

Leader's Column

June-July 2021

I am thrilled and honoured to have been elected the new Leader of Haringey Council.

I am one of the first Haringey Leaders to have been born and raised in the borough and it's shaped how I see things and how I want to see things done.

This is a unique area, and it makes it even more special for me that I am now able to lead our great borough – I grew up in Wood Green and now live here in Tottenham. Haringey's my home.

People are asking me straight away how we are going to change things and our vision for the future?

We need a council that knows its people, that listens – really listens – and collaborates with them.

We're not here to do things to or for people – we're here to work with them to make things happen. I want to see Haringey become a truly, genuinely collaborative council. It's how we'll achieve the kind of change we were elected for.

I want the lynchpin of my administration to be about co-production and co-design. I am a working-class woman from an ethnic minority background, so I am used to people wanting to talk on my behalf.

My own background has shown me that the way we engage and talk to our residents is a crucial component moving forward. I will be using all my insight and experience of living in Haringey to help make a difference.

Tackling Climate Change is one of many key areas my administration will be working hard on, led by Cllr Mike Hakata. The people of Haringey have made it clear how high a priority this is for them.

As far as I am concerned the idea of regeneration, not just in Haringey – but especially in Haringey, should be about our community shaping the place they live in. This means an unrelenting commitment to rebuilding communities with the community.

Quality matters just as much as quantity.

Building more social housing is one of the most powerful things we can do to reduce poverty and inequality – but the way we build matters.

We have very different needs in Haringey, and we need homes that work for everyone, for younger families, older families, families with children, people with disabilities, everyone.

I know what the parents of children in lockdown have been up against. Giving birth to my daughter during the COVID-19 pandemic means I know how challenging a time it has been.

I will make sure that every child in Haringey is able to get off to a great start in life, and that the services and support are there in the borough for them and their parents. I also know that the parents of older children and young people worry about keeping them safe. I will make community safety a personal priority and will work tirelessly at making our borough safe for everyone. Genuine, transformative change is possible.



I hope over the coming weeks and months we will get to talk with a number of you across the borough and implement the changes you are looking for.

Take care and I look forward to hearing from you.

Cllr Peray Ahmet
Leader, Haringey Council

Contact details

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