

Greens to launch local elections campaign with promise on affordable housing which 'failing Labour councils' haven't delivered

Zack Polanski will launch the Green Party's local election campaign in Deptford on Thursday morning.

In his speech, the Green Party leader will target Labour's record in both local and national government – with a particular focus on its failure to deliver sufficient social and affordable housing, and to maintain existing social housing stock to a decent standard.

Polanski will highlight Labour's close relationship with housing industry lobbyists and point to the fact that 10% of MPs are landlords, including several Labour ministers.

Setting out the Green Party's alternative, Polanski will highlight the party's successes in local government, including the delivery of new and upgraded social and affordable housing. Green-led councils in Lewes and Mid Suffolk have built hundreds of new council homes in recent years. He will also champion bold national housing policies including rent controls and the total abolition of leasehold – which Labour promised and have U-turned on.

Green Party leader Zack Polanski said:

"People across the country are sick of being taken for granted by the Labour Party. It's the same story in local councils as it is nationally: Labour assumes that voters have nowhere else to go, so it doesn't think it has to do anything to try and win them.

Labour is failing and is not on track to deliver the social and affordable housing it pledged. It has U-turned on its promise to scrap the "feudal" leasehold system because it's more interested in pleasing property developers than freeing 5 million people from the financial burden of service charges.

Labour Housing Secretary Steve Reed recently hosted an exclusive dinner with housing developers who paid £2000 per person to attend. Given the cozy relationship Labour has with lobbyists, no wonder they always seem to prioritise maximising corporate profits by building unaffordable 'luxury' properties, instead of the social and affordable housing we need.

People in this country deserve better. Greens in local government will offer a real alternative to the failing Labour status quo."

Green Party candidate for Lewisham mayor Cllr Liam Shrivastava said:

"Lewisham has suffered for too long under a complacent and failing Labour

council that takes voters for granted. That's why I left the Labour Party and am now standing as the Green candidate for Mayor of Lewisham, to deliver real change for people here. It's indefensible that developers have been permitted to deliver just 6% social housing as part of the new Lewisham Shopping Centre development"

Mayor of Hackney candidate Zoë Garbett, a councillor and member of the London Assembly said:

"As Mayor of Hackney, I will continue my campaign for rent controls which I have used my position on the London Assembly to fight for, but which the failing Labour government has refused to implement."

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[Britain must "suspend diplomatic ties and stop all arms sales" with Israel after bombing of Lebanon](#)

9 April 2026 / 9 April 2026 by [Green Party](#)

Green Party Leader, Zack Polanski, responded to the [bombing of Lebanon](#) that has killed at least 254, saying:

"Yesterday, Israel launched an intense carpet-bombing campaign across Lebanon. Footage shows schools, apartment blocks and other civilian sites being hit. At least 254 people were killed, and more than 1,000 were injured.

There is no distinction here between civilians and combatants. And once again, Starmer is too cowardly and complicit to condemn Israeli atrocities. We cannot allow this to continue any longer. If Israel is not stopped, the fragile ceasefire with Iran risks collapsing, with devastating global consequences. The British government must immediately impose more robust sanctions on the Israeli government and those enabling them. It must suspend diplomatic ties and stop all arms sales to this increasingly rogue state."

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Tackling cost-of-living crisis 'top priority' at Wales Green Party manifesto launch

7 April 2026 / 7 April 2026 by [Green Party](#)

A raft of measures to help people with the cost of living and bring hope back to the people of Wales were announced today by Wales Green Party leader Anthony Slaughter as he launched [the party's manifesto](#) in Port Talbot.

Speaking ahead of the launch, Anthony Slaughter said:

“The people of Wales have been shafted by a succession of Westminster governments and Labour rule in Wales – leaving so many of us struggling everyday just to survive. That’s why we have prioritised actions to help people with the cost-of-living crisis.

“Our vision is a Wales where everyone can live in dignity, is respected, and has a decent standard of living and well-being. It’s a place where people can thrive, supported by a landscape that is not just protected but is being brought back to life.

“Our comprehensive plan of action – from arts and culture to health and education – will improve peoples’ lives and bring back hope to this country we love. We are ready to play our part in government – and we will fight for every vote.”

Cost of living measures announced today include

- Introducing universal childcare for children aged nine months to four years
- Extending universal free school meals to secondary schools
- Investing in clean, home-grown energy to keep our bills down and protect us from global energy shocks
- Tackling homelessness by banning no-fault evictions, investing in prevention and ensuring refuge accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse
- Training people up to retrofit our houses, so that our homes are warm, keep down bills and tackle climate change at the same time

These go alongside previously announced pledges which will also bring down costs:

- A rent freeze followed by rent controls to tackle spiralling housing costs

- £1 bus fares – to help make transport accessible to all
- Replacing council tax with a land value tax paid by landlords rather than tenants
- Pushing for genuine public ownership of Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water to bring down bills, make our beaches safe for our children, and bring our rivers back to life

A recent poll suggests that Wales Green Party will likely [play the role of 'kingmakers'](#) as a wave of Green candidates take up seats in the Senedd after the nation's first election under a system of proportional representation. Analysis of the poll suggests that voting for the Green Party is [the best way to keep Reform candidates out of power](#), as Wales Greens are their main challenger in six out of the eight most marginal seats. The Wales Green Party's full slate of candidates can be found [here](#).

Key policy announcements in the manifesto published today include:

Economy

- Call for the devolution of the Crown Estate so that Wales can control its renewable energy resources and keep the economic benefits
- Support a gradual shift to a four-day working week
- Call for greater borrowing powers for the Senedd
- Strengthen the Welsh Revenue Authority to ensure wealthy individuals and corporations pay their fair share
- Make sure public procurement supports local businesses – keeping money circulating in the local economy
- Support local enterprises, cooperatives and community led initiatives

Housing

- Build social housing at the scale and pace needed

Transport

- Invest in an improved and expanded rail system
- Prioritise fixing potholes and unsafe road surfaces over road building
- Invest in active travel and car-share schemes

Environment

- Act urgently to restore and protect the ecosystems that sustain and enrich us by ensuring Natural Resources Wales is properly resourced to carry out its duties and developing a National Rewilding Strategy
- Introduce a Welsh Right to Roam
- Become more self-sufficient in food production with a National

Horticulture Strategy and expand organic food production with an Organic Action Plan

Education

- Make schools phone-free
- End the closure of small rural schools
- Reward teachers for planning and preparation time

Health

- Shift healthcare spending toward prevention with local health and wellbeing hubs, earlier intervention and integrated care
- Invest in GP and dental services
- Undertake a suite of measures to end corridor care

Culture

- Invest in arts and culture for all
- Strengthen Welsh language use in communities and public life

Democracy and governance

- Extend public participation in decision-making through citizens' assemblies and participatory budgeting
- Commission an assessment of Brexit's impact on Wales and strengthen our engagement with our European partners

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[Only Wales Green Party is promising to build the clean energy people want](#)

2 April 2026 by [Green Party](#)

Wales Green Party say they are the only party promising to build the clean energy that a new survey shows the people of Wales overwhelmingly want – right across the political spectrum.

[A new survey](#) commissioned by Renewable UK Cymru shows 71% of people in Wales want to see more clean, homegrown energy production.

Responding to the survey, Wales Green Party leader Anthony Slaughter said:

“It’s clearer than ever that voters from across the political spectrum want to see Wales produce more of its own clean energy. More renewable energy will bring down our energy bills and help protect us from global energy shocks.

“And we have long advocated for community ownership of wind and solar schemes so that local people get an even greater share of the economic benefits.”

The survey also shows that reducing energy bills is a key concern amongst voters. When voters are informed that underground cables can cost up to five times more overhead pylons, their support for the latter rises sharply.

Wales Green Party will lay out its policies on renewable power at its manifesto launch on Tuesday 7 April in Port Talbot.

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[Greens respond to sacking of Reform housing spokesperson](#)

2 April 2026 by [Green Party](#)

Green MP Sian Berry said:

“It is absolutely right that Simon Dudley has been sacked following his truly disgusting comments on Grenfell.

“It was deregulation and the cutting of red tape that was ultimately responsible for the 72 deaths at Grenfell, so it is beyond alarming that Reform wants to drag us back to that.

“Nigel Farage should heed the outrage and pledge his party will not water down the key building safety regulations that are still needed in high-rises across the country.”

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