

Date: 29 Apr 2026

Subject: WFCOM Manifesto Pledges

Looking at the four specific points that are raised by your poster.

1. As liberal democrats we will use all the powers that council have to push developers into building the housing that our community needs. This will be to maximise the number of affordable and social rent homes within a development. We will also push to maximise the section 106 funding for any specific site and use the Community Infrastructure Levy to improve our local communities. The Liberal Democrats lead on the campaign to scrap the Vagrancy Act. An Act that criminalised being homeless. A core value of Liberalism is that no one should be left behind by poverty. We will use Empty Dwelling Management Orders to act on empty houses making them back into homes. We will issue notices and fines to any housing association or private landlord who are failing on repairs.
2. The Liberal Democrats support the definition of Islamophobia. We stand against all division and hate speech. On a local level we ran an event with Prevent Watch to highlight the problems of the states use of powers to suppress some groups and on a personal level I have worked with a Sharia compliant finance house helping them promote mortgages which are aligned with the Islamic faith.
3. We support the reinstatement of 15-minute free parking in designated parking bays boroughwide. We think that this is valuable for people picking up and dropping off both at private residences and shops. It also facilitates delivery of packages if drivers are not worried about getting a ticket when making those deliveries.
4. We support the council spending ethically and would want to move away from companies involved in things like the arms trade regardless if they are selling weapons to support Israel's illegal actions in Gaza and the West Bank or anywhere else.

Waltham Forest Liberal Democrats



Response to WFCOM Local Election Manifesto Pledges

Date: 26 Apr 2026

Subject: WFCOM Manifesto Pledges

The Green Party shares many of the concerns and priorities raised in your document. Our manifesto, A Green Plan for Waltham Forest 2026, was built through conversations with residents, community groups and local organisations across the borough, and we welcome the opportunity to respond to the issues you have highlighted.

1. Affordable Housing & Tackling Homelessness

We strongly support the need for genuinely affordable homes and urgent action to reduce homelessness and poor housing conditions.

Our manifesto commits to ensuring new developments deliver genuinely affordable homes, with a significant proportion at social rent levels, alongside expanding council-led and community-led housing. We are also committed to stronger action to prevent homelessness, including better tenant support, eviction prevention services and reducing reliance on temporary accommodation. We also support introducing the “Fix the Five Basics” Temporary Accommodation Standard - cook, connect, wash, store and understand- to help ensure families placed in temporary accommodation are treated with dignity and have access to safe and decent living conditions.

We recognise overcrowding, insecure housing and rising rents are among the biggest pressures facing many families in Waltham Forest. We support long-term solutions that allow local people to remain in the communities where they have put down roots.

2. Challenging Islamophobia & All Forms of Hate

We strongly support action to challenge Islamophobia and all forms of racism and hate in Waltham Forest.

Many of our candidates have long worked alongside local communities, faith organisations and campaign groups to oppose racism, discrimination and the rise of the far right. Green candidates in Waltham Forest have consistently spoken out against Islamophobia and supported efforts to make the borough safer and more welcoming for Muslim residents.

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Response to WFCOM Local Election Manifesto Pledges

We are proud that Green candidates standing in this election have been endorsed by both The Muslim Vote (TMV) and the Waltham Forest Community Coalition (WFCC), reflecting the fact that many of the priorities raised by Muslim communities and wider community campaigns are already reflected in our manifesto and campaigning work locally.

We support the adoption of a version of the APPG definition of Islamophobia as part of wider work to ensure Muslim communities are properly protected from discrimination, exclusion and hate crime.

Our manifesto commits to building “a place of welcome, without exception”, ensuring council services are accessible and inclusive, and strengthening work to tackle hate, exclusion and discrimination across the borough.

We believe Waltham Forest should be a borough where Muslim communities are treated as equal partners in shaping the future of the borough.

3. Fair Parking Policies

We understand the concerns raised around access to town centres, local businesses and places of worship.

Our manifesto commits to reviewing parking permits and arrangements, including the 15-minute free parking scheme, to ensure they are fair, effective and support local residents and businesses.

We recognise the importance of ensuring local mosques remain accessible, particularly for elderly and disabled worshippers, and we would work constructively with mosques and local communities on parking arrangements, including looking at how the 15-minute free parking scheme could better support Friday prayers.

We are also committed to taking a “listen-and-improve” approach by working directly with residents, businesses and emergency services, we need to fix what isn't working.

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Response to WFCOM Local Election Manifesto Pledges

4. Solidarity Through Ethical Spending

We support ethical procurement, transparency and responsible investment by the council.

Many of our candidates have actively campaigned for the divestment of council pension funds from companies linked to Israel's actions in Palestine, as well as from companies connected to wider human rights abuses, fossil fuels and the arms trade.

Our manifesto commits to fully implementing divestment, including publishing a clear roadmap, timelines and regular progress reports so residents can see transparent action being taken. We also support stronger ethical procurement standards across council contracts and investments. We believe public money should reflect public values, including human rights, accountability and justice.

We hope that these are a satisfactory and encouraging response, and thank you again for engaging candidates on these important issues. I do hope that we get the opportunity to work together with yourselves, and communities across Waltham Forest, to build a fairer, greener and more inclusive borough for everyone.

Waltham Forest Green Party



Response to WFCOM Local Election Manifesto Pledges

Dear WFCOM members

Thank you for your continued efforts for our borough – for your congregants and for the wider community.

Together, we have improved access to cost-of living help and support, established a Borough of Sanctuary and provided leadership to foster community cohesion in tough times. I really appreciate how we have met often, talking through any community concerns and finding common ground together.

Affordable Housing and Tackling Homelessness - Increase genuinely affordable homes

Waltham Forest Labour is determined to address the housing emergency head on and our track record shows that. We have 10,000 people on our housing list and we are supporting 1600 families in temporary accommodation because there are not enough suitable affordable homes.

Since 2010, we have been unrelentingly focused on increasing the number of social and affordable homes, in the very toughest times for home building due to Brexit, inflation and increasing construction and borrowing costs. Despite this we are in the top five for council home builders nationally, building 622 social homes since 2022.

Over the past decade, we have built 10,000 homes, delivering the highest proportion of affordable homes of any London borough between 2011-2022 and moved 1500 households from our housing waiting list into genuinely affordable homes.

This is already the highest proportion of any borough in the city, but we have another 1000 affordable homes planned in the next five years. The Labour Government and London Mayor are investing record levels in social and affordable housing.

We build affordable homes for the people who need them. Families stuck on waiting lists, key workers being priced out and young people struggling to buy their first home.

We don't settle for less. Proposals were made for 400 affordable homes. We went back, worked with the Mayor of London and got it changed to 800. We are building more family sized homes than ever before.

Labour **Response to WFCOM Local Election Manifesto Pledges**

Tackle homelessness and Temporary Accommodation

We're taking action on rising rents and bad landlords. We were one of the first councils to introduce licensing – we've inspected 8000 properties and we enforce unlisted fines on rogue landlords to improve living standards. We give tenants tailored financial support and benefits advice and Labour have banned no-fault evictions. Our own social housing was recently inspected and was highly rated – we continue to make good progress towards all homes meeting decency standards.

When it comes to Temporary Accommodation, we are working hard to provide families with settled homes and we are building new high-quality TA on council sites and bringing 250 empty homes back into use. We have ended the

We have brought our rough sleeping support back in house, so we can keep making improvements to how we support people and we are part of a cross London mission by the London Mayor to end homelessness.

I am also pleased to say that we are exploring creating a Supplementary Planning Document to enable faith organisations to include affordable housing in their plans. Challenge Islamophobia and all forms of hate

Our motto 'Fellowship is Life' is the foundation of everything that we do. We always act to uphold everyone's human rights – especially those with protected characteristics – women, our LGBTQ+ community and religious communities.

We are proud of how our borough stood united in the summer of 2024, when far-right groups attempted to march through our streets. Our community came together in peaceful counter-protest, demonstrating that Waltham Forest will not be divided by hatred or intimidation.

Together with faith leaders and community organisations, we have facilitated active interfaith dialogue, standing side by side against Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and all forms of hate crime. In 2019, we adopted the APPG definition of Islamophobia, and we are pleased that the Government has now agreed an Islamophobia definition.

This definition has informed our approach to tackling hate crime against Muslims and in the same year, we were the first London Borough to conduct a Citizens Assembly on Hate Crime. This led to Bystander Intervention training being delivered to thousands of residents across the borough. We are determined to ensure that everyone feels safe in Waltham Forest.

Labour **Response to WFCOM Local Election Manifesto Pledges**

We support the Labour Government's recognition of the Palestinian state, but recognition alone is not enough. We stand firmly for international law, everywhere and without exception. As a borough, we are proud to welcome for people who have come from across the world to make this their home, and to contribute to the life of our borough.

Our status as a Borough of Sanctuary is an expression of these values. We were recognised as a Borough of Sanctuary in 2023 – with the Council, community groups and public services working together to build a culture of welcome and networks of support for those seeking sanctuary. Recently, our network raised serious concerns about the Government's immigration proposals and the impact of unhelpful rhetoric around immigration on communities like ours, particularly targeted at Muslim refugees. We firmly believe that immigration rules must be fair and humane and enable individuals and families to thrive in our community.

We are committed to working with Mosques in the borough to help them get the funds they need to keep their congregants safe from the Home Office.

Fair Parking Policies

Waltham Forest Council is committed to becoming a Net Zero borough by 2030. We are leading the country in supporting low carbon journeys with 56 kms of cycle track - highest in London, 1,200 cycle hangars - the second highest in the UK, and 1,800 electric vehicle charging points - the seventh highest in the UK.

We have been consistent about our leadership to look after our environment which is so vital for our health and livelihoods, working with the Mayor, Sadiq Khan to support the extension to the Ultra Low Emission Zone which has further improved air quality in outer London boroughs like ours and focusing on how we can reduce pollution in high traffic areas which are often more deprived and diverse. We understand how important celebrating faith is for many residents and we fully support this. However, we have a operate a fair, legal and effective parking policy for all residents. We are asking all our residents to reduce the number of journeys we all make is vital if we are to protect our children's lungs. This goes to the very heart of fairness.

50 per cent of borough residents do not drive - Labour has committed to protecting the Freedom Pass for 30,000 older and disabled residents. We spend £10 million plus of our parking revenue to fund this and protect access to public transport.



Response to WFCOM Local Election Manifesto Pledges

Reinstate 15-minute free parking

Some 80 per cent of London Boroughs operate the parking model that we have implemented in our town centres.

One of our key aims with regards to these changes is to ask people to think twice about using their vehicle (particularly for short journeys which are proven to pollute more) and to make more use of active and sustainable travel modes. The 15-minutes free parking was inadvertently encouraging people to use their car as a default choice, even for journeys that for most could be walked, cycled or bussed.

Business trade comes from people using a variety of travel options including, walking, cycling, by bus and not just a motor car. TfL research and a very recent Pedestrian Pound report shows that shoppers arriving by foot, bike, bus or other active and sustainable transport modes to local shops and town centres spend more money than those arriving by car over the course of a year. They are far more likely to browse and therefore purchase more items, as well as spend more time in such locations, which are less dominated by the needs of the motor car.

Friday parking exemptions for Places of Worship

Firstly, we really appreciate the efforts of Mosques to encourage attendees to walk, cycle or use public transport and remind congregants to park safely and responsibly and we are committed to doing even more to support this – we would love to explore how we can support Dr Bike sessions, cycle hangars and cycling training in Mosques.

Waltham Forest is one of few boroughs that offers concessions for permit bays during Ramadan / Eid and we have worked hard to standardise these arrangements, working with Mosques. The exact local details are agreed with Mosques to share with their congregants.

We are unable to offer Friday Prayer exemptions because they are not in line with our duty to offer fair policies to all residents. Residents can request changes to the hours of their CPZ schemes.

Blue Badge holders can continue to park within the usual concessions afforded by the badge and to show we are committed to improving take-up of these scheme - we will arrange Blue Badge and wider benefit advice clinics in Mosques.

We also work to help those attending funeral services, whether religious or secular, by granting concessions on request when a death / burial certificate is supplied and work closely with Mosques on specific community needs.

Labour Response to WFCOM Local Election Manifesto Pledges

Solidarity through ethical spending

Since October 2023, Waltham Forest Labour councillors have collectively supported a ceasefire and progress towards a sustained peace in Israel and Palestine, condemning violence perpetrated by all parties and recognising that lasting peace must be built on international law and full human rights for both Palestinians and Israelis.

Waltham Forest Labour has a proven track record of leading the way on ethical pension investment. We were the first UK local government pension fund to fully divest from fossil fuels. We are pioneers in committing our investment portfolio to reach net zero by 2050.

Building on this leadership, we became the first pension fund in the UK to commit to divesting from the arms trade and have taken a clear stand against investing in companies complicit in human rights abuses, including those operating in occupied territories in conflict zones. We were the first fund to formally raise these concerns with the London Collective Investment Vehicle (LCIV) which manages investment on behalf of all London Borough pension funds. We will keep championing responsible investment that delivers strong returns so that our investments reflect our values.

Yours in continued partnership

Councillor Grace Williams
Leader of the Council (and on behalf of Waltham Forest Labour)



Conservatives

Response to WFCOM Local Election Manifesto Pledges

Response Pending - will be updated upon receipt