



# The Safer Streets Budget

Tackling gangs and the causes of gangs

# Safer Streets Budget

**I**N 2019 Hammersmith & Fulham Council delivered on our promise to save Charing Cross Hospital – winning a seven-year battle and forcing the government to scrap the biggest hospital closure programme in London’s history.

We also won back nearly 3,000 people’s homes threatened with demolition on the Gibbs Green and West Kensington estates and have partnered with a new developer to transform the rest of the failing Earls Court scheme for the benefit of local people.

2019 was also a year of huge challenges. The decade of austerity continues to threaten vital services, the most concerning being fewer police and the rising tide of gang crime.

Our No 1 priority will always be keeping people safe. That is why we are investing the largest-ever amount in crime fighting with new law enforcement officers, new CCTV, and a new gang crime unit to crack down on those who prey on our most vulnerable children.

We will be tough on gangs, but as a compassionate council, we will also be tough on the causes of

gangs. That means addressing the underlying issues.

It is three years since I launched our first-of-its-kind industrial strategy with Imperial College London to make H&F a global hotspot for digital media, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) industries – bringing local people some of the best career and business start-up opportunities anywhere.

**» Our No 1 priority will always be keeping people safe.**

We want our children to grow up knowing they can achieve great things if they work hard and seize the opportunities around them. So, we’re building new homework centres, two new youth centres, introducing business mentors, and aligning our schools to our ambitions for the borough.

We are working with the United Nations on a pioneering new climate change qualification in schools that arms our children with the knowledge and skills to meet the challenge of our age.

Too many teachers tell us how children arrive at school hungry. So, we are offering universal free breakfasts in all

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our primary schools and are piloting free lunches for secondary school students.

With our commitment to lifelong care, we are the only council in England to have abolished home care charges for our elderly and Disabled residents.

This year's budget sees council tax rise by less than inflation – a real-terms cut. We can only invest in services and maintain the third lowest council tax in England through ruthless financial efficiency – modernising the council, clawing back millions from property developers, driving productivity and cutting waste.

Brexit continues to offer huge uncertainty for local businesses and families across our borough. We are yet to see how it will play out. We remain committed to working with our closest neighbours and biggest economic partners to deliver shared prosperity and security across our continent.



### **Cllr Stephen Cowan**

Leader of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



### **Third lowest council tax**

H&F residents have the third lowest bills in the country.



### **Funding cut by austerity**

Government austerity has cut £68m from our funding over the last 10 years – a 54% real terms reduction.



### **Rise is less than inflation**

Despite continued austerity, we have pegged the council tax rise at 1.99% – significantly below the government's official inflation rate (RPI).



### **Ruthless financial efficiency**

In the last five years we've stripped out £93m of wasteful spending and negotiated a record £685m from property developers.



# A year of delivering o

**Seven years after Charing Cross Hospital was first threatened with demolition, residents, campaigners and the council scored a major victory by forcing the government to scrap its closure plan.**

The victory came after H&F Council Leader, Cllr Stephen Cowan, set up an Independent Healthcare Commission – led by Michael Mansfield QC – also persuading four other west London boroughs to take part.

Cllr Cowan said: “The plan to close a number of west London hospitals, including demolishing Charing Cross, selling off most of the land and replacing it with a small clinic, was flawed from the beginning.

“We needed a comprehensive and objective evidence base that would reveal the flaws in the plan and provide the basis for potential legal action. The Mansfield Commission did that, concluding the closure plan was unsafe and should be halted until health chiefs could produce a detailed business plan.

“No business plan was ever produced. When the hospital closure was delayed again, the plan



# n our promises

was out of date and the government did a U-turn. I would particularly like to thank the residents who campaigned for seven years in all weathers. They did a huge public service making sure everyone knew the local hospital was earmarked for demolition.”

» **The evidence provided by the Mansfield Commission was the turning point in the fight to save Charing Cross Hospital.**

The Save Our Hospitals campaign leaders were given the Freedom of the Borough and the key campaigners

given a Civic Honour in recognition of the critical role they played.

The fight to defend our local NHS goes on as services face £30million of proposed cuts, the threat to the Parsons Green walk-in centre, the reduction of local GP hours, cuts to palliative care, and a government funding system that is diverting millions to a private company called Babylon GP at Hand.

## Did you know?

In 2009, **Michelle Obama** visited Maggie's Centre cancer charity unit at Charing Cross Hospital.



Save Our Hospitals campaigners celebrate victory with H&F Council Leader, Cllr Stephen Cowan, outside Charing Cross Hospital

## A year of delivering on our promises

### Two estates saved from property speculators

**T**hree thousand local people's homes were saved after H&F Council did a courageous deal – ending years of anguish for local families.

In 2013 the West Kensington and Gibbs Green estates and other council land was sold to Capco for just £105million as part of their Earls Court scheme – then valued at £12.05billion. The deal would have caused serious financial harm to the council and did not allow for sufficient replacement homes for residents.

In 2014, the developer said their scheme was undeliverable and urged the council to increase the number of luxury flats by 50 per cent. The council refused.

Having seen year-on-year reductions in value, Capco sold their continuously delayed scheme at the end of last year for just £425m, but unbeknown to them, Cllr Stephen Cowan had signed a back-to-back deal with the new owner and all the council's land was returned.

Sally Taylor, co-chair of West Kensington and Gibbs Green Tenants' & Residents'

Association, said: "We can't thank Stephen Cowan and the council enough for saving our homes and ending a 12-year nightmare."



New free school lunches to beat food poverty

### Free meals for pupils in war on food poverty

We have stepped up the fight against food poverty with a pioneering scheme for free school lunches in secondary schools and free breakfasts for primary pupils.

The four-year pilot scheme – the first of its kind in England – was launched at Woodlane High School in White City and Fulham College Boys' School.

"It is a terrible indictment of our society that children are going hungry in 2020," said Cllr Larry Culhane, H&F Cabinet Member for Children and Education. "Free meals ensure all children will have the best start in life."

The scheme will be paid for entirely by contributions from property developers negotiated by the council.



Sally Taylor and Diana Belshaw led the residents' campaign to save West Kensington and Gibbs Green estate from developers

# Coming next

## Jobs and business

Through our Industrial Strategy, we will support the creation of 2,000 new jobs in technology, media and creative industries by 2022. And we'll deliver new affordable office space for small businesses.

## Future transport

We'll continue to campaign for a new pedestrian river crossing at Imperial Wharf, a Crossrail 2 station at Imperial Wharf, more trains on the West London Overground line, and to replace Hammersmith flyover with a tunnel.



OVERGROUND

## Arts and culture

We'll seek to add at least two new major artistic venues to the borough by 2022. And we'll restore the Cecil French Collection and ensure a long-term gallery home in H&F.



## Best in class

We'll work to attract and retain good teachers by exploring ways to assist with housing and to create our own teacher recruitment agency.

## Homes for residents

We are on target to deliver the largest number of **genuinely affordable** homes for residents – rather than overseas investors – in a decade.



New youth club youth zone

## Sports and youth facilities

We'll build an OnSide Youth Zone in White City offering a wide range of sport, art and enterprise activities for young people.

## Health and social care

We will build a Compassionate Community that joins up social care with the NHS, alongside a network of charities, business and residents to support health and wellbeing. We will pioneer a new vision of Independent Living that gives Disabled people and others the same choice and control over their lives as anyone else.

## Greenest borough

We'll appoint a 'bee champion' to support the local bee population by installing new hives. And we'll use planning powers to encourage more car-free businesses and developments.

# Building the next glob

**The plan to provide our residents with the best careers and start-up opportunities in the hottest parts of the new economy is fast delivering results.**

Launched in 2017 in partnership with Imperial College London our Industrial Strategy aims to:

- Turn scientific innovations into businesses and jobs
- Realign our education system so our residents can seize the opportunities we're bringing to their doorstep for decades to come
- Deliver affordable flexible workspace for STEM, media, digital, and creative industry start-ups and scale-ups
- Provide specialist advice for start-up and scale-up businesses.
- Attract anchor institutions and businesses
- Work with businesses, academia, education establishments, and others to plan the infrastructure to make Hammersmith & Fulham thrive

Firms around the world are moving to Hammersmith & Fulham. New arrivals

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-strategy](http://lbhf.gov.uk/industrial-strategy)



include one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, **Novartis**, **Open Cell** – a specialist bio-tech hub for start-ups in London, **IKEA** and **ITV**. Tech firm **Blenheim Chalcot** has expanded its operation now operating in Hammersmith and White City.

## Our new Civic Campus will be a space for everyone

Work has begun on the new H&F Civic Campus transforming Hammersmith Town Hall into a money-saving, eco-friendly, accessible public building. It will offer

A new public rooftop 'Skybar' will form part of the Civic Campus transformation



# Local tech hotspot

homework space for young people, a public Skybar, performance space for an orchestra, an art gallery, a four-screen cinema, workspace for local entrepreneurs, and hundreds of genuinely affordable new homes.

## Comedy festival aims to rival Edinburgh Fringe

In recent years the Council has invested funds negotiated from property developers to build up our local arts and culture scene. It saved the Lyric, Hammersmith; funded the Bush Theatre and started the Shepherds Bush Comedy Festival while teaching local youngsters the skills to perform and take part.



H&F Brilliant Business Awards

## Why H&F is proving best for local businesses

Our Brilliant Business Awards see us reward local firms and entrepreneurs, large and small. There are now more than **12,000 businesses based in H&F** employing more than **135,000 people**. This year's outstanding entrepreneur award went to Fulham baker Liz Wilson, founder of **Ma Baker**.

### Did you know?

Our new **Made in H&F**

boutique pop-up shop in Hammersmith's Kings Mall has helped more than 50 local entrepreneurs sell their unique art and homeware products.



**Manoj Badale**  
Co-founder of Blenheim Chalcot, the third largest employer in H&F (2,000 employees)

» I've worked with many councils over the past 20 years and H&F's Industrial Strategy is the most coherent I've come across.



# Restoring Hammersm

**The first stage of the work to restore the iconic 132-year-old Hammersmith Bridge is underway.**

We closed the bridge to avert a potential catastrophe after finding 40 years of unchecked corrosion in the suspension structure. Now, the world's best engineers – who've worked on the Golden Gate Bridge in California and oil rigs in the North Sea – are working to fully restore it.

Transport for London has provided £25million to pay for the first stage. The work to restore the bridge to its Victorian splendour is expected to take approximately three years.

"I know how much the people of Hammersmith & Fulham love our beautiful bridge," said H&F Council Leader, Cllr Stephen Cowan.

"It's not only a unique example of innovative 19th-century British engineering, it's also a vital and strategic 21st-century river-crossing. It can be made fit for purpose for generations to come and that's what we're doing.

"We're focused on getting the bridge reopened to cars and buses as quickly as possible."

## Did you know?

Tierney Clark, who designed the original Hammersmith Bridge, also designed the iconic Chain Bridge in Budapest, over the Danube.



# ith Bridge

## Why was the bridge closed last year?

Several hairline micro-fractures were discovered in the cast iron casing around the pedestals that have held the suspension chains in place since 1887. If the suspension structure had collapsed there could have been a disaster.

These faults were only discovered because of the comprehensive structural integrity review and on-going safety checks commissioned by H&F Council in 2015.

Cast iron can shatter – one reason why this is the only bridge of its kind in the world – so the micro-fractures were a huge worry. More corrosion throughout the suspension structure has since been discovered.

Once completed, the refurbishment will enable cars and buses – including the heavier electric single-deckers – to cross the bridge. And to prevent future damage, TfL will continue to limit the flow of buses on and off the 19th century suspension bridge.



## Restoring the bridge to its Victorian splendour

Hammersmith Bridge was the first suspension bridge built over the Thames. Designed by the noted civil engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette, it was built in 1887.

Opened in June that year, Hammersmith Bridge is a complex feat of Victorian engineering built using a combination of cast iron, wrought iron and 999 individual wooden plates. It features structural copulas and seven crests.

It's also London's weakest bridge, which is why weight restrictions have been in place since 2015.



The hairline micro-fractures compromise the bridge's safety

Follow  
the progress  
of repair works  
[lbhf.gov.uk](https://lbhf.gov.uk)  
/bridge

# Tackling the climate e



**W**e recently declared a climate emergency and an ambition to be net carbon zero by 2030. We've created a resident-led commission to drive change locally and work in full partnership with residents. Already we're:

- forcing developers to be greener
- encouraging sustainable transport
- reducing household waste

## Making it easier for residents' electric cars

We currently have more than **250 electric vehicle charging bays** and lamp posts, as well as London's first ultra-fast charging hub. Building two safe and segregated cycle routes through Hammersmith will also help get people out of their cars. And our new pollution-free delivery service helps businesses get the final leg of their deliveries by cargo bike.



## First to ban the use of harmful weedkillers

With bee and butterfly populations plummeting, we were the first council in Britain to **ban the use of glyphosate weedkillers** in parks and open spaces. We're also letting grass grow in some areas in parks to support biodiversity.

## Expanding Heathrow Airport is a disaster

Our joint legal battle alongside neighbouring boroughs to stop the expansion of Heathrow continues. We refuse to allow the government to ignore the health and wellbeing of local residents. Air pollution contributes to the early death of **203 residents every year in H&F** with children and elderly people the worst-affected.

## Protecting species and planting trees

In the past five years, we've planted **1,257 new trees**. We're also installing bat boxes and loggeries in all parks to support endangered species.



# emergency now



H&F Council and residents unite to declare climate emergency

## Our schools help train future leaders of climate action

H&F is helping **Miles Coverdale** primary in Shepherds Bush and the **Fulham Cross Academy Trust** adopt a new United Nations-accredited training course. It will aid teachers to inspire and educate the next generation of climate campaigners.

### Did you know?

H&F has a higher number of **electric vehicle charging points** per resident than anywhere else in Britain.



» H&F is leading the way in the fight against air pollution in London – and our unique partnership will help us deliver a sustainable solution to this issue.

**Julian Melchiorri**  
Founder of Arborea in White City, inventors of air-purifying bio-solar leaf technology

# A compassionate cou

**W**e believe compassion makes us stronger. We're doing everything we can to strengthen civic life in neighbourhoods across our borough. And we're delivering services that liberate our residents, no matter what their situation, to live their lives to the fullest.

**We will always challenge unfairness and we're not afraid to take on powerful vested interests to get results. This includes:**

- fighting to end rough sleeping
- ensuring no one lives in food poverty
- supporting those most at risk from austerity
- taking on property speculators

## **Our relentless drive to tackle food poverty**

Foodbanks shouldn't exist. Yet the number of local families using foodbanks has doubled over the past two years. That's why we'll continue to fund the vital work of the **Hammersmith & Fulham Foodbank**, and why we opened the ground-breaking foodbank hub with the **Trussell Trust** and **Citizens Advice Bureau** on the White City estate.

## **Banning bailiffs to break cycle of debt**

Our ethical approach to debt management saw us ban the use of bailiffs to collect council tax

debt in 2018. This helps residents at risk of falling into debt, saves money for taxpayers and reduces levels of stress and anxiety in families that find themselves in debt.

## **Law Centre is secure after funding and new office**

We've secured free legal advice for borough residents most in need by giving the **Hammersmith & Fulham Law Centre** critical funding and a new office at Hammersmith Library. Free legal advice is a basic human right. We are delighted that the new office was opened by **Baroness Hale** of Richmond, during her time serving as President of the Supreme Court.

### **Did you know?**

Lady Hale will be reading to H&F schoolchildren from her book *Equal to Everything* – the inspirational story of her rise to President of the Supreme Court.



Baroness Hale of Richmond, former President of the Supreme Court and supporter of the Hammersmith & Fulham Law Centre.



Cllr Cowan and Lord Alf Dubs join protest in Parliament Square

## A day to mark strong links with European friends

**9 May is Europe Day** across our continent. We will be celebrating in H&F, including closing King Street to traffic and holding a market to recognise the culture and economy we share with our fellow Europeans.

## Bucking the trend to reduce rough sleeping

We're bucking a London trend with a steady decline in the number of homeless people on the streets in H&F. We're working with **Beam** to crowdfund employment training for homeless people. And we recently helped Shepherds Bush charity **The Upper Room** create a purpose-built hub for homeless people.

## No families with children are in emergency B&Bs

We refuse to house families with children in B&Bs. We've worked hard to find alternatives for families with children and have been successful in helping many families move directly into temporary accommodation.

## We'll never turn our backs on refugee children

One hundred and seven refugee children who fled their birth countries now call H&F home. We're calling on the government to restore the rights of unaccompanied refugee children stranded in Europe to be reunited with family in the UK.

» The very real issue of hunger cannot be solved in isolation – and that's why we are so grateful for all of our partner organisations and funders, including H&F Council.

**Daphne Aikens**

Founder of the Hammersmith & Fulham Foodbank



# Lifelong support for r

**I**t was Clem Attlee's 1945 Government that founded the NHS with the promise of cradle to grave healthcare. We are proud to be the first council in Britain to hold dear to that principle by abolishing home care charges.

**No one should run the risk of going without care. People have paid into the system throughout their working lives. It is only right they get these crucial services when they need them. Our commitment to lifelong support for our residents includes:**

## **Working with Disabled people**

The new **Disabled People's Commission** is driving change in our borough by working closely with Disabled residents on decisions about support and services. We now target co-production of all new projects with Disabled people's input from the outset.

## **Choice and control**

We will pioneer a new vision of Independent Living that gives Disabled people and others the same choice and control over their lives as anyone else.

## **A dementia-friendly borough to live in**

We'll make H&F a haven for people with dementia by providing **dementia-friendly programmes**, including projects which bring young and old together.



# Residents



A free Christmas lunch for older local residents brings the community together

## No home care charges

Adult home care charges have been abolished – the only borough in England to do so. Most other charges have been cut in real terms, with meals on wheels reduced from £4.50 to £2. We're working with our Older People's Commission to **tackle loneliness and isolation.**

## Fostering support

Foster carers no longer have to pay council tax – as a thank you for the wonderful service they provide. Young people leaving care are also exempt to reduce their financial burden as they step out in the world.

## Support for carers

We aim to **help carers** gain financial security, with the ability to combine work and care if they choose to, and better information and advice to prepare and make choices about caring.

## Free school meals

We want to end food poverty so we negotiated extra funds from property developers and used that extra money to offer **free breakfasts** to all primary school children. We've also started **free lunches** for all pupils at Fulham College Boys' School and Woodlane High School in White City.



We've declared war on food poverty with free school breakfasts and lunches

## Did you know?

We used funds negotiated from property developers to build the new **Stephen Wiltshire Centre** in Fulham for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and their families.

# What's on

**Don't miss a thing in Hammersmith & Fulham!**

**W**e have a jam-packed year of festivals, celebrations and events for all residents, showcasing what makes Hammersmith & Fulham such a special place to work, live and visit.

## MARCH

**WEDNESDAY 18: Grand Opening** of our new Adult Learning and Skills Centre in Uxbridge Road.

**SUNDAY 29: The Boat Race** – Come and watch the historic university race in our fan zone in Furnivall Gardens, Hammersmith.



## APRIL

**SATURDAY 4:** New **Farmer's Market** launches in the arches of Ravenscourt Park. Market returns every Saturday.

## MAY

**SUNDAY 3: Polish Heritage Day** at Ravenscourt Park

**FRIDAY 8:** Join us to celebrate the **75th anniversary of VE Day** at St Paul's Gardens in Hammersmith. Visit: [www.lbhf.gov.uk/veday](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/veday) for more details.

**SATURDAY 9: H&F European Festival and Hammersmith Spring Market** – King Street.

Our inaugural borough-wide festival celebrating European art, culture and cuisine as we honour all that is great about our European residents. Events include a traffic-free market and stage in King Street and Lyric Square.



## JUNE

**THURSDAY 4: H&F Civic Honours Awards** – A gala celebration of the community's unsung heroes for their contributions to civic life.

**THURSDAY 4 - SUNDAY 7: Shepherds Bush Comedy Festival** –

Our popular comedy festival enters its fourth year with side-splitting acts by household names and emerging local talent sharing the bill in Shepherds Bush Green. The four-day rib-busting festival is now a major destination for comedians ahead of the Edinburgh comedy festival.



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## SUNDAY 21: CommUNITY

**Day** – Our fourth annual CommUNITY Day party returns to Ravenscourt Park in Hammersmith.

The day boasts a main stage with talks, live music and dancing from local artistes, as well as food from around the world, arts and crafts, funfair rides and activities for children at this great day out in the park.

## SUNDAY 28: North End Road traffic-free Summer Market

full of food, drinks, gifts and street entertainment for all the family.

**Armed Forces Day** (TBC)

## AUGUST

**FRIDAY 7 - SUNDAY 9: Pop-up cinema season** in Ravenscourt Park screening classics from the silver screen.

## SEPTEMBER

**FRIDAY 4 - SUNDAY 6: Pop-up cinema season** in Ravenscourt Park

**SUNDAY 6: Fulham 10K Run**

**FRIDAY 11 - SUNDAY 13: Pop-up cinema season** in Bishops Park

**SUNDAY 20: Autumn Market Car-Free Day** (Venue TBC) marking Car-Free Day in H&F.



**MUST SEE**

## OCTOBER

**Black History Month celebrations**

**Brilliant Business Awards** – We honour the best local firms in the borough in the biggest event of the year for our local businesses.

## NOVEMBER

**H&F Fireworks display** – Enjoy one of the best fireworks shows in London in Ravenscourt Park. There is something for all the family with food, drinks and entertainment throughout the night.

## SUNDAY 8: Remembrance Day

Join our memorial events in both Shepherd's Bush and Fulham to mark the sacrifices made in the First World War, Second World War, and in every conflict since.

## DECEMBER

**North End Road traffic-free Christmas Market** to get a head start on your Christmas present shopping.

**Traffic-free Hammersmith Christmas Market** in King Street with live music, food and drinks.

**FRIDAY 25: Big Christmas Day Lunch** – Our free Christmas Day lunch celebration for all our older residents, who would otherwise be alone, as we help create a compassionate community in H&F.



# Annual Report 2020/21



## Charing Cross Hospital saved



**Free school meals**



**West Kensington and Gibbs Green estates saved**



**Tackling the climate emergency**



**Building more genuinely affordable homes**



**Pioneering industrial strategy making H&F a global tech hotspot**



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