

# WE ARE COMMUNITY.

# WE ARE NEWHAM.



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safer and healthier borough.**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR.

## WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF THE NEWHAM MAG.

### Listening to the people of Newham and championing their priorities is my job as your Mayor.

I know that people's finances are under real pressure because of the continued fallout from the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. This is already hitting many households, with inflation at a 30-year high, rising costs for food and clothes and soaring fuel bills.

It's also impacting local businesses and the Council, already having to cover the £29m cost of the Covid-19 pandemic.

For every pound we spend as a Council, 69 pence goes towards Adult Social Care and Children Services, with the remaining 31 pence for everything else we do for you and our residents in the borough.

That's why every penny in our Budget for 2022-23 is being injected into all those vital services to support our most vulnerable during these uncertain times, and making sure the Council is able to deal with the challenges ahead.

So on top of the £9.3m extra we are spending this coming financial year:

- There's an additional £3.7m for adult services to support our elderly;
- £3.8m more for children services;
- Another £1m to support people who are homeless;
- Alongside £1m to support families with children who have No Recourse to Public Funds and facing destitution.

With people facing rising costs, we will carry on being on your side to support you and your family; delivering help when needed:

- The Eat for Free scheme saving families £500 per year per child at nursery or primary school;
- Paying care staff the London Living Wage in recognition of their important work looking after our most vulnerable;
- Support through the Council's Our Newham service, which has already offered over 40,000 advice sessions to help local people access some £1.7m of additional income for their families;
- Help through our Employment Rights Hub and Housing Rights Unit to support those in insecure jobs or dealing with rogue landlords;
- Support for local businesses to access the grants that they need, with over 8000 already helped through £280m in rates relief or support grants.

Like so many households in the borough, the Council's

budget has to stretch further because of inflation. So we are needing to introduce a below-inflation 2.99 percent increase in Council Tax to help with rising costs and keep in place the vital support we provide to our elderly residents – and our Council Tax will still remain the lowest in East London.

Plus there's help in place: with 93 percent of all households in Newham set to receive a one-off £150 grant which the Council will be distributing in the spring; plus additional support through our 90 percent Council Tax Relief scheme for low-income households.

All of this is part of my agenda to make Newham a fairer and healthier borough where people, families and businesses know that the Council is on their side and have hope for their futures.

It's why there's already been an extra £26.5m investment across all our frontline services over the past two-years to keep our neighbourhoods and streets clean, our young people safe, and our people supported.

This budget is another example of progress we are making on this front for you and everyone in Newham.

We are continuing to invest in those vital services, which I know matter to you, and you can read about many of our projects and plans in this edition of the Newham Mag.

Newham is your borough. It is where you live, where you work, where you are educated and we are committed to engaging with you to make sure your voice is heard when we make decisions about Newham now, and how we shape its future. We are currently asking you to have your say on the development of our Beckton Parks Masterplan, so please take a look at the article on pg13 and get involved in shaping the vision.

You can also read about the tough action we are taking on illegally dumped rubbish, something I know you care about as much as I do, our commitment to becoming a beacon for cultural and transformative cultural activity, our support for a healthier borough and much more, so please read on.

**Rokhsana Fiaz OBE**  
**Mayor of Newham**  
 @rokhsanafiaz



# WE ARE INVESTING.

## BUDGET AGREED FOR 2022-2023

**Newham Council has agreed a new budget for 2022-2023, following a detailed process of engagement with residents.**

Over 177 people registered for a virtual budget engagement meeting where participants could directly question Mayor Fiaz and Councillor Terence Paul, the Cabinet Member for Finance.

Following the formal approval of the Council’s Budget for 2022-2023 at a full Council in February, Mayor Fiaz said: “People’s finances are being stretched because of the cost-of-living crisis caused by high levels of inflation not seen for 30 years and decisions by the government, such as the cut of the £20 universal credit uplift, which will have a devastating impact for so many of our families in Newham. That is why this Budget will continue our agenda of supporting our people, especially our most vulnerable, during these uncertain times.

“For every pound we spend as a Council, 69 pence goes towards Adult Social Care and Children’s Services, with the remaining 31 pence for everything else. Like so many

households in the borough, the Council’s budget has to stretch further because since the start of the pandemic in 2020, the government has not given us the money we need to cover the £29m costs of Covid, which has hit us hard.”

The budget also supports the Our Newham service, which has delivered over 40,000 advice sessions, maximised £1.7m in income for households by helping them access benefits, and through money advice.

This additional investment will be partly funded by £3.7m of efficiency gains by the Council and £7m of pre-existing saving plans.

The rest will be from a planned 2.99 percent increase in Council Tax, of which 1 percent reflects the Adult Social Care precept element. This is amongst the lowest levels in London, and the lowest Band D council tax rate in east London.

All of this budget’s investment supports the Community Wealth Building, Inclusive Economy and Climate Emergency strategies pursued by Mayor Fiaz’s administration to tackle poverty and inequality under the auspices of the Council’s Towards a Better Newham recovery plan to transform the borough through a range of services and programmes that support Newham residents, households, and local businesses.



# WE ARE INVESTING.

Extra £5.2m to deal with the cost of inflation in services and keep delivery standards high



# WE ARE VACCINATING.

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET YOUR VACCINES

**If you are yet to have your first or second Covid-19 vaccine, or haven't got around to getting your booster, it is not too late and you'll be welcomed.**

Getting vaccinated against Covid-19 is still the best thing you can do to protect yourself and others from the virus.

While the vaccine does not prevent you from getting Covid-19, it will stop you from getting as sick as you would without it, and ultimately avoid being hospitalised.

It has never been easier to get your Covid-19 vaccine in Newham than it is now. There are more than 20 locations across the borough offering Covid-19 vaccinations which means you can get your vaccine seven days a week – often without booking. Staff at the clinics are there to help answer your questions and reassure you if you are scared of needles. You can find the schedule of clinics and how to book at [www.newham.gov.uk/bookyourvaccine](http://www.newham.gov.uk/bookyourvaccine)

If you have had Covid-19 recently, you can get your vaccine 28 days after symptoms began or within 28 days after your positive test result in the case that you didn't

have symptoms. Please note that children aged from 12 to 15 have to wait 12 weeks between having Covid-19 and their vaccine.

If you have any questions about the Covid-19 vaccine, or need help to book your vaccination, you can call our local vaccine booking line on **0203 373**

**6487** (10am – 6pm, Monday – Sunday). They can help you arrange housebound vaccinations if required.

We also have peer supporters who are able to have one-to-one supportive conversations in multiple languages to answer any questions you have or want to discuss. To talk to a peer supporter, please email [covidhealthchampions@newham.gov.uk](mailto:covidhealthchampions@newham.gov.uk) or call **0203 373 2777**.



# WE ARE ACTIVE.

## GET FIT FOR FREE IN NEWHAM PARKS

**Newham Council is helping residents get fit and stay healthy with free sessions and classes in parks.**

Become a healthier you with the Our Parks fitness sessions across Newham's parks. 'Back to Exercise' and 'Beginners Bootcamp' classes are on offer for anyone looking for a great way to get fit.

Sessions will take place in eight parks as part of our health and wellbeing plan '50 Steps to a Healthier Borough'. The popular sessions have been running since last summer and have proved a hit with many residents.

Councillor Zulfiqar Ali, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said:

"The Our Parks sessions are a great example of how we are helping Newham residents get fit and stay healthy. Over the past few months, many residents have enjoyed the benefits of these exercise sessions in our parks.

Our Parks participant Maddy said: "The exercise classes I take part in with Our Parks are great. Every single class I attend, the instructors are always prepared, the encouragement and motivation they give always makes me feel empowered. The classes are a great way to unwind and get healthy."

For more information and booking, go to [www.newham.gov.uk/physicalactivity](http://www.newham.gov.uk/physicalactivity)



# WE ARE HEALTHY.

## HEALTHY START SCHEME

**Pregnant women and families with children under the age of 4 may be eligible for help to buy healthy food and milk if they are on certain benefits.**

Moreover, everyone who is under the age of 18 and pregnant will qualify, even if they do not receive benefits.

Healthy Start provides payments worth £4.25 a week to eligible pregnant women from the tenth week of pregnancy and for children aged from one up to four years old and £8.50 a week for babies under one to spend on vegetables, fruit, milk and pulses, such as beans, peas and lentils.

Claiming Healthy Start payments will not affect families' financial benefits.

## HOW TO CLAIM

This year, Healthy Start has moved from paper applications to online applications. To apply for Healthy Start:

1. Go to [www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply)
2. Scroll down and click on the green button: "Apply now"
3. Answer all of the questions
4. You will be asked for your name, address, date of birth and national insurance number. If you are pregnant, you will also be asked for the baby's due date.

Once you submit your online application, eligible families will be sent a prepaid payment card by post. To use your card, you will need to activate it by calling 0300 330 7010. When you receive the card, it will have the first month's payment already loaded. Your prepaid card will be topped up with money once per month. You can check your balance at any cash point.

## ARE YOU ALREADY RECEIVING HEALTHY START VOUCHERS?

**If you are an existing Healthy Start beneficiary receiving paper vouchers in the mail, you MUST reapply for the digital scheme by the end of March.**

The government is removing the paper vouchers and it is very important that you apply for a prepaid card. If you do not, you will stop receiving payments.

To reapply, visit [www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply) and follow the steps mentioned above.

You can continue using any paper vouchers that you have until the expiry date written on the voucher.

## UNIVERSAL FREE HEALTHY START

### VITAMIN SCHEME



**FREE VITAMINS NOW AVAILABLE for all pregnant, breastfeeding mums and children age 4 and under living in Newham**

**Free Healthy Start vitamins are available to all pregnant women, new mothers and children under four years of age in Newham.**

Healthy Start vitamins contain the recommended dose of vitamin D and are suitable for Halal and Vegetarian diets.

These vitamins can help your children grow up healthy and strong and also help you to maintain good health.

Please ask your midwife, children's centre or health visitor or check the Newham website [www.newham.gov.uk/vitamins](http://www.newham.gov.uk/vitamins) to find your nearest free vitamins distribution centre.

## FREE VITAMIN D SUPPLEMENTS FOR RESIDENTS AGED 65+

Newham residents aged 65 or over are eligible for free vitamin D supplements to help them stay healthy.

To find out more information, including a list of locations where you can collect a bottle of vitamin D, visit

[www.newham.gov.uk/vitamid](http://www.newham.gov.uk/vitamid)

# WE ARE GETTING FIT.

## GET FIT, LOSE WEIGHT, FEEL GREAT!

**Newham residents can take part in a 3-month weight management programme for free.**

Live Well Newham is a free 12-week Adult Weight Management Service for Newham residents. The programme is a lifestyle service that consists of nutrition, physical activity, and psychology.

Live Well Newham provides access to online learning, cooking and nutrition demonstrations, and expert guidance that supports residents to achieve long-term behaviour change. It provides local people, aged 18 and above, with the tools to improve their own health.

The service offers both remote delivery and face-to-face group sessions. The programme also offers gender and language specific groups.

Newham resident, Sonia, who has recently completed the programme, said:

“I’ve seen more positive results in these 12 weeks than I did in 2 years of trying to diet by myself! The reason I have managed to lose weight and, most importantly, keep it off, is because the programme has a holistic approach.”

If you live in Newham and are interested in joining the free programme, please call **0333 577 3011** or visit the link below to check if you are eligible:

**<https://xylahealthandwellbeing.com/our-services/weight-management/live-well-newham/>**

## HEALTHIER YOU IN 2022 CAMPAIGN

**Newham Council has launched the “Healthier You in 2022” campaign, which aims to help residents to adopt healthy habits.**

Maintaining a healthy weight, quitting smoking and staying active are among the things you can do for a better quality of life.

Newham has a list of services on offer that can help you achieve these goals, some of which are:

- Quit Well Newham Stop Smoking Service
- Weight management: Live Well Newham; 150Club
- Keeping active: Our Parks; Street Tag
- Mental health support: NHS Talking Therapies; Connect Newham befriending service
- Free vitamin D supplements for residents aged 65 and over
- Our Newham Money for financial support and advice
- NHS Health Check for over 40s
- COVID-19 and flu vaccines

To find out more and sign up to any of these services, please visit **[www.newham.gov.uk/healthylife](http://www.newham.gov.uk/healthylife)**

You can contact the Covid-19 helpline on **020 7473 9711 / [covidhelp@community-links.org](mailto:covidhelp@community-links.org)**



# HEALTHIER YOU IN 2022.

## FEEL BETTER.

We’ve got so many free services in Newham to help you.

**[www.newham.gov.uk/healthylife](http://www.newham.gov.uk/healthylife)**



# WE ARE CLEANER AIR.

## IMPROVEMENTS IN AIR QUALITY & SAFER STREETS

**The school run has taken on a whole new meaning - thanks to the Council's Healthy School Streets initiative which is making roads safer for pupils and improving air quality.**

Instead of pupils being transported in cars to school, they now walk, scoot and cycle their way to the gates.

The Healthy School Streets programme has been running for more than two years, with driving restrictions on roads around selected schools to reduce traffic, make the areas safer for children, encourage active sustainable alternatives such as walking and cycling, improve air quality and reduce school run congestion for local residents.

Only pedestrians and cyclists, with the exception of approved vehicles, are allowed into the streets during specified term time drop-off and pick-up hours. All other traffic is barred, with fines issued for contravening motorists caught on camera.

This has resulted in the reduction in dangerous air pollution in general during the first two phases, introduced in 2019 and 2021, and, specifically, in a 32 percent drop in nitrogen dioxide levels in the morning and a 16 percent drop in the afternoons.

Sarah Porter, Head Teacher of Kay Rowe Nursery School and Children's Centre in Newham's Forest Gate, says the initiative has been a success.

She said: "As a school we have focused on the physical benefits of walking to school, the impact of air pollution on children travelling in cars and the communication and language benefits for the children as they walk to school and chat to their parents.

"We are delighted the air quality seems to have improved and we have noticed the street is quieter, which we feel makes it safer for the children."

Newham has one of the highest percentages of under-18s with asthma in the UK, and this is directly related to poor air quality.

Five schools took part in the first phase of the Healthy School Streets programme in 2019, with nine more in the second phase in 2021. The third phase rolls out this year, with 11 more schools selected.

Amelia Aiken loves walking to school with her children Eleni, six, Sullivan, four, and Oren, 11 weeks. She said the initiative has made a huge difference.

Amelia said: "We are lucky enough to be able to walk across West Ham Park as I take my daughter to school. And then dropping my son to nursery, it's a 40-minute round trip, but is so worth it for the benefits to our health, wellbeing and environment with less pollution from cars."

Her daughter, six-year-old Eleni, said: "It's nice to see sights and hear sounds from around, like the birds. It's better for the environment and for our breathing. You should only drive a car if you really, really need to."

To find out more, visit:

[www.newham.gov.uk/HealthySchoolStreets](http://www.newham.gov.uk/HealthySchoolStreets)



# WE ARE REDUCING TRAFFIC.

## LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOODS BECOME PERMANENT AFTER SUCCESSFUL TRIAL

**Newham Council has successfully tested two Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) as part of its plan to tackle public health, air quality and road safety issues in the borough.**

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods are designed to significantly reduce motor vehicle traffic in residential areas and create safer and more inviting streets for walking and cycling.

Walking and cycling for local trips can also bring significant health benefits for people and the environment. It is a great means to help tackle public health, air quality and road safety issues in Newham.

The first two LTNs, located in Maryland and Odessa, have led to significant reductions in traffic volumes inside LTNs, and an overall reduction in traffic when taking into account internal and boundary streets. Cycling has increased significantly, and air quality has improved.

Councillor James Asser, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Sustainable Transport, said: “We introduced Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) on an experimental basis in 2020. These schemes are designed to stop drivers using our quiet residential areas as ‘rat-runs’

where vehicles cut through our neighbourhoods to avoid main roads, bringing with them pollution, congestion and road safety hazards.

“It is fantastic to see such successful outcomes from these schemes, which have such a positive impact for our residents.

“With less traffic, noise and pollution, local streets are safer and more pleasant to use, especially for children to cross the road and walk and cycle to school. These LTNs have reduced the level of harmful emissions from motorised vehicles driving through the area, helped people stay physically active and healthy, and encouraged a shift to more sustainable ways of getting around.”

Following implementation of the two experimental LTNs for Maryland and Odessa, the Council consulted extensively with residents, schools, businesses and other stakeholders to gather feedback, adapt the scheme, and consider additional measures to deliver further improvements to the area.

These potential measures could include installing more dropped kerbs for those with limited mobility (for example, wheelchair users or parents with buggies) and expanding the coverage of the existing 20mph zone to cover the whole LTN scheme area.

Cllr Asser added: “To support the switch to walking and cycling for local journeys, we will further improve the condition of footways and public spaces, continue to offer free cycle training, and deliver new secure cycle parking for residents.”



# WE ARE TAKING ACTION.

## TAKING TOUGH ACTION ON ILLEGALLY DUMPED RUBBISH

**Newham Council launched a new hard-hitting campaign earlier this year to tackle illegal dumping and clean up Newham.**

Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz, said: "Dumping waste is disgusting and disrespectful.

"We all have a right to live in clean neighbourhoods free of dumped rubbish. We are on the side of our residents and that is why we are taking tough action to fine and prosecute dumpers."

### £100,000 WORTH OF FINES WERE ISSUED OVER THE LAST YEAR

We are urging residents to report incidents of dumped rubbish to us so that action can be taken.

With just under 35,000 fly-tip incidents reported in 2021, which cost over £1 million to clean up, the whole community will benefit from getting tough on illegal dumping in Newham.

Cllr James Beckles, Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety, said: "Illegal dumping is a criminal offence under the Environmental Protection Act which can result in a £400 fine or a criminal prosecution.

"Last year, we issued over £100,000 worth of fines to people who dumped rubbish. Our message to people who dump waste is simple – 'If we don't catch you in the act, we will act on the information from the residents of Newham who are disgusted by those that do this. Either way, we'll catch you and fine you.'"

### THERE'S NO REASON TO DUMP WASTE ON NEWHAM STREETS

Councillor James Asser, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Sustainable Transport, said: "Just under two thirds of fly-tips involved household waste. In December 2021, 66% of the total fly-tips collected were a combination of black bag household waste and other household waste, such as mattresses, wardrobes, televisions and sofas.

"No one needs to dump rubbish in Newham. There are so many ways to dispose of waste responsibly.

"The vast majority of people dispose of their rubbish respectfully, but there are some people who continue to dump, and we are determined to stop them.

"We're coming down hard on those who dump waste on our streets. If you see someone dumping rubbish, tell us. We want to work together with residents to deal with the minority spoiling our streets."

- We collect household rubbish at least once a week.
- Bulky, large items and a range of recyclables can be taken to Jenkins Lane Re-use and Recycling Centre [www.newham.gov.uk/jenkinslane](http://www.newham.gov.uk/jenkinslane)
- We offer a bulky waste collection service. Book at [www.newham.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.newham.gov.uk/bulkywaste)
- Good quality items can be donated to local charities and go to a new home
- If you have something that's broken, it could be cheaper to have it repaired.



## REPORT IT

Anyone can easily report dumped rubbish at [love.newham.gov.uk](http://love.newham.gov.uk) or by using the Love Newham phone app.

# WE ARE CULTURAL.

## BECOMING A CULTURAL BEACON

**Newham Council is publishing a cultural strategy, 'Building Newham's Creative Future', in response to the rapid growth of cultural activity in the borough.**

Newham is committed to becoming a beacon for cultural and transformative cultural activity. Since 2012 there has been a 113 percent increase in the number of creative businesses operating in the borough. Responding to this growth and following engagement, we published a cultural strategy at the end of February.

Following a comprehensive engagement with creative and cultural sectors, we have established key principles which will support their inclusive growth under the principles of community wealth building. Community wealth building is the exciting combination of creating the right conditions for residents and businesses to flourish

- a stable home, a better neighbourhood, an affordable workspace and the skills and access to opportunities to ensure that residents and businesses can make the most of one of the fastest changing boroughs in the United Kingdom.

Recently, Newham has secured just under £40m from the Levelling Up Fund. Building on that success, the cultural strategy intends to link borough-wide initiatives and ensure that culture informs project delivery and engagement at all levels.

One aspect of Newham Council's approach relates to responding to data and tech as part of culture and cultural delivery. This is about identifying learning and employment opportunities that data and technology can unlock for residents to create a more dynamic local economy.



# WE ARE SUSTAINABLE.

## CO-DESIGNING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR OUR GREEN SPACES

**Newham Council is asking residents to generate ideas to develop an exciting vision for the future of green spaces.**

We want residents to get involved and work with us to co-design the vision for several green spaces across Beckton and Custom House.

The area covers the largest amount of green space managed by the Council and a variety of leisure and community facilities situated within Beckton District Park (North and South), New Beckton Park, Beckton Corridor, Newham City Farm Site and King George V Park.

There is a great potential to create new and improved sports, leisure, wildlife and community-led opportunities by improving existing spaces and facilities and re-purposing areas to better meet local needs.

A social enterprise, called Street Space, which specialises in working with people to re-imagine their streets and spaces.

Through a programme of events and activities, such as pop-up events and one-to-one discussions, Street Space will work alongside local people to explore Beckton Parks from a wide range of perspectives and generate ideas for the future.

These conversations will help us understand why and how these green spaces are important to local people, how they are currently used, as well as people's aspirations for future use and improvements. Through collaborative workshops and activities, we will explore and test local people's ideas. We will also learn about what works and what doesn't for the future of the borough's parks.

**Curious by Nature, a resident-led community interest company, are currently running forest school and nature play activities for children and families in Beckton District Park South.**

## WHAT LOCAL PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"We would love the park to become a safe and welcoming space for residents to explore nature, forage and grow food together. We want it to be clean of litter and fly tips. We want enforcement against anti-social behaviour and drug use, as well as basic facilities such as toilets, rubbish and dog waste bins. We want dedicated forest school fire lighting area, cycle racks, water fountains, a café and a community indoor space."

**Ilona Saber, Co-Director, Curious by Nature London**

"Living on the doorstep of Beckton District Park is a dream come true for a nature lover like myself. The variety of wild treasures you can spot on a 5-minute walk around is incredible. I've seen jays, bats, and even a badger wandering through the park and I've foraged for cherries. The diversity of habitat ranges from woods to wild meadow, and there's a wonderful community pond supporting all sorts of wildlife. I would like to see the park continue to thrive while being a space that is welcoming and accessible for all, giving people the opportunity to build on the existing groups that already use the space like the dog owner meet-ups, weekend football, and Saturday Parkrun. I also hope that the new plans provide areas that allow people to gather and reflect on the incredible nature that can be found here and I'd love to see the creation of new sustainable community projects everyone can get involved in, children and adults."

**Matt Ponting, Local illustrator and London National Park Volunteer Ranger**



## GET INVOLVED

Visit our website [www.newham.gov.uk/becktonparksmasterplan](http://www.newham.gov.uk/becktonparksmasterplan) and have your say. There are workshops and events running until April.



# WE ARE TACKLING CRIME.

## NEWHAM TAKES ON CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

**Newham Council has taken to the streets of Stratford and West Ham with the Metropolitan Police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and listen to residents' concerns.**

The Community Safety Days of Action targeted hotspots in the borough to help make these areas safer, cleaner and greener for residents, businesses and visitors.

As a result of the clampdown, there were arrests for carrying knives, blades and knuckle dusters, an arrest for sexual harassment and a warning given for unwanted comments. Other results included fines and warning notices handed out to businesses with overflowing bins, and waste carriers for fly tipping.

Councillor James Beckles, Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety, said:

“We want Newham’s streets and parks to be safe and pleasant public spaces for our residents to enjoy.

“A range of issues from illegal dumping, noise nuisance and many other serious issues were dealt with and it also gave us another opportunity to speak with residents to

listen and understand their concerns and discuss what can be done to tackle anti-social behaviour.”

Find out more about the Community Safety Days of Action on [www.newham.gov.uk/actiononcrime](http://www.newham.gov.uk/actiononcrime)

You can report incidents on [www.newham.gov.uk/report](http://www.newham.gov.uk/report)



# WE ARE IMPROVING SAFETY.

## ACTION ON SAFER AND CLEANER STREETS

**Newham Council has introduced Public Space Protection Orders to tackle anti-social behaviour.**

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for alcohol related anti-social behaviour and dog nuisance came into effect from February and will run for the next three years.

A public consultation on PSPOs was undertaken during October and November 2021 with residents overwhelmingly in support of reintroducing controls.

The PSPOs allow officers to seize alcohol from nuisance drinkers and enforce action against dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs. They have introduced a limit on the number of dogs permitted on a lead to a

maximum of six dogs per person. Dog owners will also be required to put their dog on a lead if asked to do so by an authorised officer, where there are concerns a nuisance is being caused.

Breaching the PSPO conditions, or not complying with a request to do so, will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of £100. Prosecution may also follow for a breach.

Councillor James Beckles, Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety, said:

“We want Newham streets and parks to be safe and pleasant public spaces for our residents to enjoy. Alcohol and dog related nuisance is intimidating and can cause harassment as well as litter. Although most people enjoy our public spaces responsibly, there are those who do not; and their actions can make our streets and parks unpleasant places to be.

“We are clamping down and taking a zero tolerance approach on this behaviour with these new PSPOs.”

# WE ARE LEVELLING UP.

## LEVELLING UP BID SUCCESS AS NEWHAM AWARDED THE HIGHEST AMOUNT IN LONDON

**Newham Council’s two Levelling Up bids have been given the green light by government, with nearly £40 million awarded to the local authority.**

Following the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement in October, Newham Council’s two Levelling Up bids were approved and Newham will get the highest award out of the £65m allocated to London.

The announcement will bring much needed funding to support the Council’s ambitious agenda for economic growth, skills and place-making in the borough. Informed by growth sectors such as data and digital technologies, and reflecting the key findings of the Council’s emerging Cultural Strategy, Levelling Up Fund supported projects will provide a real and tangible opportunity for further Community Wealth Building in the borough. A key aspect

of this approach will be the better utilisation of existing spaces and buildings to create employment and learning outcomes, as well as wider wellbeing benefits for residents.

Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz OBE said:

“I’m delighted that both our Levelling Up bids to government have been successful, and we’ve been awarded the full amount that we had bid for. My thanks to Lyn Brown MP and Stephen Timms MP for backing our bids; as well as our partners, including the Mayor of London. We’ll now get cracking with delivering these much-needed programmes for the benefit of our residents and linked to our recovery plans, because the economic and health impact of Covid-19 has been huge and damaging for our communities.

“However, the national Levelling Up debate, pitting the north against the south, has skewed the reality of scarring inequalities that exist across London. That’s why we must continue pressing for fairer funding to all of local government, especially areas of huge deprivation like east London, so that no community is ignored or forgotten.”

# WE ARE YOUNG.

**Brighter Futures have introduced the “Journey of a Child” interactive resource on the Newham Council website for parents, parents-to-be, young people and their families and relatives.**

The Journey outlines the resources available to you and your child from birth to age 25. We encourage all parents, young people and those planning a family to take a look at [www.newham.gov.uk/journeyofachild](http://www.newham.gov.uk/journeyofachild)

You’ll find information on stages of a child’s life from immunisation, registering for a school through to support for young adults.



# WE ARE PROTECTING.



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU'VE BEEN DISMISSED AND NOT PAID?

The Employment Rights Hub has been seeing an increasing number of residents being taken advantage of by employers as follows: the resident is employed on a short-term casual basis, often with no proper written contract of employment and, once the “work” has been completed, they’re dismissed on the spot and left with no pay.

Failure to pay wages for work done is an unauthorised deduction from wages as well as a fundamental breach of contract, and legal action can be taken against the employer.

The Employment Rights Hub has been successful in recovering unpaid wages for all residents who have come to us for help without the need for legal action. Please note there are time limits and you must ensure that you take action quickly.

**RESIDENT'S STORY:** Resident A worked as a security guard for two months before being dismissed with no pay or notice. He had no contract of employment and he wasn't sure if he was self-employed or employed. The only evidence he had was a series of WhatsApp messages between him and his line manager. The Employment Rights Hub helped him to establish his employment status, trace his employer's contact details and helped him to challenge the employer and recover all his wages.

**Disclaimer** All information given on this page is for guidance only. The Employment Rights Hub does not provide an advocacy service or employment tribunal representation, but we may be able to direct you to where you can find this support if needed. No responsibility can be accepted or liability undertaken by the London Borough of Newham or its employees or agents for any omissions in respect of information contained on this web page. The Employment Rights Hub cannot provide a service for employees of the London Borough of Newham.

Contact us in confidence by calling **020 3373 6494** or emailing **employmentrights@newham.gov.uk**

## WE ARE SUPPORTING.

A free e-business support programme is helping Newham Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

In partnership with Our Newham Business & Enterprise, Newham College has launched a new programme that will support 550 SMEs in the borough to capitalise on emerging digital and e-commerce technologies to drive their long-term growth.

Entitled the Local London E-business Support Programme, it offers a free package of flexible and responsive in-person support aimed at improving the knowledge, skills and application of digital businesses. The programme provides a menu of support and training to develop skills and knowledge of digital technology and applications across all sectors including: e-commerce; digital business tools, online marketing and trading, social media, establishing a strong online presence, e-tendering and crowd funding, and cyber security and data protection. It offers:

- free support for 550 SMEs
- free digital upskilling for 1,125 SME staff
- free business support activities, including access to specialist workshops, one-to-one support, mentoring
- increased sales and productivity for these businesses.

To find out more email **e-business@newham.ac.uk**

## MAKING AN IMPACT

From March 2020-December 2021 Our Newham Money did the following for residents facing financial hardship so that they could meet their financial obligations:



• **8,312** residents supported towards their financial wellbeing



• Over **40,000** debt, money management and benefits advice sessions delivered



• **2,671** families supported with emergency financial assistance including **4,480** adults and **3,665** children



• **£1.9m** income maximised through benefit entitlement, debt casework and savings



• **£585,749** issued in emergency support grants to support households facing financial difficulties.

To find out more, please visit **www.ournewhammoney.co.uk**



Between April 2020 and January 2022, the council has processed:

- More than £106m in business support grants to over 5,000 businesses
- More than £180m in rates relief to over 3,000 businesses

# WE ARE CELEBRATING.

## NEWHAM'S YEAR OF THE YOUNG PERSON

**Newham's Year of the Young Person has provided a platform and focal point for all to see the brilliance and potential of our children and young people.**

During this special year, we teamed up with the Newham Recorder and used our resident newsletter to share more than 50 stories that celebrated the achievements, talents and creativity of young residents.

These stories highlighted some of the many initiatives and opportunities to help make Newham the best place for them to grow up and thrive.

The year created new opportunities for children and young people to express their views, influence decision-making and achieve change in areas that matter to them. This included the "SEND Have Your Say Day" where children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities gave their views on the services they have accessed and how they would like them to be in the future.

The "Climate Change Assembly" brought more than 50 children and young people together to share ideas on creating a greener Newham.

Another youth assembly, "Design Your Own Future", invited children and young people to share their dreams and aspirations, question what future employment will look like and influence local employers and training providers. Young people also joined senior staff to interview candidates for

several key positions at the Council.

Many more opportunities were created for children and young people to have a meaningful impact, including "GR8 Day 2 Play", which enabled them to influence SEND sports and leisure provision. More than 70 children and young people became health champions, some shaped the plans for the Carpenters Estate and others gave independent advice to the police.

New initiatives were launched, some were expanded, and we rolled out a co-produced programme of projects and activities to support, motivate, inspire and empower children and young people.

Two signature projects were "21 in 21" and "Youngest in Charge". The former tells the stories of 21 children and young people from Newham, at different ages and stages of life. Through a film, co-produced with participants and their families, the project highlights how different services have helped them to thrive and achieve positive outcomes. "Youngest in Charge" awarded funds and provided mentoring to young people delivering their own community projects aimed at other young residents.

Year of the Young Person finished at the end of February, although the Newham Recorder articles continued to cover the success of the year into March. The legacy is being planned, with the Council building on all the positive progress made during the year.

To find out more about Year of the Young Person, visit:  
[www.newham.gov.uk/yoyp](http://www.newham.gov.uk/yoyp)

## WE ARE KICKSTART.

**The Council has 30 government Kickstart Scheme six-month job placements in various departments paying the London Living Wage (£11.05 an hour).**

To be eligible, you must be a resident of Newham, aged 16-to-24-years-old and in receipt of Universal Credit.

To find out more, email:  
[KickStartNewham@newham.gov.uk](mailto:KickStartNewham@newham.gov.uk)



# WE ARE ACTION.

## OUR ACTION PLAN HELPS PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

**Newham Council has created an action plan to support people affected by homelessness, including those who are sleeping rough.**

In January, we set out our plan to focus on supporting people severely affected by the housing crisis. Under our new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, we will intervene early to prevent people from becoming homeless, support people to stay off the streets and improve long-term housing access and supply.

Mayor of Newham Rokhsana Fiaz said: “As Mayor, my pledge to tackle homelessness is a personal priority because I know how it feels to lose your family home.

“I am so proud that our hard work in Newham has reduced rough sleeping by 92 percent, the largest proportionate drop in the UK.

“With 94 percent of people receiving our support successfully staying off the streets, we know our programmes are working – but we can and must do more.”

Mayor Fiaz added: “I know the rising costs of rent, energy and food are pushing many families to the edge. I promise that this Council is on your side and will do

everything we can to keep you in your home or support you into a new one.”

Newham’s action plan details how the Council will support people experiencing, or at risk, of homelessness.

We will:

- Provide focused support for people struggling in the private rented sector to help prevent them from becoming homeless
- Develop more places that people can go for help, including a flagship Rough Sleeping Assessment Centre with 42 beds
- Improve the quality and standards of temporary accommodation to give people more stability and security while reducing expensive nightly accommodation
- Ensure people with complex needs, such as people being discharged from hospital, can access personalised support
- Help people to stay off the street by creating Tenancy Sustainment Officers to support people when they first move into the private rented sector, and
- Finalise efforts that will improve the quality of supported accommodation for vulnerable adults.

# WE ARE CARING.

## NEWHAM’S FIRST CARERS FESTIVAL TAKES PLACE ON 24 MARCH

**Government figures show that Newham has 24,554 carers, but the real figure is likely to be far higher, due to residents not identifying themselves as carers and the impact of the pandemic.**

Newham’s Carers Festival is an event to recognise, support and celebrate the borough’s growing number of unpaid carers and will feature music, food, dance, inspirational speakers and entertainment.

A broad range of organisations who provide advice and support to carers across Newham on subjects such as planning ahead, carers rights, keeping safe at home and mindfulness, will be in attendance to help ensure that local carers get access to the practical and emotional support that they need.

Crucially the event will also be a platform for carers to be heard and influence change. A series of interactive workshops will be delivered to co-produce a new Carers Charter and Carers Resource Pack, and to inform the shape of future Carers Support Services in Newham.

**Thursday 24 March  
11am – 2pm  
328 Newham Town Hall E6 2RP**



For more information  
Visit [www.newham.gov.uk/carersfestival](http://www.newham.gov.uk/carersfestival)  
Email [carersqueries@newham.gov.uk](mailto:carersqueries@newham.gov.uk)  
Call **0203 373 1457**

The Carers Festival is being delivered as part of Newham’s ambitious 3 year Carers Strategy. To find out more, visit [www.newham.gov.uk/carersstrategy](http://www.newham.gov.uk/carersstrategy)

# WE ARE RECYCLING.

## NEW GUIDELINES ON 'ORANGE ITEMS'

Since November you have been able to put additional recyclable items in your orange-lidded recycling bin or orange recycling sacks.

### THE NEW ITEMS WE COLLECT ARE:

- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic tubs, pots and trays
- Clean aluminium foil and clean foil trays
- Empty aerosol cans

### AND WE HAVE CONTINUED TO COLLECT:

- Mixed paper and card
- Food tins and drinks cans
- Plastic bottles.

You can now recycle all of these items



Please do not put these items in your recycling bin/sacks



## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Put your recyclable items out on your normal collection day
- Don't put broken glass in your recycling. It is harmful to people at the sorting centre who go through the waste by hand. Please put it in your normal rubbish bin
- If your recycling contains a lot of items that can't be recycled, an item that is hazardous or items that could make the other recycling too dirty to be recycled, we may not collect your recycling
- Make sure all aerosols are empty and remember to flatten or tear cardboard into smaller pieces and squash plastic bottles
- Make sure the items are clean, dry and loose in your bin and not in a black bag
- All packaging should be rinsed and dry, otherwise it can contaminate a whole lorry load of recycling and make it unusable

For more information, please visit:

[www.newham.gov.uk/recycle](http://www.newham.gov.uk/recycle)



# WE ARE COMMUNITY.

## HELPING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR TO GROW

**Mayor of Newham Rokhsana Fiaz joined a celebration of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) in Newham and the launch of Compost Newham.**

At the event participants from more than 70 organisations were introduced to Compost Newham, which has been commissioned by the Council to provide expert development support to help local VCFS groups to develop, grow and thrive.

Attendees were able to network, view the successful voluntary work being carried out, hear about areas of learning and view the priorities for the coming year to help shape a better connected and stronger sector.

Mayor Fiaz said: "It was great to see so many VCFS colleagues networking and discussing how we can work together to build a stronger and more collaborative sector."

"The VCFS plays an important part in making sure residents get the services, advice and support they need."

To join a network or learn about forthcoming events, visit <https://compostlondon.org.uk/compost-newham/> or email [info@compostlondon.org.uk](mailto:info@compostlondon.org.uk)

# WE ARE VOTING.

**NEWHAM COUNCIL HAS ANNOUNCED THE DETAILS OF THE MAYORAL AND LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON THURSDAY, 5 MAY – IN A LETTER TO ALL VOTERS IN THE BOROUGH.**

**IT IS VITAL THAT RESIDENTS PAY PARTICULARLY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE LETTER BECAUSE IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT POLLING STATIONS AND BOUNDARY CHANGES.**

**FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES IN NEWHAM, THE NUMBER OF WARDS HAS INCREASED FROM 20 TO 24, RESULTING IN CHANGES TO THE PREVIOUS WARD BOUNDARIES AND THE POLLING DISTRICTS WITHIN THEM.**

[WWW.NEWHAM.GOV.UK/POLLINGSTATIONFINDER](http://WWW.NEWHAM.GOV.UK/POLLINGSTATIONFINDER)

To view the new wards, which will come into effect on polling day on 5 May, voters should visit: [www.newham.gov.uk/newwards](http://www.newham.gov.uk/newwards)

As a result of the boundary changes, voters' polling stations may have changed. Voters should check their Poll Card for details of their assigned Polling Station before they go to cast their vote on the 5 May. People eligible to vote should receive their Poll Card in April. To view their polling station, voters can visit:

[www.newham.gov.uk/pollingstationfinder](http://www.newham.gov.uk/pollingstationfinder)

The letter contains Voter Registration information for the London Borough of Newham and provides details of what to do if:

- **SOMEONE IN A HOUSEHOLD ISN'T REGISTERED.** Anyone whose name is not included in the letter should go to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) to register
- **VOTERS WOULD LIKE PAPER APPLICATION FORMS.** These can be provided on request.
- **SOMEONE IS REGISTERED WHO NO LONGER LIVES AT AN ADDRESS.** The details can be amended by visiting [www.householdresponse.com/newham](http://www.householdresponse.com/newham) and entering the voter's unique two-part security code, or by phoning the Council on **020 3373 1928**
- **YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOUR VOTING METHOD TO POSTAL VOTING?** You can request a postal vote application from [www.householdresponse.com/newham](http://www.householdresponse.com/newham) entering your unique two-part security code, or complete a postal vote application from [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) selecting "apply for a postal vote".

Read a news release about the letter:  
[www.newham.gov.uk/councilelections](http://www.newham.gov.uk/councilelections)

