

# [“Rehash of an old BNP policy” – Greens slam Labour immigration reforms](#)

5 March 2026 / 5 March 2026 by [Green Party](#)

Responding to today’s [announcements by the Home Secretary](#), Green Party Deputy Leader Rachel Millward said:

“Migrants and refugees have always been, and always will be, part of who we are as a country. Migration is a story as old as time. People coming here to live is part of the patchwork that makes Britain great.

In contrast, today we’ve seen a Labour Home Secretary rehash an [old BNP policy](#) of paying people to leave the country. We’ve seen rights becoming conditional on those with language skills. Policies that risk leaving people on the streets, as the rights of those seeking safety from war and persecution are eroded. The impacts will be real both on individuals and our communities.

Labour clearly have not learnt the lessons of Gorton and Denton. Voters showed Labour that they are not persuaded by their attempts to copy Reform’s rhetoric or to blame migrants for the real challenges facing our country. Voters are looking for honesty, practical solutions and hope that things can get better.

That’s why we support a fair and well-managed migration system alongside serious action on the cost-of-living crisis. This is what people want to see – strong communities and affordable weekly shops. That Labour don’t understand this still is striking.

While Labour continue to dismiss or caricature Green supporters, we will continue to stand up for the many people who have chosen to make their lives here and contribute to our communities every day. Proudly, we say not only that Britain’s problems were not caused by migrants or those seeking asylum, but that those who come to live, work and love here play a really important role in making us who we are.”

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## [Greens call on Rachel Reeves to scrap](#)

# [failing fiscal rules to tackle cost of living following Spring Forecast](#)

3 March 2026 / 3 March 2026 by [Green Party](#)

Responding to the spring forecast, the Green Party has called on the Government to scrap its failing fiscal rules, and tackle the cost of living by ending the household benefit cap, bringing water into public ownership, and introducing rent controls.

Dr Ellie Chowns MP said:

“Hannah Spencer’s decisive by-election victory last week shows it is action to tackle the cost-of-living crisis that voters desperately want to see. But the truth is the Labour Party has failed to properly get to grips with this crisis and today was no different.

“When bills are still sky-high, rents are extortionate, and millions of children remain in poverty, it is incredibly disappointing that this government continues to tie itself in knots with its self-imposed fiscal rules, which even the IFS are now calling dysfunctional.

“The Green Party is laser-focused on making our country affordable again, because we know it is inequality, not immigration, that is to blame for the state we are in. That is why we are again calling on the government to scrap their failing fiscal rules and double down on tackling the cost-of-living crisis, starting with scrapping the household benefit cap, bringing water into public ownership, and introducing rent controls.”

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## [The Green Party of England and Wales Surpasses 200,000 Members](#)

1 March 2026 by [Green Party](#)

- Membership triples since September 2025 as momentum builds nationwide
- “This membership surge proves that the future of progressive politics belongs to the Greens.” says Zack Polanski after historic by-election win in former Labour stronghold.

The Green Party of England and Wales has today announced that its membership has surpassed 200,000, a dramatic rise from 68,000 in September 2025, a near tripling in less 6 months.

The surge comes amid a wave of local election successes and follows the party's recent victory in the Gorton and Denton by-election, where Green campaigners secured a breakthrough result that signalled shifting political tides.

Green Party Leader Zack Polanski said:

"This is a political turning point. Over 200,000 people have now joined a movement that refuses to accept managed decline, climate delay, or timid politics. Across the country, communities are choosing hope over fear and courage over compromise. The victory in Gorton and Denton shows what's possible when we organise, when we speak clearly, and when we stand unapologetically for climate justice, social justice and economic transformation."

He continued, "Let me be absolutely clear: Greens are not here to be disappointed by Labour, but to replace them. We will not wait politely for change; we are building it. This membership surge proves that the future of progressive politics belongs to the Greens."

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## [New Green MP for Gorton and Denton Hannah Spencer delivers stirring speech at first press conference](#)

Today the newly elected Green MP for Gorton and Denton, Hannah Spencer, delivered a stirring speech at her first press conference.

Hannah Spencer MP secured 40.7% of the vote – more than tripling the 2024 Green Party vote share and winning by a comfortable margin. Reform UK came second and the incumbent Labour Party finished in third place.

The full transcript of Hannah's speech is below:

"First of all, I need to say some thank-yous. To the local Green Party who have put their trust in me to be their candidate in this by-election, to the campaign team, to local Green Party members, the thousands of volunteers who've travelled here to help us get our message out – some from up the road, others from the other side of the country – and most of all, to the people of

Gordon and Denton. Thank you!

“I’m honoured that you’ve chosen me as your Green Party MP to represent you in Parliament, and I promise I’ll work so hard to deliver for you. I can’t wait to get started and work to influence policy that makes lives better for people like us – to bring down the cost of living, introduce rent controls, and get the litter and fly tipping off our streets.

“I couldn’t be more proud to represent Gordon and Denton – and by that I mean the *whole* of Gorton and Denton.

“I am so proud that we fought a positive campaign against the Reform Party that dances to the tune of their billionaire donors who don’t want to pay their fair share of tax, and the Labour Party who have also stooped so low. We want an alternative to the stale, broken, old two party politics. That is the Green Party.

“I don’t want to dwell on it for too long today, but I’ve been appalled at some of the divisive, dog-whistling campaigning from other parties. Everyone here belongs. Everyone deserves to have their needs met. Everyone deserves a voice in our democracy.

“Today, the people in this constituency have sent a clear message. They’ve rejected hate and embraced the politics of hope. Not blind hope – hope rooted in an ambitious but achievable plan to transform our country for the better.

“Throughout this campaign, it’s been clear that the majority of people in Gorton and Denton share similar concerns: about the spiralling cost of bills and housing; about crumbling public services that have suffered years of underfunding; and about threats to our National Health service, which must be protected and restored, and must *not* be carved up and sold to the highest bidder.

“And yes, many voters I spoke with from lots of backgrounds were also deeply troubled by this Labour government’s complicity in genocide. I’m proud that the Green Party stands firmly against genocide and war crimes, and defends human rights in Gaza and around the world. And I’m proud to represent a constituency filled with people who care about the suffering of those thousands of miles away, just as we care for our friends and neighbours here at home.

“Because that’s what we do here: we look after each other. The mission of the Green Party is to rebuild our country based on values I see practiced day in, day out here in Gorton and Denton.

“And let me tell you: this is only the beginning. Did you know this was number 127 on the list of Green party target seats? There are at least 126 seats we can win with a smaller swing than we saw here.

“I was elected because people in this constituency want change. We’re sick of being told that there is no alternative. That we should shut up and accept it as household costs spiral and wages fail to keep pace. That things which used to be possible, things that were *normal* not that long ago – free higher

education, reliable and affordable buses, beaches you can safely swim at, being able to get a dentist appointment when you need one – are now too much to ask.

“The people of Gorton and Denton know its not good enough, and today we’ve demanded more. It’s the same story across the country.

“This by-election has shown that there is no longer any such thing as a safe seat, and there is no part of the country where the Green Party cannot win. Something massive is happening right now.

“And I invite you to be part of our movement. Come and join the Green Party so we can spread hope and win everywhere else across the country too.

“This is just the beginning. The Green Party is on track to make big gains in the May elections, in the Senedd and in councils all over the country. Our momentum will continue building. You’ve seen a Green surge, well now a Green tidal wave is coming at the next general election. “As our wonderful leader Zack Polanski is fond of saying: we’re not here to be disappointed in Labour, we’re here to replace them. Well, I was here to replace Labour in Gorton and Denton and that’s job done. Tomorrow the real work begins. Thank you.”

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## **Historic by-election win indicates Green Party could win over a hundred seats at next General Election**

Greens are on track to win over a hundred seats at the next general election, if the historic swing achieved to win Gorton and Denton is replicated nationwide.

Local candidate Hannah Spencer delivered a stunning by-election victory and more than tripled the party’s vote to deliver hope over hate.

In 2024 the Green Party secured just 13.2% of the vote in Gorton and Denton – one of Labour’s safest seats – but Hannah Spencer has achieved 40.7% of the vote, 14,980 votes, with a swing of 27.5%.

New Green Party MP Hannah Spencer said: “I’m grateful, and thrilled, that the people of Gorton and Denton chose hope over hate and elected me as their new Green Party MP.

“This is the beginning of something massive.”

Green Party leader Zack Polanski said: “If we see a swing like this at the

next general election, there will be a tidal wave of new Green MPs. When I was elected Leader of the Greens I said we were here to replace Labour and I meant it. Hannah was a fantastic candidate and I know she'll make a brilliant MP."

Hannah Spencer MP added: "I'm proud to have run a positive, inclusive campaign focused on the issues that matter most to local people: bringing down the cost of rent and bills, protecting the NHS, properly funding our public services, and ending Britain's complicity in genocide.

"I'd like to thank everyone who voted for me. They know they can trust me and the Green Party to deliver on our promises.

"I also want to thank the thousands of volunteers who gave their time, skills and energy to help us reach as many voters as possible with our message.

"The Greens are the only party with a real plan to improve everyday life for the people in Gorton and Denton and across the country."

Zack Polanski added: "This used to be one of Labour's safest seats. In this by-election almost half of their 2024 voters abandoned them and many switched to voting Green, meaning they finished 3rd. The Green Party saw a record-breaking swing in our direction and more than tripled our vote.

"Labour fought a shameful, dirty campaign – spreading lies about Green policies and even faking a tactical voting website. They knew they couldn't win, but they risked splitting the vote and letting Reform in.

"People everywhere will now know that voting Green is the way to defeat Reform. Many ex-Labour voters told our canvassers that they will never go back to a party that supports genocide, fuels racism, and has failed to deliver on its promise to improve life for people across the country."

## **EDITORS NOTES**

In [2024](#) Labour won 50.8% of the vote in Gorton and Denton and the Green Party won 13.2%. In [2019](#) (across the two former constituencies which make up Gorton and Denton) Labour's notional vote was 67.2% and the Green Party's notional vote was 2.5%.

The Green Party won 40.7% – more than tripling its 2024 vote. Labour's vote dropped 50.8% to 25.4%. Polling suggests that this trend of rapid Green gains and collapsing support for Labour will be replicated across the country.

There was a record-breaking swing towards the Green Party. Gorton and Denton was 127th on the list of Green Party target seats based on the swing needed to win. If we see a similar swing nationwide in the next general election, there will be a tidal wave of Green MPs heading to the house of Commons.

Labour are aware their support is collapsing and ran a dirty, desperate campaign – spreading misinformation about Green policies and even faking a tactical voting organisation. This didn't prevent the Green Party beating Labour and winning the seat.

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