



A Place of Choice: Bromley Borough Conservatives' 2010 Council Elections Manifesto

STILL
The Lowest Council Tax
in Outer London

... For A Safer Bromley



Protecting what matters most to you

We successfully lobbied to have among the first Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams in London established in the borough.

We have been robust in reviewing licensing applications, resisting 24 hour drinking and acting against irresponsible landlords and off licence operators.

We have shut down off-licences that supply alcohol to under-age customers.

We have achieved nationally recognised success clamping down on rogue traders.

We have ensured that community service sentences fit the crime, for instance through the Payback scheme.

Our road safety work has seen accidents involving death and injury reduce to record new lows for the 3rd successive year.

We will:

- Work with the Police to make even more effective use of Safer Neighbourhood Teams and for more local involvement in policing
- Continue to fight for more police on the streets
- Enforce on-the-spot fines for littering and dropping of chewing gum
- Continue to act on under-age drinking, irresponsible landlords and inappropriate licence applications
- Implement more parenting orders to ensure irresponsible parents take charge of their children

... For A Value for Money Bromley



We never forget that it's your money

We have continued to provide quality services at a low cost.

Bromley has the lowest Council tax in Outer London*.

Bromley is a debt-free borough, in contrast to the state of central government finances.

We have reduced the number of senior managers, saving around £3m.

In the last two years we have made over £8.6m in efficiency savings.

We will:

- Expect to freeze council tax for the next two years, if a Conservative government is elected nationally
- Continue to provide quality services at a reasonable cost
- Remain one of the lowest taxing councils in Outer London
- Aim to remain a debt-free borough
- Publish online our contract register and payments to suppliers of more than £500

** as defined by the Office for National Statistics.*

... For A Clean and Green Bromley



We have improved our recycling rates from 27% in 2005/6 to 42% in 2009/10.

Our kitchen waste collection trial schemes have seen the amount of waste going to landfill fall by 44% (from 302 to 168 tonnes per week), reducing our rates of landfill tax.

We have over 40 'Friends of Parks' groups and are now establishing 'Street Friends' to involve the local community in managing their parks and street scenes.

We were the best prepared borough in London for the recent severe winter weather with our salt and grit reserves.

We have successfully fought to stop having more traveller sites imposed on the borough.

We have maintained Bromley's reputation as the greenest London Borough by ensuring more street trees are being planted than are being lost to age, storm or disease. We have 35,500 today, some 900 more than in 2006.

We will:

- Lobby for extensions of the Docklands Light Railway and Tramlink into the borough
- Build on the success of the kitchen waste collection trials to divert even more waste from landfill
- Improve our facilities for producing energy and fertiliser from organic waste
- Seek to reduce traffic congestion through better highway design, a new park and ride facility and tackling holdups at key junctions
- Further improve the standards of road sweeping
- Expand the 'Street Friends' and 'Friends of Parks' schemes
- Continue to toughen up the enforcement of planning decisions—stopping developers trying to get round planning rules by stealth
- Resist development on the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land, overdevelopment and excessive housing densities
- Lobby for minimum parking standards on new developments, replacing the current maximum limits

... For Bromley's Children and Young People



Realising the potential of every young person

We have invested in the youth service and positive activities for young people.

Through the Youth Opportunities Fund, young people have been involved in spending over £900,000 to improve places to go and things to do.

The council has won over £9m to invest in primary schools and £13m for secondary school improvements.

We have strengthened our arrangements to protect Bromley children from harm and abuse.

We have successfully reduced the number of exclusions necessary from Bromley schools.

We have brought provision for children with special needs back into the borough.

We have supported the uniformed youth services in the borough. For example, Bromley has the largest contingent of police cadets in London.

We will:

- Continue to improve facilities for our young people and support those organisations that work to provide positive activities for young people
- Support measures to encourage more responsibility among young people
- Complete the construction of a performance hall at Langley Parks School for Boys and continue to invest in our primary and secondary schools
- Improve further the recruitment and retention of child protection workers, reducing our reliance on agency staff
- Work with parents and schools to reduce further the number of exclusions
- Seek a wide range of schools to maximise choice in education for all levels of ability
- Continue to support the most successful schools, as well as challenging and helping underperforming schools to improve
- Continue our support for the uniformed youth services

... For A Caring Bromley



We'll be there when you need us

We are enabling the building of new extra-care housing, so that more vulnerable people can live independently for longer

We are continuing our programme for replacing our aging residential homes with a new home built to modern standards

We have supported the Freedom Pass system, contrary to claims that Conservatives sought to abolish it.

We are raising the standard of extra care housing to enable our older people to live in dignity and with lifestyle choices.

We have placed vulnerable residents with special needs into community based living, thus ensuring their inclusion within mainstream society

We have reduced homelessness across the Borough by a range of housing initiatives and mortgage rescue plans

We have assisted a record number of people with disabilities into employment to give them the dignity of self sufficiency.

We will:

- Enable people to stay in their own homes longer by enhancing home care services and allocating them by need, not the ability to pay
- Invest in a modern state-of-the-art residential care home for older people
- Continue to fully support Freedom Passes
- Harness latest technology to promote independence and provide reassurance for carers
- Continue to work closely with the voluntary sector
- Continue working with the NHS, Mytime and others to provide services which promote well being and not just tackling ill health
- Continue to improve transport and mobility services for the disabled.
- Continue to champion the role of the disabled and older person at the heart of all we do.
- Do more to support returning armed forces personnel.

... For Vibrant Town Centres and Successful Bromley Businesses



Bromley Borough: Open For Business

We have brought together residents, businesses, and potential investors to formulate the Bromley Area Action Plan (AAP) and Orpington Masterplan.

We are relocating Orpington Library to the Walnuts and spending £2.2m upgrading the High Street to help reinvigorate the town centre.

We are working to improve all our shopping and business areas—large and small and encourage inward investment.

We have persuaded Network Rail to bring forward by 6 years, to 2011, a £6m revamp of Bromley South station.

Worked to secure a community use for the former Studio in Beckenham.

We will:

- Continue to work to improve our town centres through the Bromley Area Action Plan, Orpington Masterplan and the creation of a Penge Masterplan
- Seek improvements to Beckenham Town Centre and our smaller local shopping districts
- Bring a hotel, modern cinema and a quality department store to Bromley Town centre and improvements to The Pavilion Leisure Centre
- Work to bring improvements to Orpington Town Centre, including a revitalised Walnuts Shopping Centre, improved leisure facilities and investment in the historic Priory
- Look for further opportunities to reduce burdens on business
- Open a new library to serve Penge