

HOUNSLOW matters

Spring 25

Community and Council news from around the borough



CELEBRATING TAMIL HERITAGE

Golden Milestones
p13

*Isleworth in
focus*
p26

*Building a budget for
an ambitious future*
p15-18

SUMMER IS COMING

IS YOUR CHILD SWIM READY?

Limited Spaces Available.
Secure Your Swim School Place Now!



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SCAN ME

Welcome to the latest edition of Hounslow Matters - Spring 2025



Dear Resident,

As I write this, Hounslow Council is preparing to fly the flag for Commonwealth Day, an important celebration of shared, worldwide history. In Hounslow, we recognise and celebrate the vital contribution people from across the globe make to our economy, borough and communities.

In this edition we mark Tamil Heritage Month, celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month, commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and look forward to a renewed and exciting Summer of Culture 2025 for the whole borough.

Whilst we are proud that our residents come together to mark important events and milestones, we are also acutely aware that it's a challenging time for many.

Our budget pages (15-18) set out our ambitions to update the services that matter to you, whilst delivering growth and protecting those in need. It's a challenge but one that will be met, and difficult decisions will have to be made.

We have also included detailed information on where everyone can access support from the robust services we currently offer. Our family and community hubs have become a lifeline for many and advisors are readily available to provide guidance and support where needed.

Over the coming months we will continue supporting those in need, whilst tackling health inequalities and working closely with our community partners to safeguard residents who need our help the most. As a result, we have invested:

- £1.6 million funding for Hounslow's Citizens Advice
- £1.9 million funding for community and voluntary groups

We will also follow through on our commitments to new homes, growth and

building foundations for the future. We aspire to be a borough where everyone can thrive, and where young people's futures and prosperity are secure. We have already:

- Built hundreds of high-quality, energy-efficient new homes
- Secured 191 young people places in education, training or employment
- Achieved 18,538 hours of work experience for young people

Our bold innovative Business Case for Growth and use of key sites like Feltham and the Golden Mile will all help us deliver the future we deserve.

Equally, removing barriers, greening our economy, increasing availability of affordable housing, and supporting the communities we serve, are at the heart of everything we do. Because we know what's important to you, we are investing to secure the future of all our residents. We've committed:

- £2.2m to stimulate Hounslow's economy
- £13.7m funding to our Adult Social Care provision
- £2m on modernising services
- £3.2m to tackling homelessness

This issue of Hounslow Matters focuses on the things that matter to you - removing barriers, greening our economy, increasing availability of affordable housing, and supporting our people. This Spring our budget does the same, and it represents an ambitious vision for our future. The plans it represents for the year ahead show our continued commitment to you, the residents and communities we serve, and we are determined to deliver the very best for the borough.

Cllr Shantanu Rajawat
Leader of Hounslow Council



80TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSCHWITZ LIBERATION COMMEMORATED

Earlier this year, the Leader of Hounslow Council, Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, joined Deputy Lieutenant Rosi Prescott, the Mayor and local Councillors to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day at Chiswick School (pictured above).

At the event, Gloria Silver (pictured right) spoke about the experience of her father, Tony Chuwen, who was held in two concentration camps and managed to escape by jumping off a moving train. The son of an architect, he grew up within a secular Jewish family in the small Polish Carpathian Mountain town of Galicia. The Second World War broke out when he was 14.



a way of hiding in plain sight. He then deserted from the army, with the aid of an Estonian smuggler, but was interned in Finland. His final escape was by skiing alone for three days over the frozen sea to neutral Sweden.

Cllr Rajawat spoke at the event and highlighted the importance of Gloria sharing her father's story: "No one should have to undergo such dreadful suffering and one aim of Holocaust Memorial Day is to reinforce the message - 'never again'.

of their faith, ethnicity or other characteristic.

"A future where diversity and differences are celebrated."



Students from Year 7 to Year 11 heard from Gloria how her father had been on the run, with false identity papers and had signed up to the German Army as

"We can all play – and must all play – our role in ensuring a better future where people are not suffering prejudice or persecution because

NEWS ROUND-UP

WELCOMING SUMMER OF CULTURE 2025

From vibrant festivals to outdoor performances and thought-provoking exhibitions, Summer of Culture 2025 will once again return showcasing the borough's creativity and heritage.



Photo: Vipul Sangoi

Parks and public spaces will be transformed into cultural hubs with live performances, pop-up theatre, dance, music, and family-friendly activities. Whether it's a surprise act in the square or a large-scale performance in the park, creativity will be everywhere this summer.

Want to be part of Summer of Culture 2025? Local community groups or associations planning an event can submit event details to summerofculture@hounslow.gov.uk. Events selected will be part of the programme and promoted via Summer of Culture channels.

Cllr Salman Shaheen, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Public Spaces, said: "As we celebrate culture this summer, we're also looking ahead. After consulting with residents and creatives across the borough, we are now working on Hounslow's new Culture Strategy, which will support a thriving cultural sector over the next 10 years."

Find out more at: inhounslow.com/summerofculture

Celebrating Tamil Heritage

More than 100 people attended a Tamil Heritage Month event at Hounslow House in February.

The event, which showcased the borough's vibrant Tamil community, included a performance by a Tamil rap artist and a traditional Tamil performance. Along with speeches from the Leader of Hounslow Council, the Tamil Heritage Society and Tamil Institute spoke of the importance of celebrating Tamil heritage.

S.A.N Rajkumar, Tamil Heritage Month Initiative co-founder, said: "It was a joyous occasion bringing people together to experience Tamil dance, culture and food and honour the heritage and legacy of this community.

Hounslow is certainly leading the way in showcasing the very best of Tamil culture and heritage."

Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Leader of the Council, attended the event and spoke of why such a celebration was significant: "The simple fact is that Hounslow, and indeed West London more broadly, has a rich Tamil history and culture, that has contributed to the area, to our communities and to our lives in many ways.

"This event helps recognise these traditions and shows us the richer world we live in when diversity and difference is celebrated. I would like to personally thank Cllr Allan Joseph for his involvement in organising this event."



Marking LGBTQ+ History Month

Residents and staff recently attended the Council's event as part of LGBTQ+ History Month, which highlighted the contributions to social change through activism.

Partners who spoke included West London Queer Project, Hounslow Cherish, Gallop and the NAZ project.

Community partners in attendance also talked about the support they provide Hounslow.

Aubrey Crawley, founder of West London Queer Project, said: "I want to thank Hounslow Council for supporting the West London Queer Project and the wider LGBTQ+ community, and for making Hounslow a safer and kinder borough for LGBTQ+ people."



TACKLING AIR POLLUTION

Hounslow Council has expanded emissions-based parking charges to tackle air pollution.

Emissions-based parking considers a vehicle's environmental impact, and parking charges are calculated based on a vehicle's level of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions.

The new system expanded the number of emission bands to better reflect the level of CO2 emissions produced by different vehicle types. This means that vehicles with lower or zero emissions pay less than higher polluting vehicles.



As part of the changes, expanded charges now apply to Council operated car parks, on-street parking spaces, resident and business parking permits. A surcharge for diesel and diesel-hybrid vehicles will also now apply to on and off-street parking.

These changes follow an extensive consultation with residents and businesses to ensure a fair, balanced approach. Similar schemes have been successfully introduced in other London boroughs.



Cllr Shivraj Grewal, Cabinet member for Infrastructure, Recycling and Transformation, said: "This initiative is a cornerstone to our ambition to create a cleaner, greener, and healthier Hounslow for everyone."

"By having lower fees for low emission vehicles, we are helping residents make more sustainable choices while taking real action to tackle air pollution."



Citizens Advice Hounslow gets £1.6 million boost

The Council's Cabinet has approved £325,000 funding per year for Hounslow's Citizens Advice Service over the next five years, which will amount to more than £1.6 million.

The service, which has been supporting Hounslow residents since 1939, has seen a 60% spike in demand over the last year and supports over 15,000 local residents. The charity provides a wide range of support on a number of issues such as benefits, housing, debt and customer care. This includes casework support at a specialist level, advocates on behalf of residents, and provides representation in courts or tribunals.

Aiman Elal, CEO of Hounslow Citizens Advice, said: "This renewed partnership between Hounslow Citizens Advice and Hounslow Council is not just a funding agreement - it is a lifeline for the thousands of people who rely on us

each year. We are profoundly grateful to the Council for recognising the critical role we play and for entrusting us to deliver this essential service.

"For over 85 years, we have stood by the people of Hounslow, and this investment will allow us to continue our work, empowering our community and safeguarding their futures."



Cllr Ajmer Grewal, Cabinet Member for Residents Support, Communities and Equalities said: "An increase in demand for this service is proof that the cost-of-living is still continuing to bite. Citizens Advice Hounslow provides an invaluable lifeline to so many of our residents and access to high-quality independent advice should always be a default offer for all our residents."

60TH ANNIVERSARY

On 1 April it will be exactly 60 years since the London Boroughs, including Hounslow, were created.

The Middlesex Chronicle recorded: "At midnight on Wednesday, in common with the County of Middlesex and other local authority areas all over London and the suburbs, the borough of Heston and Isleworth, the borough of Brentford and Chiswick and the urban district of Feltham ceased to exist..."

"... the London Borough of Hounslow took over and last night, at its first Annual meeting, Ald. E. J. Pauling J.P. was being installed as Charter Mayor."

Much has changed too, and the Council wants to hear from residents. Are you sixty this year? Do you have any other special 60th anniversaries? Did you live here in 1965? What special memories do you have and what has changed? Email communications@hounslow.gov.uk to let us know.

DAY OF ACTION

Hounslow Council's Safer Communities Team (SCT) were recently joined by officers from the Metropolitan Police, alongside partner organisations for a Day of Action in Feltham.

This was part of a pledge to increase visibility and improve the public's trust and confidence in the services provided by the Council, police and partners.

Throughout the day partners spoke to residents about local issues concerning them including alcohol related anti-social behaviour.



Popular youth groups Perfectly Imperfect and Rise & Thrive who organised activities, such as boxing, were also in attendance and had conversations with young people and adults to help build stronger bridges with the community.

Darren Beecroft, of Rise and Thrive said: "These types of events where we are out and about, help build up young people's confidence as well as trust within the community. They see us working with the Council and the police and they spread the word."

The Feltham event was one of several Days of Action held recently in the borough. Other initiatives centred on women's safety and the use of illegal scooters.



LET'S GET DIGITAL

Just under 200 residents have taken advantage of the free Hounslow Gets Digital events in the past 12 months with numbers expected to double in the coming year.

The events, which run every three months aim to help residents learn much needed digital skills to get online.

Working with local groups and organisations the event allows attendees to understand how to use services that make a positive change in



using online provisions including using Council services (such as paying your Council tax online), signing up for the NHS application to view your test results, creating your online CVs, and much more.

The events aim to make sure all Hounslow residents have basic digital skills, access to good internet, and the devices they need to use online services confidently and securely.

To get more information on accessing digital support, please get in touch via email getonline@hounslow.gov.uk or visit us at one of the drop-ins.



One toaster at a time

For the past year, Heston Repair Café, which is co-funded by Hounslow Council and ReLondon's Heston in The Loop programme, has continued in its quest to encourage people to reduce, reuse, and recycle.



The Café, which hosts regular repair sessions, invites residents from across the borough to bring everyday items that could be given a new lease of life by a team of skilled repairers.

Satheesh Pillai, a management consultant who is one of the founders of the Hounslow Repair Café CIC, says that the consumer is not at fault. He said: "We've lost the small repair shops, that used to do these jobs. And today companies are producing goods with shorter life cycles that either can't be repaired or are costly to fix.

"That leads to a lot of waste and people replace them with shiny new objects and then you have more waste."



Jasmine, 70, who turned up with an old vacuum cleaner explained: "We have a throw away society today, and that is morally wrong.

"This wouldn't have happened for previous generations, the attitude was make do and mend. It makes me extremely sad."

NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE AWARD WINNERS



Boston Manor House has been awarded the Heritage Project of the Year at the Architectural Journal (AJ) Awards.

Hounslow Council secured support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and others, to carefully restore Boston Manor House in a six-year renovation project. Working with architects from Purcell to renovate the house, led to Historic England removing it from the heritage at-risk register in 2023.



The 400-year-old manor house, situated in Boston Manor Park, Brentford, opened its doors to the public last year and is now open six days a week and free to visit.



The AJ judges described the restoration of Boston Manor House as a 'tremendous feat', adding: "The architects did everything they could do, very thoughtfully. There is a modesty and integrity to it all – revealing the layers of history – and a lot of joy. They've spent the money where it mattered and with great attention to detail. In all, this project was in the right hands."

Boston Manor House and its rich parkland are now popular with local people, many of whom enjoy its walking groups, costumed tours and workshops. The house is also fully accessible with lift access.

Don't think short term

Hounslow Council is urging parents to think again before they disrupt their children's education, warning of the long-term impact of term time leave.

Term time leave is on the increase in Hounslow. The borough is reporting above national rates of unauthorised holiday in both primary and secondary schools.

Penalties for term time leave have risen by 50% between 2022/23 and 2023/24, with education professionals warning the impact on children's education is significant.

Daniel Willetts, Head Teacher at Norwood Green Infant & Nursery School, said: "Prices for flights and holidays can be up to 50% cheaper during term time, and there is often pressure from friends and family based overseas to visit for special occasions and events.

"As an example of the impact of term time leave, one child at our school, who was the youngest in the year group, started significantly below age-related expectations but made really good progress over the year. His parents took the whole family out of school in mid-June and came back at the beginning of October. The child ended up right back in the bottom group again after a short space of time."

Cllr Samia Chaudhary, Cabinet Member for Education, Children, Skills and Employment, said: "We know there is a clear link between absence and attainment, so we'd urge parents to think very carefully about taking holidays during term time. While we are sympathetic to some of the reasons involving families, there remains an increase in parents simply taking children out of school for cheaper holidays. We must put the education of our children first and we will fine consistently irresponsible parents."



Attendees learned to help families cook healthy meals

GET HEALTHY

The Council recently hosted its first Train the Trainer course with the Jamie Oliver Ministry of Food (MoF) programme. Participants were trained in essential cooking skills and learned how to teach local families about a healthy, balanced diet.

The course, which is part of MoF's partnership with the Council to tackle childhood obesity in the most deprived areas of the borough, focuses on teaching families to cook quick and affordable meals. From healthy beef burgers to chickpea curry there will be something for everyone.

Participants will then train others in the community by passing on their skills and knowledge so that more families have a better understanding of diet and nutrition.

Residents interested in future opportunities or want to find out more, please contact publichealth@hounslow.gov.uk. Priority for training will be given to those who work with families of young children, such as teachers, school staff and community groups.

It's just like riding a bike



The Council's popular and free adult off-road training sessions at Feltham Cycle Hub, funded by South Western Railway, have three new recruits who have all learned to ride a bike as adults.

Mariam, Qainaat and Joshua have all taken up cycling by regularly attending the sessions. Cycling has had a positive impact on their daily lives, and they now

have the skills and confidence to cycle on the roads safely.

With the support of Tanya, the cycle instructor, all three took to the road to build confidence and develop the skills needed to ride independently.

To get active with free cycle skills training and social rides, visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/CycleHounslow

Breaking Ground

As part of its ongoing support to help employers become more inclusive whilst creating pathways for residents with disabilities to secure meaningful paid employment, the Council is continuing to break down barriers, promote workplace adjustments, and ensure that everyone enjoys opportunities to thrive in the workforce.

One recent example of a successful candidate is Danial Hakim, 23, from Heston who joined the Employment Opportunities Service.



Danial Hakim, second right with Liliana Sargent from Community Provisions (middle) Caron Mason (far left) and other colleagues from Telford Homes

Despite a physical disability that affects his fine motor skills, Danial retains an ambitious nature that has seen him apply for numerous jobs without securing a permanent position. Through a combination of support from both Work Hounslow and The Community Provisions' Employment Opportunities Service (EOS), he secured a work experience placement in the construction industry with Telford Homes at their project in Brentford.

Danial learned important skills, including the Procore software package which is widely used across the construction industry. He has also been involved in site visits where his disability did not present as a barrier. EOS also helped Danial prepare by supporting him to enhance his CV writing, job applications, interview skills, whilst ensuring any necessary workplace adjustments were in place throughout the process.

For more information search 'Community Provisions' at: www.hounslow.gov.uk

HUB AND AWAY



Family Hubs service gathered at Brentford Library to deliver the first Family Hubs Roadshow

The Family Hubs Roadshow officially kicked off earlier this year with a fantastic first event at Brentford Library.

Featuring local experts offering information, advice, and guidance on a range of topics, including parenting, mental health, and early language development, residents had the opportunity to meet and speak to many experts under one roof.

Cllr Samia Chaudhary, Cabinet Member for Education, Children, Skills and Employment, said: "We are thrilled to see the Family Hubs Roadshow kicking off with such a response from families in the community. These events provide an incredible opportunity for parents and carers to access vital support, whether it's guidance on parenting, mental health,

or early development. It's about building connections and empowering families to thrive. We are looking forward to continuing this momentum and welcoming even more families to our upcoming events throughout the year."

Residents are encouraged to join upcoming Family Hubs Roadshow events to access resources and support that can help families thrive, including speech and language therapy, and perinatal mental health support.

For more information please email familyhubs@hounslow.gov.uk You can visit your local Family Hub in Brentford, Lampton or Feltham, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. More roadshows will be announced later this year.

LIVE AND ONLINE

A new, improved online resource for families and professionals working with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is now live.

Offering invaluable advice, guidance, and support the website serves as a vital resource for anyone supporting children with SEND.

The next round of Local Offer Live events are:

- **Wednesday 23 April, 10am-12noon** at Feltham Assembly Hall, Hounslow Road, Feltham TW14 9DN
- **Friday 16 May, 10am-12noon** at Brentford Library, 11F Boston Manor Road, TW8 8DW

To get in touch with the SENDIASS team, call the helpline at 020 8583 2607 (Monday-Friday, 9am - 2pm) or email sendiass@hounslow.gov.uk. For more information, visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/send-local-offer

Childcare Support expands

Parents and carers in Hounslow can now access a range of enhanced childcare support options, with eligibility for additional hours depending on their work status and the age of the child.

From September 2025, parents of children aged 9 months to 5 years will be able to access 30 hours of childcare per week if they meet eligibility criteria for working families. Parents will need to apply for this before the cut-off date of **31 August 2025**.

Parents and carers must confirm that their details are up-to-date every three months. Failure to do so may result in the expiration of their childcare support hours.

Parents may also be eligible for Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare, which can be claimed alongside their 15 or 30 hours of childcare support, including wraparound care.

For further information and to apply for childcare support, visit: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Children enjoying food and activities in an after-school club



APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES APLENTY

More than 300 residents and young people recently attended the Apprenticeship Marketplace Job Fair to explore career options.

Organised by Work Hounslow, the Council's Skills and Employment team, the event marked National Apprenticeship Week, to provide attendees with opportunities to find jobs paying the London Living Wage, apprenticeships, training and more.

Both national and local businesses and organisations participated, including West London NHS Trust, National Physical Laboratory, London Fire Brigade, Marriott and the Metropolitan Police.



Cllr Samia Chaudhary, Cabinet Member for Education, Children, Skills and Employment, said: "By working closely with employers, we are committed to creating sustainable pathways for local employment, fostering economic growth and building a thriving community. Our goal is to empower our residents and young people with the skills and qualifications needed to secure good jobs with fair pay."

To find out current employment opportunities, visit: www.workhounslow.co.uk



(l-r) Cllr Rajawat, Howard Dawber, Rob Fowler, Richard Mead and Cllr Bruce

BOLD GROWTH & INNOVATIVE VISION

London's Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, recently visited Hounslow. He was hosted by Council Leader Cllr Shantanu Rajawat and Deputy Leader Cllr Tom Bruce who showcased the borough's transformative development plans.

The tour focused on key sites like Feltham and the Golden Mile as well as highlighting the Opportunity Hounslow Business Case For Growth, which aims to unlock £33 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) and create over 18,000 jobs by focusing on transformative projects like Future Feltham and the Golden Mile.

The Golden Mile's centenary in 2025 will be a unique opportunity to celebrate its industrial heritage, drive new investment and deliver on Hounslow's vision for a modern, sustainable economy.

Discussions during the visit underscored the critical importance of strategic infrastructure projects such as the West London Orbital (WLO), the proposed rail link connecting Hounslow to Old Oak Common and beyond, which is vital to unlocking housing, jobs, and business opportunities, and improving connectivity across West London.

The discussion also centred on 'Future Feltham', a bold regeneration plan to transform the area with over 3,000 new homes, 9,200 jobs, and 25,000 sqm of

commercial space. The redevelopment of the 12-hectare MOD site will anchor this transformation, creating a vibrant town centre and critical opportunities for housing, employment and community growth.

Cllr Rajawat emphasised the importance of partnership in achieving these ambitions, noting how collaboration with the GLA, government and private sector is key to unlocking Feltham's full potential.

With 71% of London's media production jobs located in the borough, Hounslow is firmly established as London's Media Heartland. During the visit, the delegation explored some of the borough's most dynamic employers, starting with Sky's Isleworth Campus.

As Hounslow's largest employer, with over 11,000 employees on-site, Sky showcased its contributions to innovation, sustainability and community impact through projects such as the cutting-edge Sky Innovation Centre. The company's leadership reaffirmed its commitment to supporting local growth and aligning with Hounslow's bold vision for the future.



The visit continued to Brompton Technology, a leader in LED video processing and one of the UK's fastest-growing tech companies. Brompton's success, highlighted by its recent inclusion in the Sunday Times 100 Tech supplement, underscores Hounslow's growing reputation as a hub for advanced technology and innovation. Discussions at Brompton focused on the company's contributions to skills development, its innovation and the growth of the borough's tech and creative industries.



Howard Dawber expressed enthusiasm for Hounslow's visionary approach, saying: "I'm excited to see the ambitious plans to transform Hounslow, and the work already underway to help businesses and communities here to thrive. It has been fantastic to meet Hounslow's businesses, as we work together to build a fairer and more prosperous London for everyone."

Richard Mead, CEO Brompton Tech, said: "West London has always been Brompton Technology's home and our engineering and manufacturing operations are proudly based here in

Hounslow. We enjoyed having the opportunity to showcase the industry-leading work we are doing to deliver unprecedented levels of realism and image quality on LED video displays used around the world for the largest live events and as backdrops for shooting spectacular films and television series. It's inspiring to see the borough's bold vision for regeneration and development, and we're proud to play a role in shaping Hounslow as a hub for advanced technology and creativity on the world stage."



This event underscores Hounslow's dynamic strategy to enhance its infrastructure and quality of life, ensuring the borough remains a key player in shaping Greater London's future. For more on Hounslow's exciting plans, visit: [opportunityhounslow.com](https://www.opportunityhounslow.com)

Golden Mile Art Deco building



MILESTONES

2025 marks a momentous occasion for Hounslow as the Golden Mile celebrates its centenary, GM100.

This year-long celebration honours 100 years of industrial innovation and architectural heritage along one of London's most iconic corridors. The festivities kick off with a vibrant array of events starting with the London Festival of Architecture, setting the stage for a summer filled with cultural activities.

Brentford Town Centre will play a major role in amplifying the GM100 celebrations with two standout events: Creative Mile and the Brentford Canal Festival. These events will bring the community together to celebrate local

creativity, culture and heritage, adding an extra dimension to the centenary festivities.

Throughout the year, residents and visitors can look forward to a series of events and are being invited to engage with the Golden Mile's storied past and bright future. This centenary sets the foundation for another century of growth and innovation.

Join the Council in celebrating this landmark year and keep an eye out for more details on these exciting events.

Foundations for THE FUTURE



Cllr Bruce cutting the ribbon at the Everglades opening ceremony



Burlington Close

Hounslow Council is forging ahead with a robust housing delivery strategy, which both addresses the borough's urgent need for more sustainable, affordable homes and strengthens community spirit across the borough.

Under existing housing plans, the Housing Delivery Plan 2022-2026 - 1,340 affordable homes have been completed in Hounslow since April 2022. Furthermore, over the past year the Council has successfully handed over keys to 736 new sustainable, energy efficient homes at housing schemes, including 33 homes at

Everglade, 61 energy-efficient flats at Burlington Close and Tintern, Sonnet, and Hamlet, formerly Block D, adding up to 96 homes.

Additionally, there have been successful developments of six bespoke houses on Windmill Road, 28 flats on Staines Road, and 124 flats on New Road Triangle.

A resident at Windmill Road said: "Living in our new home has made such a difference. I have many different health issues that mean that sometimes I can't leave the house for days at a time. Having a garden now means I still get to go outside and that has made such a massive difference to my life and my children's. They absolutely love the garden and spend most of their time out there. Having a downstairs toilet has also made things easier on me. Honestly, it's changed our lives. I have a lot more company now and my mental health seems to be much better, and we've only been here nine days."

"So, thanks to the Council for finding us our beautiful forever home. We are really grateful."

In a difficult development landscape, where the rising cost of materials impact both timelines and budgets, Hounslow Council has maintained its steadfast commitment to building new homes for residents, even where challenges have sometimes slowed progress.

Nearly half of residents have said there are not enough affordable homes as a top priority. Hounslow Council's new plan to provide affordable housing contains an aspiration to secure a total of 1,361 homes by April 2026.

It also commits the Council to actively enhancing living conditions and community wellbeing as well as meeting that housing demand through a clear vision to deliver 28,800 new homes by 2041 and creating vibrant Community Hubs for all residents.

Cllr Tom Bruce, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Assets, Regeneration, and Development, said: "Our determination to build and improve homes in Hounslow has never been stronger. It is part of our commitment to growth and support the people of the borough."

"Despite external economic and regulatory challenges, we continue to advance our housing projects. Through our ambitious Opportunity Hounslow Business Case for Growth, we're tackling unaffordable housing and tenure divides, making Hounslow a place where everyone can thrive."

Building a budget for an ambitious future

- Improving the services that matter to you
- Delivering new homes and growth
- Supporting those in need

While many councils are struggling financially, Hounslow remains committed to maintaining financial stability and sustainability. Our 2025/26 Budget will deliver value for money across the Council, as we seek to modernise our services, invest in growth and protect the borough's most vulnerable.



Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, Leader of Hounslow Council said: "Years of underfunding by previous governments,

spiralling costs and increasing demand have left many councils in difficult circumstances and, while we are not one of those, we have little choice but to raise Council Tax by 4.99%.

"I am really optimistic about Hounslow's future. Over the coming year, we will continue to modernise our services, deliver on our promises of growth and prosperity, and ensure our most vulnerable residents are protected."

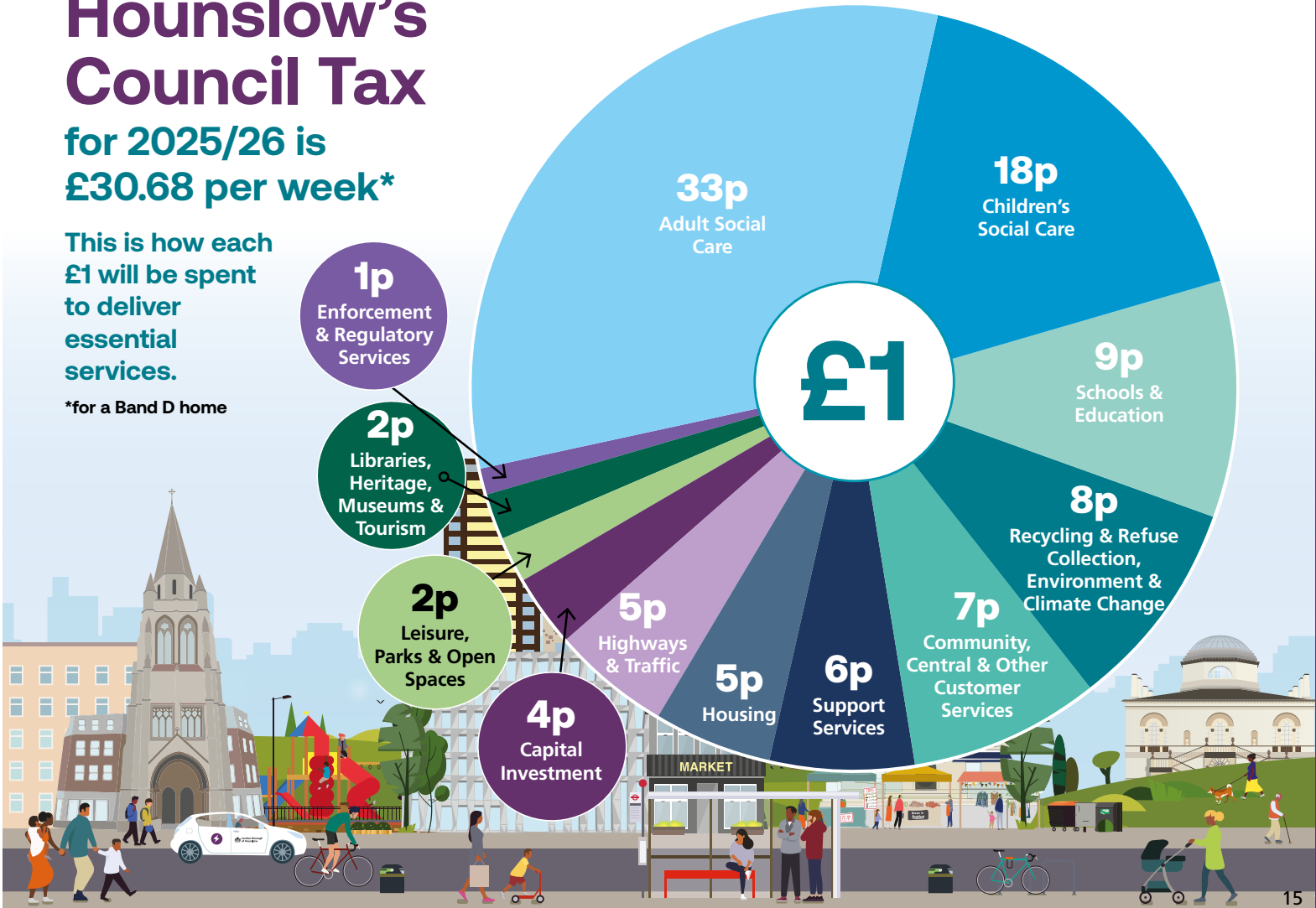
Our budget will:

- Invest £2.2m to stimulate Hounslow's economy, creating 28,000 new homes and 18,000 job opportunities.
- Provide £13.7m funding to our Adult Social Care provision, which supports Hounslow's most vulnerable residents.
- Invest £2m on modernising our services and bringing them closer to residents' doorsteps.
- Provide £3.2m to tackling homelessness in the borough.

Hounslow's Council Tax for 2025/26 is £30.68 per week*

This is how each £1 will be spent to deliver essential services.

*for a Band D home



Investing in residents and communities

Over the past year the Council has been delivering on its commitment to build a thriving, safer, cleaner, greener and healthier borough for residents, businesses and communities.

Kaz's story



Kaz at The Spot in Hounslow with Natasha Woolman, Phase Leader/Participation Case Worker(left) and Cllr Chaudhary

Kaz, a 21-year-old from Feltham, grew up in care and after getting support from our Virtual College, achieved an A* in Maths and two A's in Physics and Further Maths at 'A' Level. He currently studies Physics with Theoretical Physics at King's College, London.

His unconventional journey to university emphasises an important message for young people in our borough - there's no time limit on education and there is no limit on aspiration.

Kaz had no formal education until he was 11. He spent time in placements across England, including Hounslow, but despite the endless changes, false starts and failures, Kaz always believed in himself.

He says: "By my own admission, I'm headstrong and opinionated - character traits that have worked both ways for me. But I'm also determined, and even

at my lowest, I was hellbent on never seeing myself as some kind of victim".

While studying at Woodbridge Park in Hounslow, he encountered a tutor - Mr H - who recognised his talent for Maths, and taught Kaz curriculum material for students five years ahead of him.

But when Mr H moved on Kaz met a period of social and educational upheaval. He says: "If it weren't for a fantastic Hounslow social worker called Nadia, I could easily have given up. Hounslow Virtual College provided much needed support to get me over the line, as I crammed two years of A Level study into five months earlier this year (2024).

"With their vital help, I have been responsible for my own destiny. I hope these words influence others with challenges in their lives to back themselves when shaping their futures."

Isaac's story

Isaac, who lives in Hounslow, learned to ride a bike as an adult through the Council's free adult group cycle training sessions. Cycling has had a positive impact on his daily life, and now he has the skills and confidence to commute by bike.

Isaac was fed up with public transport and decided to learn to cycle last October. With help and support from qualified instructors, he was quickly able to pedal and cycle in circles. Over the next few months, he learned to cycle safely on the roads, as well as in a group on Hounslow Heath.



Isaac now has the skills and confidence to cycle 15km a day down the A4 cycle lane to his job at Gunnersbury Catholic School. He has signed up for further training, organised by Hounslow Council to become a Ride Leader.

In this role, he will give back to Hounslow as a cycling ambassador and further promote cycling to his peers at his school.

Isaac said: "Cycling has made getting chores done more efficient. I can get to places quicker and save more time.

"I also feel healthier as cycling has become integral to my daily life."

Shemzia's story

Shemzia moved into Sonnet House in Brentford with her partner last September, supported by the Council. Moving from a one-bedroom apartment to a spacious two-bedroom home has significantly improved their family life.



Shemzia Garbad and her partner, Matthew at their home in Sonnet House with Cllr Bruce and Cllr Bowring

"Sometimes I pinch myself to see if this is real, and it is!" Shemzia exclaimed, expressing her gratitude towards the council officers who assisted.

Their new home provides Shemzia and her whole family with more room and a chance to thrive.

"It's bigger and better, giving my family more room and space," Shemzia said. "The garden is just a whole new thing. It is a dream come true for me," she shared, highlighting the impact of their new home on her family's quality of life.

Jeanette's story

After five years of being abused by her partner, a friend of mum-of-two Jeanette* suggested she seek help.

32-year-old Jeanette called a domestic abuse helpline and they put her in touch with the Hounslow One Stop Shop - our free, confidential service which provides information and support for residents experiencing domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and girls.

She told the advisor her partner had been kind at first but had become increasingly controlling and violent. He undermined her, monitored her phone and isolated her from friends and family.

That abuse escalated to physical violence and Jeanette became fearful for her safety and that of her children. However, she stayed because of her financial dependence and his threats to "have her children removed".

With the Council's professional support, she understood her options, was allocated a case worker to support her, and moved to a place of safety while she found legal protection for her and her children.

*Name has been changed to protect resident's identity.

Donald's story

BEfriend runs services for people in Hounslow who are experiencing loneliness. Volunteers meet with people who are lonely, to chat and strike up friendships.



The charity is a joint initiative between the Council and local health partners.

Donald, 89, contacted BEfriend because he was lonely, especially as his family all live overseas.

He says people can forget that someone of his age, "is still the

same person inside, and needs the attention and kindness of people". But Alife, a volunteer through the befriending service, has made a huge difference to Donald and says BEfriend is "doing amazing work".

Alfie says he's "really enjoyed getting to know Donald" and that his life is "fascinating".

Maria's story

Maria* lives in Hounslow and was worried about how to make ends meet when her universal credit was less than her rent. After sleepless nights, she went to one of our Community Hubs for advice.

Kate at the Feltham Community Hub advised she could apply for discretionary housing payment and helped Maria complete the long and complex application form. Maria was awarded discretionary housing payments for 12 weeks.

Kate also advised Maria on other support such as the 'Single Person' Council Tax discount and Food Bank vouchers.

"I would highly recommend the Community Hubs to anyone, because the staff are very helpful and provide fantastic support on a wide variety of issues," Maria says.

"They say knowledge is power and the staff at the Community Hub empower you with that knowledge and support. Kate was compassionate and understanding. She actively listened to my concerns and demonstrated genuine empathy. She treated me with dignity and provided emotional support during my down moments.

"It is easy to feel isolated, especially when you are on your own, but the Community Hubs help build a network around you that can help to curb the feeling of loneliness. I cannot thank them enough."

*Name has been changed to protect resident's identity.

Changes to the Council Tax Support scheme

The Council's Council Tax Support scheme, which offers financial support to residents on low-incomes with their Council Tax Bill, is changing from April 2025. This follows extensive consultation with residents and community groups to make the scheme fairer.

What are the changes?

The Council is seeking to make the scheme fairer ensuring families, larger households and carers receive vital support. The changes also help address the Council's current £30 million funding shortfall. The changes mean:

- ➔ Some residents who previously did not have to pay Council Tax will now have to start paying.
- ➔ The level of Council Tax Support may increase or decrease depending on household circumstances.

The changes to the scheme affect only 'working age' residents (over 18) regardless of whether they are working or in receipt of benefits. The changes do not affect pensioners.

What to do next?

The new bill will outline how much your Council Tax is.

Residents can ring 020 8583 4242, press one and speak to an advisor who can talk them through the changes.

Make a plan for how to pay

The safest, quickest and easiest way to pay is by Direct Debit. More information on how to pay, visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/paying-council-tax Ring 020 8583 4242 to discuss the possibility of paying your Council Tax in 12-monthly installments (rather than in ten-monthly installments) with an advisor.

When will the new changes happen?

Residents affected by the changes will have received a letter with their new Council Tax Bill in March.

Support handling the change

For residents who might struggle financially with the changes, contact Citizens Advice Hounslow. Ring their freephone advice line number on **080 8278 7830** for independent advice and confidential support.

The Council has also established a Hardship Fund for residents who might struggle with an increase in payments towards their Council Tax bill. Details of how to access this will be made available on the Council's website shortly.

Check benefits entitlement

Many people do not claim all the benefits they are entitled to. Residents can use the benefits calculator anonymously, any time, to find out more. Scan the QR code below or visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/benefit-calculator to access the Council's benefits calculator.



Other sources of support

There is also a range of help for families on lower income, such as free school meals and school uniform grants.

Residents can access Community and Family hubs which provide advice and support.

For more information about all the support available to help people locally, visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/communityhubs

Community Hubs:

Mondays

Hounslow Hub, 10am to 1pm
Hounslow House, Ground floor,
Hounslow TW3 3EB

Tuesdays

Feltham Hub, 2pm to 5pm
Feltham Assembly Hall, Hounslow
Road, TW14 9DN

From 1 April 2025, this hub will move to Feltham Library and will run from 1pm to 4pm every Tuesday.

Last Tuesday of the month

Claypods Community Centre Drop-in,
12.30pm to 3pm
Claypods Community Centre,
Claypods Gardens, W5 4RQ

Wednesdays

Cranford Hub, 10.30am to 2.30pm
Beavers Children's Centre & Library,
103 Salisbury Road, TW4 7NW

Thursdays

Feltham Library Hub, 10am to 1pm
Feltham Library, High Street, Feltham
TW13 4GU

Isleworth Hub Advisory Drop-in,
9.30am to 12noon
Bridgelink Community Centre,
TW7 7QR

Fridays

Brentford Hub, 10am to 2pm
Brentford Library, 11F Boston Manor
Road, TW8 8DW

Local people can also talk to a Hub Advisor from Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.30pm, Ground Floor Hounslow House or at Feltham Library on Tuesday 9am to 11.30am, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 4.30pm.



Hounslow's next Cabinet Question Time will be held at the Gtech Stadium and chaired by Cliff Crown, Chairman of Brentford Football Club.

The event, which takes place on Tuesday, 8 April, from 6.30 to 8pm, provides an opportunity for people to meet the Council Leader and Cabinet and ask questions about the issues which matter to them. Residents must book a free ticket, to ask questions on the night.

Topics raised at the last Question Time in September included improving transport links, tackling fly-tipping and investing in mental health and community spaces.

Cliff Crown (pictured) was appointed to Brentford's board in 2012 and has chaired since 2013. He also served on the English Football League Board and chaired the Football Association Cup Committee.

Space at Cabinet Question Time is limited, and you must book a free ticket, in advance. Find out more and book now at: talk.hounslow.gov.uk/cabinet-question-time



New Residents' Panel launched

A new Residents' Panel is being established for people to share their views and shape local decisions and services.

Run by research agency SMSR, on behalf of the Council, it will comprise about 2,000 people representing a cross-section of the borough. Members will be able to participate in a range of opportunities, from completing surveys

and polls, to taking part in focus groups and workshops. There will be many different topics on which to contribute, some based around an area and others borough-wide.

Anyone interested in joining the panel should email engage@hounslow.gov.uk or call 020 8583 2000. Please note that inclusion in the panel isn't guaranteed.

Share views

There are a range of subjects the Council would like to get residents' views on at talk.hounslow.gov.uk

Current surveys and consultations:

- ➔ Additional House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licencing Renewal - The Council plans to introduce a new five-year additional HMO licensing scheme, starting after the current scheme ends in July 2025, to continue improving property conditions and management standards across all HMOs in the borough. talk.hounslow.gov.uk/hmo-additional-licensing-renewal
- ➔ The Council is developing a new masterplan for Hounslow Heath to enhance access, recreation, and conservation efforts. This initiative aims to protect biodiversity, improve visitor facilities and create better green connections. talk.hounslow.gov.uk/hounslow-heath-masterplan
- ➔ Planning Enforcement Plan - giving views on the Local Enforcement Plan which offers residents guidance on the planning enforcement system. talk.hounslow.gov.uk/planning-enforcement-plan

Request a paper copy of any survey or consultation by emailing consult@hounslow.gov.uk



CONTINUING TO GROW FOR THE FUTURE

Grow for the Future is delivering the UK's first-ever policy of transforming neglected spaces into orchards, community gardens and allotments and pairing these with schools and community groups to bring biodiversity, sustainability and healthy food closer to home, communities and young people.

In the last year, the Council has planted six new sites, with an additional 20 trees, two wildflower meadows, a community garden, a new community growing space and two orchards, planted at Henley's Orchard (Brabazon Road), Lampton Community Garden, Faggs Road (North), Westmacott Drive and Manor Gardens.

The project has won praise from Downton Abbey's Jim Carter OBE who celebrated Hounslow Council planting its sixth site.

The Council and community planted Van Gogh Close green space, a small triangle of land which had fallen into disrepair, only 43 metres from a house Vincent van Gogh stayed in, in 1876.

Working with Lampton Greenspace, Hounslow Council commissioned a carved wooden sign, remembering the artist. Residents of Van Gogh Close helped to plant fruit trees, wildflowers, bulbs and scented plants.



Cllr Salman Shaheen, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Public Spaces, said: "Grow for the Future is opening up once-neglected spaces and giving them over to our children and communities so that they can see where their food comes from, how to grow food in a cost-of-living crisis, and how to live healthy lives in a borough that has some of London's highest adult obesity rates.

"Sites that have lain empty and fly-tipped for years are being put to use to equip children and adults alike with vital life skills and experience biodiversity and sustainability, first hand."

Jim Carter OBE said: "Since attending the opening of the first Grow for the Future site last year I'm delighted to hear that now there are six sites up and running.

"Grow for the Future is a wonderful idea - absolutely brilliant in its simplicity - identifying unused and often unloved



areas of open space and allowing school children and communities to plant and grow food and flowers.

"Hounslow has led the way and it's my fervent hope that every council in the UK adopts this marvellous idea. Everyone benefits!"

Find out more and get your local school involved: talk.hounslow.gov.uk/grow-for-the-future

Field of dreams

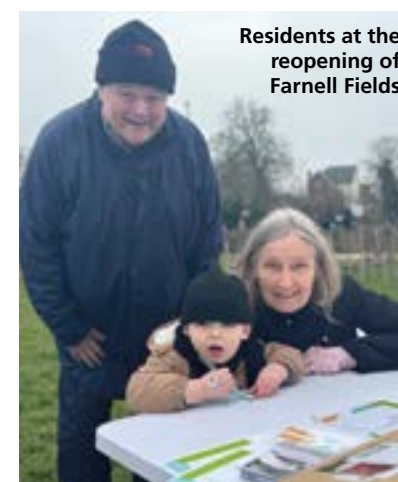
A natural play area, wooden maze, wildflower areas, native hedging pollinator hotels and fruit orchard are just some of the enhancements the Council has made to Farnell Fields, the popular green space in Isleworth.

The site has been further enhanced with improvements to both entrances, which includes opened site lines, making it a safer space for residents and a new path around the perimeter, which has improved accessibility. Welcome signs and a noticeboard and have also been fitted.



Ward Councillors with resident Emily and Cllr Shaheen

Local resident Emily (above), who attended the reopening, said: "We've lived here for seven years and never used the space. We are thrilled with the paths and new areas for play. Our children now ask to come here and its super fun."



Residents at the reopening of Farnell Fields



GET INVOLVED VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

With the benefits of being outdoors widely documented, Friends of Lampton Park and Lampton School, are once again calling on volunteers to help prepare the much-loved community garden for the year ahead.

Local people are invited to get involved, pick up new gardening skills, share horticultural knowledge and meet like-minded people.

Sessions run on Saturday afternoons, 12noon to 2pm, from February until June. No experience is necessary and

all abilities are welcome. For the full timetable visit: talk.hounslow.gov.uk/lampton-park-community-garden

The Council welcomes volunteers in parks across the borough. To find a local project, visit: talk.hounslow.gov.uk/volunteering-in-hounslow-parks

Natural Summer

Hounslow Council's Natural Summer caused an increase in wildflowers, butterflies and bees across the borough, last year.

This year, 25 Hounslow parks are dedicating space for the grass to grow, and encouraging plants which attract wildlife, that is so important to life here in the UK.

As in previous years, the Council will be leaving plenty of space in its parks and green spaces for sports, picnics, dog walking and getting outside to enjoy nature.

In the autumn, Hounslow Council will manage an annual tidy-up, before winter begins and the cycle starts again.

Hounslow Highways take care of many of the grass verges across the borough. Their priority is keeping road users and pedestrians safe. But they want to join in too, so they will be participating in No Mow May, for one month. Letting approximately 60 grass verges grow for the duration. However, they will cut around edges that border onto roads and foot and cycle ways, to help keep us all safe.

Together with ground's maintenance partner, Lampton Services, Hounslow Council will be letting the grass grow in selected housing areas across the borough to support plants, pollinators, people, and the planet. The selected areas will be left to flourish until the end of October.

LET WITH HOUNSLOW COUNCIL

Have you ever considered letting your property via the council?



Our letting service is fast, free and flexible

✉ landlords@hounslow.gov.uk
☎ 020 8583 3855
🌐 www.hounslow.gov.uk/rentyourproperty



We can offer:

- ✓ No fees
- ✓ Generous cash incentive
- ✓ Tenancy sustainment service
- ✓ Quick and easy lets
- ✓ Free tenant finder service
- ✓ Direct Universal Credit payments to you (only under special circumstances upon your request)



Redeveloping the Treaty Centre Public Consultation

We are consulting on new plans to transform the Treaty Centre into an exciting new space for Hounslow. We want to hear your views as we share our plans and ideas.

www.treatycentreconsults.co.uk



Have
Your
Say

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✉ treatycentre@communicationspotential.co.uk



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HOUSING NEWS

Renovated kitchen



IMPROVING HOMES

All rent and service charge income goes into the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and is used to manage and maintain council homes and provide housing services, including communal repairs, grounds maintenance and estate improvements.

The HRA is a ring-fenced pot of money used solely to ensure homes are safe and well-maintained, improve estates across the borough and help decarbonise homes.

Thanks to the HRA, Hounslow Council has:

- ✓ Completed 38,085 housing repairs
- ✓ Invested in 4,500 new fire doors

- ✓ Planted 45 more trees on housing HRA areas
- ✓ Installed 26 more bug hotels in October 2024
- ✓ Set up two new growing communal areas in the Hogarth Estate in Chiswick and Harlech Gardens in Heston. The scheme is set to be expanded to additional sites over the coming months.

The brand-new Harlech Gardens community garden provides the local community with access to healthy living by growing herbs and vegetables while connecting with their neighbours.



Residents living on the estate worked closely with the Council's Grounds Maintenance team to develop the plan for the garden, including the design, layout and key features. A built-in water supply and tool shed were installed to enable residents to maintain the area.

ONGOING INVESTMENT IN HOUSING STOCK

As part of its ongoing commitment to long-term funding, whilst making vital improvements and providing safe and good-quality homes for its tenants, the Council has had to make the difficult decision to increase rent.

From April, rent will rise by 2.7% - an average weekly increase of £3.53 whilst service charges will increase by an average of 4.8%.



Cllr Sue Sampson,
Cabinet Member for
Housing Management
and Homelessness, said:

"The decision to increase rents and service charges for our tenants has not been taken lightly – we have carefully considered the impact on local families who are already feeling the pinch, with wages not keeping up with the ongoing high cost of living and have worked hard to keep these charges as low as possible."

"Without making this decision, we would have been unable to commit to the highest levels of service for all our tenants, or to invest well in our housing stock."

HELP AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Tenants struggling to pay rent and service charges can access a range of help and support from the Household Support Fund. This is for council tenants who are on lower incomes.

For more information, visit:
www.hounslow.gov.uk/paying-rent

(l-r) Cllr Bath,
Healthy Hounslow
Adviser Mineel and Veena

Quit smoking with Healthy Hounslow

and earn up to £50 in BetterPoints!

Healthy Hounslow offers **FREE** one-to-one support to quit smoking and the use of other tobacco products like shisha and chewing tobacco. They offer:

Weekly face-to-face or telephone sessions with a stop smoking adviser

Access to stop smoking aids such as e-cigarettes or Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)

Tailored support and goal setting to help you reach your goals

LIVING A SMOKE-FREE LIFE

With smoking rates high in Hounslow, the Council is encouraging smokers to access free support through Healthy Hounslow and take the first step to stop for good.

The service, which has so far helped 500 people, is looking to help even more people this year. With the right support, quitters are three times more likely to be successful. That's why those who want to quit, should join Healthy Hounslow's free stop smoking programme.

CALM AND CONTENT

Veena recently quit smoking with the help of Healthy Hounslow. She says she's not only feeling the "amazing" direct benefits, but it's also helped her to think

about making other improvements to her overall health.

She said: "Physically I feel better, and I'm starting to lose weight. Mentally, I'm being more active with my kids, which makes them happy, and we get to spend precious time together. My head feels calm and content. Socially, I'm getting out more and attending workshops and courses. Walking everywhere is saving me money on parking too."

Veena also earned BetterPoints when she quit smoking, meaning she was rewarded with vouchers she could use for shopping and excursions. If you want to sign up for BetterPoints and earn vouchers for healthy activities, you can do so here: hounslow.betterpoints.uk

CAN HEALTHY HOUNSLOW HELP?

Healthy Hounslow's stop smoking programme is available to anyone aged 12 and over who lives, studies or works in Hounslow or is registered with a GP in Hounslow. The programme offers up to 12 weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy or a free vaping kit (available only to those 18 and over).

To sign up or refer someone for the programme, visit the Healthy Hounslow website at www.healthyhounslow.co.uk/stop-smoking and complete a quick service referral form or alternatively, call the team on 020 4559 8200.

HELP ELIMINATE CERVICAL CANCER

In 2023, the NHS pledged to eliminate cervical cancer in England by 2040. The biggest piece of the puzzle to achieve this is the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which has dramatically reduced cervical cancer rates. There is still a need to increase uptake among school pupils.

Parents and carers of children in Year 8 are encouraged to ensure their child has received the HPV vaccination through

their school. The vaccine provides protection against HPV infection, which is responsible for almost all cases of cervical cancer. The HPV vaccination is also available through GP practices for those under 25 who did not get vaccinated through their school.

Alongside vaccination, attending cervical cancer screening appointments is one of the best ways to help prevent

cervical cancer. It's important for those who are vaccinated against HPV to still attend their screening appointments. The vaccine protects against most types of HPV that causes cervical cancer, but not all.

Find out more about the HPV vaccine on the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/hpv-vaccine.

HEALTHY TEETH, HAPPY SMILES

Did you know tooth decay is the main cause for hospital admissions for children in Hounslow? It can cause pain, as well as difficulties eating, speaking, socialising and sleeping, and can lead to school absence.

To prevent this, any child in the borough can be part of "Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles" in partnership with Public Health England and NHS England. The scheme has been running for many years in Hounslow schools and family hubs and thousands of children aged 3 and up have benefitted.

Health services also offer fluoride varnishing to young children in Hounslow. Receiving this treatment can help reduce tooth decay, especially if accompanied by good tooth brushing habits and a diet low in sugar.

The Council recently held a very successful event at Brentford Family Hub in February half term, where many children and families received a fluoride varnish, advice, and a new toothbrushing pack to take home with them.



Children having fun at the Family Hubs oral health day

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Any residents who want to find out more about support for their children's oral health can email kendra.blinco@nhs.net for more information.

The Council also recommends keeping a close eye on health bulletins such as Thrive, or for flyers out in the community where you can register for upcoming events.

COULD THIS BE THE START OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP?



Residents across Hounslow are helping people with mental health problems by volunteering with BEfriend, a local charity that supports people who are experiencing loneliness.

Roger and Shivam met when Shivam

volunteered for BEfriend's Linked Mind project. Roger is full of praise for the difference it's made to his life.

"I did not expect the connection I had with him instantly," Roger said. "It was like he was my brother. All I know is

that now he's here, everything's going to be okay. That will fuel me for the rest of the week."

Roger also stressed the importance of all BEfriend volunteers and praised their impact on the lives of the people the charity supports.

He continued: "It's massive because it will help them physically, mentally, change their lives and bring them back to where they dream about on a regular basis."

If you want to make a huge difference to someone's life, and get a feeling that you've helped your community, get in touch with BEfriend about volunteering for just one or two hours a week.

Head to befriend.london/volunteer email hello@befriend.london, or call 020 3093 1130 to find out more.



Isleworth IN FOCUS

As Hounslow navigates a period of transformative growth and community-focused initiatives, the Council remains steadfast in its commitment to sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

Inclusive Living



In collaboration with Habinteg Housing Association, the Council is excited to announce a new accessible housing development at 18 South Street, Isleworth. This initiative reflects a commitment to inclusivity, providing high-quality, accessible living options that support the diverse needs of community members.

Gateways to the Past

The restoration of the historic pedestrian gate and pillars at Park Road Cemetery working with the Isleworth Society and supported through the Thriving Communities Fund. This project, not only preserved a piece of Isleworth's heritage but also enhances community access to a cherished local landmark.

Green flags

Hounslow's dedication to green spaces is also stronger than ever, with the borough achieving 21 Green Flags in 2024. These awards are a testament to an

ongoing efforts to provide residents and visitors with well-maintained and vibrant parks and gardens, contributing to the wellbeing of the community. Among the celebrated sites, Redlees Park stands out as a prime example of the Council's commitment to environmental excellence and community leisure spaces.



Redlees Park

A hub of community and craftsmanship



Woodwork stall

Old Isleworth Market is a cherished local fixture nestled in the heart of Isleworth. This vibrant market began in 2018, initiated by a small group led by Rowan Joyce (pictured below), the owner of South Street Cafe.



The market operates from March to December, pausing only in August for a summer break. It opens on the first Saturday of each month, offering a lively atmosphere enriched with live music. Visitors can explore a variety of stalls that showcase goods from delicious, award-winning foods to handmade arts and crafts. The market also features jewellery, beauty products and other local creations.



Ruby and Lola's cakery

These projects represent a broad commitment to environmental sustainability, historical preservation and community well-being. Each step taken is part of a comprehensive strategy to ensure Hounslow remains a great place to live, work and visit.

COLLECTIONS OVER EASTER



Please read carefully

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 18 April (Bank Holiday)	No Change
Monday 21 April (Bank Holiday)	Tuesday 22 April
Tuesday 22 April	Wednesday 23 April
Wednesday 23 April	Thursday 24 April
Thursday 24 April	Friday 25 April
Friday 25 April	Saturday 26 April



Time to spring into action

With spring just around the corner, residents can now renew or sign-up for this year's garden waste collection service, with fortnightly pick-ups and up to 25 collections per year.

There are two subscription options:

- £75 for a year, or £3 per collection (1 April 2025–31 March 2026)
- £37.50 for half a year (29 September 2025–31 March 2026)

Cllr Shivraj Grewal, Cabinet member for Infrastructure, Recycling and Transformation, said: "Our garden waste service is designed to support residents in keeping their gardens tidy

and well-maintained throughout the year. And the good news doesn't end there as every collection is recycled to create compost.

"This year the Council has had to make the decision to increase the annual subscription by £10, or an increase of 40p per collection, to cover rising operational costs.

"Residents already subscribed will receive reminder letters or emails with instructions on how to renew."

Residents can sign up at: www.hounslow.gov.uk/garden-waste-subscription

EASTER OPENING HOURS

Hounslow House and some other Council offices will be closed on Friday 18 April and Monday 21 April, and will re-open on Tuesday 22 April 2025.

During this time, residents can still access the services online and via emergency numbers:

- To inform the Council of an emergency, please call 020 8583 2222
- View the emergency contact information at: www.hounslow.gov.uk/outofhours

What's going on AROUND HOUNSLOW

Welcome to Hounslow

Hounslow is an exciting and vibrant west London borough with lots of things to see and do. Around Hounslow includes fun things to do for all the family including children and young people. It's advisable to check with the organiser or venue if the event or activity is still going ahead.

Gunnersbury Park & Museum

www.visitgunnersbury.org/whats-on

STITCH, KNIT AND CRAFT

21, 4, 18 April, 2, 16, 30 May,
13, 27 June,
10.30 - 12.30noon

Join us for our friendly fortnightly textile group – bring a project to work on, learn from others, and have a good old natter over a cuppa.

£2, including refreshments. No booking required, just turn up

CHISWICK HOUSE AND GARDENS

chiswickhouseandgardens.org.uk/whats-on

WILDLIFE ART COMPETITION

Until 16 April

Calling all artists and nature lovers!

To celebrate the launch of our 'Wild Watch' citizen science project and our Wild Day event this April, we're excited to host our very first Chiswick House & Gardens Wildlife Art Competition!

Entry is free and limited to one submission per person.

DUCK POND MARKET

6 April, 10am - 4pm

Join us on the 1st Sunday of each month for Duck Pond Market.

Come along to our monthly Duck Pond Market! Set against the unique historical backdrop of Chiswick House, each month brings a charming selection of local arts, crafts and homewares. With a mix of food for now and food for later, our market celebrates sustainability and ethical shopping.

WILD DAY

9 April, 11am - 3pm,
Cafe Lawn

Join us this Easter break for a free Easter event featuring family-friendly activities like 'wild watching,' woodland adventures, nature-themed crafts, wildlife walks and more!

EASTER FAMILY TRAIL 2025

18 April to 21 April, starts at
10:30am. Last entry 3pm

Hop, skip and jump through the gardens this Easter bank holiday weekend with our family trail.

Come to the Kitchen Garden to pick up your trail booklet and start your adventure. Follow the map to find the mega eggs, answer the questions and unscramble the code. All adventurers receive a Love Cocoa chocolate prize at the end.

THE LAZY FLEA: WEST LONDON'S VINTAGE MARKET

27 April

Brought to you by the established homeware brand Lazy Home, The Lazy Flea is your go-to destination for vintage homeware, clothing, and jewellery. With the unique Chiswick House as your backdrop, it's the perfect way to spend your Sunday. £2 per person.

GIFFORD'S CIRCUS: LAGUNA BAY

6 June to 22 June

Gifford's Circus will return to Chiswick House & Gardens

to entertain the crowds, with their new show Laguna Bay. Be ready to be amazed by flips and tricks, in a show created by acclaimed Director Cal McCrystal

Feltham Arts

www.felthamarts.org

CREATIVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB: HESTON FARM

Wednesdays 4.30pm - 6pm,
until 30 April (no session
during Half Term or Easter
break)

Join our friendly facilitators in this jam packed ten week creative after school club. Make new friends, get active and take part in a series of exciting activities, including Arts, Dance and Drama.

UNDER 5s: TINY TALES

Wednesdays until 18 June,
10am - 10.45am
The Hub, The Centre,
Feltham

A wonderful series of workshops for parents/carers and toddlers, brought to you by talented local facilitator Naomi Houghton. Have fun with your child and enjoy sensational storytelling, music and movement and a craft to take home. Term time only.

FELTHAM ARTISTS CLUB

First Thursday of the month
excluding August,
10am-12noon
The Hub, The Centre,
Feltham

A friendly group of amateur artists of mixed ages and abilities who paint in all mediums. We do not have a tutor but twice a year we have visiting artists to provide a demonstration or a workshop. We have an outing every summer. Annual subscription fee is £20, plus £2 each meeting for refreshments. You will also receive a monthly newsletter.

KEEP ACTIVE

BETTERPOINTS

Download the free app and get going. Visit App Store or Google Play and register.
hounslow.betterpoints.uk

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Find local football sessions through groups including Wildcats, Squads Competitive and Recreation sessions.
find.EnglandFootball.com

OURPARKS BITESIZE

Free at-home exercises
www.ourparks.org.uk/content/couch-to-programmes

PARKRUN

Run, walk or jog your way around Osterley, Gunnersbury, Bedfont, Hanworth and Crane Park. Find your nearest
www.parkrun.org.uk

*Information correct at time of print



GUINNESS
WGN

**ENGLAND
V FRANCE**

ALLIANZ STADIUM, TWICKENHAM
26.04.2025

ADULTS FROM £25
JUNIORS £5

GET TICKETS
SCAN QR CODE

OR VISIT: ENGLANDRUGBY.COM/TICKETS

RED ROSES

Allianz Stadium



DISCOVER
LONDON'S FIRST
EVER TULIP PATCH

NEW
for Spring 2025

This spring step into a vibrant world of colour, with stunning fields full of thousands of tulips – perfect for making unique memories and capturing breathtaking photos.

Book Tickets Online: hobbledown.com/tulips

Tulips
AT
HOBBLEDOWN
HEATH

THE MAYOR OF HOUNSLOW 2024-25 IS CLLR KAREN SMITH



Mayor Smith was first elected to the Hounslow South ward in 2018.

She has lived in Hounslow all her life and attended Hounslow Heath and Heathlands Schools, followed by West Thames College (Hounslow Borough College at the time).

Before joining the Council, Mayor Smith worked for the Metropolitan Police in both Hounslow and Chiswick Police Stations.

Since joining the Council, she has served on the Licensing Committee and on the Scrutiny Panels for children and young people and health and social care. She has also vice-chaired area forums.

Over the years she has also volunteered with various charities, including Beanstalk and a local food bank and she currently works at Artsed drama school in Chiswick.

The Mayor's Chosen Charity



TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE MAYOR'S CHARITY:

Via BACS:

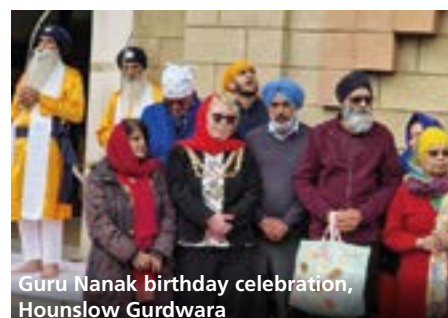
Name of Bank Account: LB Hounslow Mayor's Account B

- Account number: 27513939
- Sort Code: 60-11-18
- Reference (your surname)

By Phone:

Call 020 8583 2243/6155 to make a card payment.

Donate via JustGiving by scanning the QR code.



Guru Nanak birthday celebration, Hounslow Gurdwara



The Anne Shine Charity event, Feltham

Out and about with the Mayor



Citizenship Ceremony, Feltham Lodge



Celebrating Joan Vaughan's 100th Birthday, Sandbanks Resource Centre, Feltham



Holocaust Memorial Day, Chiswick Community School

If you would like the Mayor to attend your event please email: mayor@hounslow.gov.uk



LGBTQ+ History Month



Hounslow's London New Year's Day Parade entry



Planting of the Steve Curran Memorial Tree, Heston Community Gardens



Feltham Railway 200th Celebration Event



The Open Kitchen 6th Anniversary, Hounslow

London Borough of Hounslow

BEDFONT



Lily Bath
Adult Social Care, Public Health and Health Integration



Adesh Farmahan



Raghwinder Siddhu
Public Safety, Regulatory Services and Enforcement

CHISWICK GUNNERSBURY



Joanna Biddolph



Ranjit Gill



Ron Mushiso

CRANFORD



Ghazala Butt



Sukhbir Dhaliwal



Vickram Grewal

HANWORTH PARK



Bishnu Gurung



Farah Kamran

HESTON EAST



Aqsa Ahmed



Gurmail Lal



Amrit Mann

HOUNSLOW EAST



Junee Meah



Daanish Saeed

HOUNSLOW WEST



Bandna Chopra



Jagdish Sharma



Mohammed Umair

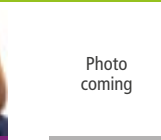
SYON AND BRENTFORD LOCK



Dan Bowring



Katherine Dunne
Climate, Environment and Transport



Theo Dennison

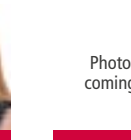
Photo coming

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS 2025

BRENTFORD EAST



Marina Sharma



Max Mosley

Photo coming

BRENTFORD WEST



Guy Lambert



Emma Yates

CHISWICK HOMEFIELDS



Jack Emsley



Gerald McGregor



John Todd

CHISWICK RIVERSIDE



Amy Croft



Gabriella Giles



Peter Thompson
Leader of the Opposition

FELTHAM NORTH



Muhammad Shakeel Akram



Samina Nagra



Kuldeep Tak

FELTHAM WEST



Madeeha Asim



Hina Mir



Alan Mitchell

HANWORTH VILLAGE



Richard Foote



Allan Joseph



Aysha Tariq

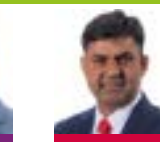
HESTON CENTRAL



Harleen Atwal Hear



Shivraj Grewal
Infrastructure, Recycling and Transformation



Riaz Gull

HESTON WEST



Emma Siddhu



Karamat Malik



Shantanu Rajawat
Leader of the Council

HOUNSLOW CENTRAL



Rasheed Bhatti



Ajmer Grewal
Residents Support, Communities and Equalities



Pritam Grewal

HOUNSLOW HEATH



Samia Chaudhary
Education, Children, Skills and Employment



Afzaal Kiani



Farhaan Rehman

HOUNSLOW SOUTH



Tom Bruce
Deputy Leader of the Council
Assets, Regeneration and Development



Sayyar Raza



Karen Smith
Mayor

ISLEWORTH



Sue Sampson
Housing Management and Homelessness



Salman Shaheen
Culture, Leisure and Public Spaces



John Stroud-Turp

OSTERLEY AND SPRING GROVE



Unsa Chaudri



Tony Louki



Aftab Siddiqui

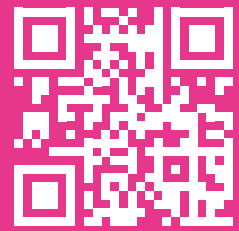
Key

- Labour
- Conservative
- The Workers Party
- Independent
- Cabinet

To find out which ward you live in, who your councillor is and how to contact them, visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/democracy_and_elections or call 020 8583 6808

FREE EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

For Hounslow residents looking for work,
aged 18+ with the right to work in the UK



Scan here

**Work Hounslow offer free career advice,
employment support and training, including:**



Support with job search and applications, with access to local live vacancies



Free upskilling training (subject to eligibility)



CV writing and targeting



Training and education guidance



Interview preparation and practice



Create action plans tailored to your goals



London Borough
of Hounslow



Visit: www.workhounslow.co.uk

Call: 020 8583 6174

Email: work@hounslow.gov.uk