

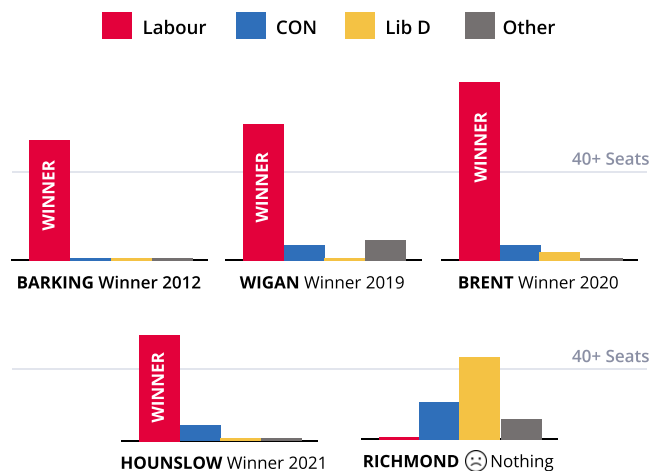
LABOUR MANIFESTO 2022

Richmond upon Thames - almost the best place to live in the Country. The Thames runs through it, and the abundance of parks makes it London's greenest borough. But the nation is still suffering under Tory austerity. In Richmond, one in seven children is living in poverty. Families and young people are struggling with housing costs and food prices. Local social care and mental health budgets have been cut to the bone and there are areas where pollution levels will be having a significant impact on the health of residents.

But the ruling Liberal Democrats on Richmond Council are complacent, providing little alternative to their Conservative predecessors, and no one is there to challenge them. Local government can play its part in building a more equal Richmond, run in the interests of all our residents, just as Labour-controlled councils Hounslow, Barking, Wigan and Brent show by their repeated wins of the LGC UK Council of the Year.

Elect **Labour councillors** in May 2022, for an **active council** working in the public interest

UK COUNCILS OF THE YEAR Local Government Chronicles Awards



Of course, countless people across our borough have worked tirelessly over the past two years, coping with the terrible impact of the pandemic to make the lives of residents better. They deserve our sincerest thanks. Local elections are an ideal opportunity to vote on the competence of the local council.



Vote Labour, Thursday 5th May 2022

TACKLING THE HOUSING CRISIS

LABOUR FOR HOMES

Affordable Housing

Increases in local house prices and rents have far exceeded growth in wages. There are 4893 households on the Richmond housing waiting list with an average wait of four and half years. The Council's own 'Strategic Housing Assessment 2020/1' sets out the Council's expectation of 50% affordable housing on new developments, with a tenure mix of 40% affordable housing for rent and 10% intermediate housing – in line with the Mayor's London Plan..

Yet, larger sites that could be used for affordable housing have been used for low density, luxury development. Only 7% of the new units on Twickenham Station and the old Post Office site are "affordable", and there is no low rent social housing. The Liberal Democrats have only built about 100 affordable homes over the last two years. Labour is the only party with an ambitious plan to invest in genuinely affordable social housing in the borough, protect private renters and ensure new developments are environmentally friendly and fit for purpose.

Repairs and Estate Management

Complaints about a deteriorating repairs service and poor estate management by RHP are growing, affecting individuals and communities. Too many residents are living in insecure, non-decent homes in conditions of disrepair which affects their health, safety, and well-being.



Ceiling in a stairwell in flats owned by Richmond Housing Partnership

KEY PLEDGES

Ensure all new developments:

- ☒ Include 50%+ genuinely affordable homes; and
- ☒ Have good access to necessary amenities / transport links
- ☒ All housing associations in the borough should have at least two tenants and councillors on their boards to ensure accountability

Accountability

Richmond Council transferred its housing stock, mostly to Richmond Housing Partnership (RHP) under the Lib Dems in 2000. Since then, RHP has removed nearly all the tenants and councillors from its board. RHP's plans for its £22.5m operating surplus (2020) need to be scrutinised to ensure they are in the interests of Richmond and Twickenham residents.

LABOUR FOR HOMES



Mortlake Brewery Site

Labour has been the only party demanding more affordable housing and a lower density development on the site. Objections from the Mortlake Community Campaign and Labour led to new plans for The Stag Brewery after the Labour Mayor of London rejected previous ones last July.

But the Council is still insisting that a large secondary school is built. This would put much more pressure on the site in terms of traffic and transport, **limit space for affordable housing**, and swallow up much of The Brewery playing field, which local people have been urging to keep as a valuable open space. The Lib Dem council is once again ignoring the community through the latest plan.

LABOUR WOULD WORK TO ENSURE THEIR NEEDS ARE MET, INCLUDING:

- Housing for local people at affordable rents
- A sustainable transport solution to reduce traffic and pollution
- Retention of The Brewery playing field and more open spaces
- Relocation of Thomson House Primary School to the site



Twickenham Riverside Plans

We want to see a proper town square and a riverside park, moving cars away from the river frontage. Development of the riverside is a once-in-a-generation opportunity, not to be squandered. We want to see 50% affordable housing provision.

ENVIRONMENT, TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

LABOUR FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Our borough is being choked by traffic. Several major routes in and out of London run through it, as does the South Circular Road on the Richmond side, through Barnes, East Sheen, Mortlake and Kew. Traffic on many of these roads was already heavy at busy times for many years before the closure of Hammersmith Bridge. The completion of the Mortlake Brewery development will add to those problems.

The borough is not well served by public transport. It only has two Underground/Overground stations (Richmond and Kew Gardens), both on the same line. Local mainline train services serving Waterloo (such as from Whitton) have been cut, and bus services have never plugged the many gaps in service.

Labour believes we need a hands on, comprehensive and imaginative travel and transport plan for the borough which would help alleviate car traffic and improve public transport.

KEY PLEDGES



Increase charging points for electric vehicles



Increase the use and availability of cycle lanes



Energy audits when a premise has a change of use



2016 LBRUT EV Strategy TfL Base Case	Actual % Of 2022 EV Target	Council Control	2022 Base Target Reg'd Electrified Vhcls	Q3 2021 Actual Reg'd EVs
Hammersmith	237%		1,300	3,088
Westminster	143%		3,000	4,298
Hounslow	136%		1,600	2,177
Wandsworth	90%		3,000	2,708
Kingston	☹️ 79%		1,700	1,343
Sutton	☹️ 74%		1,600	1,179
Richmond	☹️ 58%		4,000	2,322

Environment needs active Labour not passive Lib Dem Councils

LibDem leaflets falsely claim Richmond has most EV charging points in Outer London. Hounslow and Brent have more. Of all 33 London Boroughs only Kensington and The City have fewer Rapid Charging Points than Richmond.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

The standard of education here is generally high; parents are largely pleased with their local schools and the measures which helped children and parents during lockdown. As in the rest of the country, the pattern of provision in Richmond is very mixed. Most primaries are local authority schools, while almost all council secondary schools have become academies, funded nationally by the government. Early years provision is mostly in private hands.

Labour councillors would want to see local schools properly resourced and staffed, as well as wider nursery provision. Ultimately, your councillors would support Labour's plan to implement a National Education Service which would bring uniformity of provision and fairer funding, as well as improved standards and resources for all schoolchildren. Labour would ensure that all schools are democratically accountable and transparent about the decisions they make for our children.

School provision in the East of the Borough

Labour councillors in Richmond would seek that any school built as part of the Mortlake redevelopment plan would be a new site for the nearby Thomson House primary school. It's currently on a split site, has little play space, and is near a potentially dangerous level crossing. There would be less environmental impact on the Mortlake site than the large secondary school proposed by the Lib Dem council, which isn't needed. There are two good secondary schools within reach of Mortlake, which have places unfilled.

LABOUR FOR EDUCATION

KEY PLEDGES

- ☒ More Parents on School Governing Boards
- ☒ Equitable distribution of free nursery places
- ☒ Ensure Turing House School places are open to local residents in Heathfield
- ☒ Fit all educational establishments with anti-viral and anti-pollution filters

School provision in the West of the Borough

Twickenham will need more secondary school places. Labour councillors would ensure that we are never in the situation where we play catch up with young people's education and have to rush through approval for a Free School. **Rather, we advocate using census and planning data from the housing team to plan for a fair share of school places.**

SOCIAL CARE

LABOUR FOR SOCIAL CARE

The coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated the frailty of Britain's welfare state. Mental health and social isolation have turned out to be the greatest unmet needs, yet the Lib Dems have failed to make the issue a priority.

The NHS is the agency for health, but local authorities do have a role to play. This was somewhat belatedly recognised by the Lib Dem council who, instead of increasing its budget for social care, set up a voluntary trust fund to give money to selected charities to support mental health services. For this year and the last, children's mental health has, rightly, been a focus but we in the Labour Party do not agree with this approach:

- The funding for the charities is discretionary. There is nothing to stop the trustees pulling the funding plug in a sudden change of heart or focus.
- The funding must be sustainable to allow the providers to plan and expand as needed in response to needs.

Services for older residents have been significantly reduced including access to help at home. It is vitally necessary to ensure all older residents can access at least one good meal per day by commissioning and funding meals on wheels services, lunch clubs, social prescribing and shopping services from adult social care and healthcare budgets.

KEY PLEDGES



All carers to be paid at least the London Living Wage and for their travel time between clients



Fixed funding agreements for third sector organisations delivering social care



Devise a Loneliness Action Plan based on successful models in other boroughs



Food parcels for the families of schoolchildren from our borough

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

LABOUR FOR THE FUTURE

The Labour Party shares the community's desire to actively protect Richmond's unique character and identity, in particular our historic buildings and open spaces.

The statutory 15-year local plan for Richmond's development space allocation is near completion. Labour believes it reflects the Lib Dems lack of ambition for positive change. We also recognise that change is a constant which needs direction to avoid missing opportunities to make our home an even better place to grow up and grow old.

Pavements and potholes are a perennial problem which can be better managed by bringing the work in-house. Direct coordination of skilled work done by Richmond residents with a pride in their own community would improve safety of everyone on the move.

We want our services local to our communities, space must be allocated for:

Crime reduction - We will work with the local police Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) to make it easier for residents to report crime and to get feedback on how the SNT are tackling crime. We would aim for Police and Community Support Officer outposts in our wards. We will work with agencies to attempt diversions to eradicate anti-social behaviour.

Health - NHS Doctor and Dentist Surgeries.

Education and skills - two hi-tech centres to allow curriculum time to excite children with hands-on interactions with VR, AI, Robotics, and 3D printing. To attract an advanced technical management education provider to Richmond.

Environment - workshops to supply rapid upgrades of homes and buildings insulation and energy conservation installations.



KEY PLEDGES



Plan for a more prosperous local economy with more value created and retained by all our residents.



Offer all children and those adults open to career change the skills to live a secure, rewarding life rooted in Richmond borough.



Foster the high value innovations the world will need for local businesses to trade widely, especially with Europe.

LONDON BOROUGH OF
RICHMOND UPON THAMES

OUR PLEDGE **TO YOU**

This manifesto is a pledge from us, your Labour Party, to bring efficiency to Richmond council's dealings with you. We want to bring an end to Lib Dem – Conservative complacency. Instead, we are offering decency, equity and, above all, fairness.

We will call for a proper audit of where council investment is going, and ensure this reflects both need and potential – to ensure a fair share of resources across our borough.



Vote Labour on 5th May 2022 to bring a Labour voice back to Richmond Council

 **Labour**