

Leader's Column

February-March 2022

The start of a New Year always brings fresh optimism and with the number of COVID-19 cases starting to fall, we can finally start to think about normality again.

The trauma of the last 2 years has impacted everyone, not just in Haringey but across the country. However, the neighbourly spirit our residents have shown once again demonstrates the immense comradery that we have in our community and is what makes this borough so special.

I know the majority of Haringey residents have adhered to the rules and will continue to follow the guidelines to ensure our businesses and local economy can start to thrive again.

Despite all the challenges, we have achieved so much over recent months, and I can assure you the hard work is not going to stop.

The pandemic has clearly had a financial impact on everybody and with energy bills continuing to rise, we appreciate what a difficult time this is for everyone in our community.

I want our residents to know the council has support available for those who are feeling the financial strain. My cabinet have worked tirelessly to develop our welfare support to ensure we are there for those in need.

'Haringey, Here to Help' is a campaign that highlights the support available from the council, charities and central government. We also have a new Financial Support Team who can help residents access this support.

[For more information, please visit the Here to Help pages.](#)

Building energy-efficient homes goes such a long way to helping residents reduce their bills and that is why the environment remains such an important issue. We are working towards our target of being net-zero and we have a number of measures in place to help us achieve this.

This includes the roll-out of Low Traffic Neighbourhood's, the implementation of our Walking and Cycling Action Plan and putting low carbon technology at the heart of everything we do.

We also want to improve our parks and open spaces and encourage people to grow food themselves.

It is not just escalating bills affecting our residents, but the housing crisis continues to blight Haringey and the rest of London. That is why I am focused on ensuring our housing delivery programme remains one of the most ambitious in the capital.

We are on course to deliver over 3,000 council homes at council rent in the next 10 years, but we also want to challenge issues in the private sector. Every resident deserves to live in a safe and secure home. We have around 90,000 residents living in privately rented accommodation, and we will do everything in our power to protect the health and welfare of these tenants.

The safety of our residents is paramount, and I am determined to tackle serious youth violence and give opportunities to our young people. I have met with a number of different groups and want to understand the concerns they have and give them assurances that we are working together.



Early Years remains a big priority for me and making sure our youngsters have the best possible start in life. We are placing a big emphasis on SEND services and want to ensure that any youngster with special educational needs has opportunities to reach their potential.

Finally, I want to say a big thank you to our former Chief Executive Zina Etheridge who left the council in February. Zina did an amazing job during her 8 years, and I wish her the best of luck in her new role with the NHS. I am looking forward to working with Andy Donald who has been appointed on an interim basis and I have no doubts he will show the same passion and commitment.

Cllr Peray Ahmet
Leader, Haringey Council

Contact details

Councillor Ahmet's ward surgery and contact details are shown on her [councillor web page](#).