



Safety-First
Brexit Budget

Safety-first budget that protects vital services

These are the most uncertain of times. The borough was obliged to formally agree this year's budget on 27 February. At the time of writing, the government has not given any indication that it will avoid a no-deal Brexit and stop our country from crashing out of the EU.

Warnings of the damage of a no-deal Brexit have come from a diverse and wide range of sources. The British Medical Association, the Royal College of Nursing and other health professionals have warned of shortages of vital medicines and higher costs to our NHS. The President of the National Farmers' Union has said a no-deal Brexit would be an 'armageddon scenario' and warned of the difficulties in maintaining Britain's food supplies. Britain's most senior police officer has said a no-deal Brexit has the potential to put the public at risk and the Chancellor of the Exchequer has warned that a no-deal Brexit will cause 'very significant disruption' to jobs, incomes and the economic well-being of households up and down our country. The impact of any one of the many potential problems will have huge costs to our borough.

Meanwhile, since 2010 the government has removed 59 pence

out of every pound in previous funding for our council. That amounts to a £73million cut in government funding over that period. There is no sign that this government austerity will end.

We will not countenance cutting services or putting people at risk.

We've made it a priority for H&F Council to find new ways to modernise and save money. We've merged departments and stripped out layers of expensive management. We've re-negotiated contracts with suppliers and taken a tough approach to property developers – winning hundreds of millions of pounds from them in the process. Our budget commits to:

- Investing more than ever in the fight against crime and its causes
- Remaining the only council in the country to have abolished charges for adult home care
- Cleaning our air and making our streets and parks smarter and tidier
- Building record numbers of new genuinely affordable homes for our residents
- Tackling food poverty and homelessness

- Investing more in youth facilities and keeping children safe
- Defending Charing Cross Hospital and protecting our NHS.

This year we have chosen a safety-first approach to ensure we can weather these most challenging of circumstances, but we have managed to keep costs to our residents low. Council tax and some charges will only rise in line with inflation to help us keep up with rising prices. We've accepted the government's adult social care precept to raise £1million which will be part of the £3.6million extra funding we will put into looking after our elderly and Disabled residents. And we've frozen charges for meals-on-wheels, school meals, libraries and many more local services.

These are indeed difficult times but we plan to go forward with confidence by modernising our council, and building a stronger borough and local economy that works for all our residents.



**Council Leader
Cllr Stephen Cowan**



Third lowest council tax

Council tax bills in Hammersmith & Fulham are the third lowest in the country.

Council tax inflation-level rise

Continued government austerity has forced H&F Council to increase bills by 2.7% in line with inflation.

The Government's social care levy will also be applied, adding 2% to bills.

Council funds cut by government

Government austerity has cut £73m from our funding over the last 10 years – that's 59% in real terms.

97.5% collection rate

We work hard to ensure everyone pays their fair share of council tax – collection rates are currently running at 97.5% of the total owed.

Ruthless financial efficiency

We're different to most councils, challenging old-fashioned thinking and stamping out wasteful practices.

We're radically reforming the council – modernising and remodelling public services on a grand scale to enable us to cut costs.

We're ambitious for Hammersmith & Fulham and we're determined to manage our finances responsibly, relentlessly searching for ways to improve services.

Being ruthlessly financially efficient has allowed us to cut or freeze council tax over previous years, while still putting more money into areas such as social care where demand is growing fast.

Working with residents to design services helps us get it right the first time and avoid costly mistakes.



“Free home care in H&F enables Disabled residents to participate in the community, alongside their non-Disabled friends and neighbours.

“H&F is unique across the country in the way it values Disabled and older residents, and that is something really worth celebrating.”

Tara Flood
Resident and Chair of the
Disabled People’s Commission

Reducing costs

We will save another £10m in our budget this year through cutting waste and improving efficiency.

Cutting waste

We’ve scrapped needless glossy magazines and lamppost banners.

Fewer staff

We now do things more efficiently and have reduced staff numbers by two-thirds since the 1990s.

Better deals

We’ve negotiated better deals from our suppliers and cut office costs, saving £16m since 2015.

£643m won by getting tough with developers

We’ve taken a tough approach to property developers and negotiated £643m in extra funding for local services.

Building shared prosperity

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

Quite simply, we want to make our borough the best place to do business in Europe. And to ensure that everyone benefits, not just a favoured few.

That's why in 2016, we launched our first-of-its-kind industrial strategy for Hammersmith & Fulham, aiming to bring our residents the best jobs and start-up opportunities in the country.

We believe local government has a role in supporting economic growth. It can attract big business, regenerate town centres, help with affordable workspaces, teach people the skills they need, and support local start-ups and small businesses.

In Hammersmith & Fulham we're using the power of local government to create a borough able to compete economically with the best in the 21st century.



Genuinely affordable homes

We're building at least 1,400 genuinely affordable homes and giving priority wherever we can to borough residents.

Young people

We'll ensure development in H&F helps pay for better youth services and creates more jobs for young people.

Industrial strategy

We've launched a ground-breaking enterprise partnership with the Imperial College London campus in White City. It's designed to harness their biotech and tech innovations, to turn them into careers for our young people.

Flexible space for start-ups

We're delivering new affordable, flexible office space for start-ups, including at the new Hammersmith Town Hall development.

The annual H&F Brilliant Business Awards recognise our talented entrepreneurs for helping make H&F the best place to live, work and socialise in Europe

Pictured on the right, White City resident and award winner Teyan Eweka from eatery Jollof Mama



Doing things with residents, not to them

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, and working 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.



Resident-led commissions

We've established 15 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.

Council homes

We're working with our tenants and leaseholders to protect our estates from unwanted development.

Resilience network

After the fire at Grenfell and the terror attack at Parsons Green, we're working with local organisations to set up an army of first responders to help co-ordinate our community emergency response.

Resident control

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.

Save our hospitals

We're working with residents to keep threatened hospital services open, particularly at Charing Cross Hospital.

Heathrow

Acting on the recommendations of our resident-led airports commission, we're working with neighbouring councils to challenge Heathrow expansion in the courts.

"We've found the council willing to listen, and to work with us on health matters. I think the work we've done together has been of real benefit for the campaign to Save Charing Cross Hospital, and for the borough as a whole."

Merrill Hammer
Resident and Secretary of the independent Save Our Hospitals campaign


The greenest borough

In our part of this busy city, residents deserve a place that is safer, cleaner and greener.

We're working hard to be the most environmentally positive borough in London, because the health and well-being of our communities is so important.

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

Cleaner air is a top priority.



"We're lucky to have a lot of public green spaces in our borough, and to have a council that has pledged to protect them. There's lots going on in this borough to protect our environment."

Morag Carmichael
H&F Friends of The Earth Co-ordinator

Electric vehicles

To help cut pollution, we will have installed 250 electric vehicle charging points by 2020 and we've sponsored an electric car club that's now working across the borough.

Parklets

We've started creating 'parklets' on our streets – areas with trees, shrubs and seating – as well as increasing cycle parking.

Weedkillers

We've halted the standardised spraying of environmentally harmful glyphosate weedkillers and pioneered eco-friendly alternatives that protect bees and other insects and safeguard our residents from unnecessary risks.

Biodiversity

We're setting up an ecology centre and we're acting on other findings of the Biodiversity Commission to protect the borough's wildlife.

Cycling

We've negotiated two new cycle routes across the borough and improved facilities to encourage more cycling.



Anti-idling

We're working hard to encourage drivers to turn off engines when stationary, enforced – where necessary – by fines.

Low-energy streetlights

We've installed energy-saving LED streetlights throughout the borough.




Creating a compassionate council

We want to be a council that acts with compassion.

We're strong because we care about our neighbours.

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

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.



"Our relationship with H&F Council is of vital importance to us, ensuring that we are able to reach as many local residents in crisis as possible. Knowing that fighting hunger and poverty is a key area of council policy can only be a positive thing."

Daphne Aikens
Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank founder
and CEO.

Free home care

We've abolished home care charges and cut most other charges in real terms.

Refugee children

We were the only council to help social workers to volunteer to go to the European refugee camps to help rescue unaccompanied refugee children.

More money for social care

We've put an extra £4.7m into care services for older and Disabled people over the last two years.

Foodbanks

Regrettably, food poverty is now a major feature of our society, which is why we've supported the biggest expansion of the borough's foodbanks.

Disabled children

We've opened our ground-breaking £6m Stephen Wiltshire Centre for Disabled Children.

Homelessness

We're working to end rough sleeping and homelessness with our resident-led Rough Sleeping Commission.

Ethical debt collection

We've stopped using bailiffs to collect council tax, helping residents avoid debt instead.

Loneliness and isolation

We're working with our older people to tackle loneliness and isolation.



Sorting donations at the H&F Foodbank

Coming next:

Protecting homes

We're working to protect all existing housing estates to prevent them being sold off to developers.

Night-time economy

We'll better manage the night-time economy in our town centres.



Public services reform

We'll find innovative ways of delivering local services, working in partnership with others.



Bin collections and street cleaning

We'll maintain weekly (or twice weekly) bin and recycling collections.

Food poverty

We'll support shops to share food and products with homeless charities and foodbanks.



Old Oak – homes and jobs

We'll work with the Old Oak Regeneration Corporation to deliver thousands of new affordable homes and jobs for residents.

Empty homes

We'll seek new planning powers to bring at least 250 empty homes back into use.



School funding

In the face of budget cuts, we'll protect and improve our schools.

Period poverty

We'll support girls and women in 'period poverty'. Girls shouldn't have to miss school because they can't afford costly sanitary products.

Special educational needs

Building on our recent excellent Ofsted review, we're creating a world-class special educational needs service.

Ward action groups

We'll set up new ward action groups to help residents get more done locally.

Shopper parking

We'll expand the cheap, 30-minute parking bays in shopping parades.

North End Road

We'll invest in a community-led redesign of North End Road, enhancing the market and supporting the growth of new and existing businesses.



Coming next:

Mental health forum

We'll set up a forum to develop strategies to improve child and adolescent mental health services.

Maintenance allowance

We'll consult on an H&F education maintenance allowance for students.

Care leavers' hub

We'll create a hub for our care leavers and ensure our borough values, respects and supports care leavers.

Dementia support

We'll make H&F a dementia-friendly council, encouraging projects which bring young and old together.



Pupil experience guarantee

We'll work with theatres, sports clubs and businesses to create a 'pupil experience guarantee' and we'll encourage all schools to develop strong links and share resources with the local community.



Plastics

We're minimising the use of single-use plastics and building an alliance of local organisations committed to ending reliance on these plastics.

Keeping families in the borough

We'll join up housing, health, social services and education so that no one is forced to move away from the borough.

Pedestrian river bridge

We'll continue to support a new pedestrian river crossing at Imperial Wharf to enhance transport in the south of the borough.

Budgeting

We'll extend zero-based budgeting to strip out more waste to achieve better outcomes for residents.

Parents' groups

We'll go on creating strong links with parents' groups including for children with learning disabilities and complex needs.

Trees

We'll audit the number, location and type of trees to help plan which kind of trees to plant, and where.



Train services

We'll press Transport for London to bring back regular services to Olympia tube station, more West London Line trains and improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

Online services

We'll improve the use of digital technology to make it easier and quicker for residents to get what they need from the council, while maintaining traditional contact channels for those who prefer them.

Youth Zone

We'll build an OnSide Youth Zone in White City to offer a wide range of sport, art and enterprise activities.

Coming next:

Bats and beetles

We'll install bat boxes and loggeries in all parks to support endangered bat and beetle populations.

Pollution

We'll introduce state-of-the-art ways of absorbing polluted air, including 'living walls', and we'll improve the control of noise pollution.

Flyunder

We'll seek to put together a scheme, working with private investors and Transport for London, to build the Hammersmith Flyunder to replace the old flyover with a tunnel.



Affordable office space

We'll deliver new affordable office space through planning agreements with developers.

Faith school admissions

We'll ensure that faith schools serve their local communities and work to ensure local children make up at least half of their intake.

Arts funding

We'll establish a local arts endowment fund and develop a programme of public visual art that makes use of our parks, public spaces and public buildings.

Income generation

We'll develop entrepreneurial skills across the council to bring in more commercial income that we can invest in services for residents.



Arts venues

We'll draw in more popular artists as well as new and innovative productions, and provide more support, venues and galleries for local artists and musicians to use. Through planning, we'll increase the number of performance and artistic event spaces.

Encouraging wildflowers

We'll dedicate a minimum of five per cent of all parks and cemeteries to long grass and wildflowers.

Teacher parking

We'll consult on giving borough-wide free parking permits to teachers.

Protecting vulnerable residents

We'll make sure future government cuts are not passed on to vulnerable residents in the form of reduced services.

Healthy eating

We'll work with fast food outlets near schools to improve the nutritional content of their food.

Armed forces

We'll strive to achieve the gold award in the Defence Employer Scheme, supporting our armed forces and veterans.





H&F

Heart of Europe

**in the EU referendum 70% of
H&F residents voted to 'remain'**

Hammersmith & Fulham Council has pledged to do everything possible to support EU citizens and protect local jobs and career opportunities.