

# A TOWER HAMLETS RESIDENTS MANIFESTO

**Manifesto for the next Mayor of Tower Hamlets** Ten ideas for a brighter, poverty-free future that we shape together:

## A Tower Hamlets where wealth is shared

Make sure large employers in Tower Hamlets hire and offer training opportunities to local people, especially those on low incomes. (87% of our survey participants support, 37% favoured this as top recommendation to tackle wealth inequality in the borough)

Lead a programme where all state school children in the borough are given vouchers for activities clubs or classes. (87% support, 34% favoured this as top recommendation to tackle wealth inequality in the borough)

## A place where we feel connected

Make sure every area has a community centre where residents can socialise, get help from services and speak to decision-makers. (90% support, 39% favoured this as top recommendation to help residents feel more connected with one another)

Make sure every resident has access to a free or cheap local space to run community activities. (88% support, 22% favoured this as top recommendation to help residents feel more connected with one another)

## A place where we feel safe to live

Invest in youth clubs and youth programmes in Tower Hamlets, ensuring that they are youth-led and designed with young people. (92% support, 29% chose this as their top recommendation to tackle safety issues in the borough)

Work with residents, particularly women, on a strategy to ensure people feel safe travelling around the borough at night. (91% support, 24% chose this as their top recommendation to tackle safety issues in the borough)

A brighter, poverty-free future

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## A place where everyone can have a good home

Commit to building more genuinely affordable four and five bed properties to deal with overcrowding in the borough. (80% support, 39% favoured this as top recommendation to make sure everyone can have a good home in the borough)

Call for London to be given the power to tackle the affordability crisis, for example, through introducing rent controls. (85% support, 36% chose this as their top recommendation to make sure everyone can have a good home in the borough)

## A council that communicates and makes decisions with residents

Agree with residents what success looks like and how to measure it in areas such as tackling poverty, housing and community safety, to improve accountability (90% support, 30% favoured this as top recommendation to create better communication and resident participation).

Create a range of inclusive ways for residents to be 'heard' in council decision-making. (93% support, 26% favoured this as top recommendation to create better communication and resident participation).

## About this manifesto

We are a group of 30 Tower Hamlets residents, working together with the research and policy team at Toynbee Hall to develop a manifesto for the next Mayor of Tower Hamlets. Many of us are community researchers in our borough, investigating the issues that are important to us like poverty, safety and housing.

There is so much to be proud of about Tower Hamlets. But there are many challenges. Tower Hamlets is home to much extreme wealth, but this wealth is only enjoyed by a few. Too many of us are stuck in a cycle of poverty and debt. We live in overcrowded and/or unaffordable housing with no better options except to leave the borough we call home. Many of us feel unsafe and unheard. We want more opportunities for ourselves and our families to live in a brighter future, and for the wealth created in the borough to benefit everybody.

We have shaped, conducted and analysed much of the research in this manifesto and developed the proposals over the last five years. We have tested out the support for the proposals through a survey conducted over two weeks with 180 local residents, and this has shaped our manifesto priorities.

We need the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to have big ambitions for the residents of this borough. We believe this can be achieved by supporting and taking action on our proposal priorities developed by the people who know best what they need: our residents.