

Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg

Councillor, Activist, Figure Skater



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PERSONAL STATEMENT

I grew up in Doncaster and it's where my heart remains. I love my hometown, and am beyond proud of it. I know the contribution we can make to the British, and global, economies if we have strong advocates supporting and championing our people. British towns and cities need strong skills based economies to thrive. The alphabet soup of different government funding pots must also end - to level up our communities should be funded fairly. I will prioritise green jobs, and am passionate about creative economies and creating arts destinations. I have been a Labour Party member since university. I was president of UCL Labour Students and introduced the Sex, Lives, and Politics campaign on campus, working with the Terrence Higgins Trust. I first ran as a council candidate in Colchester in 2011, and was elected as a councillor in North Herts in 2016. I bring experience of fighting in blue wall seats, and winning, and am passionate about delivering on our Labour values to support positive community outcomes.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Elected Leader of North Herts Labour Group & North Herts Council 2021 & 2022
- Created & implemented successful 2022 election strategy winning seats not held by Labour for over 25 years
- Renegotiated joint administration terms with Lib Dems to ensure continued Labour leadership of North Herts in 2021 and 2022
- Reintroduced period poverty boxes in Council Office
- Turned around a failing waste contract - now leading on a cross-district contract exercise to mitigate cost and deliver better service
- While in opposition saved a local playground from Tory cuts, and worked to reframe and eventually scrap the policy of playground closures
- First Labour Vice Chair of Scrutiny for 10+ years

EDUCATION

2008 - 2012	Legal Practice Course The College of Law Graduate Diploma in Law
2004 - 2008	Ancient History & Egyptology University College London BA Hons. 2:1
1997 - 2004	6 A-Levels with A grades in: Danum School English Language, Government & Politics, Media Studies Grades B - C in: History, Drama & Theatre Studies, General Studies
	3 A* GCSE's: English Language, History, R.E 8 A-C GCSE's: English Literature, Science (Dual Award) P.E, Drama, French, Music, Maths

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WORK EXPERIENCE

LEADER NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

2021 - Present

- Leadership of Joint Administration at North Herts, including vision setting, redefining Council Plan, strategic policy development and oversight
- HR and people management across Labour and Liberal Democrat groups to ensure smooth operation of Joint Administration
- Liaising with and providing direction to Managing Director on council priorities and direction
- Election strategy management including coordination of newsletters, social media, ward walks and other campaign activity year round
- Work with external stakeholders to improve local partnerships and service delivery
- Liaise with, lobby, and scrutinise MPs to deliver key strategic projects, create viable funding bids and influence government policy making

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RECYCLING & WASTE NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

2019- 2021

- Oversight of waste services in North Herts
- Policy development – delivered waste awareness officer and increased community engagement to improve recycling rates and reduce food waste, introduced “adopt an area” community litter picking scheme
- Liaising with external stakeholders, sharing and hearing best practice, horizon scanning sector development and change, influencing regional partners and prospects to improve service delivery

SHADOW EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RECYCLING & WASTE NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

2016 - 2019

- Scrutiny of Conservative policy makers and creation of local Labour policies, referencing the national party approach, community and local member feedback
- Relationship building with officers to ensure access to relevant information
- Production of campaign communications holding Conservatives to account and clear press strategy (which played a significant role in our 2019 election victory in North Herts)

INVESTIGATOR, FINANCIAL OMBUDSMAN SERVICE

2012 - Present

- Investigation and resolution of complaints concerning financial services providers
- Horizon scanning of new and emerging products, complaint trends, regulatory and legislative changes
- Setting casework approach and providing policy guidance to ombudsmen and senior management

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

- Future Candidates Programme 2021/2022
- LGA Leadership Academy June 2022
- Certificate in Insurance; Chartered Insurance Institute 2014
- Certificate in Dispute Resolution 2013
- Level 8 Elements, Free & Fieldmoves - British Ice Skating
- Grade 6 Musical Theatre ABRSM
- Grade 6 Acting & Verse Speaking ABRSM
- Gym Instructor Level 2