

# Progress with Unity 2022-2026

---

What the Council Plan  
2022-2026 promised,  
and what the council did



**Ealing**

[www.ealing.gov.uk](http://www.ealing.gov.uk)





## Table of contents

Foreword .....	1
Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour .....	2
Climate action .....	4
Healthy, equal lives.....	6
A fairer start.....	8
Decent living incomes .....	10
Inclusive economy.....	12
Safe and genuinely affordable homes .....	14
Good growth and new homes .....	16
Thriving communities .....	18



## Foreword

After publishing our [Council Plan in 2022](#), Ealing Council undertook a 4-year programme built upon the promises the plan had made to the people of the borough. It sets out the practical things we intended to do to create good jobs, fight inequality, and tackle the climate crisis.

The Council Plan had 9 themes, and this report sets out the council's progress against each one in the service of the borough's 370,000 residents.

The council has exceeded its target for 10,000 new jobs, supported local businesses, expanded digital inclusion, opened community hubs, and modernised online services.

Housing delivery has progressed despite national challenges, with work started on constructing, or acquiring, more genuinely affordable homes. More temporary accommodation has also been created, providing safe, secure places to stay for families who become homeless.

This all means more people have an affordable and decent home with a properly paid job – giving them the security they need.

A new youth activity centre (Southall YAC) has been opened, extra places for special educational needs at schools have been created, and after-school and holiday programmes have been provided. This is all aimed at helping to give the borough's young people the best possible chance to live up to their potential.

We know it is vital that people feel safe in their community and the council has invested more than £11million to reduce anti-social behaviour, burglary and violent crime, strengthened

partnership working with the police and other agencies, and expanded visible patrols, through programmes like Parkguard. All 24 Safer Neighbourhood ward panels are now active, giving residents a stronger voice in local policing.

Throughout the 4 years of the Council Plan, the council has been working on an ambitious climate action programme. We will have planted 50,000 trees, rewilded more than 620,000m<sup>2</sup> of land (with more on the way) and reintroduced key wildlife species such as the beavers at Paradise Fields, opened new parks and green spaces, and set up innovative, circular economy initiatives like the Library of Things and the Stirling Road Circular Economy Hub. And, meanwhile, recycling rates have remained among the highest in the capital.

Bringing residents into the decisions about the places they live has been another of our commitment. We published a new Community Charter, setting out how residents can expect to engage with the council and decision-making – and have set up town teams in each of the borough's 7 towns to set priorities and allocate funds to local improvements.

**Councillor Peter Mason**  
Leader of Ealing Council

# Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour

From reducing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour to improving street lighting and working closely with local communities, the council is committed to creating a borough where everyone feels secure and protected.

More than 3,000 women and girls shared their experiences and ideas on improving safety across the borough.

Following this, the [new Male Violence Against Women and Girls \(MVAWG\) strategy](#) was developed by the council and the Safer Ealing Partnership in 2023.

The council pledged to invest £1.8million to make public spaces safer and well-lit and, since then, has:

- installed 43 new high quality **CCTV** cameras (bringing the total number of CCTV cameras in the borough to more than 700)
- upgraded more than 3,100 **streetlights** to LED
- created the Safer Ealing website to provide local information and practical advice on staying safe and where to get help. Go to: [saferealing.co.uk](http://saferealing.co.uk)

More widely, the council has invested £13million to reduce antisocial behaviour, burglary and violent crime.

This has included strengthened **partnership working** with the police and other agencies, and expanding visible patrols, through extending programmes such as **Parkguard**, [which proactively patrols estates and open spaces](#) and is often the first point of enforcement or intervention.

All 24 planned **Safer Neighbourhood ward panels** are now up and running with the police, giving residents a chance to attend and have a voice in local policing.

And a consultation asked for residents' input into the council's development of a new **Hate Crime Strategy** for the borough.

The council has also continued to extend its [boroughwide public space protection order \(PSPO\)](#), which gives the police extra powers to tackle street drinking and other anti-social behaviour in our high streets and parks.

In 2024, a separate **PSPO in Mattock Lane** in Ealing was renewed until 2027 after 97% of the public voted to support it (thousands took part). It creates a safe zone to protect women from harassment when accessing healthcare at a clinic, which has attracted protests from pro-life and pro-choice groups. In January 2025, [a protestor was taken to court and fined £7,500 for breaching the PSPO](#).



# Climate action

As part of Ealing Council's commitment to tackling the climate crisis, it pledged to create 10 new **parks** across the borough and is close to reaching its target.

This achievement is part of a wider effort to increase and protect **green spaces** for us all to relax and exercise in and enjoy; and to safeguard **wildlife** for future generations as well as cleaner air to breathe.

One of the newest projects to be completed is Glade Lane Canalside Park, in Southall, with new wildlife habitats, improved access to the towpath for walkers and cyclists, and flood prevention measures. South Ealing Cemetery was reopened after being transformed by Ealing Parks Foundation volunteers and the council, in September 2025. And [Pear Tree Park](#) in Perivale opened in 2024, with a new bistro then opening last November. The park is also a stepping stone towards the council's vision for creating a transformative [regional park of connected green spaces that would stretch across a section of west London](#).

The council has planted 50,000 **trees** across the borough since 2022, creating vital habitats, tree canopies for shade and helping to absorb harmful carbon emissions from the air.

Alongside this, 620,000 square metres of land has been **rewilded**, with another 220,000 square metres set to follow this year at [Warren Farm](#), which the council is hoping to have

designated a local nature reserve by Natural England.

**Beavers were reintroduced to Greenford** in 2023 after a 400-year absence. They have refashioned the Paradise Fields site, building dams and having babies. The dam-building will help to tackle flooding in the area and has helped bring back other wildlife to the area too – from insects to birds. Meanwhile, harvest mice were returned to 5 sites across the borough, including Perivale Woods.

The council wants residents to feel safe and secure when they are **cycling, walking, or wheeling** in the borough. It has multiple benefits: healthier lifestyles, less traffic on the roads, cleaner air and helps tackle the climate crisis by cutting harmful emissions from vehicles.

So, it published a [Travel in Ealing Charter](#) and has also been investing £28million in an ongoing programme to improve road safety, boost cycling, cut traffic congestion, and tackle air pollution.

And, between 2023 and 2025, the council repaired more than 7,500 potholes – that is an average of 10 **potholes** every single day. In that time, the council also resurfaced more than 12 miles of roads and nearly 5 miles of pavements, creating smoother, safer surfaces.

The council's **School Streets** programme

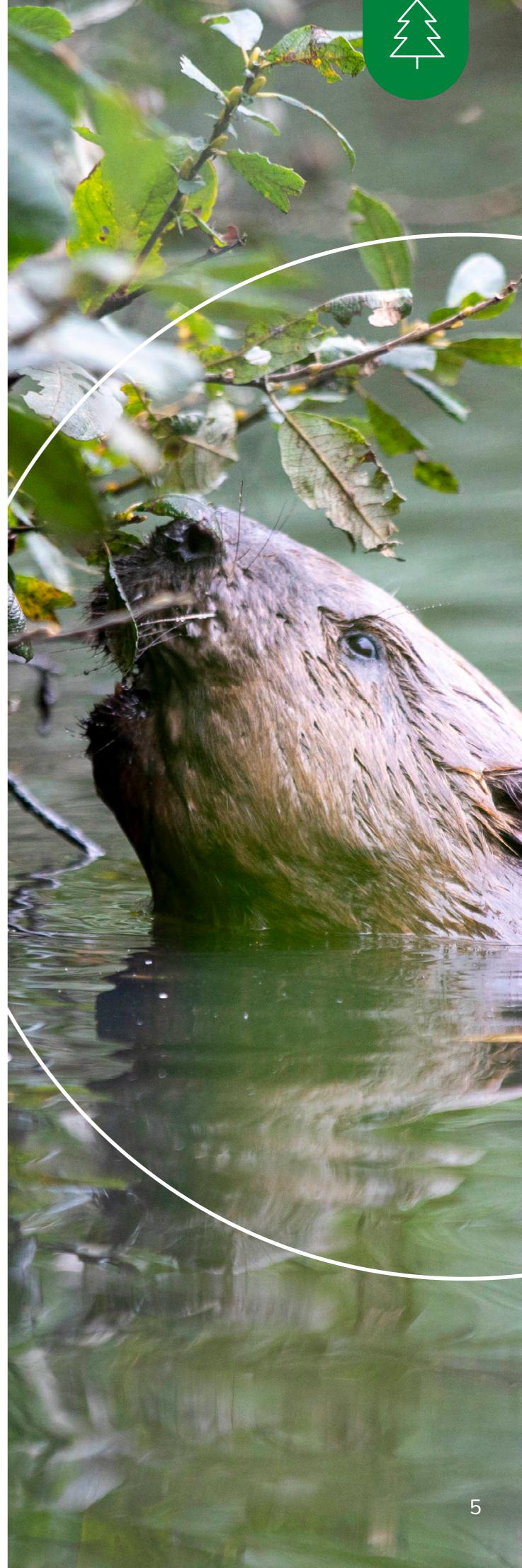
reached its 4-year target in January 2026, with a 50th school joining up. It encourages families to walk, cycle, or scoot on the school run, instead of using a car, to support healthier lifestyles, make the journey safer and cut carbon emissions. Nearly 30,000 children across the borough are now benefitting.

In October 2025, the [150th bike hangar](#) was installed in the borough, giving cyclists a secure space to store their bikes. The council's goal was to install 150 hangars containing 900 bike spaces by 2026 – and cut the cost of using them for residents. This was achieved ahead of time.

Cycling has risen in the Northolt area by 30% over the last couple of years and miles of **cycle lanes** have been laid across the borough, as part of the council's wider [Cycle Network Plan](#), approved in early 2025.

Meanwhile, **recycling rates** have remained among the highest in the capital and the council opened the Stirling Road Circular Economy Hub in Acton to help people reuse and recycle things instead of them going to landfill.

The **Library of Things** opened in central Ealing in 2024, offering people the option to borrow a whole range of items from sewing machines to carpet cleaners, instead of buying them unnecessarily. And [close to 900 items were loaned out in its first year](#).



# Healthy, equal lives

The council is working hard to help make sure older residents, and those who rely on social care, can live with dignity, by having choice and independence.

And it knows that the ability to stay at home hugely improves people's ability to recover and live a good life into old age.

Over the last 3 years, the council has helped more than 3,000 people each year to continue living independent lives within their own homes. This year, it is expected to have helped more than 3,700 people. This is way above the council's target and has been achieved through a number of council-led services, including:

- its [direct payments](#) scheme, which gives people the freedom to choose the care that works best for them
- its [reablement service](#), which supports recovery after illness or injury, helping people regain independence quickly. And it is ensuring that people return home from hospital sooner, with the right support in place
- [home adaptations through the Better Care Fund](#). This national scheme combines NHS and council budgets to help people live safely at home

Meanwhile, the council's [falls prevention programme](#) has been helping residents stay safe and confident at home, reducing hospital admissions.

More than 2,500 **care workers** in the borough, an incredibly diverse workforce mainly made up of women, are [now paid the London Living Wage](#). The council invested an extra £8million

in adult social care to make this possible because it believes care work should be valued.

The borough also has the fastest **hospital discharge** rates in north west London. This means people return home sooner and hospital beds are freed up. Having more social workers on hospital wards, working with health staff, has sped up assessments, meaning the longest waits are down by 75%.

The council published an [interactive Health of the Borough report](#) to show how it is investing and working with partner organisations to improve care, health and wellbeing in the borough.

In addition, the council's **Community Champions** programme has seen more than 120 local people with good networks help to spread important information about health services, support and useful connections within their own communities.

And the council has invested £2.3million in **voluntary sector grants** to support community groups to provide local services.

A number of recommendations were made by the independent Ealing Race Equality Commission's (EREC) report to Ealing Council in 2022.

The council accepted all of the recommendations and, as a result, [Ealing Citizens' Tribunal](#), an independent body established to follow up on the recommendations of the EREC, was created. It met for the first time in late 2022, before adding extra members in 2023.

A number of **parent forums** were created too, to help tackle the gaps in the educational attainment of local black school pupils. There are now more than 20 of these groups, [including one based at Northolt High School](#), working with volunteers and parents.





## A fairer start

From high performing schools to vibrant places for young people, Ealing Council is backing the borough's next generation with opportunities to learn, create and thrive all year round.

Our children get some of the best education in London, with 98% of our maintained schools rated **Good or Outstanding** by Ofsted. That quality shows up in results, too – our schools have been performing above national averages, with statistics consistently showing pupils are making exceptional progress through primary and into secondary education.

The council has been investing to allow more children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to learn locally with the specialist support they need. The council has surpassed its **SEND places** target, with more than 30 new specialist places created at schools during 2025/26 as part of a wider plan which has created more than 200 places since 2022. And other support has been added – such as, in May 2023, when [Stanhope Primary School in Greenford opened a new sensory room](#).

**Additional resource provision** has also been received elsewhere, at Fielding Primary (27 places) and expansion at Havelock Primary, with specialist classrooms and sensory spaces designed around pupils' needs.

Nearly 80% of local schools now have full **wrap-around care**, provided from 8am to 6pm. And the council is working towards having this

in place at every school in the borough.

Over the school breaks, the council's **Holiday Activities and Food** programme has been providing free, enriching clubs during school holidays for around 4,000 children on benefits-related free school meals in each of the last 4 years.

After a £2million refurbishment, the **Southall Young Adult Centre** (YAC) reopened in 2025. Designed with young people's help, it now offers a multi-use games area, indoor sports court, gym, gaming zone and kitchen. And the upgrade is set to boost its use, with a double-digit [percentage increase in visits expected by March](#).

Evening **youth sessions**, run by the council's Young Ealing service, also run across centres throughout the week, giving 11–19 year-olds (up to 25 with additional needs) safe places to socialise, get active or try creative activities.

Since 2022, the council has invested around £2million in other **youth services**, such as mentoring and outreach programmes. LION, in secondary schools, has been helping vulnerable pupils at risk of exclusion. Initiatives such as My Ends in Northolt, have also been giving young people safe spaces and positive alternatives. And schemes like Your Choice and the Turnaround Programme have seen reoffending rates fall well below the national average for young people who have found themselves in trouble.

The council has achieved 96% of the pledges made to care leavers in spring 2023, when it made being a care leaver [a protected characteristic](#) at the council – meaning you cannot discriminate against someone because they are a care leaver. This made Ealing one of the first local authorities in the country to implement this. Other pledges covered housing, employment, wellbeing and tailored support. Since then, there has been an annual Care Leavers' Takeover Day, where dozens of young people step into senior roles at the council.

The council has been continuing to grow the local **fostering service**, ensuring carers get the support they need to provide stable, loving homes for our children. As well as introducing better fees and other benefits, the council has created 'Mockingbird constellations', which are family-style support networks for carers and children.

The borough's **cultural life** is key to building confidence and a sense of belonging and 1,400 local schoolchildren performed a concert at the Royal Albert Hall in 2025 via the council's Ealing Music Service. The [New Gen Festival](#), introduced in 2022 and getting bigger every year, showcases music, dance, spoken word, gaming and creative workshops, offering stages for emerging talent and pathways into creative industries. The Ealing Schools Arts Charter has helped build on this, with more than 20 schools signed up so far.



# Decent living incomes

Ealing Council set itself ambitious targets to help get thousands of people into work and make the workplace fairer. And several big milestones for jobs have already been reached.

Employment opportunities, and access to training, play a huge role in getting people into work and building careers. And, with the cost of living crisis, the council's priority of creating good jobs has never been more important.

By the end of March 2026, local employers are expected to have offered almost 11,000 **new job opportunities** across the borough in just 4 years – exceeding the council's original target of 10,000 over the 4 years of the Council Plan.

The council and its partners have also helped set up more than 2,200 **apprenticeships** for local people – beating the target of 2,000. In fact, 2,500 are expected to be in placements by the end of March. Some of these have been at the council, working in a variety of council services; and others through partnerships with local businesses. Extra support is given to smaller businesses to recruit apprentices – not least by helping them to pay for training costs by gifting [apprenticeship levy funding](#).

More than 7,000 residents who have faced the **toughest barriers** to employment have also been supported into work. For example, over the past 3 years, the council has helped more than 100 young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) get

supported **internships**.

Upskilling and building your confidence is often crucial in finding work, or growing your career. By the end of March, more than **12,000 qualifications and training programmes** are expected to have been completed in the borough since 2022, with the council's help.

And, by the end of April, 7 new **learning zones** will have also opened, with one in each of the borough's towns. The first of these new 'one-stop-shops' for training, skills, and community learning opened in 2022 in Northolt and additional zones have since opened in Southall, Acton, Hanwell, West Ealing, and Perivale, with Greenford to follow shortly.

Meanwhile, **Learn Ealing**, the council's adult learning service, has been rated 'good' by Ofsted, with 2 areas of their work marked as 'outstanding'. That makes it the best performing service of its kind in west London.

Thanks to an ongoing campaign by the council to encourage local businesses to become accredited with the **London Living Wage** Foundation, nearly 1,000 people have received a pay rise. The number of accredited employers in the borough has doubled since 2024, with further organisations currently going through the process.

A new **high street sector forum** was established in September 2025, bringing

together business owners and community groups every 2 months.

And 6 other **industry forums** have also been established, bringing together employers in key areas of the borough's business life – and helping residents benefit from growing industries. The sectors chosen – creative and digital, green and circular economy, life sciences, construction, retail, and health and social care – are marked for future growth in the council's jobs and skills strategy.

As part of the council's work to support the creative industries, the Acton and Park Royal Creative **Enterprise Zone** has supported dozens of new creative businesses to get started in affordable spaces since it opened in 2022. It was recently announced that it will be reaccredited for another 3 years.

With its partners, the council is working on ways to enliven the emerging town centre in **North Acton**. This includes the opening of [new retail units in North Acton Square](#) – and it could soon have a new '**business improvement district**' (BID), which is a partnership of businesses and the council.

North Acton is also the starting point of the new [WestTech Corridor](#), which aims to create a new world-class hub for life sciences, business, and technological innovation.



# Inclusive economy

The council is determined to make the borough a fairer place to live and work, where everyone can access the support they need and take advantage of opportunities.

Meanwhile, thousands of residents have felt the benefits of [the council's community hubs](#), which were set up since 2022 in 7 of the borough's libraries. They are in Acton, Northolt, Northfields, Perivale, Southall, West Ealing and Ealing. The hubs are a quick and convenient way to access in-person help and support with things like completing an online council application, getting advice on council matters or setting up an online My Account with the council.

More young people and adults across the borough, who are living in **digital poverty** are now able to access the technology they need. Hundreds of laptops and tablets have been donated to schools and charities in the borough, to help those who are at a digital disadvantage. Many of the devices were provided as part of Ealing Council's Donate your Device scheme, in partnership with [PayByPhone](#), the council's phone parking provider, and the charity [Digital Poverty Alliance](#). It gives vulnerable and disadvantaged residents the opportunity to connect with family and friends, access education, seek job opportunities and more. Unemployment among those who received a device fell from 69% to 26%.

Age UK Ealing's **digital inclusion** service also encourages older learners to feel safe when using technology so they can enjoy the

benefits of using the internet. It runs a 6-week programme for beginners and improvers at a number of council-owned buildings, including Greenford Community Centre.

The council understands just how tough the cost of living crisis has been on so many residents, and that is why it is providing one of the most **generous council tax support schemes** in London – to ensure there's support for eligible residents who need help to make ends meet. And, in fact, residents now pay less in real terms than in 2010, when accounting for inflation. The council set up [special pages on its website](#) to show what other support is available from the council too, for those facing financial hardship. From help with bills, to dealing with debt, how to cut costs and more.

According to the council's independent residents' survey results, 76% agree the council **keeps them informed**, which is an 8-point increase since 2022-2023 and substantially higher than national averages.

This is a result of a combination of targeted communications (print and online), better online access to council services – and a new **Customer Access Strategy** grounded in resident research.

The **council's website** now has an easier-to-use 'My Account' platform, better digital forms, a new web assistant 'chatbot' and access to 'webchats' with customer service staff. It has also added translations across all of the borough's most commonly spoken languages, and British Sign Language support.



# Safe and genuinely affordable homes

The borough has long faced a chronic shortage of affordable housing. Its beautiful open spaces, outstanding schools, and excellent transport links make it a highly desirable place to live. The population grew by 15% in the decade to 2023, and private rents rose by almost 15% in 2024-2025 alone.

As part of one of the biggest council homebuilding programmes in the country, thousands of **new homes** have been built, at regeneration sites across the borough, including Acton Gardens, Copley and High Lane in Hanwell, Northolt Grange, and Golf Links in Greenford.

However, there are still currently more than 7,000 households on the council's housing waiting list and that is why the council has invested £21.2million in creating 100 new, safe, self contained places for people who need [temporary accommodation](#).

This has included at Aspect House in Acton, which is now a temporary home for 31 households. This is for families with no option but to turn to the council for support or for those who have already been placed in other temporary accommodation, like bed-and-breakfasts (B&Bs) and need to move on.

The growing supply of new temporary accommodation will mean that fewer households will need to be placed into B&Bs or unsuitable and expensive commercial hotels.

The council has made big improvements to its own housing. And 93% of council homes now meet the **Decent Homes Standard**, with

a £425million programme under way to bring this all the way up to 100% by 2028.

**Repairs and maintenance** services have been improved, with new contractors and better training, while safety checks across all homes have strengthened. The national Regulator of Social Housing gave the council a positive assessment, recognising the progress being made and the improvements residents asked for.

And, over the last 4 years, more than 1,200 council homes have been transformed into **warmer, more energy-efficient** places to live. Upgrades include enhanced insulation, modernised power and heating systems, and the installation of heat pumps. These improvements not only deliver significant environmental benefits but also help residents save on energy bills.

To raise standards for **privately rented homes**, the council has strengthened its licensing schemes – or, in other words, laid down stricter rules around safety and management.

Of course, homelessness still exists in the borough despite all the prevention measures being taken – and the council is working with partners to give personalised support to those in that situation. Indeed, the number of rough sleepers has fallen. And, since 2022, 470 people have been supported to get off the streets into emergency accommodation, with 270 of them then helped to find longer term housing. And there are now 45 supported places for **rough sleepers** available at any one time.





## Good growth and new homes

To help resolve the growing affordable housing crisis, the council embarked on one of the biggest council **homebuilding** programmes in the country.

By the end of March 2026, almost 2,700 new **genuinely affordable homes** are expected to have been built, or started, in the borough since 2022. This has included homes built by the council at its estates around the borough, including Copley Close in Hanwell, and Golf Links in Greenford. They will all be let to families on low incomes by the council or a housing association.

Overall, more than 35% of all homes built in the borough in the last 4 years have been 'affordable', according to national guidelines.

Recently, the council has also **bought 290 new homes** from developers that were still under construction in Acton and Southall and previously due to be sold on the open market. These homes can provide good quality, genuinely affordable to live for families on the housing waiting list.

In 2024, the council was ranked within the top 12 **planning authorities** in the country and [given a 'platinum' rating](#) – to help good quality homes to keep being built.

And **landlords now also face tougher rules** if they want to convert family homes into rented rooms, after the council tightened planning controls [in November](#), which means all new houses of multiple occupation (HMOs), however small, will have to apply for planning permission – and will all have to meet certain standards.

Extra planning oversight will also preserve a series of local neighbourhoods for generations to come, after a borough-wide review of **conservation areas**. The [changes were approved by the council in November](#) after it carried out a comprehensive review of conservation areas, reaffirming its commitment to put good design and heritage at the heart of the borough's decision-making.

On a larger scale, a new [Local Plan](#), which will shape growth and development in the borough for the next 15 years, is soon to be in place after several years of work and consultation, working with residents and community groups. The plan will guide planning decisions on homes, infrastructure, climate change, jobs, and how we can address health issues and inequalities in the borough. It also shows what needs to be protected, conserved or enhanced such as green spaces, canals, heritage assets,

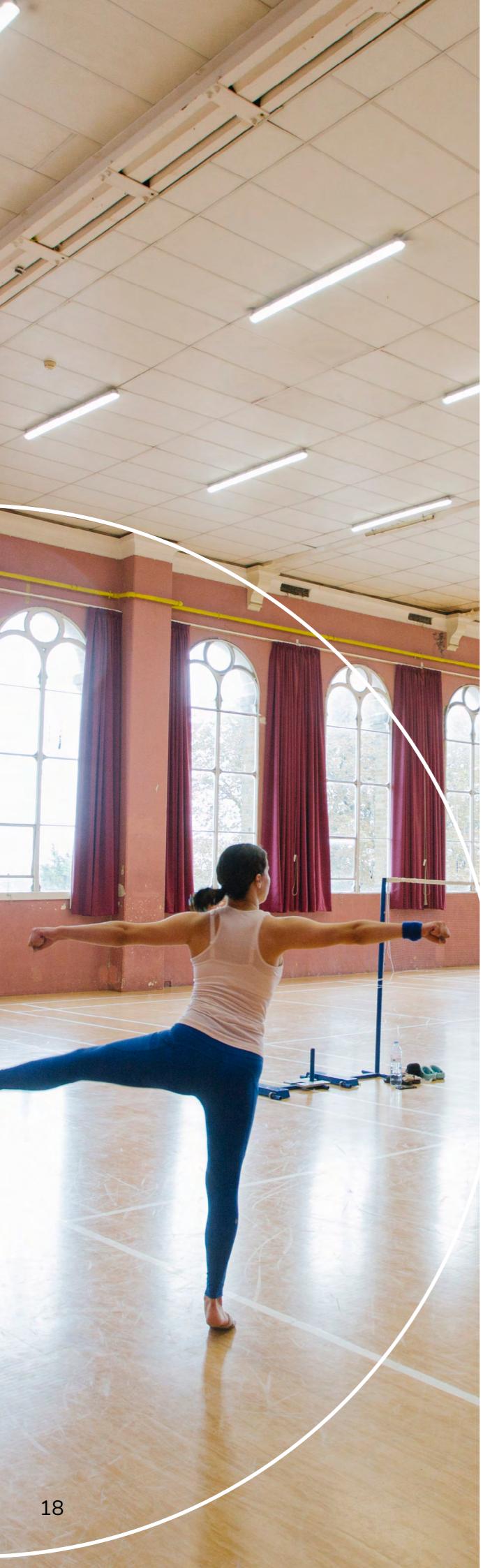
shopping areas and employment space.

Developers will now have to pay a new charge that will help pay for new public facilities. The **community infrastructure levy (CIL)** will apply from the start of March to most new developments being built in the borough. The CIL money from developers will help to fund new community facilities that will be needed as the borough grows, and some of it will be given to local town teams to spend on their own priorities, as part of the council's [Your Voice Your Town programme](#). Through a similar scheme, called 'Section 106', the council has raised almost £47million from developers over the last 4 years.

Small businesses, start-ups, and entrepreneurs account for 99% of the borough's businesses but they are facing increasing rents. In response, the council has recently published a [new affordable workspace delivery plan](#). It describes how the council will work with companies and organisations to help create more workspace that start-ups and small businesses can afford in the borough's 7 towns. Some are already being created in the Old Oak area.

Meanwhile, the council's ['Good for Ealing' programme](#) is helping attract investors to the borough as a place to do business.





## Thriving communities

Bringing local people into the **decisions** that are made about the places where they live has been a big commitment of the council's.

And, a [new Community Charter](#) was adopted by the council in 2025 with the aim of making sure residents and community groups always feel able to get involved in council decision-making processes.

[Town teams](#) were also created in each of the borough's 7 towns with members including residents, business owners and faith leaders. They have been deciding how to spend money to make local improvements, based on ideas submitted by local people. It is part of the council's [Your Voice, Your Town](#) that involved ongoing consultation with residents in each town across 2024 and 2025.

Cultural events, and activities, play a huge role in the sense of belonging to a community. In 2024, the council published its **cultural manifesto** to build on the legacy of the borough's long, and rich, cultural history by creating more places for residents to enjoy arts and culture and new jobs to help the creative sector thrive.

The [Ealing Culture website](#) was set up in the same year to support local events and let people know what exciting music, arts and culture were happening around the borough. And, in 2025, a [creatives directory](#) was added to give a platform to more than 100 local artists, musicians and designers. The council also became the first London council to have a venues directory to help people find events.

DJ and Bhangra workshops, steel pans and poetry performances were held in 2025 to celebrate the [reopening of Acton, Northolt and Southall Dominion Centre libraries](#) after an almost £1million makeover. As well as new study areas, they now have space to host events, performances and meetings.

New stages and furniture at the upgraded

libraries were created by local creative businesses in the council-backed [Creative Enterprise Zone \(CEZ\)](#) in Park Royal. Since opening in 2022, the CEZ has become home to more than 345 businesses in and enabled 1,250 new jobs, by offering affordable spaces to help these companies.

Over the last year, barbers, baristas and other traders helped inspire [new artwork](#) in Hanwell, and Oldfields Circus in Greenford and also Pitshanger Lane in Ealing. Southall was next to be given an artistic makeover with murals, sculptures and inspiring public art at 6 locations across the town as part of [The Destination Southall](#) public art project, led by the council and funded by the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

A former disused library in Acton was transformed into [an independent cinema](#) run by the community. ActOne celebrated its fourth anniversary last year and has grown to now also host a series of community-led events, as well as showing movies and having a café.

And, in 2023, council leader Peter Mason joined the opening of the [new Picturehouse Cinema](#) at Filmworks in central Ealing – ending a long wait, which the council helped to conclude by using compulsory purchase powers on the previous owners to speed things up.

Ealing Summer **Festivals** provide an annual treat, with music, food and comedy events. In 2022, The New Gen Festival was added to this mix, specifically aimed at young people; and the [As One in the Park](#) LGBTQ+ festival began in 2023.

**Sport and exercise** are also key leisure pursuits in the borough, as reflected in the women's gym that opened in 2022 at Dormers Wells Leisure Centre and the ongoing work to build a new Gurnell Leisure Centre, with the site in preparation.

And our **parks and green spaces**, including those opened over recent years (see the 'climate action' section), will provide multiple sports opportunities – not least at the proposed regional park, and at a site next to Warren Farm, where there are plans to build entirely new sports pitches and more. With the Lawn Tennis Association's support, 14 park tennis courts have been refurbished and opened; while new cricket pitches were installed at Pear Tree Park and Rectory Park; and various other projects are under way, such as a 3G football pitch at Rivenor Park.

The council has invested around £2million to improve 22 **playgrounds** to give children and families safe, modern, and fun outdoor spaces to play.



