

Liberal 
Democrats
Southwark

HOW TO FIX SOUTHWARK

manifesto 2026



Introduction



Southwark Liberal Democrats will fix Southwark.

We will freeze council tax for the poorest, fight crime by recruiting more community safety wardens, and make sure that 50% of new homes built are genuinely affordable.

Labour has been running the council for 16 years, and with a Labour London Mayor and now Labour government, they are still letting us down.

Despite promising to mend public services, the Labour Government has left Southwark Council with an £80 million budget black hole over the next three years.

On 7th May, local people have the opportunity to vote for a better council – by voting for the Liberal Democrats to fix Southwark. Our Labour-run council has been

deep in scandals, has overseen a ballooning housing crisis and failed to tackle the cost of living. Meanwhile, our Labour London Mayor has let crimes like phone snatching reach all-time highs.

Liberal Democrats will help people struggling with the cost of living, make our streets safer and cleaner, and build more affordable homes. We will invest in our communities and make Southwark a place where people feel proud to live and work.

Only Liberal Democrats beat Labour here. Not a single Conservative, Reform UK, Green Party or independent has been elected as a Southwark councillor in the last twelve years.

This manifesto is our bold, liberal plan for change.

This is how we will fix Southwark.

Cllr Victor Chamberlain
Liberal Democrat Group Leader

Cllr Rachel Bentley
Liberal Democrat Deputy Group Leader

Our Six to Fix

1

Freeze council tax for the poorest households

2

Double the number of community safety officers to make our streets safer

3

Ensure **half of all new homes** built are genuinely affordable

4

Open one stop shops for council services in every neighbourhood

5

Create **8 new parks** and green spaces

6

Open **5 new youth centres**



Chapter One

Backing our Communities.

Our plan to tackle the cost of living crisis, fix public services, and back local businesses and charities



Chapter Two

A safer & cleaner Southwark.

Our plan to tackle flytipping, crime, and anti-social behaviour in Southwark.



Chapter Three

Fixing our housing crisis

Our plan to ensure everyone has a safe, secure, affordable home.

- Work with charity sector and housing associations to provide a new generation of almshouses for older people, which can provide better support for residents in their later years and free up housing for the next generation.
- Provide a dedicated portal for residents to be able to report empty properties, in order for the council to take appropriate enforcement action.

We will support private tenants by:

Extending across Southwark the selective licensing scheme, which provides regulations and standards for the private rented sector.

- Provide more staff and technical resources for the council's enforcement team to enable more proactive inspections and protections for private renters.
- Run awareness campaigns so that renters know their rights and landlords understand their obligations.
- Support renters to claim rent repayment orders where landlords fall short of their duties.





Chapter Four

Going greener faster

Our plan to cut energy bills, reduce emissions, and provide vital green space for all.



Chapter Five

Getting Southwark moving

Our plan to cut energy bills, reduce emissions, and provide vital green space for all.



Chapter Six

How we will fund fixing Southwark

Our plan to fund our bold agenda for change, and deliver value for money for taxpayers.

We know these are challenging times for public finances, but properly funding the services that communities deserve is not up for negotiation. As well as lobbying the Government for real fair funding for local councils, **Liberal Democrats would:**

- Use the millions of accrued funding from lucrative private development to deliver strategic upgrades to infrastructure and facilities across the borough such as youth clubs, parks and one-stop-shops.
- Make sure that the hard-won Tourist Tax can be raised and spent in Southwark.
- Make better use of the council's commercial properties and opportunities.
- Slash the millions Labour are spending on external consultants and town-hall indulgences such as ending taxpayer funded parties for council leaders, swanky events, and pointless reports.
- Manage taxpayers' money better by not spending millions on refurbishing buildings like Maydew House that are then knocked down.
- Make savings and raise revenue as by-products of other policy and transformation projects – such as a new SEND school.
- We would make sure that future local plans deliver on our commitments, so that when our borough grows, existing and new local communities are genuinely benefitting.



Chapter Seven

Our local priorities

- 1 Improve roads and pavements around Borough Market
- 2 Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour at hotspots like around London Bridge
- 3 Regenerate & re-open play spaces like on the Kirby Estate
- 4 End traffic chaos on the Rotherhithe peninsula, particularly on Lower Road
- 5 Fight for the 1,050 affordable homes at Canada Water promised - instead of the 90 now planned
- 6 Work *with* residents to design a sustainable traffic system that works for all on Kennington triangle
- 7 Make Elephant & Castle station fully accessible
- 8 Fix lighting on estates, especially on Tabard and Lawson Estates
- 9 Renew the Blue - restoring it as the thriving high street that Bermondsey residents remember and deserve
- 10 Revive Walworth Road by filling empty shops
- 11 Back the Bakerloo Line Extension to unlock tens of thousands of affordable homes
- 12 Make Peckham Rye station fully accessible
- 13 Make North Dulwich & West Dulwich stations fully accessible
- 14 Renew our high streets by utilising existing powers to fill empty shops on Lordship Lane

 **Open one stop shops** for council services in every neighbourhood

These are some examples of where we could open one stop shops

 Opening **five** new youth centres

We could utilise unused council buildings, or work with partners such as at these sites

 Create **eight** new parks and green spaces

These are just some examples of how we'd create a greener Southwark



