



The Green Party - Our Vision for Small Business in Tower Hamlets

Small businesses and the self-employed are under pressure as never before. Huge supermarkets destroy local shops and exploit the smaller companies that supply them. Big companies pay late and poach workers from small firms. Complex regulation makes life impossible. Many self-employed people find themselves working desperately hard for little reward.

The benefits of small business are often overlooked - small companies are more likely to source their materials locally rather than transporting them across continents, more likely to respect and support their workers, and more likely to use resources sparingly and efficiently. They serve largely local markets and strengthen local economies and communities.

Small business goes with the grain of the Green ethos - building a local and self-sufficient economy means building up small business.

A Green Mayor will:

- Appoint a Small Business Advisor from Tower Hamlets' business community, who is specifically there to promote the profile of small business and offer insight and experience into the challenges of running a local firm in the Borough.
- Push for relaxed planning laws to allow more small businesses to set up in residential areas.
- Encourage the further establishment of local community banks specifically tasked with supporting local enterprises - the large banks have failed to make credit available when it is needed.
- Specifically allow local business to occupy currently empty premises in the Borough, giving local producers and craftspeople the opportunity to sell their products in a protected environment.
- End the unfair advantage given to supermarkets by the planning system.
- Invest in major shopping areas to ensure that they have the facilities to attract shoppers, such as decent public toilets, pedestrianisation and rest areas. Traditional shopping streets are often outdone by supermarkets because of perceived higher quality. Investment in this area means more customers and more business.

I urge you to vote Green for a better deal for small business in Tower Hamlets.

Alan Duffell.

Green Candidate.