

Neil King, Conservative Mayoral Candidate's Small Businesses Briefing Note

I have set out below the three reasons why I believe that members of the West of the Borough Business Forum can feel confident in voting for me:

1. A candidate who understands small businesses. I have only ever worked in small businesses; I worked for a small start up firm in the property industry and then, since qualifying as a barrister, have been a self employed member of chambers. I recognise the difficult decisions that have to be taken in employing and ending the employment of staff, in securing premises and in generating work in a contracting market. In short, I understand the pressures on small businesses, I appreciate how important they are to our economy and will be a mayor who is on their side.
2. A party that is there for small businesses. As the Conservative candidate, I can draw upon the support of a political party that supports the small businessman and the entrepreneur. The Government has introduced a tax break for businesses employing up to 10 members of staff and Boris Johnson's small businesses loan fund of £50million will continue and is being rolled out across the country. The government is also committed to reducing business rates. When securing funds in an ever more difficult environment, a Conservative candidate can get to the heart of government, and where he is championing the case of small businesses, will have a ready ear.
3. Policies in Tower Hamlets that will benefit small businesses. I will champion small businesses as part of my focus on jobs in Tower Hamlets. The plans I will introduce over the next four years include the following:
 - Within the first ten days of my mayoralty, I will scrap East End Life, removing this unfair source of competition to local independent media and generating further revenue for them by placing the required public notices in the local press.
 - I will introduce a joined up Markets Strategy, to provide direction and focus for all our street markets in Tower Hamlets
 - I will support a Brick Lane Business Improvement District, to allow local businesses to take control of the management of this area. Previous BIDs have seen increases in footfall of up to 30%