

Zack Polanski launches Green Party local election campaign with affordable housing pledge

Zack Polanski launched the Green Party's local election campaign in Deptford on Thursday morning to a packed room of energetic Green Party candidates and campaigners.

In a speech kicking off the party's campaign for the 7th May elections, Zack outlined the party's hopes for record success in May, took aim at Labour's failure in local and national government, and highlighted Green successes in creating affordable housing for local people.

Labour's cosy £2000 dinner for developers

After condemning the Labour government's record in Government – including its inaction in the face of Israel's latest devastating attack on Lebanon – Zack zeroed in on Labour's housing failures locally and nationally.

Citing local Labour councils' failure to deliver sufficient social and affordable housing – and to even maintain existing social homes to a liveable standard – Zack also criticised Labour's cosy relationship with housing industry lobbyists.

There was a special mention for Housing Secretary Steve Reed, who recently invited developers to join him for a chat over a £2000 a head dinner.

Zack suggested it wasn't just a dinner and a chat with the Starmer-loyalist and former Labour Together man that developers were paying for... "They were spending it to make sure the MPs, and the ministers and the secretaries who make the decisions, they're in their ear... It is outrageous and it is time for change."

"And that change is coming in 28 days time"

But it's not all doom and gloom. After exposing the rot that runs right through Labour from the Housing Secretary's lobbying lunches down to the decaying social homes of Labour-led councils, Zack pointed to the change that is coming in just four weeks' time.

On 7th May, voters across the country will have a chance to vote for grafting Green representatives with a commitment to residents' top priorities and a track record of getting stuff done.

The Green Party's newest MP, Hannah Spencer, was in the room for the campaign launch, and Zack made sure to shout out her extraordinary victory in Gorton and Denton and the work she is already getting done in Parliament (Hannah founded a cross-party group on fuel poverty in her first week on the job!)

While Hannah the plumber has spent her life fixing people's homes, Zack made a point of highlighting the excellent track record of Greens who are getting them built.

Greens in administration in Lewes have built hundreds of council homes for the local community – while Greens in Bristol helped the council break records for new affordable housing just last year.



The party of renters

The Green Party's commitment to affordable housing doesn't end at building council and social homes. Private renters are too often forced to pay over the odds for poorly maintained, leaky homes – making them expensive to rent, and expensive to run.

Greens elected in May – such as Mayoral Candidates Zoë Garbett and Liam Shrivastava who spoke at the launch – will use their voice to pressure the Labour government to give local authorities the power to introduce rent controls to curb overheating rents in their area.

In Wales, where the Senedd already has that power (but Welsh Labour hasn't used it...), Anthony Slaughter's Greens have proposed a 1-year rent freeze while a system of rent controls is developed.

This would spare renters another unaffordable rent hike at a time when all their other bills and costs are only going up. In England, the path to rent controls may be longer, but renters can trust that elected Greens will continue to lead the way in the campaign against Labour and the landlord lobby.

Greens vs Reform. Hope vs hate.

Speaking at the launch, Zack made clear just what is at stake in May: “This election is between the Green Party and the Reform Party. It is a straight up a battle between hope and hate.”

Describing Nigel Farage’s billionaire-backed party as the “the party of war, the party of high bills, the party of corporate backers”, Zack presented the Green Party as the “last stand” against the toxicity of Reform’s politics and delivered a powerful message to voters:

“We can reject the hate of Reform and instead bring in politics that actually benefits people’s lives, that improves their living standards, lowers their bills and redistributes power and wealth from the super wealthy into our communities”.

And if you needed any more evidence that Greens can take on Reform and win, just look to Margate.

On Wednesday, over 400 activists joined Zack to support Green candidate Rob Yates in his campaign to unseat Reform in a by-election for the Cliftonville seat on Kent County Council... And the Green Party pulled off a stunning victory! Hope really can beat hate.

Want to see more Green wins in May? Get involved!

The Green Party is having a moment. Membership has tripled. Polling figures have tripled. So, Zack asked, what does success look like in May?

Well that’s all down to you.

Zack may be “confident but not complacent” that the party will outperform its record-breaking results from May 2023 – but you can remove all doubt.

The Green Party can win big all over the country in May – but we’ll need your help. You can help us replace Labour and defeat Reform. There are action days all over the country. Find one near you and sign up today.



Green Party

LE2026 High Priority Targets

Which
Green Team
can you
help win?



Find an action day: greenparty.click/actiondays

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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