

Mission Delivery

Mission Waltham

Forest Delivery Update

December 2025



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Foreword

Waltham Forest is a borough full of energy, ambition and creativity. Our story is one of shared progress built on local pride, community connection and the way we look out for each other.

We've seen this story unfold in our proudest and most difficult moments: standing together in crisis, rallying against those who try to divide us, and celebrating what makes us unique. Every day, we see it in the kindness between neighbours and the pride people take in the places they call home.

This was the spirit we wanted to capture when we launched Mission Waltham Forest in March 2024: bringing the whole council and borough together around the challenges that matter most, with an unwavering focus on creating a more equal borough. Inequality weakens communities, drives pressure on services and limits what people can achieve. Tackling inequality is not just the right thing to do - it is essential and at the core of what we stand for in Waltham Forest.

Since the launch of Mission Waltham Forest, we have seen how mission-based working can make a real difference. Through this work families have been supported to stay together, children helped to thrive in school, residents connected to good local jobs, and neighbourhoods made greener and safer. Each of our achievements shows what is possible when we act together with purpose.

When we developed Mission Waltham Forest, we knew the scale of the challenges ahead for our communities and the council. Rising living costs, an affordable housing crisis and deep-rooted inequality continue to test the resilience of our residents and the services that support them.

Councils everywhere have been under increasing financial pressure, and Waltham Forest is no exception. Yet it is precisely in moments like this that Mission Waltham Forest matters most. It gives us a clear sense of purpose when the environment feels uncertain - focusing our energy on what makes the greatest difference for residents.

Now is the time to double down on that mission: to keep tackling the causes of inequality, not just its symptoms; to keep working side by side with residents and partners to find local solutions; and to keep investing our creativity and determination where they count. Mission Waltham Forest is not a slogan or a document - it's the way we pull together as a borough when times are tough, and the proof that real change happens when we stay united around shared goals.

In the next phase of delivery, we will need to work in different ways to target our resources where they can have greatest impact. Mission Waltham Forest gives us the foundations for this change and will ensure we continue to be there for those who need us most. The months ahead will be demanding, but they will also show what makes this borough special: the courage of our residents, the commitment of our staff and partners, and the belief that progress is possible even in adversity.

Together, we can continue to make Waltham Forest a more equal, hopeful borough - one where everyone has the chance to thrive.



CLLR GRACE WILLIAMS

Leader of Waltham Forest Council



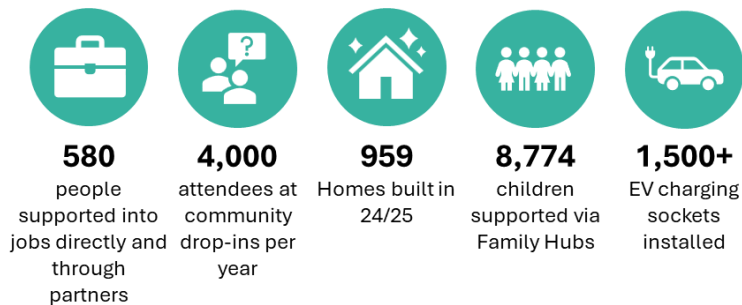
LINZI ROBERTS-EGAN

Chief Executive of Waltham Forest Council

Mission Waltham Forest: our delivery story so far

Mission Waltham Forest is our plan for a more equal borough. Launched in March 2024, it brings the council, partners and communities together to relentlessly focus on the issues that most shape residents' lives and which could have greatest impact towards creating a more equal Waltham Forest.

At the heart of Mission Waltham Forest are our core values: we tackle inequality head-on, because it holds everyone back; we focus on impact, directing energy where it counts; and we act in fellowship, working with communities – not just to or for them. These underpin every mission and guide our approach to solving the complex challenges that our residents face.



Over the past 18 months, we have tested new approaches, strengthened how we use insight and data, and equipped staff and partners with the tools to work in more collaborative and mission-based ways. Services across the council are aligning around shared priorities like housing, financial resilience, and community safety. Partners are co-designing new responses to shared challenges with us. And more of our residents are shaping solutions to the issues that matter most to them.

The following sections demonstrate our early progress, showing how each mission is achieving change – learning from what works, adapting our approach and building momentum so we can deliver more impact where it matters most.

Together, these stories show how Mission Waltham Forest is helping to shape a more equal borough and laying the foundations for the next phase of delivery.



Mission one: Ensure every family and every child are given every opportunity

From early years to school years, all children deserve happy and healthy lives. However, inequality creates barriers for children and young people to achieving their ambitions and potential. Ensuring every family and every child are given every opportunity means ensuring all the critical elements to growing up happy and healthy are accessible to all. Our mission prioritises local support that is offered early and tackles inequalities, built on a culture of ambition for all our children and focusing on family strengths to move towards independence.

What we've done and the difference it's making

Delivering for those children who need us most

Good health, safety and security, appropriate caregiving and opportunities for learning should be foundational to every child's experience. However, we know that some children are missing out on these essentials which can set them back before they've even had a chance to grow. Our Children's Services are committed to creating fairer and more equal futures for the children that most need support at every stage of their life. Our recent Ofsted inspection rated Children's Services as **Good**, and our Corporate Parenting service as **Outstanding**, recognising the commitment and effort that goes into supporting children and young people in Waltham Forest.

Often, the best support for families and children is to work with them to stabilise their situations and build resilience to challenges they may face, to keep families together. Our **Edge of Care Service** has reunified 33 children with their families since January 2024 and over the last two years there has been a 20% reduction in the number of children in care in Waltham Forest. **Functional Family Therapy (FFT)** is one of the strengths-based ways we work with families by offering therapeutic intervention designed to create lasting, positive change. FFT works closely with education partners to promote attendance and, in 2024-25, 92% of children supported by FFT were engaged in school or vocational programmes by the time their cases were closed.

If children need new homes and carers, where possible they are placed with approved friends and family foster carers. Our **Mockingbird foster carer model** nurtures relationships between children, young people and foster families, offering support networks and social activities.

Mission Delivery Story – Shqiponja, Foster Carer

In Waltham Forest we are committed to caring for children and young people that need a home so our fostering team work closely with caring, compassionate and dedicated foster carers to give young people every opportunity.

Shqiponja has been a foster carer for five years and was recognised as Carer of the Year at the 2025 Waltham Forest Pride Awards. Shqiponja has transformed the lives of the children she has looked after and was nominated for the award by one of her foster children, who spoke about the difference Shqiponja has made to their life:

"When I first came to this house in July 2024, I was totally different and I need to thank my carer who gave me so many opportunities in life – I'm really grateful for everything. Before I came here, I was scared to walk outside by myself, I was getting bullied a lot, I felt invisible. She helps me with my homework, she always tells me to put myself first. She set me up with a therapy painting session. I feel more confident in school now, I don't get bullied and she gives me a routine which helps me...I just want to say thank you to her because she has changed mine and my sister's life since we came here."

Accessible support for every family

Every family faces their own challenges and may need support from time to time. Our four **Family Hubs** and 22 spoke sites offer support for parents, children and young people of all ages, with a strong focus on preventative support in neighbourhoods. Working alongside partners, we have created one stop shops for families across the borough to give children the best start in life.

From light touch advice to in-depth support, they bring family services together so that families only have to tell their story once. In 2024/25 alone, our Family Hubs supported 8,774 children, with over 40,000 visits across the network. Our Family Hubs Satisfaction Survey results currently show that on average respondents rated their overall experience of Family Hubs at 4.59/5.

Our dedicated **SEND parenting programme** offer, now entering its second year, is also delivered through Family Hubs, and online, with four SEND focused parenting courses and SEND parent navigators committed to helping parents navigate complex systems. The efficacy of our Family Hubs offer was recognised in our Ofsted Area SEND inspection in 2025.

Accessible support also means ensuring families are getting the support they are entitled to without having to seek it out. This year we introduced auto-enrolment for benefits-related **Free School Meals** to remove barriers to accessing vital support. This means that we can periodically identify children that would be eligible for free school meals and sign them up so they can access free meals at school, as well as food vouchers and activity sessions during the school holidays. So far, 402 children have been auto enrolled which will also bring in an additional £538,890 for schools in the borough to spend on improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

Working together to deliver an inclusive early years and education offer

We are working closely with partners to deliver the best outcomes for our children and young people through early education/learning and childcare, while tackling disproportionality in experience. Our Early Years and Childcare Service worked with Schools and Ofsted registered childcare providers to successfully implement the Government's expanded offer of **free early education and childcare places** to children from working families. This resulted in 1,213 children aged under 2, 1,234 children aged 2 and 2,278 children aged 3 and 4 being able to access up to 15 hours of free early education per week during Summer 2025, extended to 30 hours from September 2025.

The number of children attaining a good level of development by the end of Reception remains amongst the highest nationally. In the 2024/25 school year, 75% of Waltham Forest pupils achieved a **Good Level of Development**, higher than the London (70.7%) and National (68.3%) averages. 98% of Schools in LBWF are **Good or Outstanding** and – as children progress through school – there are consistently high outcomes in Early Years, Key Stage 1 and KS2.

Mental health support for children and families

Good mental health can help people to realise their ambitions and find purpose, improve their resilience to cope with life's ups and downs and help maintain good physical health. We are focused on improving access to mental health services and support, tackling health inequalities that are often a significant barrier to wider opportunities for our residents.

In April 2024, we launched the **Parent & Baby Emotional Wellbeing** service which provided one-to-one support across parent-infant relationships and perinatal mental health to 659 parents in 2024/25. Outcomes at the point of case closure included 78% of clients reporting reduced anxiety and 81% of clients reporting reduced depression symptoms.

We are delivering targeted work with the King's Fund and community partners focused on improving the mental health of **Black boys and young men**. This initiative is rooted in the community, shifting leadership and decision-making power to the voluntary sector and putting resident voice at the forefront to design our approaches to increasing equity of access to support. The selection of a community host organisation to drive this work is now underway.

Taking our mission forward

Through this mission we have seen that many children and families continue to face disadvantages beyond their control. We are tackling the inequality this creates with purpose. Over the next year, we will work with schools to build a more inclusive education system that supports children and young people at the earliest opportunity. A new **Voices Project** will centre the views and ideas of young people, parents and other partners, to help steer our SEND offer moving forward. And we will develop an integrated **Family Help** offer that provides early help across our neighbourhoods and targets support to those with multiple and emerging needs.

Mission two: Build an economy that works for everyone

Waltham Forest's economy is powered by creativity, entrepreneurship and community spirit but not everyone has equal access to the opportunities that help people and places thrive. Too many residents face barriers to good work, affordable childcare, and routes into higher education or new skills. Together, we are shaping a more inclusive local economy that attracts businesses and talent while unlocking opportunities for residents.

What we've done and the difference it's making

Targeted support to secure good work

This year, we launched our **Inclusive Growth and Economy Framework**, which set our ambition to build a more inclusive local economy. Our commitment to removing barriers to economic participation centres on key groups: residents living in temporary accommodation, adults with learning disabilities, young Black men, and Black and South Asian women.

Our tailored employment programmes are putting this ambition into action, building on the success of our inclusive work programme over 2024-25 that supported over 580 people into jobs both directly and through our partners. Our **Trailblazer programme** started in July 2025 and goes beyond traditional employment support, targeting people from the key groups in our Inclusive Growth and Economy Framework to tackle personal challenges like low confidence, childcare responsibilities and lack of access to training. Our **Connect to Work Employment Support programme** also targets residents with disabilities or long-term health conditions to secure meaningful work and build independence. By placing people in good jobs quickly and offering personalised support in the crucial early weeks of a new job, we are helping them to sustain these roles and thrive.

Mission Delivery Story – Anita, building financial resilience

As a single parent working part-time and facing financial hardship, Anita struggled to find opportunities that fit around her childcare responsibilities. Despite her experience and determination, she sometimes relied on food banks to get by. Through our employment support service, she received tailored help with CV writing, interview preparation, and understanding how changes in work would affect her benefits.

With this support, she secured an additional part-time job alongside her existing role, doubling her hours and increasing her income enough to stop relying on emergency food support. She's now working towards her long-term goal of joining the NHS, where her caring nature and experience will be valuable assets.

"You are always very kind and helpful to me. I will always remember you and how you've helped me, and many more people like me. Your work is making a big difference to the lives of people like me who are struggling. You gave me your wise advice and helped me up and that's priceless. Thank you!"

A borough where everyone can learn and build a career

We are creating a borough where everyone can learn, grow and shape their futures close to home. Through strong partnerships with schools, colleges and businesses, we're expanding access to high-quality education and career pathways. In September 2024, the **University of Portsmouth** opened Walthamstow's first university campus, welcoming 325 students and introducing a bursary for care-experienced people to remove financial barriers to learning.

Alongside this, we're connecting young people to opportunities in key growth sectors to kickstart future career paths. For example, two young residents received the **Edinburgh Fringe Bursary** to gain insight into the creative industry, delivered in partnership with Soho Theatre Walthamstow. Our **Future Formed programme** is diversifying the creative sector, supporting over 200 residents in the last year and partnering with 17 employers across London. 76% of previously unemployed participants on the **Future Technicians** pathway are now in work, and

several have secured full-time roles in leading theatres such as the Barbican and Soho Theatre Walthamstow.

We are also piloting innovative approaches with developer **Countryside**, to deliver targeted training and job opportunities for residents most at risk of economic hardship. These initiatives support in making Waltham Forest a place where talent can flourish, and no one is left behind.

Strengthening financial health and resilience

Helping people on low incomes and in poverty access all the support they're entitled to has been a core focus in enabling residents to become more financially resilient. We're ensuring that community infrastructure is wrapped around residents, creating space for one-to-one support with practical financial advice. This is delivered through our **community drop-ins**, run by trained officers, partners, and volunteers. With over 4,000 attendees per year, we know these drop-ins are a vital way of reaching residents in their neighbourhoods.

We are working to get more money into people's pockets by helping residents access unclaimed financial support, build skills, and find employment opportunities. We've trained 30 staff alongside volunteers to become **financial health champions**, enabling them to give practical advice and maximise income for those entitled to support. Between April and August 2025, we secured over £150,000 for residents, helping to build financial resilience.

"We unlock opportunity for residents by helping them fill in forms online at our drop-in sessions. Universal Credit, for example, is online and it can be hard for residents, especially older people. For us, it's a two- or three-minute thing...that we can do easily for them."

Husna, Community Drop-In Volunteer

Driving inclusive growth across key sectors

Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy – we have almost 13,000 businesses in the borough, over 90% of which employ fewer than 10 people.

Our **Town Centre Framework** sets out our action across all town centres, focused on improving community safety, building partnerships, supporting business growth and effective use of public sector assets. These changes are not only revitalising our town centres but supporting local jobs, independent businesses and key skills in sectors like construction, retail and hospitality. We are seeing this in **Francis Road**, a local high street, where in a borough-first we have worked with the Francis Road Collective to obtain a premises licence for the street, with extended opening hours and entertainment to increase footfall and kickstart a vibrant nighttime offer. This includes a partnership with **KERB**, who are hosting street markets every Saturday. These collaborative efforts are strengthening the local economy and backing the small businesses at the heart of our communities.

Culture and creativity are central to Waltham Forest's identity and economy - creative jobs here have increased by 44% since 2015, far exceeding the London average. Through our **Creative Enterprise Zone** in Blackhorse Lane, we've helped hundreds of local creators and entrepreneurs access affordable workspace, support and networking opportunities. A milestone achievement for our cultural economy was the opening of **Soho Theatre Walthamstow** which has created 100 local jobs, building on over 80 locally sourced jobs during its construction, and is working with 15 local schools and colleges to access creative opportunities.

Taking our mission forward

We are working to create an economy rooted in fairness and inclusion, but we cannot do this alone. We have convened the **Inclusive Economy Mission Board**, bringing together institutions to champion economic policies, practices, and initiatives which deliver equitable opportunities for all. And we will drive forward our **Cultural Action Plan**, including reopening **Vestry House Museum** in 2026 as part of our Culture for All programme of investment through the Government's Local Regeneration Fund, which will widen cultural access and create pathways into the creative economy for young people.

Mission three: Make Waltham Forest a great place to live and age well

Living and ageing well in Waltham Forest means having the support, services and opportunities that help people stay healthy, independent and financially secure as they grow older. By improving access to services, spaces and social support, we are making Waltham Forest a place where people can live well today and age well with confidence.

What we've done and the difference it's making

Easy access to the right support to live and age well

When people can get the help they need quickly and locally, they're more likely to stay well and independent for longer. Our **pop-up health clinics**, trialled in over 50 workplaces across the borough, provided health checks to more than 2,000 workers, helping to spot health issues like high blood pressure. This included a Health Check Kiosk at Walthamstow Library.

Through our **Adult Early Help** service, residents are supported to improve their own lives by navigating challenges they are facing like social isolation and loneliness with friendly and trusted professionals. This support has helped over 300 residents in the last year including help to reconnect with families, take up new hobbies and get more active.

Building on these foundations, we launched **Waltham Forest Max** – a new community-based model bringing together council services, NHS partners, and the voluntary sector in libraries to provide integrated help that meets people where they are. Following a successful pilot in Walthamstow Library, which supported over 300 residents weekly to access practical support, the service expanded borough-wide in September 2025. Operating from six libraries, Waltham Forest Max offers integrated, stigma-free help under one roof, so that residents can access early support they need to thrive. Our libraries remain vibrant cultural spaces while providing these essential services.

Mission Delivery Story: Adult Early Help Case Study (Promoting Independence)

Janet, a resilient adult living with Multiple Sclerosis, was referred to Adult Early Help after expressing a desire to stay independent and overcome feelings of loneliness and low motivation. With support from a Link Worker, she set personal goals including managing significant debt and improving her mental wellbeing.

Through regular home and community visits, she was connected to services like IAPT Talking Therapies and Citizens Advice Waltham Forest. She also joined the NHS Care Volunteer Responders programme to build social connections. Practical support was also provided around food access and debt management. Janet shared that:

"Apart from my late mother, no one has shown me the level of support I've received from Adult Early Help."

Putting resident voices at the heart of social care

When adults need our care, a mission-led approach means ensuring that the support they receive is shaped by lived experience. We take pride in our commitment to co-production with residents and their voice is critical in shaping our social care services. **Waltham Forest Engage**, a group of experts through lived experience, co-produce our resources, sit on recruitment panels and are actively involved in influencing what care services should be delivered. Recently, the group have helped residents to have more say and flexibility in their care by developing comprehensive and accessible resources on personal budgets.

Staying active, connected and well

Staying active and socially connected helps residents maintain their physical and mental health. We know that some groups face barriers to these opportunities and our work towards this mission has sought to tackle these barriers head on.

Since the launch of Mission Waltham Forest, we've worked alongside Better Leisure to continue providing **free swimming** to key groups, with almost 300,000 attendances, including many residents aged 60 and over, helping them stay healthy and active. Of the **104 free or low-cost leisure programmes**, around a third of these target residents aged 65 and over.

Aligned to our climate mission, this year we awarded a further £20,000 to nine community groups through our **Community Walking and Cycling Fund** to help people connect and get active. Since its inception, this fund has helped over 4,000 residents to walk or cycle more in their local area with a focus on targeting those who face barriers to getting active.

Getting more money into people's pockets

Financial insecurity is a growing challenge for many adults in Waltham Forest. A key focus for this mission has been increasing take-up of financial support and entitlements reflecting the millions of pounds of support that go unclaimed every year. Over the autumn of 2025, 821 residents eligible for **Attendance Allowance** were proactively contacted, with local drop-in sessions organised so trained officers, partners and volunteers could provide one-to-one support with claims. Building on this progress, we are expanding our targeted benefit campaigns alongside wider work on financial literacy and community support.

Our partnership with **The HEET Project** targets help to residents struggling with rising energy costs. From June 2024 to May 2025, HEET provided home energy support packages for 180 low-income households in Waltham Forest. Over 80% of these residents live with long term health conditions that make them more vulnerable to cold conditions. As well as improving the warmth and comfort of their home, households made an average annual saving of at least £200, helping build their resilience and ability to heat their home properly.

Tackling health inequalities

In 2022, Waltham Forest became the **first Marmot borough in London**, recognising our commitment to tackling avoidable and unfair differences in health outcomes. This was a key driver in the development of Mission Waltham Forest and continues to underpin targeted action on our most persistent health inequalities.

We have used local evidence on health inequalities to target our **Make it Happen** grant programme for cultural and creative projects, focusing in on Creative Health this year. We have committed £100,000 to fund ten exciting projects across the borough, including projects which focus on SEND young people and Black boys and young men, supporting their mental health and wellbeing through participation in creative activities.

And we have expanded access to good work for residents with disabilities and long-term conditions, providing tailored coaching, training and in-work support through the **Individual Placement and Support programme** in primary care and substance-misuse services. So far, this work has supported nearly 300 residents with long-term health conditions to stay in or return to work.

Taking our mission forward

We want adults in Waltham Forest to be able to access community-based support that focuses on their strengths. To deliver this, a key focus will be working with the NHS and communities to shift towards neighbourhood-based delivery. This will include the opening of the borough's first **Health Hub** at Coronation Square, which is being co-designed between the council, NHS and the community. The new hub is part of how we are delivering inclusive growth in the borough, and will bring GPs, hospital services, and wellbeing support together under one roof, providing critical infrastructure following the significant housing development in the area.

Mission four: Tackle the housing crisis head on

A good home is more than a roof over someone's head – it is a foundation to a happy and healthy life. However, the housing crisis is a pressing issue for our residents, with the high costs of renting, buying and living in London driving hardship for many. House prices in the borough have risen 118% over the last 10 years and the average private rent increased by 42% between 2011 and 2019. This demonstrates how it is increasingly difficult to find, afford and retain quality housing; but Waltham Forest is rising to the challenge, with new homes delivery at the centre of inclusive growth, prioritising quality, settled homes and embedded preventative approaches.

What we've done and the difference it's making

Continuing our proud record of affordable homebuilding

The demand for decent homes is higher than ever but there are not enough options to meet the needs of our residents, and a lack of availability is driving up the costs of renting and buying. In Waltham Forest, we have prioritised a sustained programme of homebuilding to respond to growing demand, outlined in our mission-led **Capital Investment Strategy**, which sets out our ambition to deliver over 3,100 new homes between 2022 and 2028, of which 2,100 will be affordable homes. This is underpinned by the council's recently adopted, ambitious **Local Plan**.

The Local Plan establishes how we will deliver new homes and a wider range of housing choice that residents need, along with the infrastructure to support them. To truly tackle the housing crisis head on, we need to work alongside private landowners and developers on future development. In 2024/25, approximately **959 new homes** were built in the borough, and since April 2024, the council has directly delivered 519 new homes including 285 affordable homes and a further 46 for social rent.

A major delivery milestone has been the completion of the first phase of development at **Coronation Square** in Leyton. This has delivered 429 new homes so far alongside enhanced childcare and leisure facilities and a new public square which this year hosted **Leyton Mas Carnival**. We have also secured a strategic investment agreement with the GLA on up to £200 million to bring forward affordable homes across five sites in the borough: **Avenue Road** and **Montague Road** estates, **Lea Bridge Station**, the **Willow House** site and **Patchworks** on Forest Road. This has enabled us to explore alternative delivery models to bring forward regeneration which will lead to the development of over 600 homes.

Our delivery so far demonstrates that we are committed to diversifying the borough's housing stock and we are continuously seeking to secure affordable housing for residents. For example, at **The Eades development** next to Walthamstow Central Station, we have secured 99 high-quality, but affordable rental homes for key workers including nurses, teachers and care workers.

Prioritising quality homes and support across tenures

The quality of a home can make a huge difference to residents' health and wellbeing. As a landlord of council homes, the council has introduced a **healthier homes standard** for all new council homes. A recent inspection by the **Regulator of Social Housing** awarded us a C2 rating and highlighted that we are performing well in health and safety compliance, working with partners to tackle ASB and providing opportunities for tenants to influence services.

A quality home also means having access to community networks, proximity to green spaces and strong local connections. Our **Housing Compact**, which sets out outcomes for social housing delivered by registered providers, is being jointly delivered by the council and Housing Associations. Through the Compact we have been working to improve community safety and create safer neighbourhoods, as well as delivering local support such as a jobs and skills development scheme on the **Beaumont Estate**. This support is helping residents to transition from insecure to sustainable employment, contributing to their security and sense of belonging.

We know that many private landlords operating in the borough take their responsibilities seriously and provide well managed rented homes that are maintained to a good standard. However, we

also know that there continue to be widespread issues of disrepair and housing hazards in the sector. In November 2024, Waltham Forest gained approval for its third large-scale **selective licensing scheme**. Our licensing schemes give us significantly enhanced powers to regulate conditions in the sector, providing a framework that requires landlords and agents to proactively manage and maintain their properties. Recent analysis indicated that our enforcement officers were responsible for more than 30% of all enforcement actions recorded across London.

From temporary accommodation to settled homes

The housing crisis is impacting London more than anywhere else. Waltham Forest is not immune to these challenges, and we have seen an 80% rise in demand for temporary accommodation over the past two years driven by a lack of affordable housing. In response to this challenge, the council established a **Temporary Accommodation Mission Board** bringing together services across the council to drive concerted action to prevent homelessness, strengthen wraparound support to residents in temporary accommodation and help people move on to settled homes.

At the core of our homelessness prevention work is our **Housing Sustainment Team, based in the Queens Road Family Hub**, which supports families in the private rented sector who are at risk of losing their tenancy to maximise their household income, negotiate with landlords and offer budgeting advice and assistance. In the last year, the service has prevented homelessness for 60 families and supported vulnerable residents to access over £188,000 of additional income by helping them to claim the benefits they are entitled to.

For those living in temporary accommodation, quality can make a big difference in already stressful circumstances. To ensure residents have higher quality accommodation, even if it is temporary, we have eliminated the use of commercial hotels and secured more self-contained accommodation, including 221 new units at the **London Walthamstow Complex**.

A key challenge behind the level of demand for temporary accommodation is the difficulty for people to move to settled accommodation, which is housing that provides longer-term residence such as the Private Rented Sector or social housing. Our new **Temporary Accommodation to Settled Homes Strategy** sets out how we will support more households to move on to settled accommodation, building on our work to pilot targeted employment support through to expanding help with the practicalities of moving and settling in a new area.

Mission Delivery Story: Lyn, Housing Sustainment Support

After having to reduce her working hours to care for her children, Lyn was struggling to pay rent and bills and manage the rising cost of living. She had to prioritise payments towards heating and food which led to a build-up of rent arrears. Lyn was referred to the Housing Sustainment Team for support, with the main aim of preventing eviction.

The team identified that Lyn wasn't claiming entitlements such as single person's council tax discount and worked with her to apply for discretionary financial support towards rent and food, while putting arrangements in place to manage her debt. Discussions between Lyn and the team also focused on more sustainable employment and she was able to find a new job that fit around her family. This support kept Lyn and her family in their home.

Taking our mission forward

We will build on our track record of affordable homebuilding and continue to deliver and secure the new homes the borough needs to meet our ambitious Local Plan target of 27,000 new homes between 2020 and 2035. Key developments will deliver further phases of new homes, resulting in totals of 750 new homes at the **Coronation Square** development with 50% of them affordable and 433 new homes at **Fellowship Square**. 83 new affordable homes are under construction at **Prory Court**, 21 of which will be social rent, and we have secured grant funding from the GLA for 387 affordable homes near **Lea Bridge Station**, aiming to start construction in 2026. While our long-term plans to build new homes are critical to delivering on our **Housing Strategy**, the housing crisis is having a severe impact on residents now and we will use all available tools to help people remain in their homes or where necessary to find alternative settled homes.

Mission five: Lead the way for a net-zero borough

Waltham Forest has been a leader in climate action for many years, but we know that tackling the climate emergency is more than cutting carbon emissions. Our ambition is rooted in climate justice – ensuring every resident benefits from warm homes, clean air, affordable energy, thriving green spaces and healthier lives. Borough emissions have already been slashed by almost 30% in the last five years and dropped by 15% in 2023/24 alone, but we will go further to ensure a fairer, greener future for all.

What we've done and the difference it's making

Green, warm and resilient homes for residents

Having a warm, energy efficient home is not just about sustainability, it's about health, comfort and security.

This year we launched our own **Retrofit Company**, one of the first of its kind in London, to deliver home upgrades that cut carbon and reduce bills. Through our first round of 0% interest **Energy Upgrade Loans** for homeowners, residents have already saved thousands of pounds on energy costs – an estimated £12,000 in lifetime savings per household – while avoiding over 550 tonnes of carbon emissions. £2.25M has been secured through GLA's **Warm Homes Local Grant** and **Social Grant** schemes, to boost improvements to residents' homes and lower energy bills. These interventions not only improve wellbeing but tackle fuel poverty and reduce health inequalities in the Borough.

We are also tackling climate risks to homes directly. By supporting a series of **Flood Action Groups** in the most affected parts of the borough, in partnership with the National Flood Forum, we have supported communities to take action to alleviate the impacts of flooding locally. Through our **Lower Floods programme**, over 1,600 water butts have been installed, slowing or diverting around 240,000 litres of water away from the sewer system and helping to protect homes and communities from flood risk. We have also delivered award winning **Sustainable Drainage Systems** (SUDs) such as the new biodiverse-rich wetlands at Chestnuts Fields, providing 3,000 sqm of flood storage space, and 10,000 square metres of flood storage and drainage space created in South Chingford.

Transforming how people travel, explore and experience their local area

Cleaner transport means cleaner air, safer streets and healthier communities. In 2024, we celebrated **10 years of Enjoy Waltham Forest**, marking a decade of national leadership in active travel. Through **Enjoy Waltham Forest**, we have pioneered active travel, with over 55km of cycle track, 800 bike hangars, and 29,000 residents trained in cycling skills. Our **24 School Streets** make it safer for children to walk or wheel to school, reducing congestion and air pollution while supporting families build lifelong healthy habits.

Alongside this, we have expanded our electric vehicle network, delivering over **1,500 charging sockets** to support cleaner, more affordable and accessible transport choices. These actions don't just reduce emissions, they make everyday life healthier, safer and more affordable for thousands of residents.

We're working with partners to make transport more accessible and sustainable across the borough for our residents. Together with TfL, we're delivering a major **redevelopment of Leyton Underground Station**, including full step-free access, supported by £9 million from the council and £13.7 million from the Government's Levelling Up Fund. We've also invested £5 million of Community Infrastructure Levy to create a **step-free entrance at Walthamstow Central Station**.

Circular Economy and Food Waste – changing habits, saving money

Residents told us they wanted easier ways to recycle and cut waste. We listened. Since launching **weekly food waste collections**, over 100 tonnes of food waste is collected every

week and turned into renewable energy instead of landfill. To encourage greener habits, in March 2025, we introduced **fortnightly general waste collections** as part of a borough-wide behaviour change programme and supported families through **reusable nappy vouchers**.

Our **Reuse and Repair Fairs** have attracted 1,900 participants to date from 7 fairs, saving more than 5 tonnes of waste from landfill. And the new **Library of Things** in Leytonstone has seen 1,500 items borrowed, saving households an estimated £210,000 while cutting unnecessary consumption. These schemes show how small, local actions can add up – saving residents money, reducing waste and building a stronger sense of community pride.

Nature and Community Activation – a collective response

We were one of the first councils in London to declare both a **Climate Emergency** and a **Nature Emergency**, recognising that tackling climate change and restoring nature must go hand in hand. Residents have been central to this work. Our **Climate Residents Panel**, now 100 members strong, continues to shape local responses to climate and nature recovery.

Community programmes such as **Bee Friendly Streets** and local planting days are making neighbourhoods more sustainable and sociable – places where climate action feels local and collective. While projects like **Waltham Forest Wildways: from Markhouse to Marshes** are reconnecting habitats, supporting pollinators and creating greener spaces for residents to enjoy.

Together, these actions are not only reducing carbon emissions but also tackling inequality and building resilience. Warmer homes cut bills. Safer streets protect children's health. Local reuse schemes save residents money. Green spaces bring people together and protect us from future climate risks. This is what climate justice looks like in Waltham Forest.

Mission Delivery Story: Peter, Energy Upgrade Loan Recipient

Retrofitting is essential to reduce energy use, tackle the climate emergency, and fight fuel poverty. Most homes in Waltham Forest are older and hard to retrofit, yet they're the biggest source of local CO₂ emissions. While we've upgraded our council housing stock, homeowners and landlords also need support as many struggle with the upfront costs.

Peter, a homeowner in Waltham Forest wanted to reduce their carbon footprint but faced financial barriers. With rising energy costs and old housing stock, retrofitting seemed unaffordable. Through the council's £5,000 Energy Upgrade Loan, Peter installed solar panels with Fresh Electrical Solutions. Peter says:

"The process was straightforward, similar to a commercial loan and installation was completed in just one day. The panels are saving us around £40 a month, which is roughly similar to our monthly loan repayment. More important for us is the environmental case for solar - locally sourced renewables used at the source is always the most efficient way to use energy. We're really happy to make a small contribution to the climate emergency by reducing our carbon footprint."

Taking our mission forward

Our next steps will continue to put residents at the heart of climate action. We will open a new **Forest School in Langthorne Park**, enabling more children and families to benefit from the Hive's outdoor and climate education offer in the south of the borough without needing to travel to the centre in Epping Forest, which will reduce barriers to participation.

We will launch our **Nature Recovery programme**, to restore biodiversity and green spaces. Starting with the Nature Roundtable, we're empowering residents through citizen science, community stewardship and partnership working with community groups and businesses to drive climate action. Nature placemaking will focus on council land and wider borough spaces, such as **Walthamstow Wetlands**, where the London Wildlife Trust has already delivered over 40 cultural events this year – including free **SENSory Explorers** – while improving habitat connectivity and unlocking funding to support long-term recovery.

Mission six: Create safe, green neighbourhoods where everyone can thrive

Waltham Forest is a borough with strong neighbourhood identities and pride of place. But not all residents feel equally safe or able to enjoy all their communities have to offer. We want everyone to feel safe, welcome and connected – with streets and spaces residents are proud of, opportunities for people to connect and play, and communities that feel heard in shaping the future of their areas.

What we've done and the difference it's making

Working with residents to create safer communities

Safety remains one of the biggest concerns for our communities and we have worked with residents, young people and partners to design new approaches that respond directly to their experiences and target our resources where they can have greatest impact.

In partnership with our local police, we launched the UK's first **Citizens' Assembly on the Future of Neighbourhood Policing** bringing together 45 residents and over 1,300 more through pre-engagement to shape the future of policing and safety in Waltham Forest. Crucially, young people played a leading role in shaping the joint action plan which responds to the Assembly's recommendations, and which is now driving real change on the ground.

*"Taking part has given me the opportunity to make change for the first time in my life."
Citizens' Assembly Member*

One of the first actions from the Assembly was the creation of an **Inclusive Mentoring scheme**, where up to 18 young people and 6 police officers will be matched to meet regularly over six months. Co-designed by young people, this scheme seeks to rebuild trust in policing by centring lived experience and creating space for open, honest discussion.

We also heard that young people feel most vulnerable on their journeys home from school. In response, we launched the **Safer Routes initiative**, placing trusted adults outside schools and along busy routes between 3 – 6pm every weekday. Parents and young people alike tell us that this visible support has transformed their confidence. Building on this progress, we recently launched our **Creating Safer Streets Together** campaign which actively involves partners and communities in our wider community safety efforts.

Beyond safer journeys home, young people can access **Space4All** sessions – safe, welcoming spaces designed for young people across our neighbourhoods. We've also expanded to **25 Safe Spaces** in local gyms, businesses and libraries for anyone feeling unsafe. And we have delivered **safety workshops** and assemblies to over 1,700 children and young people – fostering a stronger sense of safety and belonging across the borough.

Working as one with communities to create a more equal borough

Safety is only one part of what makes a thriving neighbourhood. Belonging, inclusion and pride are equally important. The strength of our voluntary and community sector continues to be one of Waltham Forest's greatest assets, and we're proud to work alongside these groups to ensure all residents feel included and connected in their neighbourhoods.

Through our work as a **Borough of Sanctuary**, we have expanded accessible, welcoming spaces for sanctuary seekers to connect and find support when they need it most – including over 500 residents who have accessed our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Single Point of Contact since April 2025. We have also worked with partners to expand essential support for migrants and refugees, including work with NHS partners to deliver **Safe Surgeries** and **Refugee Psychological Therapies**. Together, we are leading our Borough of Sanctuary delivery with our community partners, many of whom are gaining sanctuary status for their organisations. This builds on our continued commitment to tackling hate crime through

longstanding activity such as **bystander intervention training** and new initiatives such as our in-house **allyship training**.

"I have felt truly welcomed and supported. The service gave me guidance and reassurance at a time when I needed it most. It has helped me feel safe and part of the community."

WF Refugee Psychological Therapies Service User

The creation of the **Waltham Forest Council for Voluntary Services (CVS)** marked a major step forward in strengthening our voluntary and community sector. Now a registered charity, Waltham Forest CVS connects over 600 voluntary and social enterprise groups, embedding co-design into the borough's fabric and amplifying the collective voice of community partners. The CVS will be a key partner in delivering Mission Waltham Forest.

Delivering improvements and creating opportunities across neighbourhoods

We're continuing to put resident voices and action at the heart of neighbourhood improvement. Through **Let's Talk Waltham Forest**, almost 3,000 residents shared ideas for how to improve their areas, from parklets to playgrounds - these ideas have led to the delivery of improvements in every ward in the borough. We also support opportunities for residents to deliver improvements themselves, reflected in almost 9,000 volunteering hours on council organised nature conservation and gardening projects since April 2024.

Our wider regeneration schemes have not only delivered much-needed affordable housing but also neighbourhood improvements that all residents can shape and benefit from. This includes our **Child-Friendly Chingford** programme funded by the Levelling Up Fund which is improving parks and town centres with co-designed features like play spaces and trails.

Building on our **50 parks, 7 leisure centres and 13 sports grounds**, Waltham Forest is continuing to build inclusive, active and sustainable spaces for everyone. Across the borough, residents are enjoying new opportunities to connect and get active from **open-air cinemas** to **late-night leisure sessions**. Since the launch of Mission Waltham Forest, major new facilities opened include the state-of-the-art **Score Centre** in Coronation Square and refurbished cinema in the heart of the **Walthamstow Cultural Quarter**. Through the planning process, we are also ensuring the **Regal Cinema** in Highams Park will be brought back into use, which will further improve the local cultural offer as well as creating new local employment opportunities.

Mission delivery story: Community-led improvements in Priory Court Estate

Working alongside communities and partners, Priory Court Estate is an example of mission-led neighbourhood regeneration in action.

Alongside new affordable housing, the council has worked in partnership with The Hill Group to deliver a new, multi-use games area (MUGA) and play facilities, providing safe, modern spaces for children and families. In front of the MUGA, a repurposed outdoor gym provides residents with more opportunities to stay active and healthy.

Along with these new facilities, a new interactive community mural has become a local landmark of pride and identity which was co-created with the residents of the estate.

"It has lifted Priory Court now. It's lifted the whole community. Everybody feels positive. It has added to the quality of life." **Priory Court Resident**

Taking our mission forward

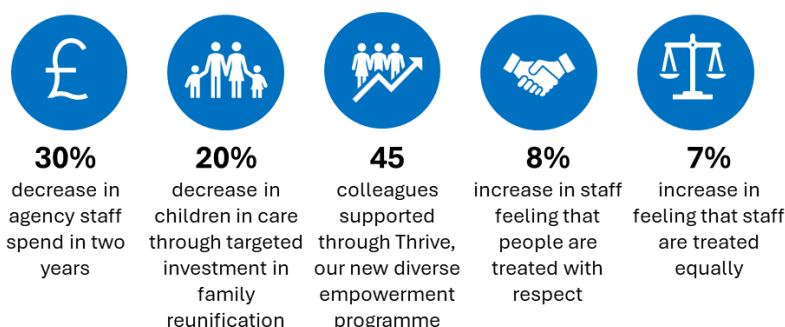
By listening and acting on what matters most, we are building neighbourhoods where people feel safer and heard. We will retain a strong equality focus for this work, including our **Million More Days** campaign launching in January 2026 which aims to increase healthy life expectancy among key groups, and our **Knife Crime Mission** which will put young people's voices at the heart of our mission-led response to knife crime in the borough. Crucially, we will maintain our unwavering commitment to ensuring everyone feels welcome in Waltham Forest.

Council Mission Delivery

Our Council Missions set out how we must transform how we work to deliver our Borough Missions and our vision of a more equal borough by 2030.

Since the launch of Mission Waltham Forest, these missions have guided our efforts to become more mission-led in our approach to shared challenges and capable of adapting to the ever-evolving needs of our communities. Like much of local government, we are delivering these changes in a period of unprecedented financial constraint, but our council missions provide a way to meet this challenge that stays true to our values.

Our progress is reflected in some of the positive findings of external inspection processes that have taken place since the launch of Mission Waltham Forest. We are also taking concerted action to learn and improve our work towards Mission Waltham Forest based on the findings of these inspections and reviews.



“Guided by the Leader and Cabinet Members, the council prioritises responsible long-term decision-making, civility in public life, and effective place leadership, all with a focus on residents.”

LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report, July 2024

What we’ve done and the difference it’s making

Ensuring a firm financial footing

This is an exceptionally difficult time in local government, but we continue to demonstrate at Waltham Forest what change can look like in action. We’ve achieved significant cost savings through a variety of methods across the whole organisation while ensuring we can continue to support to those who need it most.

Over the last two years, we’ve worked across services to **reduce our agency staff spend** by 30% which is now at its lowest level in seven years, owing to a concerted shift in our hiring practices while ensuring critical roles are filled to maintain service quality. In Children’s Services, targeted investment in family reunification and edge-of-care support has helped more children remain safely with their families, contributing to a 20% **reduction in the number of children in care** which supports improved emotional, social and educational outcomes for children and their families. To respond to the substantial growth in residents requiring temporary accommodation, we’ve launched a **cross-council mission** which has stabilised costs through measures such as converting vacant sites – ensuring more residents have access to safe, secure places to live.

Despite this progress, we are facing unprecedented demand and cost across our services. Compared to this time two years ago, homelessness demand has increased by 80%, the number of SEND packages has increased by 39% and the cost of adult social care packages has increased by 13%. This is because rising living costs, an affordable housing crisis and deep-rooted inequality have put increasing pressure on families, services and communities. We are expanding mission-based work to tackle our biggest cost pressures, whilst continuing to make sound financial decisions to protect the future of our borough.

Embedding a preventative approach for stronger communities

Early intervention and prevention sits at the heart of Mission Waltham Forest and our ambition to make this a more equal and inclusive borough.

Examples of our work to build stronger communities through early intervention and prevention are woven through this report and are integral to delivering all our borough missions. From our **homelessness prevention** work which is helping families to sustain their tenancies and remain in their homes, to our accessible neighbourhood support in community settings including our recently launched **Waltham Forest Max** offer which is bringing together council, NHS and community support under one roof. This work is fundamental to helping people to live independently in their homes and communities for longer.

We have laid strong foundations over the last year through our Stronger Communities approach and over the next year we plan to fundamentally shift towards **building stronger communities** as a borough-wide endeavour with shared action across council services and partners. To do this, we will design a neighbourhood-focused way of working, bringing services closer to those that need them most so that their needs can be met in their local areas, in spaces they know and feel comfortable in. These key components will form the basis of our approach to rooting services in communities:

- **Integrated Neighbourhood Teams** - local, multidisciplinary and community led early intervention and prevention work shaped by community voice
- **Family Help** – a single integrated service for families with multiple needs, bringing together early help and social care to reduce duplication, handovers and fragmentation
- **Community Help** - aligning with the neighbourhood health model that utilises community support as the thing that makes the difference for vulnerable adults
- **Housing Help** - taking targeted action on the top causes of homelessness to prevent families entering TA and supporting move-ons to settled homes
- **Culture & Practice** - embedding a shared approach to culture and practice, practicing strengths-based approaches that build resilience and social connections
- **Community Assets** – making best use of buildings and public spaces and ensuring the use of assets reflects what communities need.

Designing services around our residents

Over the past 18 months, we have broadened and deepened how residents are involved in shaping the services that affect them. Our **Citizens' Assembly** generated powerful recommendations on neighbourhood policing. **Citizens' Panels** steer our borough-wide work from climate action to community safety. And we empower young people to lead youth engagement and research through our **Young Advisors**.

Across our work, we have sought to connect our borough missions with the distinct needs and assets of neighbourhoods. We have embedded this approach in our **Community Ward Funding** which was redesigned to align with our borough missions and this year awarded funding to 160 community groups and residents to deliver local proposals including neighbourhood-based climate initiatives, community events and cultural activities. We have also piloted a new approach to allocating **Community Infrastructure Levy** funding from developers in the borough, supporting neighbourhood priorities through consultation with communities and their ward councillors. And through **Let's Talk Waltham Forest**, we are creating new ways for residents to take part in decision-making that affects their lives and their local areas, from digital platforms to local research.

These initiatives are not one-off exercises – they are part of a growing culture of embedding participation that ensures services and interventions reflect the realities of residents' lives. This includes **Community Advisory Panels**, which are helping shape the revitalisation of Vestry House Museum and the future of the William Morris Gallery.

Building an inclusive workforce that reflects our communities

Our workforce is our greatest strength, and our **Staff Networks** continue to provide valuable spaces for our staff from groups who have historically been marginalised, to come together and share learning, offer peer support and learning opportunities. Our **Staff Awards** took place in July this year and were a fantastic celebration of the dedication and achievements of colleagues across the council and the impact they have on residents' lives every day.

We launched our **Inclusion Action Plan** in November 2023 and two years on and with sharpened focus through Mission Waltham Forest, we are seeing green shoots towards a more inclusive and empowered workforce, through a variety of initiatives.

Our **Staff Survey** in Autumn 2024 showed a positive shift in areas relating to the council being a diverse and inclusive workplace – notably there was an 8% increase in staff feeling that people are treated with respect and a 7% increase in feeling that staff are treated equally. Our **gender and ethnicity pay gaps** continue to narrow year on year which represents good progress, but we have much more to do. And we were the **first London council to sign the national Disability Employment Charter** last year which includes a set of local actions and commitments which will be used to monitor progress and drive accountability.

We have improved career pathways for local care experienced young residents by establishing the **Future Pathways** scheme. We have co-designed a new approach to recruit two care experienced residents into placements within the Council, removing barriers to the process and providing tangible benefits from taking part in every stage of the process. We are now working to expand the offer across the borough by promoting it to other organisations to replicate.

Thrive, our Diverse Empowerment Programme, is specifically designed to develop diverse talent within the council and help us to further reduce our gender and ethnicity pay gaps. Shaped by conversations with colleagues about the barriers to career progression, the programme addresses key needs – from building confidence to apply for senior roles, to navigating difference and developing inclusive leadership behaviours. Over six months, Thrive will support 45 colleagues across three cohorts, helping them strengthen and broaden their professional skills and leadership capabilities.

Building on the foundations already in place, we're launching a new round of **Inclusive Mentoring** and recently launched our **Health and Wellbeing Action Plan**, a key step in supporting our people to thrive. We continue to build an inclusive culture where staff can lead, contribute meaningfully, and shape how we work. Staff engagement remains central to our approach, and we'll keep creating opportunities for them to influence and drive change.

Mission Delivery Story: Joanne Bullar – Colleague of the Year, Waltham Forest Staff Awards 2025

Joanne works at the Dementia Hub in Leyton and has inspired colleagues and families alike, providing vital, person-centred care and advocacy over the last year. Her leadership has earned outstanding satisfaction ratings and raised awareness across the borough, making a profound difference in the lives of vulnerable residents and their carers.

“An example of how we support someone living with dementia and their carers can be shown through our work with Anne (not her real name). She was a lady with Alzheimer’s disease, who lived in Leyton and was cared for by her young adult son. She attended group sessions but often turned up at the Hub outside of her allocated group days, since her dementia had affected her awareness of time and days, but we always invited her in for a cup of tea and made sure that she was okay.” – Joanne Bullar

Mission Waltham Forest: The next phase of delivery

Mission Waltham Forest has given us shared purpose and clear goals over the past 18 months with demonstrable achievements for our residents.

Nevertheless, the financial pressures facing local government remain stark and the future remains uncertain and so over the next year, our approach to change will need to be grounded in this reality. This means that mission-based working is more important than ever, and we need to go further and deeper in our efforts to have the greatest impact and ensure we are pulling together for the people that need us most.

We are now using the learning and foundations from Mission WF delivery so far to shape our next phase of delivery. This will inform our budget and planning for 2026-27 alongside ongoing delivery of our medium-term financial strategy.

In this next phase of delivery, we will strengthen our resolve to our council missions, relentlessly focus on tackling inequality and sharpen our focus to make sure that we make the following shifts in the way we work:

- **From crisis response to crisis prevention** – putting more time and resources into early support that prevents problems from escalating.
- **From wide reaching to targeted delivery** – our drive for a more equal borough means we must concentrate our efforts where the need is greatest and the opportunity for impact is strongest.
- **From “doing for” to “doing together”** – recognising that local people and communities are the experts on their own lives and know what is likely to make the most difference and supporting them to lead where they can.
- **From working around services to working around missions** – aligning teams and functions behind shared challenges to make the most of limited resource and achieve greatest impact.

We will learn from our experience of mission delivery thus far to embed these approaches in the way we tackle challenges as a council and in partnership. Crucially, we will equip ourselves with the data and insight to understand our impact towards our missions. Beyond the council, we will step up efforts to create the spaces, tools and mechanisms for residents and partners to play their part in shaping the borough's future.

In the months ahead, we'll be working with staff, residents and partners to think about the council we need to become, and what that means for how we work and where we focus. This is vital to our borough and council missions. And only by drawing on our collective talent, experience and passion can we build a stronger council – and a more equal borough – together.

The choices we make to secure our financial sustainability will be guided by the values and approach of Mission Waltham Forest – ensuring that even in tough times, we stay focused on tackling inequality and improving outcomes for residents and that every choice we make is a collective effort, grounded in evidence and anchored in clear purpose.

By putting our collective energy behind Mission Waltham Forest, we can achieve more than any of us could alone. Our ultimate mission is a more equal and inclusive borough – it is clear there are challenges ahead, but by embracing the full richness of talent and resources of our staff, partners and communities, we know that we can do this, together.

Delivering our missions together

Missions are only truly shared goals if they are shaped by the lived experiences and insights of communities. Waltham Forest has a proud history of involving communities in shaping local change, but through Mission Waltham Forest we are going further – embedding participation and shifting power so residents are not just consulted but are helping to lead the response.

Through our **Together We Are Waltham Forest** campaign launched in September 2025, we are making our missions more visible and accessible by showing residents the changes underway and inviting them to help shape what comes next.

If you want to get involved, here are ways you can do so:

- **Join us** - There are plenty of ways to get involved and learn more about what's happening in your neighbourhood. Join us in helping secure a fairer future for our borough: [Sign the pledge on Let's Talk](#)
- **Discover more** - Explore support, [events](#) and activities in your area. You can also discover more about how we're working with residents, communities and partners to create a better, fairer and more equal borough by 2030: [Sign up to Resident News](#)
- **Share your story** - Do you know an individual or group doing amazing work in your neighbourhood? We want to know about it. Shout out people, community groups or organisations who are making a difference in Waltham Forest, so we can celebrate their contribution: [Share your story](#)

