prioritising the next generation we will all win.

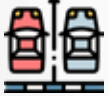
Universal provision critically reduces stigma for children on low incomes, supports educational attainment and ensures consistent nutritional access.

We expect that this measure will help with

- Improved concentration and attendance.
- Reduced administrative complexity compared with means-tested models.



Fair & Practical Parking Reform



ABOLITION OF EMISSIONS-BASED PARKING CHARGES

Remove emissions-linked differentials within parking permits.


While environmental objectives remain important and we in no way deny climate change is a very real phenomenon, emissions-based charges can disproportionately affect residents unable to upgrade vehicles due to financial constraints. This is fundamentally unfair to the very people who need their vehicle for work. Carers, delivery drivers and trades people.

Newham Independents will always and unashamedly put the needs of the majority of newham residents over those of often vocal marginal voices or interest groups.

Our mission is simple to ensure that the council works for you not the other way around.



TWO HOURS' FREE PARKING FOR NEWHAM PERMIT HOLDERS

 Introduce limited free short-stay parking for residents.

Newham's businesses have had a tough few years, the legacy of Covid and a change in consumer habits still mean that many businesses are struggling to get back to their pre covid business levels.

Local high streets depend on accessible parking. Short free periods can support local commerce while maintaining turnover. We are unashamedly pro small and local businesses and we will always do what is needed to boost Newham's local economy.





FREE BULKY WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

Newham is consistently ranked poorly when it comes to street scene and rubbish levels. We will take action immediately to tackle the scourge of mattresses and bulky waste on the streets of our borough. We will provide a no-charge bulky waste collection for all residents.

Fly-tipping remains a persistent issue. Removing cost barriers encourages legal disposal and supports cleaner streets.

We Expect a Reduction in environmental crime and improved public realm and resident satisfaction.



Inclusion & Community Infrastructure



DEDICATED MUSLIM BURIAL GROUND PROVISION

Develop a dedicated burial space that meets faith burial requirements within the borough.

Newham's population includes a significant religious community whose burial needs are not fully met locally. Providing appropriate provision reflects inclusive civic planning.

Our policy will reduce the need for families to travel outside the borough during times of bereavement which are some of the most challenging times any person can face.



OUR APPROACH TO FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



The Newham Independents recognise that each policy carries financial implications.

IMPLEMENTATION WOULD REQUIRE:



Transparent
costing exercises



Assessment of
foregone income



Identification of
efficiency measures



Ongoing monitoring
of service impacts

Policy decisions must balance social benefit with long-term sustainability. Every proposal within this manifesto is therefore designed to be subject to scrutiny and revision through formal budget processes.





A DIFFERENT MODEL OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP



THE NEWHAM INDEPENDENTS' APPROACH CENTRES ON:



**EVIDENCE-LED
POLICYMAKING**



**CLEAR COMMUNICATION
WITH RESIDENTS**



**POLICIES ROOTED IN EVERYDAY
EXPERIENCE RATHER THAN
ABSTRACT TARGETS**

This manifesto outlines a framework for practical change — one that recognises the borough's diversity, economic challenges, and shared aspirations for stability and fairness

NEWHAM INDEPENDENTS PARTY





Newham

Independents



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