

Nearly all councils are putting bills up this year. We're not.

COUNCIL TAX FROZEN

- + With your help we've defended Charing Cross Hospital**
- + Parking permit charges frozen for third year running**

See what we've done with your money & the changes we're bringing

More than just excellent value

Message from the Leader of Hammersmith & Fulham Council

The government has cut our funding again.

It means by the next financial year they will have made £83million in cuts – which represents a staggering **74 per cent** real terms cut.

Additionally, the government has also scrapped the £1.6million grant that we normally receive for freezing council tax.

Meanwhile, the government has given us new responsibilities that will cost us an extra £650,000 – but won't give us the funding to do it.

They've also asked us to raise council tax by more than seven per cent, which we have refused to do.

Despite this, we are proud to say:

- We're the only council in London to have **frozen bills** this year and last year, and cut bills the year before.
- Council tax bills in H&F are the **third lowest** in the country.
- At the same time, we're putting **£3.4million more** into adult social care.

That's very good news to many people. But we're about more than that, and there's still more to do.



Last year, the majority of H&F residents voted to **remain** in the EU. The vote was followed by an alarming increase in hate crime incidents. We organised a **Unity Day** celebration to bring people together and reaffirm the message that everyone is welcome in H&F. I was delighted that so many people joined us.

Our battle to **save Charing Cross Hospital** continues. Over recent months, thousands of local people have joined us online or at public meetings to campaign to save local health services – particularly the A&E department at Charing Cross.

With demand for care continuing to outstrip existing hospital capacity, and with the local population growing rapidly, the current plans to close local services are more misguided than ever. Standing up for our residents against these closures continues to be our number one priority.

We strive to be the most **compassionate** council by going the extra mile for people who most need our help. That is why we are the only council in the country to **abolish home care charges**.

We have only done this by taking a ruthless approach to cutting waste and radically changing the way the council is run. This booklet will explain more about these changes.



Cllr Stephen Cowan



Working to be the most compassionate

- We're putting an **extra £3.4million** into care services for older and disabled people, such as residential care and home help.
- We've abolished charges for **home care** and cut 85% of other charges in real terms.
- We've abolished **15-minute only** home care visits to make sure people have the time they need.
- We've also cut **meals on wheels charges** from £4.50 to £2.
- We've guaranteed to continue **Independent Living Fund** payments for disabled people.





- We went to Calais to help to rescue unaccompanied **refugee children** from 'The Jungle' – hundreds of children are now safe in homes throughout the UK as a result.
- We supported the borough's **foodbanks** to expand and launched a **credit union** in the heart of White City, helping thousands of residents get fair finance.
- We're launching a **comedy festival** and comedy workshops for young people.
- We're building a new £6million **disabled children's centre**.



Trying to be the most innovative & efficient

- We've negotiated money for the largest number of **genuinely affordable homes** to be planned in the borough for 10 years in order to help address the housing crisis.
- We've negotiated **better deals** from our suppliers and cut our office costs.
- We've introduced **smarter budgeting** – checking every penny is used efficiently, not just carrying on doing things as they've always been done.
- We're leading the way in **predicting** who will need council services to reduce last-minute demand. It's the kind of back-office innovation that really helps cuts costs.





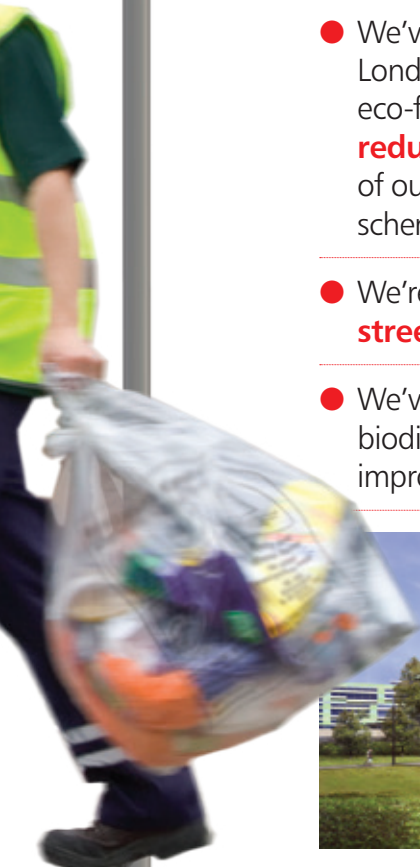
- We're **selling** our best ideas to other organisations.
- We've scrapped **glossy magazines** and lamppost banners.
- We've cut **councillors' allowances** (their pay) by 10 per cent.
- We've saved **£1million** by cutting senior management posts.
- We're funding more **police officers** than ever before.



Working to be the cleanest & greenest

- We've appointed a **'Street Czar'** to work with local people to make streets cleaner and more attractive.
- We've guaranteed to keep our **weekly** (and in some cases twice-weekly) **bin collections**.
- To help cut pollution, we've opened 150 **electric vehicle** charging points and a green car club, with one-year free membership for residents.
- We've expanded **20mph safer neighbourhoods** across the borough to help reduce congestion and improve safety.
- We're **planting grasses** to reduce roadside pollution and **green corridors** for wildlife.
- We're setting up a **low emissions zone** on the south side of Hammersmith Broadway.





● We've banned the standard use of environmentally harmful glyphosate weedkillers and pioneered **eco-friendly** alternatives.

● We've invited residents to **grow plants** around tree bases in their streets.

● We've become a lead London authority for eco-friendly **flood reduction** projects: two of our sustainable drainage schemes have won awards.



● We're installing energy-saving LED **streetlights**.

● We've agreed new **planning policies** to enhance biodiversity, increase the number of trees and improve green infrastructure in the borough.



Doing things with local people, not to them

More people than ever are taking an active part in local decisions. Here's how:

- Our **business commission** has been tasked with developing policies to make H&F the best place to start and grow a business.
- Our **air quality commission** has driven council policy on electric vehicles, greening town centres, and cycling improvements.
- Our resident-led commission on **airport expansion** has led on opposing expansion at Heathrow.
- **New commissions** will be addressing disabled people's services, poverty and worklessness, rough sleepers, biodiversity and the needs of older people.
- Residents have been taking an active part in helping us negotiate a better deal for the **West Kensington and Gibbs Green** estates.
- We're working with parents and teachers to fight government plans to make massive cuts to local **school budgets**.





- We've supported new online social network **Nextdoor** to set up hyper-local virtual neighbourhoods across H&F to share information and solutions to local problems. The vast majority of H&F neighbourhoods now have active groups. For more details visit: www.nextdoor.co.uk
- Local school pupils have elected a **Youth Mayor and Youth MPs** who have been working with us on a wide range of council policies.

"It's a breath of fresh air to see local residents being given real influence over council decisions."

Christina Smyth
chair of the Poverty and Worklessness Commission



Keep informed

Sign up for H&F Council's e-newsletter at:
www.lbhf.gov.uk/newsupdates

Get involved

Have you got ideas or expertise at:
www.lbhf.gov.uk/sayit

Trying to make sure you benefit from H&P

We are working with businesses and local institutions to build the strongest possible economic growth.

But too many people are left out.

We want local people to benefit from the jobs and opportunities this growth will bring. That's why:

- We're delivering new affordable, flexible **office space for start-ups**.
- Most of the £219million we've already negotiated from developers will go towards building a record number of **new homes** that are genuinely affordable to buy or rent.
- We're working to secure jobs, affordable homes and better transport from the vast **Old Oak regeneration**, which includes an interchange with the new High Speed 2 and Crossrail lines.
- We're supporting the developers and retailers involved in expanding **Westfield shopping centre**.



's economic growth



- We've negotiated £22million of benefits for local residents from **Chelsea FC** as a condition of their scheme to redevelop Stamford Bridge.
- We're building 133 new homes at **Edith Summerskill House**. Most will be at council rent levels and will be offered to local residents.
- We're launching a truly ground-breaking joint venture with one of the world's top universities, Imperial College, and other exciting, innovative organisations to create **West Tech** – a super-hub for bio-tech and other high-tech innovation.
- Our work with schools, infrastructure planning and business policy will make H&F the **best place for business** in Europe.



“We want children growing up in H&F to have the best chances at the best jobs in the new world economy.”

Cllr Stephen Cowan
Leader of H&F Council

Defending Charing Cross Hospital

Since 2014, H&F Council has been **fighting** to save Charing Cross Hospital from proposals to demolish most of the site and replace the A&E service there with a small urgent care centre.

Five local councils, led by Hammersmith & Fulham, commissioned a **public inquiry** led by Michael Mansfield QC.

NHS bosses re-launched their flawed plan in a new report – the **'North West London STP'** – and still have the downgrade of Charing Cross Hospital and the sale of much of its site as a key part of their scheme.

H&F Council has totally rejected this and, along with Ealing Council, has refused to sign up to the plan. Both councils are now leading the national debate on opposing STP hospital cuts.

The decision to reject these hospital closure plans was backed by hundreds at a packed **town hall meeting** in November.

The meeting drew campaigners from across the region who have been fighting plans to close or downgrade services at four out of the nine hospitals in north west London.



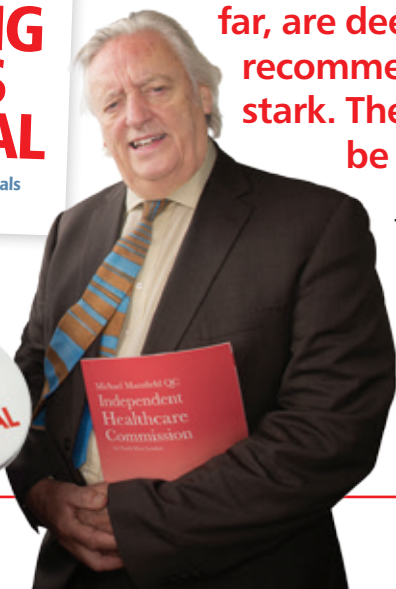


Campaigners are united in condemning the tactics being used to force through drastic reductions in local health services secretly and without public consultation.

For more details, visit:
www.lbhf.gov.uk/hospitals



“Our findings are stark - the reforms, both proposed and implemented thus far, are deeply flawed. Our recommendations are equally stark. The programme should be halted immediately.”



- From the Independent Healthcare Commission report by Michael Mansfield QC

Want to know what's going on in Hammersmith & Fulham?

Sign up for our e-newsletter: www.lbhf.gov.uk/newsupdates



SAVE CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL

WANT TO JOIN THE FIGHT?

» Read more and share your story at: www.lbhf.gov.uk/hospitals

» Put a 'Save Charing Cross Hospital' poster in your window

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