



ISLINGTON TOGETHER
THE ISLINGTON PROMISE



ISLINGTON

 For a more equal future

The Islington Promise.



Inequality in Islington is not new. While we have made progress in the past decade, Brexit, the pandemic, the current cost of living crisis and other national and local challenges mean our communities are facing new hardships.

We are living in an increasingly uncertain world and far too many in our communities are not only struggling to put food on the table today but are dealing with the intense stress and anxiety about what tomorrow will bring.

These are tough times, but we promise, whatever happens, we will be on your side.

In order to understand what life is like for people who live here, we need to invest time in talking to our diverse communities, listening to their hopes and fears and their ideas for change. We hear parents telling us they are worried about their children growing up and feeling safe in their neighbourhoods, and young people who are anxious about being able to afford to buy or even rent a home in the borough where they have grown up. For a borough so rich in culture and enterprise, far too many local people are locked out of the opportunity to benefit from what is on their doorstep because of financial and other barriers.

We are determined to confront these challenges together.

We will continue to listen, to fight your corner on the national stage, but also work side by side with you to take meaningful action to create a more equal future together. We know we will only succeed if we work together to pool our collective resources – our creativity, our relationships, our connections – to become more than the sum of our parts. This plan sets out a bold vision for working together with our diverse communities to create a more equal future for our borough by 2030 and the five key missions we have set ourselves in order to achieve this. We want Islington to be a place where people know their children will get the very best start in life, where people can access help and support when they need it and where wealth is created and enjoyed locally. A place where people can live sustainable, happy and healthy lives.

We have set ourselves **five missions** in order to create a **more equal future** for Islington in 2030:

Child-friendly Islington:

By 2030, Islington is a place where all children and young people are rooted in a community where they feel safe, can thrive and are able to be part of and lead change.

Fairer Together:

By 2030, everyone in Islington who needs extra help and support can access the right support for them at the right time and in the right place.

A Safe Place to Call Home:

By 2030, everyone in Islington has a safe, decent and genuinely affordable place to call home.

Community Wealth Building:

By 2030, there is a sustainable, inclusive, and locally-rooted economy in Islington, where wealth is shared fairly and residents and businesses feel they have a stake in their community.

Greener, Healthier Islington:

By 2030, communities in Islington can access, and enjoy London's greenest, cleanest and healthiest neighbourhoods and are able to live healthy, fulfilling and independent lives.

For each of these missions, we will keep challenging ourselves to do better with and for our residents. For example, we've launched the Thriving Neighbourhoods programme, investing £10m to ensure everyone has a safe place to call home. Through Fairer Together, we will ensure anyone who needs extra help has access to a new Access Islington Hub in their local area offering support on money, work, food, family, safety, housing and wellbeing. And our Community Wealth Building programme is providing affordable workspaces for local businesses such as SPACE4 in Finsbury Park, which since opening in 2019 has had 46 regular workspace users. To deliver on our Net Zero Carbon ambitions, we have established Liveable Neighbourhoods and through the Greening Together programme will deliver up to 1.5 hectares of new green spaces by 2030.

Achieving our shared ambition for a more equal future is not just about what we do, but how we do it. We can only bring about the change we all care so deeply about through a collective endeavour with local businesses, other public services, residents and community organisations. Our communities tell us that they want to be much more involved in identifying and addressing local issues. We know they are the experts on their lives and the challenges they are facing and they need to be in the driving seat in terms of coming up with the solutions that will make the biggest difference. It is only by working **together that we can create a more equal future in Islington.**

Our Islington Promise sets out what local people can expect from us, and also what we are asking from them. No one knows exactly what the future holds, but we can promise that we will confront it together.

The Islington Promise.

Creating a more equal Islington is a collective endeavour.

We promise to:

Relentlessly tackle inequality by enshrining this value in everything we do – from waste collection to social work to community events

Always be on your side by putting our residents first, listening and working together to make a tangible difference to lives and livelihoods in Islington

Be bolder and more innovative by testing new service models that help to break down barriers and create new opportunities beyond what has always been done

Provide accessible help and support which works for all – and where it doesn't, we will make changes so that no one ever faces barriers in accessing what they need

Invest in the local economy by supporting local businesses to flourish and brokering jobs and opportunities for the good of local people

In return, we ask that you:

Get involved by participating and playing an active role in your community, whatever that means to you

Speak up by challenging inequality in your community and networks

Be part of the solution by helping us design and shape local schemes and projects, telling us when we get it right and, importantly, how we might improve

Invest in Islington by shopping and spending locally to support small businesses

Be proud of our borough by helping us look after this borough we all call home – keeping our streets clean and reporting problems where you see them

Our ambition for 2030 is to create a more equal Islington where everyone is able to thrive.

In tackling inequality, we will focus on:

Poverty and affordability
 Making sure everyone has the financial means to access what they need for a good life.

Quality of life
 Making sure everyone has the resources to live, learn, work and spend time in nurturing environments.

Power and influence
 Making sure everyone has a real say over decisions that affect them and their communities.

To realise this ambition, we have...
Five missions.

Mission	Child Friendly Islington	Fairer Together
We are determined to ensure that by 2030...	Islington is a place where all children and young people are rooted in a community where they feel safe, can thrive and are able to be part of and lead change.	Everyone in Islington who needs extra help can access the right support for them at the right time and in the right place.
Some of our key programmes are:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making Islington a Child Friendly Place. Education Plan. Progression to adulthood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access Islington Hubs to improve access to help and support. Engaging our community through Let's Talk Islington. Fairer Together Locality Networks.

Safe Place to Call Home	Community Wealth Building	Greener, Healthier Islington
Everyone in Islington has a safe, decent and genuinely affordable place to call home.	There is a sustainable, inclusive, and locally-rooted economy in Islington, where wealth is fairly-shared and residents and businesses feel they have a stake in their community.	People in Islington can live healthy and independent lives and enjoy London's greenest, cleanest and healthiest neighbourhoods.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building 750 new council homes by 2027. Thriving Neighbourhoods. Improving our response to anti-social behaviour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to the Cost of Living Crisis. Apprenticeship Academy. Islington Anchor Institution Network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net Zero Carbon. Integrated Health and Care Teams. Parks for Health.



Listening to our community.

In September 2021 we published a refreshed strategic plan: **“Islington Together: For a More Equal Future”**, outlining our vision, key priorities and principles for the coming years.

This launched an ambitious programme of community engagement, Let's Talk Islington. The programme was all about using innovative approaches to seek thoughts and ideas from our diverse communities about what inequality means to them and how they want us to work together to build a more equal future for Islington.



The range and depth of what we heard from people in Islington is extremely rich. Across the piece, the message has been loud and clear in several areas:

- Perceptions of inequality within and beyond Islington was widespread. Adults predominantly spoke about **disparities in income and wealth** affecting access to opportunities and services. Children and young people also mentioned differences in access, but their concept of inequality was much more interpersonal, giving examples of how people are treated differently.
- **Housing and safety were top priorities** according to feedback in our VCS workshops and in the open survey across gender, ethnic groups and disability status. Housing was a clear priority in the survey, whereas there was much more variation in VCS workshops. Residents highlighted the **interconnections** across priority areas and importance of joined up work.
- Students spoke about a broad range of aspirations. When asked about Islington in 10 years' time, adults most frequently wrote about a greener and cleaner borough, despite this being a lower priority for action.

Residents also raised a wide range of other issues affecting their lives including their:

- Pride in Islington's **inclusiveness and diversity**, although some raised concerns about divisions and exclusion.
- Concern that Islington is increasingly **unaffordable**.
- Desire for more **meaningful dialogue, engagement and action** and **more responsive council services**.
- Concerns and aspirations related to health and wellbeing, employment and education.



Snapshot of lived experiences.

To explore these projects in full, please go to our website where you can listen to and watch more resident stories.

Celebrating Ageing in Islington

London Metropolitan University researchers ran a project in collaboration with Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association, a community centre in a deprived area of the borough. Researchers worked with eleven older people (aged over 55) in a social lunch-club setting to share stories of their lives in Islington and experiences interacting with the council. Participants spoke about a wide range of issues including the importance of community infrastructure, resilience, and supporting young people through intergenerational conversations. Participants used a personal memento to share their story and had their personal portraits taken.

"I think the centres is absolutely amazing. That is the best thing they've done to have all these centres, especially for the elderly and for young, young people as well. At least, you have nowhere to go, you know you're going to meet your peers. You know you're going to meet people of the same level as you. I mean, I love all of these community centres."

Hannah



Proud Islington

London Metropolitan University and local filmmakers coordinated a project which trained nine LGBTQ+ people in documentary filmmaking techniques as a medium to express their experience of being LGBTQ+ in Islington. This visual research methodology is called 'videovoice'. Participants wrote and recorded short films capturing what it is like to be LGBTQ+ in Islington, from the impact of homophobic attacks to an aspirational look at how Islington could be 'the gayest borough in the galaxy'.

"...listening to people's experiences, I realised that there's something bigger and important happening. We have been all affected in one way or another. The cost of living is up, businesses are struggling... I tried to collect as much as I could to represent this issue, but also capture local initiatives to fight back and create a safe space for us, the LGBTQ+ community. This is just the beginning and out there are so many projects and spaces that we do not know. It's time to get together, even more, and create /consolidate those spaces to coexist and find our community."

Antonio, participant



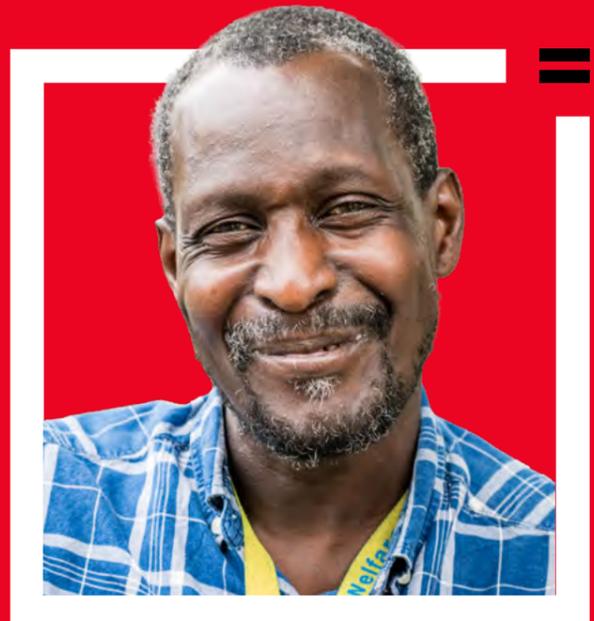
For more information on all of these projects – and to listen to and watch some of the recordings and videos – please visit our [website](#)

Getting involved.

At the heart of our plans is community voice and participation. We have developed our commitments and missions from all that we have heard through Let's Talk Islington, but it is essential that local people continue to play a role in the delivery of this plan and continue to provide challenge and share experiences to steer its way.

There are a multitude of opportunities to get involved through many of our transformational programmes and we encourage you to come along to the annual Islington Together 2030 Conference, to discuss our progress and what's ahead – details of the first one will be available on our webpage in due course. In the meantime, if you have any ideas or would like to get involved in any way, please get in touch with us by emailing engagement@islington.gov.uk.

This is a collective endeavour and everyone has something to contribute. Whatever happens, we promise we will be on your side, and together, we will create a more equal future for everyone who calls this borough home.



**ISLINGTON
TOGETHER**
2030 PLAN