Annual Report 2023/24



A stronger, safer, kinder borough for everyone

Third lowest council tax in Britain PAGE 4



Free home care guarantee in H&F PAGE 14

Delivering significantly more with significantly less

Cllr Stephen Cowan Leader of Hammersmith & Fulham

This year our annual budget has been put together in some of the most difficult financial circumstances we have faced since the borough was formed in 1965.

Most council funding comes from central government, but our total net expenditure budget is now 56% lower than it was in 2010.

In 2014, we introduced our 'Ruthless Financial Efficiency' programme. We believed we could cut wasteful spending by modernising what was an old-fashioned bureaucracy.

That meant renegotiating contracts, cutting layers of management and using the smartest data analysis to redesign how the council operates. We have saved a record £165m since 2014. That's a lot considering this year's net budget is £133million.

We have used these savings to deliver the third lowest council tax in Britain

and invest in more and better services. H&F's council tax is in real terms 33% lower than it was in 2010.

We have also structured council tax in such a way that only 53% of residents pay the full amount and our residents facing the greatest hardship do not have to pay anything at all.

In 2015, the government abolished its Council Tax Freeze Grant, which had incentivised councils to freeze or cut council tax.

Now, the government calculates their funding formula on the assumption each council will follow their modelling to put council tax up by the maximum and take the adult social care precept.

 If you would like any of this information in large print, braille or a different language, call
0800 917 6994 or email costoflivingteam@lbhf.gov.uk



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We will always strive to find smarter solutions that shape things for the better and make our borough a stronger, safer, kinder place for everyone **99**

We have cut or frozen council tax for five out of the last eight years but this year we have added 2.99% and the social care precept.

We're investing an extra £12m to maintain a wide range of vital services such as cleaning and improving our environment, protecting children, helping homeless people, supporting our elderly and Disabled residents and more. But we will also pay for extra actions such as:

- 72 Law Enforcement Officers
- An extended Gangs Unit to keep young people safe
- The most sophisticated and extensive CCTV network in Britain
- New measures to protect women and girls
- Free home care the only council in England to do that

- Free breakfast for all primary school children
- Meal vouchers for children outside school term times
- Help for people needing foodbanks
- New cost-of-living support for our residents needing help.

These are challenging times for all of us. We will always strive to find smarter solutions that shape things for the better and make our borough a stronger, safer, kinder place for everyone.

All the best



Front cover: Greenside primary pupils in Shepherds Bush enjoy their council-funded free breakfast.



How we spend your Council Tax

Your council tax pays for dozens of local services: from the unique provision of free adult social care at home to our pioneering free breakfasts for children at primary schools.

It also helps pay for weekly residential waste collection, street cleaning, the maintenance of our 19 Green Flag parks, the 72 frontline officers in our Law Enforcement Team, business support, tackling homelessness and much else.

In five of the past eight years, we have been able to freeze council tax even though central government has reduced our funding by £48m between 2010-11 and 2023-24. This cut amounts to a total of £652m, which represents a £7,010 per household loss over those years.

This year, with inflation persistently in double digits, we have had to increase council tax by 2.99% to maintain the same levels of service. To continue our provision of adult social care at a time of national funding crisis for adult services, we will levy a 2% adult social care precept.

It also allows us to invest £12m in core services including a £1m investment in supporting cost-of-living initiatives and £1.7m to help extend free school meal support in our schools.

We invest this money, alongside other income, on five main areas as shown on the chart on page 5.

All our housing activities, including the £1m-a-week investment programme, are financed entirely from a separate ringfenced account funded by rents and service charges.

Investing for our future

Another separate fund is for our investments for the future. This "capital fund" of £507m enables us to invest in construction projects such as helping deliver 3,000 affordable homes in the next eight years as well as in schools projects to give our kids the best start in life.

Council tax is just one source of our income. It accounts for around 14%, comprising £73m of our overall £568m budget.

We have frozen fees for housing, children's and adults' services.

Our expenditure 2023-24



Social care Includes free homecare, support for vulnerable adults and public health

5% The economy Includes business support, planning, and tackling homelessness

16%

Corporate services Includes finance, IT, legal, HR, democratic and other central services 29%

Children's services and education Includes free primary school breakfasts

18%

The environment Includes weekly waste collections, street cleaning, parks, leisure, enforcement services and licensing

Our year in review

What we've achieved – in numbers

Law Enforcement Team

Our **72 Law Enforcement Team officers** continue to work with the police and local community to crack down on crime.

Last year, LET officers conducted **85,000 patrols** across the borough. Of these, **50,000** were spent patrolling H&F's streets, **22,000** on housing estates and **13,000** in parks.

H&F Officers completed **7,000 weapon sweeps**, taking dozens of dangerous items off our streets.

Keeping you safe

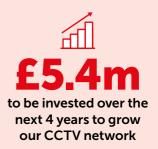
H&F has the highest density of CCTV cameras per person of any local authority in the UK.

All our **1,850 CCTV cameras** are monitored from our Hammersmith control room. This includes **580 cameras** in public areas, more than **1,200** on housing estates as well as **80 mobile cameras** which can be quickly located where needed.

To help improve public safety, we're investing **£5.4million** over the next four years to grow and upgrade our network to fully automated 360-degree cameras. The upgrade launched in October 2022 in White City – covering India Way, Australia Road, Bloemfontein Road, Commonwealth Avenue, New Zealand Way and South Africa Road. Next up are **15 new cameras** located in and around Shepherds Bush Green.









Tackling crime

We're cracking down on crime and antisocial behaviour.

Together with the Met Police, we're tackling alcohol and drug use in and around Shepherds Bush Green. Recently, we asked local residents to tell us how safe they felt around the borough and what we can do help.

We're grateful to all **500 residents** who shared their views on helping us improve the safety of women and girls at night.

As a result, we have helped police close **two local drug dens** and make **10 arrests** for Class A drug offences. We've also increased local patrols in the area to further discourage antisocial behaviour.

War on toxic air

In our war to improve our filthy air, we've created London's densest network of electric vehicle charging points.

With **2,800 points** you are never more than **400 metres** from a charge. There are now **6,453 electric vehicles in H&F** – almost double the number registered last year.

To help our battle to make H&F healthier and greener, we've also introduced a second Clean Air Neighbourhood in south Fulham.

Continued on page 8 \rightarrow



local drug dens closed and 10 arrests for Class A drug offences







Cost-of-living crisis

As inflation soared to double figures, we set up a **new cost-of-living team** to help everyone get the support they need during the crisis. It advises on school meals and uniform grants, hardship payments, fuel vouchers, financial advice and free home care. Call for **free** on **0800 917 6994** or email **costoflivingteam@lbhf.gov.uk**.

Last year, our adult social care team helped more than **160 residents get approximately £325,000 in benefits**. This year we aim to help many more.

We funded four **Warm Welcome** spaces to support residents through the cold weather. Along with our five libraries, the new hubs offer hot drinks, food, financial advice, activities and company for residents. Visit: **lbhf.gov.uk/warmwelcomes**.

We've launched **two new courses** at the Macbeth Centre in Hammersmith. 'Money Matters' will teach people how to make informed choices about personal finances and budgeting. You can also learn to feed yourself or your family on a budget in our 'Ready Set Cook on a Budget' course. Visit **hfals.ac.uk** for details and how to enrol. We can help with course fees.

Food poverty

We are the only council in London to offer free breakfasts to all primary schools. We've now delivered **more than 1,000,000 free breakfasts** to school pupils since 2019.

residents were helped by H&F to get approx. £325,000 in benefits

advice service offered to residents struggling with the cost of living





And we were the first in England and Wales to launch a pilot scheme to deliver free lunches in two secondary schools.

The number of free school meals we are providing in secondary schools each day **has soared from 1,262 to 2,007**.

Last summer, we continued to offer children and young people hundreds of free activities and free food during school breaks.

Our annual Summer in the City programme saw more than 3,617 local pupils take part in the 350 free activities we offered, such as football, art and drama.

More than 23,000 meals were served over the summer.

Industrial Strategy

We've created **thousands of new jobs in H&F** including more than **2,600 in software, 2,200 in the digital sector and 1,100 in bio-tech** with our pioneering Industrial Strategy with Imperial College London.

We want to give our residents the right skills and qualifications to seize these jobs of the future. This includes our **new £150m EdCity education hub** in White City and the borough's **first STEM specialist** secondary school at Fulham Cross Academy.

Firms based in H&F and centred in the hottest sectors of the world economy have **attracted £5.2bn** in investment to H&F, including in our booming White City Innovation District.

3,617 local pupils took part in 350 free H&F activities over the summer break in England and Wales to pilot free lunches in two secondary schools



The new global hotspot

Brexit has damaged Britain's economy and produced our country's worst trade figures since records began, but our unique Industrial Strategy in partnership with Imperial College London is transforming H&F into a thriving global economic hotspot.



We're bringing our local residents the best new jobs and start-up opportunities from the hottest parts of the new world economy thanks to our pioneering partnerships with academia and business which we launched in 2017.

Here's what we've achieved so far:

Jobs of the future

We're making sure our schools and apprenticeships equip our residents with the right skills and qualifications.

We've created 6,500 new jobs in science, tech, engineering, medicine and media by attracting the biggest and best firms. Some of the global leaders that now call H&F home include Novartis, Airbus, ITV and Saab. To help, we've delivered 196,000sqm of specialist business space, including laboratories and 69,000sqm of affordable workspace.

Got a business in H&F? Sign up to our Business Connects enewsletter at Ibhf.gov.uk/businessconnects



New £150m education hub

We've teamed up with education charity Ark to create a ground-breaking new education hub in White City.

Building work has started on the £150m development which will bring a new education hub and youth centre, 132 new genuinely affordable homes for local people, and 1,000 new jobs. All at no additional cost to the taxpayer. The EdCity development will create:

- a new building for Ark White City Primary Academy and another for Harmony Nursery
- a new OnSide Youth Zone
- an expanded Adult Learning and Skills Centre from H&F Council
- a new 100,000sqft office space for up to 1,000 jobs.

L-R: Drawings of EdCity; Cllr Alex Sanderson, H&F Cabinet Member for Children and Education visits EdCity; Imperial College London; our WorkZone service helped Malik Luben-Scott on the career ladder.

White City Innovation District

Some of the world's most pioneering organisations have moved to the booming White City Innovation District.

This includes firms developing the world's first biodegradable plastic and others creating next-generation cancer treatment. Start-ups and scale-ups based there have attracted more than £2.7 billion in investment since 2017.

Imperial continues to expand its White City campus with a new School of Public Health to help tackle pressing public health challenges for local residents. They have been joined by global big-hitters such as Novartis and Airbus while beauty giant L'Oréal is the latest multinational set to move in as it relocates its 1,200-strong UK corporate headquarters to White City.

We have also formed a new partnership with European powerhouse, 22@Barcelona, to further boost the district.

More free school meals in our war on food poverty

As a compassionate council, our free school meals and clothing grants are now more vital than ever.

The number of children and young people in H&F receiving free school meals has risen by more than a third over the past five years.

In secondary schools alone it has shot up by almost 60% over the same period.

Many local families are struggling during the cost-of-living crisis. We want our students to be fully equipped, supported and comfortable in the school day.

"Our young people are really feeling the effects of these challenging times," said Cllr Alex Sanderson, H&F Cabinet Member for Children and Education.

"That's why we are dedicated to providing necessities like food and uniforms which are vital to our children's wellbeing as well as educational performance."

Declaring war on food poverty

Measures we have taken to fight food poverty in the borough:

- introduced a universal free breakfast offer for every primary school
- given free school meals and some breakfasts to families in need over half-term breaks
- offered free lunches for every student in two of our secondary schools
- hosted free events with free food over the summer and half-term breaks for children and young people.

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We are dedicated to providing necessities like food and uniforms which are vital to our children's wellbeing **99**



Check your eligibility and apply

H&F currently has almost 6,000 students eligible for free school meals – or nearly 29% of all local pupils. This is far above the national average of 22.5%.

The number of free school meals we are providing in secondary schools each day has soared from 1,262 to 2,007.

Find out about your child's eligibility for free school meals and school clothing grants and apply now: **lbhf.gov.uk/pupils-help**.

Does your family need help?

The need for financial support for local families has rapidly increased during the cost-of-living crisis.

If you need help with free school meals, clothing grants, emergency payments or budgeting advice, please call our dedicated cost-of-living team for free on **0800 917 6994**. Lines are open 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Or email: **costoflivingteam@lbhf.gov.uk**.

Other help with meals available in H&F

Nobody should go without food. Here are a few local organisations that can offer you help with nutritious meals.

H&F Foodbank

Open every week across four locations. Offers free food parcels to residents in need upon referral. 020 7731 3693

hammersmithfulham.foodbank. org.uk

Rose Vouchers

Helps families with children under the age of five to buy fresh fruit and vegetables from local markets. Ask at children's centres. alexandrarose.org.uk

Nourish Hub

Offers hot meals on weekdays on a 'pay as you feel' basis, plus free cookery classes and breakfasts. 020 7967 1302 nourishhub.org.uk



A compassionate council

Hammersmith & Fulham is a great place to live. And as a compassionate council, we're striving to make it even better and more caring. Here's what we've done:

Cost-of-living team $\mathfrak{E}_{\mathfrak{E}}$

Our new team supports residents throughout the cost-of-living crisis. This includes urgent assistance with prepaid meters and food.

You can contact us on freephone 0800 917 6994, email: costoflivingteam@lbhf.gov.uk, or visit lbhf.gov.uk/warmwelcomes.

Free home care 😥

Since 2014, H&F has remained the only council in the UK to abolish all adult home care charges. This enables vulnerable residents to live at home, as independently as possible, and reduces NHS hospital costs.

Reablement team

H&F's Reablement Team has been rated 'Outstanding' for the third year running by the Care Quality Commission. It rehabilitates residents at home after illness or medical treatment, with personalised care that rebuilds independence and supports wellbeing.

Foster carers

Without our devoted foster carers, H&F wouldn't be such a welcoming home for so many young people. Last year, we awarded local foster carer Hanora McCool with the Freedom of the Borough (pictured below with the Mayor) for her 35 years of service. Hanora has fostered more than 240 children with no plans to stop.

Dementia-friendly H&F

We're making H&F a dementiafriendly community. More than 1,300 residents are currently living with dementia, a number predicted to increase by 42% by 2030. We support them with our new Dementia Strategy and work with local partners like Dementia Action Alliance.

Warm Welcome Hubs Ď

As the temperature plunged, we've supported 16 warm welcome spaces, including all our libraries, offering respite from the cold. Many include free activities, advice, hot drinks and food for residents in need

Supporting our refugees 送

H&F is a borough for all. We welcome refugees from around the world and celebrate them each year with Refugee Week. To support refugees making a home in H&F, we're working with more than 200 residents under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, and landlords from across the borough with the Afghan Resettlement Scheme.

Working with local charities



To reach as many residents as possible, we work in partnership with local charitable organisations. Last summer our Household Support Fund awarded £240.000 to charities. including Solidarity Sports and Hammersmith & Fulham Foodbank.

Adult Learning at the Macbeth Centre

Whether you're looking to get back into education or learn a new skill. our Adult Learning Team can help. They offer free, weekly one-to-one employment support for residents through H&F Works.



How we're tackling our toxic air

We wouldn't drink dirty water, so why do we inhale dirty air?

Nobody would willingly drink a glass of dirty water – but roughly 18 times a minute we breathe in filthy, poisonous air. Polluted air is linked to a wide variety of illnesses including dementia, cancer, heart disease and asthma.

It's particularly bad for children, causing stunted lungs and it damages developing organs. That's why we're working with local people to deliver Clean Air Neighbourhoods.

The first trial Clean Air Neighbourhood was in the streets to the east of Wandsworth Bridge Road. Each day it's seen 8,000 fewer out-of-borough cars cutting through the area.

It reduced dangerous nitrogen oxide emissions to the lowest in H&F and each day, it cuts poisonous carbon dioxide emissions by one tonne. To measure the effects, we installed the largest hyper local air quality monitoring network in the world.

On 1 December, following requests from residents, we started a trial extension of the South Fulham Clean Air Neighbourhood to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road.

Our smart tech cameras allow H&F residents to be able to continue to drive everywhere. We're supporting business by developing targeted solutions for their staff, customers and deliveries. Visitors and shoppers can reach every street without going through a camera. Residents can also book visitors free access through the cameras by using the RingGo mobile parking app.

For more details, visit: **lbhf.gov.uk/sfclean**





Image: SystemImage: System23%
of traffic
reducedImage: SystemCall our hotline on
020 8753 3849 for help

Map of the new South Fulham trial

The map shows entry points for non-H&F drivers:



Cleaner, greener and smarter



We're finding new ways to clean our filthy air by changing the way we travel, build our homes and boost biodiversity in the borough.



Tiny Forests

We've planted three Tiny Forests with approximately 2,000 new native trees to help clean our air and boost wildlife in Hammersmith Park, Normand Park and Eelbrook Common.

Cycle Hub We built our first bike storage hub under Hammersmith Flyover near the Broadway. Request your free parking space now: lbhf.gov.uk/cycle-hub.

More efficient homes

We're 'retrofitting' hundreds of our homes to make them more energy and cost efficient by upgrading windows, as well as extra insulation and solar panels where we can. We're also set to start on the Gibbs Green estate using air source heat pumps to reduce energy bills by 60%.

Want to save money and cut carbon? We're offering free whole-house retrofit plans to residents: ecofurb.com/hf.

Electrifying our streets

We're helping residents make the switch to electric transport. We believe electric is the future of travel in reducing exhaust emissions and helping improve air quality.

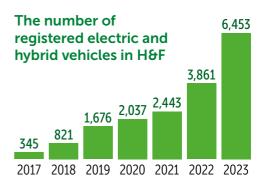
Every home or office is now within 400 metres of a charging point.

With 2,800 charging points across the borough, H&F now has the densest network of charging points anywhere in the UK.

- We've installed more than 2,200 lamppost column charging points. This is in addition to 300 free-standing chargers of varying output, with a further 200 planned for delivery in the coming months.
- We've delivered nine ultra-rapid 175kW charge points as part of the borough's first all-electric charging hub in Fulham Road – the world's first converted Shell petrol station.
- We've installed 10 on-street 50 kWh rapid charge points – the highest number in any London borough.

- We've delivered more than 200 dedicated charging bays.
- H&F now has more than 1,000 electric bicycles available to hire. There are also five free electric vans for local businesses to use.

We want residents to make the switch and we're offering a variety of green permit discounts to help: **lbhf.gov.uk/green-vehicle-permits**.



Find out more Sign up to our monthly

Climate Connects e-newsletter at lbhf.gov.uk/climate





Making H&F the best place to live, work and socialise

H&F is the best place in London for arts, culture and entertainment. Whether you're looking for a family-friendly day out, or a night on the town, our borough is bursting at the seams with iconic venues and local talent.

Check out our events calendar for just some of the fun we have on offer in 2023.



Top local hotspots:

Barons Court Theatre

This 52-seat theatre provides a platform for theatre makers in West Kensington. baronscourttheatre.com

Bhavan Centre

The centre promotes Indian classical arts with around 100 performances per year. bhavan.net/home

Bush Hall

Built in 1904, this iconic hall hosts everything from up-and-coming musicians to cabaret. bushhallmusic.co.uk

Bush Theatre

The theatre provides a platform for new creatives in H&F. Locals can visit for a discount! bushtheatre.co.uk

Eventim Apollo

Since 1932 this legendary venue has hosted world-renowned acts including Elton John and classic comedy shows like Live at the Apollo. eventimapollo.com

Irish Cultural Centre

The Irish Cultural Centre has promoted Irish art and culture in H&F since it opened in 1995. irishculturalcentre.co.uk

LAMDA

As well as training up H&F's next generation of creatives, LAMDA also has three theatre spaces for student productions. lamda.ac.uk

Lyric Hammersmith

This theatre presents critically acclaimed theatre from the heart of Hammersmith. lyric.co.uk

Next Door Records



This quirky vinyl record shop come gig venue is a shop, bar, café, and off-licence rolled into one. nextdoorrecords.co.uk

O2 Shepherds Bush Empire

Since 1903, the Empire has welcomed giants from music and comedy, including Prince, Adele, Amy Winehouse and Jo Brand.

academymusicgroup. com/o2shepherds bushempire

Riverside Studios

Riverside Studios has it all – a theatre, cinema, art gallery, exhibitions, workshops, a bakery and a bar.

riversidestudios.co.uk

Sands End Arts & Community Centre

The award-winning SEACC and its Walnut Café in Fulham is open for the local community. seacc.uk

The Polish Centre (POSK)

The largest Polish centre outside of Poland, POSK is open to anyone wanting to know more about Polish culture. posk.org/en/home

What's on

Here are just some of the exciting events taking place in H&F for the whole family. For all the details, sign up to our monthly What's On e-newsletter at: lbhf.gov.uk/event



26 March



The Boat Race

The Oxford-Cambridge boat races return, with the 77th Women's race due at 4pm and the 168th Men's race at 5pm. You'll be able to watch from Bishops Park and Furnivall Gardens.

31 March to 16 April

Circus Extreme

Sensational stunts, clown escapades and world-famous performers. This adrenaline-packed performance on Shepherds Bush Green will have you on the edge of your seat.

Every Saturday

Saturday Morning Parkrun

Join a free community walk, jog or run at either Wormwood Scrubs or Bishops Park. Visit **parkrun.org.uk**

21 to 22 April

Eid al-Fitr

We'll be celebrating Eid al-Fitr at Eelbrook Common. Join us to celebrate the end of Ramadan.

10 to 11 June

Polish Festival

Everyone's invited down to Ravenscourt Park to celebrate Polish culture, food, music, and dance.

19 to 25 June



Queen's Club Cinch Championships The international stars of the tennis world return to Barons Court. Details: queensclub.co.uk. (*Pic: Getty Images*)

19 to 25 June

Refugee Week

We'll be celebrating everything refugees contribute to our borough.

24 June



Armed Forces Day

This Armed Forces Day we'll be marking the 70th anniversary of the Korean War at St Paul's Gardens.

28 June

Eid al-Adha

Join us at Wormwood Scrubs for Eid al-Adha. Everyone is welcome, come on down to celebrate with our Muslim community.

24 July to 1 September

Summer in the City

We're offering a summer of free food and fun activities again this year. Summer in the City is a free programme that runs during the school break for children and young people in H&F. Watch this space for a full list of events and activities lbhf.gov.uk/summerinthecity.



1 to 31 October



Black History Month

Join us to celebrate the historic achievements and contributions of Black people across H&F and beyond.

12 November

Remembrance Sunday

Religious leaders will lead memorial parades and ceremonies at Shepherds Bush and Fulham war memorials.

25 December



Big H&F Christmas Day Lunch Donate to give a free Christmas lunch to older residents who would otherwise celebrate alone.

Don't miss a thing – follow us! Hammersmith & Fulham Council is on:



У 🕑 ┢ Nextdoor 🕞 YouTube flickr

Let's get recycling right C•



Top tips

- Flatten cardboard boxes
- Rinse out bottles, jars and cartons
- Squash and keep the lids on bottles and cartons
- Place lids from glass jars loose in your recycling

Contact us

Visit **lbhf.gov.uk/recycling** Email **cleaner.greener@lbhf.gov.uk** Call **020 8753 1100**

Download the **H&F Report It** app, available from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.

Electrical waste and electronic equipment recycling in H&F

£3.7m is lost every year in the UK by not recycling electricals containing gold, copper, aluminium and steel.

How to recycle electrical items

Use our special recycling banks for unwanted (working or broken) small, portable electrical items. Such as: tools, radios, hair dryers, kettles, computer keyboards, small laptops and mobile phones. For larger items visit: **lbhf.gov.uk/bulky-waste**.

Indoor bank locations

Askew Road Library 87/91 Askew Road, W12 9AS

Avonmore Library and Community Centre North End Crescent, W14 8TG

Fulham Library 598 Fulham Road, SW6 5NX

Hammersmith Library Shepherds Bush Road, W6 7AT

Old Oak Housing Association 43-45 Erconwald Street, W12 0BP

Shepherds Bush Library 6 Wood Lane, W12 7BF

More locations can be found at **recyclenow.com**.

What about single-use vapes?

Single-use vapes, along with batteries, should never be put in your general waste bin or recycling bin. They contain batteries, which when crushed can cause fires.

If you can remove the battery, place the battery in a battery bin at one of the above locations, if not place it in a recycling bank at the above locations.

We throw away around 600 million UK household batteries (22,000 tonnes) – the equivalent weight of 110 jumbo jets every year.

Giving a second life to pre-loved furniture

It's amazing how a little love and lick of paint can breathe new life into an old item of furniture. Here's how one Shepherds Bush charity is doing just that.

Do you have a piece of furniture that you no longer need? Get in touch with the Petit Miracles shop in the West12 Shopping Centre in Shepherds Bush. They use donations from local residents to help offer work experience placements and employability skills sessions.

Looking for new furniture? Visit their shop or their website to discover uniquely restored items such as tables and chairs, sideboards and even old theatre seats!

For anyone keen to give their renovating skills a go, Petit Miracles host a variety of furniture upcycling workshops.

To find out more or donate visit: petitmiracles.org.uk/donate or send an email to: workshop@petitmiracles. org.uk.

Pictured: A pre-loved chair which has been given a second life by local charity Petit Miracles, shown before and after its renovation.

Other ideas for bulky goods

You can also give or sell unwanted bulky goods to local residents via H&F Freegle. Donating your unwanted furniture and electrical items helps save money and reduce waste. If these options are unsuitable, you can now book a bulky waste collection online at: **lbhf.gov.uk/bulky-waste**.

Or, you can book a free collection by the British Heart Foundation charity. Your donations help them fund more research into health conditions. Visit: **bhf.org.uk**

AFTER

BEFORE

Recycling and rubbish

Don't buy – borrow at the Library of Things!



Why buy when you can borrow? Now you can do that at Hammersmith & Fulham's first Library of Things.

Set to save residents money, the new community hotspot opened its doors at Hammersmith's Livat shopping mall in King Street earlier this year. It offers a range of useful household, DIY and gardening items, available to rent from only a few pounds a day. Shirley Cupit, Hammersmith resident and chair of the Queen Caroline Estate Tenants and Residents Association, said: "Especially for those residents with a smaller living space, it's going to make it possible for people to look after their homes and their environment in a way that's affordable."

To get started, visit: libraryofthings.co.uk/hammersmith



Help with the cost of living

Our team can help if you're struggling to pay your bills and in many other ways. Call us for free on **0800 917 6994**, email **costoflivingteam@lbhf.gov.uk** or visit **lbhf.gov.uk/costofliving**

Find free help here:

