

# Keeping my promises to you

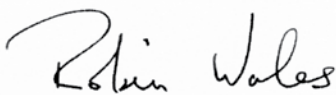
## Dear Resident

Despite the national government cuts, I have continued to work hard to ensure the Council is able to invest in the things that you say are important, whilst continuing to improve value for money.

At the many events and meetings I have attended you have told me that it is important to protect the opportunities and the support we give to residents so that they can better help themselves.

Over the past year we have maintained the freeze in Council tax while continuing to increase the help we offer to local residents to access jobs and training through our Workplace scheme. We have also continued to provide free school meals to all our primary school children – worth over £500 after tax for each child. In addition more of Newham's primary school children in Years 5 and 6 are benefiting from our free music tuition through from our Every Child a musician programme.

At the many events and meetings I attend with residents you continue to tell me these are the things that make a difference to your lives and in this report you can see how we have done in the past year.



**Sir Robin Wales**  
Mayor of Newham



# Keeping my promises to you

## ON YOUR SIDE IN TOUGHER TIMES

£500 more in your family's pockets for every child in a Newham primary school.

### You said...

There is a squeeze on your finances so we are working to make sure we make things easier for you.

### So...

I've kept the freeze on Council Tax this year which means more money

stays in your pocket and we still have the lowest Council Tax in outer London. We're continuing to support families and make life more affordable by providing free school meals for all primary school children – which is



keeping £500 in families' pockets for every child they have in a Newham primary school.

Finally, we have helped our vulnerable and older residents to reduce their fuel bills through insulating their homes and replacing their boilers.

## SAFER NEWHAM

A 600 per cent increase on 2009/10 in enforcement notices. 39 dangerous dogs seized.

### You said...

You told me that crime and anti-social behaviour remain your top concern and you want tougher action against those causing a nuisance in the borough.

### So...

We have continued to work closely with the local police and have invested in the first live wireless CCTV camera in the borough to help improve coverage. This is now operational in Britannia



Village and is the start of a programme to install wireless infrastructure across the whole of the borough over

the coming year. This year we've issued more than 6,000 fixed penalty notices and in addition over 560 enforcement actions against people causing anti-social behaviour in the borough, a 600 per cent increase against the same period in 2009/10. We've got tough on irresponsible dog owners and those who litter our streets; the council seized 39 dangerous dogs last year.

## CLEANER, GREENER NEWHAM

Cleanest streets for four years. Recycling rates up by one fifth.

### You said...

You told me that it is important to you that we keep our streets clean and tidy.

### So...

We have increased the number of hours spent on cleaning our streets.

Our busiest streets are now swept more often and we are delivering a 24/7 cleansing service in our busiest areas. As a result, our streets when inspected are the cleanest they have been for four years. We started a separate collection





of domestic refuse and recycling, investing in new bins and providing doorstep advice on

recycling across the borough, which has helped residents already to increase their recycling by a fifth. We will continue to support our residents to keep our neighbourhood clean by offering a free bulky waste collection of up to six items – at a time when many other boroughs are charging up to £52 for similar services. You have told me that parks and green space are important to you and we've invested £2.5m in major improvement schemes at Keir Hardie, Canning Town and Gooseley.

**PROTECTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEWHAM'S RESIDENTS**

**More than 2,900 into work and 3,285 with new qualifications through Workplace.**

**You said...**

That you want access to local job opportunities.

**So...**

Supporting local people to find jobs

remains one of my top priorities. We've massively increased the number of local people who have found

employment through our Workplace service – more than 2,900 over the last year and a further 3,285 residents achieving qualifications. The new retail academy is on schedule to open this summer. This will provide further opportunities for residents to gain a qualification and take advantage of the new jobs that will be available when



Westfield opens later this year. Workplace has already identified nearly 3,000 residents as

suitable for competing for these retail jobs.

**KEEPING NEWHAM ACTIVE AND CONNECTED**

**Fifteen play areas improved. 1,900 young people have benefitted from learning an instrument through our ECAM scheme.**



**You said...**

That you enjoy doing things together with your neighbours and the community and more of you are finding ways to participate in events and activities that bring the community together.

**So...**

You turned out in high numbers for several of our exciting free events including the Newham



show, Under the Stars free concerts, Fireworks Night and Newham London Run. We've improved 15 play areas across the borough to provide young people



with safe environments to have fun and keep active. Over 100 of Newham's older residents have taken up our offer of free bowls

club membership, providing further opportunities to get involved in new activities and stay healthy.



# Keeping my promises to you

## THE YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE...

In line with my five pledges I make a series of promises each year that outline how I'll improve Newham for you. In March 2010 I made the 17 promises below – here's how we're doing.

**#1. No increase in Council Tax.**

**#2. Free school meals** for all primary school children.

**#3. Every Child a Musician** – 1,900 Year 5 and 6 primary pupils learning an instrument.



**#4. Safer streets.** Incidences of serious violent crime have fallen by 23.5 per cent.

**#5. Increasing CCTV usage.** We've purchased 22 mobile and 110 additional wireless CCTV cameras.

**#6. Cracking down on anti-social dog owners** – last year, 39 dangerous dogs were seized and 123 warning notices issued.

**#7. Improving our parks:**

£2.5m has been invested in Keir Hardie, Canning Town Recreation Ground and Gooseley parks.



**#8. Doorstep recycling advice.** Door knocking and new bins have seen recycling increasing by a fifth.

**#9. Free bulky waste collection.** We continue to collect up to six items of bulky waste when other boroughs charge.

**#10. Access to jobs and training.** Since April 2010, 2,964 residents have been helped to find jobs through the council's Workplace service, with 3,285 people receiving free training.

**#11. Improving council homes:** 13,800 homes have been renovated to meet the decent homes standard.



**#12. Affordable home improvements for older and vulnerable residents:** 1,413 residents have benefitted.

**#13. Investing in our secondary schools.** More than £175m has been secured to invest in secondary schools.

**#14. Free events for all.** More than 114,000 people attend our events which include the Mayor's Newham Show and local community forum events.



**#15. Improving play areas:** 15 play areas have been improved.

**#16. Protecting care for older residents in need.** Supporting our vulnerable residents through improving personalised care packages.

**#17. Free bowls club membership for older residents:** 105 residents aged over 60 enjoyed free bowls club membership.

## I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS...

### Call

Telephone surgeries are held on the second Wednesday of the month and the fourth Wednesday of the month, from 9.30- 10.30am. Call 020 3373 8444.

### Write

Send your letters to Sir Robin Wales, Newham Town Hall, Barking Road, East Ham, E6 2RP; or email [mayor@newham.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@newham.gov.uk)

### Meet

You can drop into one of four monthly surgeries. See What's On for regular listings.

### Upcoming surgeries:

*Monday 13 June*, 9.30-10.30am, Canning Town LSC, 3 Beckton Road, E16

*Tuesday 21 June*, 5-6pm, Newham Town Hall, Barking Road, E6

To read the Mayor's Contract for 2011/12 visit [www.newham.gov.uk/mayor](http://www.newham.gov.uk/mayor)