

The only council to cut, then freeze, council tax over the last four years

COUNCIL TAX FROZEN

for 2018/19

Only council in the country to abolish home care charges

Largest-ever number of council-funded police

Fighting to save Charing Cross Hospital

See more inside

More than just excellent value

Message from the Leader of Hammersmith & Fulham Council

Hammersmith & Fulham Council is the only authority in London to have cut, and then frozen, council tax over the last four years.

And we've done this despite the government scrapping the grant for councils who freeze council tax and cutting our funding by **54% in real terms** since 2010.

The government has assumed councils will increase bills by 6% this year. We're refusing to do that.

We've also frozen parking charges for a fourth year in a row. We're continuing to provide free home care for older and disabled residents, having scrapped charges in 2014. And we're putting more money into adult social care services.

How have we done it?

We've made this possible through financial efficiency and cutting waste, including:

- securing £310million from developers
- closing council magazines and other costly publicity, and cutting senior manager posts
- using big data to predict demand for services and helping people earlier, at lower cost
- reorganising our IT contracts to save £1.1million.





In Hammersmith & Fulham we do things a little differently.

We aim to always **work with our residents**, rather than imposing major decisions on you. That way you get a greater say in the decisions that affect your life, and we avoid costly mistakes.

We're a caring council and strive to be **more compassionate**. We work harder for those who need our help the most. That's why we are also the only council in the country to abolish home care charges for older and disabled people.

We want to be the **most environmentally positive** borough in the country. That's why we

have the largest network of electric vehicle charging points and have halted the standardised spraying of harmful chemical herbicides.

So how have we achieved all this? Simply, by being **ruthlessly financially efficient**, ending wasteful practices and finding better ways to run services. This booklet will explain more about what we've changed.



Electric car club launch in Hammersmith's Lyric Square

Creating a compassionate council

We want to be a council that acts with love and compassion so the most vulnerable among us are looked after. We will always challenge the unfairness that threatens to leave people behind. We won't be afraid to take on the powerful to get results.

We're strong because we care about our neighbours.

We're reforming the council to ensure this is a place for everybody.

- We've **abolished home care charges** and cut most other charges in real terms.
- We've put an extra £4.7million into **care services for old and disabled people** over the last two years.
- We've cut **meals on wheels** charges from £4.50 to £2.
- Regretfully, food poverty is now a major feature of our society, which is why we've supported the biggest-ever expansion of the borough's **foodbanks** to provide emergency supplies to the increasing numbers of people in financial difficulty.
- We're opening our £6million Stephen Wiltshire Centre for **Disabled Children**.
- We've stopped using **bailiffs** to collect council tax, helping residents avoid debt instead.



Home care charges have been abolished



Sorting donations at the H&F Foodbank

- We were the only council to help social workers to volunteer to go to the European refugee camps to help rescue unaccompanied **refugee children**.
- We held the first **Civic Honours** - a community awards scheme to recognise the great things local people do.
- We're working with our Older People's Commission to tackle **loneliness and isolation**.
- We aim to end rough sleeping and homelessness - we've set up a **Rough Sleeping Commission** to find ways to keep people in permanent homes.



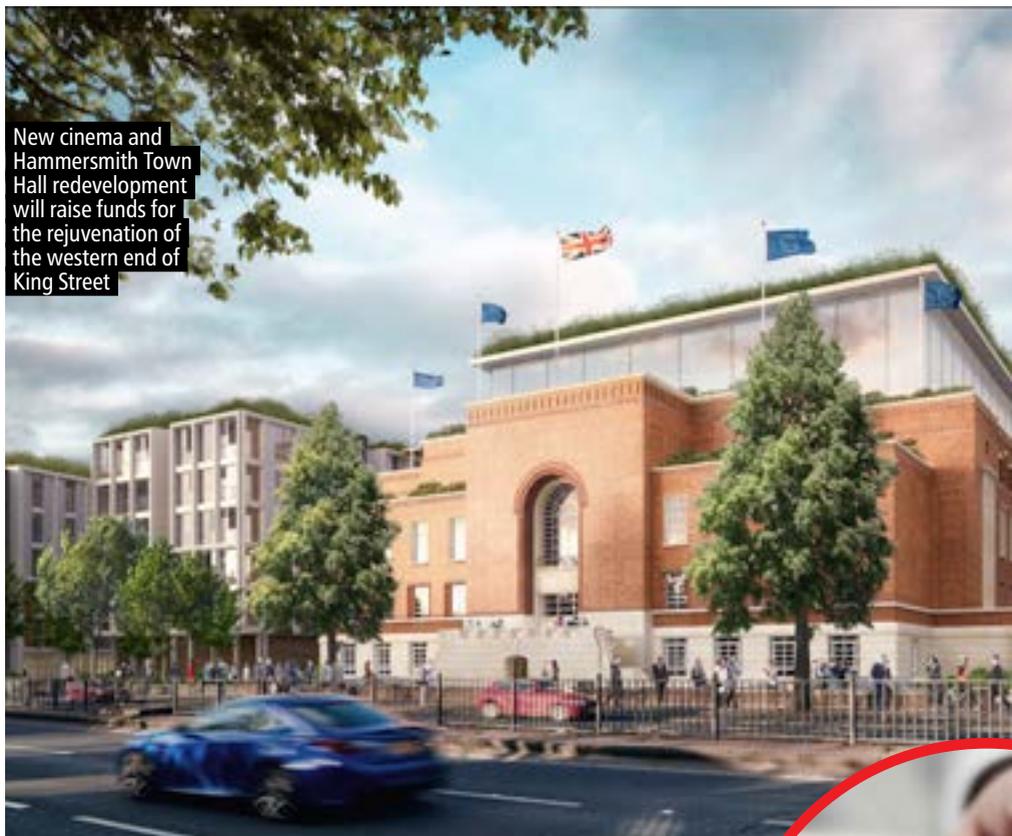
Pensioners' tea dance at Hammersmith Town Hall



Resident-led commission tackles rough sleeping and homelessness

Ruthlessly financially efficient

New cinema and Hammersmith Town Hall redevelopment will raise funds for the rejuvenation of the western end of King Street



We're different to most councils, challenging old-fashioned thinking and stamping out wasteful practices. We're radically reforming the council to modernise the way services are run and to put money back in people's pockets.

Being more financially efficient has allowed us to cut and freeze council tax and charges for services, while still putting more money into adult social care, funding more local police officers and improving services.





- We are the only council to have **frozen council tax** for the last three years and cut it the year before.
- We've secured the largest number of **genuinely affordable homes** for 10 years, to address the housing crisis.
- We've negotiated **better deals** from our suppliers and cut office costs.
- We're leading the way in using data to **predict** who will need council services, to reduce last-minute demand.
- We've scrapped glossy magazines and lamppost banners and will save another £15million this year through **cutting waste** and improving efficiency.



Taking pride in H&F

Award-winning
Bridget Joyce Square
flood reduction
system in White City



In our part of a busy city, residents deserve a place that is safe, clean and green. We're working hard to be the most environmentally positive borough in London, because the health and wellbeing of our communities is so important.

We'll stand by responsible residents and crack down on antisocial behaviour so people feel safe.

Our streets are clean, but we want them to be spotless.

Protecting parks
and green spaces
against development





- We've guaranteed to keep our weekly (and in some cases twice-weekly) **bin collections**.
- To help cut pollution, we've set up the largest **electric vehicle** charging points network in the country and an electric car club.
- We've halted the standardised spraying of environmentally harmful glyphosate **weedkillers** and pioneered eco-friendly alternatives.
- We've become the leading London authority for eco-friendly **flood reduction** schemes: three of our sustainable drainage projects have won awards.
- We've installed energy-saving **LED streetlights** throughout the borough.
- We're protecting our **parks and green spaces** against development for future generations.
- Our **Street Czar** is working with local residents and community groups to help make streets cleaner and more attractive.
- We're setting up an **ecology centre** and we're acting on other findings of the Biodiversity Commission to protect the borough's wildlife.
- We're setting up a **low emissions zone** on the south side of Hammersmith Broadway.

Doing things with local residents, not to t

“Our philosophy is to enhance civic life by empowering residents to change their own neighbourhoods for the better. That includes giving residents a leading role in developing policy in public, with the public.

“We believe that, if we do this, residents themselves can often change things for the better, and do it faster than anyone else.

“We know we’ll succeed if we bring people together and work with them to tackle what holds us back. That includes supporting people so everyone has a fair chance to be heard and to take part.”

Cllr Stephen Cowan,
Leader of the Council



- We’re fighting alongside local people to **Save Our Hospital** (see page 14).
- We’ve established nine unique, resident-led and expert **commissions** on topics including air quality, co-producing Disabled people’s services, rough sleeping, business, biodiversity, older people, poverty and worklessness.
- We’ve supported online social network **Nextdoor** to set up hyper-local virtual neighbourhoods across H&F.

Designs for the new Sands End Arts and Community Centre



Hackathon participants plan for emergency community response





- We're working with residents to design and build a new **Sands End Arts and Community Centre** and we'll be handing control of it to residents when it's finished.

- We've worked with local residents and businesses on regular and hugely popular **traffic-free markets** in North End Road.

- We're working with parents and teachers to fight for the **funding schools** need to keep producing the excellent results parents and pupils deserve.



Wendell Park gardeners raised funds via H&F Hive for the park

- We've set up the **H&F Hive** crowdfunding platform to enable local groups to raise funds for great community projects.

- We've increased **grant funding** so voluntary organisations can continue to provide responsive, value-for-money services.

- Residents have been taking an active part in helping us negotiate a better deal for the **West Kensington and Gibbs Green** estates.



Find out what's happening locally and join in - subscribe to our e-newsletter at www.lbhf.gov.uk/newsalerts

Building shared prosperity



There are growing opportunities in H&F, especially in digital and biotech - but the prosperity must be shared by everyone.

We want local people from all backgrounds to benefit from the jobs, homes and entrepreneurial opportunities this growth brings, so no one is left behind.

- We've launched a ground-breaking **enterprise partnership** with the Imperial College London campus in White City. It's designed to capture their biotech and tech innovations and to turn them into careers for our young people.
- We'll ensure development in H&F helps pay for better **youth services** and creates more **jobs for young people**.



Design of the new look Chelsea FC stadium





New flexible office space at WorkLife building in Hammersmith



John Lewis will hire 600 new employees in White City



WorkZone helping job hunters at a Westfield jobs show

- We've taken a tough approach to developers and negotiated **£310million** in extra funding.
- We're building the largest number of new, **genuinely affordable homes** in 10 years.
- Local residents will get exclusive access to new jobs at the expanded **Westfield** shopping centre.
- We're working to secure jobs, genuinely affordable homes and better transport – including two new overground stations for an interchange with High Speed 2 and Crossrail lines – from the **Old Oak** regeneration project.
- We've negotiated £22million of benefits for local residents from **Chelsea FC** as a condition of their scheme to redevelop Stamford Bridge.
- We're delivering new affordable, **flexible office space** for start-ups, including at the new Hammersmith Town Hall development.

Defending Charing Cross Hospital

Working with local residents, H&F Council has been fighting to save Charing Cross Hospital.

In 2013, health chiefs agreed proposals to reduce the number of major hospitals in north west London from nine to five.

The proposal includes replacing the current much-loved Charing Cross Hospital with an urgent care centre, diagnostics and out-patients only.

The NHS plan includes:

- Demolishing the current Charing Cross Hospital and selling off most of the site
- Replacing the current Charing Cross Hospital with a series of clinics on a site no more than 13 per cent the size of the current hospital
- Replacing the current A&E with an urgent care clinic
- Losing more than 300 and possibly all the acute care beds.

Similar plans were agreed for Ealing Hospital and the A&E departments at Hammersmith and Central Middlesex hospitals have already closed.

Charing Cross and other local hospitals are regularly on the highest level of alert because they don't have the beds to cope with demand. Despite this, the plans to close services at Charing Cross are still being progressed.





Five local councils, led by Hammersmith & Fulham, commissioned a public enquiry chaired by Michael Mansfield QC, which concluded these plans were 'deeply flawed' and should be halted immediately.

We can win this fight because the evidence and the public are with us.

Here's what you can do to help

- Put a poster up in your window: you can download one from our website www.lbhf.gov.uk/hospitals
- Spread the word using **#saveourhospitals** on Twitter
- Send us your comments and stories: email shareyourviews@lbhf.gov.uk
- Join the local campaign group and sign up for their news updates: go to www.saveourhospitals.net

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

SAVE CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL

www.lbhf.gov.uk/savecharingcross

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