

**LOCAL
ELECTIONS
2026**

REDBRIDGE MATTERS

RM

INDEPENDENTS

Redbridge Matters Manifesto





MANIFESTO COMMITMENTS

Ilford Town Centre

We will actively intervene to deliver a regeneration of Ilford Town Centre, working in partnership with local residents, businesses and landowners, to ensure that vacant shops are let, and work commences on the empty sites.

There will be a clear development plan for Ilford, with clear outcomes and timeframes. All options will be on the table including reviewing stalled planning applications, and the compulsory purchasing of any strategic sites. The development plan will be led by a cabinet member and a project team solely responsible for the regeneration of the town centre - with regular updates to residents and public scrutiny. Any redevelopment will work to serve the needs of resident's - and not private developers

We will give Ilford Town Centre a modern look and make the street market more appealing for shoppers. We will work to deliver a higher quality market officer for the town centre to encourage footfall.

Capital Programme

We will commit to urgently reopening the Kenneth Moore Theatre and Fullwell Baths with regular reports on progress to members and residents. There will be financial penalties imposed if the building work is not complete within a reasonable timeframe.

We will commit to reopening, maintaining and expanding our network of public toilets, as part of our offer to encourage residents into our highstreets.

We will not let Council Capital projects continue, without close monitoring and scrutiny of progress, or clear completion deadlines.

Public Services

We will commit to better and more active monitoring of all council contracts, identifying where contractors are not delivering the high-quality services that residents respect. Where contractors have poor performance, which does not improve - we will not hesitate to remove the contract.

Parking Enforcement

We will fully review parking enforcement in Redbridge, moving away from harassing shoppers, towards the proper enforcement of parking offences right across Redbridge. We will work with residents to design a new parking enforcement strategy.

Engaging with Council Services

The Council will get better at sharing information with residents. Local community notice boards should show relevant information and be kept up to date. We will improve the Council's website to give genuine details of what is happening in the borough.

We will invest in our libraries and turn them into information and access points for Council Services. Libraries should be a one stop shop where residents can find out what is going on and liaise with Council officers if they have a problem.

Consultation with Residents

No major decision will happen in Redbridge without genuine consultation. Consultations should be widely publicised through a variety of routes and are easy to find. Consultations should not be a paper exercise with a predetermined outcome, but should allow residents to have their say, and take genuine account of residents' views.

Engagement with Councillors

Our councillors will be highly visible in their wards. They will all run regular ward surgeries and will conduct regular street surgeries with the police and Council officers, identifying and acting on local problems and concerns. Councillors will proactively respond to all casework from residents. Councillors will be publicly monitored and scrutinised on the amount of casework which they undertake.

We will call for the reestablishment of local neighbourhood forums, local meetings bringing together citizens with councillors and senior council officers to tackle local problems, questions and ideas. These forums will have significant powers, and will engage senior officers to deliver real change for communities

Cleansing, Highways and Enforcement

Cleansing and Enforcement services will become more proactive instead of reactive. There will be regular inspections by officers of residential streets to identify cleansing and enforcement issues, enabling early detection and intervention.

The bulky waste collection service will be redesigned, so that it is fit for purpose - providing a rapid free collection service that meets resident needs and discourages fly typing.

We will commit to reopening, maintaining and expanding our network of public toilets, as part of our offer to encourage residents into our highstreets.

While the Council has a good record of repairing potholes, many of the repairs are of very poor quality, and often need replacing within a few months. We will change the focus away from numerous poor quality temporary pothole repairs, towards retarmacking larger areas of our highway.

As well as regular road sweeping, we will work with our refuse and recycling team to ensure that less household rubbish is left on our streets after the bin and recycling collections, and that any rubbish dropped by the refuse team is swept up.

We are disappointed with the amount of grass and weeds growing through our pavements. It is unsightly and often leads to more costly repairs in the long run. We will work with officers to make sure that more proactive action is taken to keep our pavements clear of weeds.

Protection of the Environment

We will genuinely deliver the Council's commitment regarding a nature emergency in Redbridge, working with residents and local environmental groups to protect our green space and increase biodiversity in the borough. We will not let the declaration of a nature emergency in Redbridge become a meaningless paper exercise but incorporate its aims into everything the Council does. This includes protecting all allotment sites from development.

Public Health

We will review and strengthen planning and licensing policies to reduce the number of fast-food takeaways near to schools and residential areas. This is on order to benefit our young generations health concerns.

We will proactively campaign and lobby for more funding for local GP's and NHS services in the borough.

We will hold local primary care services to account through public scrutiny, highlighting ongoing issues such as difficulty getting GP appointments.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (Send)

We will work to ensure we coproduce Send services in partnership with local parents, and provide additional support to schools where necessary

Council Tax

We will commit to only increasing Council Tax where necessary to fund decent public services and will work to keep increases as low as possible by reducing waste, inefficiencies, and duplication.

Investment of Assets

We will develop an ethical investment policy ensuring Council Assets including our pension funds are invested where possible in companies meeting strict environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards while avoiding harmful industries like fossil fuels, tobacco, weapons, and gambling.

Housing

We will seek every opportunity to obtain funding for the building of high-quality social housing that meets the needs of established Redbridge residents and will work with the mayor of London to increase the delivery of social housing units.

When we develop social housing, we will look to prioritise the building of family units, and disabled units above studio flats.

Where housing is built in the borough it will only be approved alongside the necessary supporting infrastructure such as health facilities.

Tesco Towers

We will work to ensure that the Goodmayes Tesco development and similar future schemes, reflect the needs of the borough's residents, and that appropriate services are provided. We will make sure that these developments do not cause a strain on local amenities.

International Affairs

On the wider stage we support the right of Palestinian self-determination, and a just and lasting peace through a viable two-state solution. We prioritise dialogue and conflict resolution over endless wars with unclear outcomes.

Youth Services

We will work with schools, independent providers, and the community to improve and provide youth services.