

ecology party

**GREEN LIGHT
FOR LONDON**

**A change of politics
in a changing world**

A Manifesto for the GLC Elections
May 1981

25p



THE LONDON DISEASE

London is sick. In many areas of inner London the symptoms are all too apparent: migration from the centre on a massive scale, high levels of unemployment, acres of derelict land and substandard housing all tell the same sad story. The cause of the illness, too, we know. Traditional manufacturing industry has declined sharply over the last decade and inner London has not escaped this general trend. Above all, the demise of London's dockland both illustrates and accentuates the decline.

In outer London there is still an air of affluence. But the affluence is deceptive: as more countries develop the micro-chip and other labour-saving technologies, competition will increase in the domestic market and our labour requirements will be dramatically cut across every sector of the economy. It is in this second technological revolution that London, which relies so heavily for its prosperity on lighter, more sophisticated industries and on services, will suffer most.

But London's sickness is not merely economic. The sickness affects the whole physical and social structure of the city. Too much land lies derelict, too many once decent houses are allowed to crumble, whilst vast tower blocks thrust themselves into our consciousness — unloved and uncared for. Meanwhile more and more cars create more pollution, more congestion, and use up more and more oil as they fight for ever scarcer road space. On the railways fewer passengers pay higher fares for the privilege of travelling in dilapidated trains. A few optimistic diehards wait for an occasional bus. Travelling in London, whether by car, bus, cycle, train or on foot is a bleak testimony to the failure of Tory and Socialist alike to come to terms with the problem of London.

And with the physical sickness there comes a social sickness. The tower blocks, the big comprehensive schools, the Centre Points, the hypermarkets, all combine to destroy any sense of community. From the feverish anonymity of the rush hour, to the fear of the streets at night, suspicion and hostility threaten to dominate us all. Meanwhile, enveloping and feeding upon this suspicion is the sense of hopelessness, the feeling of being in a system we can't control and don't understand. Who decided that? Where are they? Who put them there?

LONDON ECOLOGY

So what's the cure?

The Ecology Party believes that the problems of London cannot be solved by an Ecology-controlled GLC alone. Indeed, we would not wish such a bureaucratic and unrepresentative body to control the future of Londoners. London's problems are a striking example of a much wider national malaise, and only a complete change from conventional economic and social policies will improve the situation. For instance, the GLC has few powers to control the use of energy and resources. Yet the critical problem we all face is: how can we live in 1981 within the finite resources of the earth, so that our children and grandchildren can live and flourish in the twenty-first century?

The GLC can help in some areas — like a better use of refuse, tighter standards of insulation in its houses and the provision of more allotments and city farms. But we must be realistic: it will need a change of direction at national level if London is to prosper in the years to come.

Again, consider the unemployment problem. Below we recommend several positive measures which the GLC could take to help alleviate unemployment in London. But we do not imagine that they alone would solve the problem. We need to do nothing less than to restructure our whole economy. Nationally we need to recognise *now* that as energy and raw materials become scarcer, they will become more and more expensive. It is energy costs, not labour costs, that will measure the efficiency of tomorrow's economy. Labour is one thing of which we have plenty. What we need to do is to put it to the best possible use. But how can we do that if we consign 2½ million to the dole queue?

Conventional, institutionalised economic activity, providing full-time taxed employment will begin to decline sharply over the next decade. We need therefore to welcome and stimulate an 'informal' economy, with the emphasis on small businesses, co-operatives, the self-employed, part-time work and, generally, a more sustainable type of economic activity. To facilitate this 'informal economy', we need some kind of National Income Scheme: every man, woman and child would receive a basic social wage. On top of that, people could work either full or part-time, or self-employed, to supplement their income. All earnings would be taxed (there would be no tax allowances) and the

employers' National Insurance contribution would be phased out.

On the environmental side, we will press to make London a cleaner, safer and more decent place to live in. So we have always advocated that the transport of spent nuclear fuel through London should be stopped. But London will never be truly safe until the whole nuclear programme is wound up and until all nuclear weapons, British and foreign, are removed.

Our manifesto sets out the detailed policies which are needed if London's sickness is to be healed. But a genuine ecological London can only come about with a radical change of direction at national level.

THE FOUR KEY ISSUES

We see four main areas where the GLC has failed to meet the needs of Londoners. In each area we offer constructive policies to meet those demands.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY

We believe that decisions about London should be taken by Londoners, and that decisions on more local issues should be made by the people affected.

LONDON'S COMMUNITIES

We want Londoners to feel themselves part of a friendly, open and caring community, whether at home, at work, at school or at play.

LONDON'S ECONOMY

We need to restructure London's economy to cope with the realities of the micro-chip revolution, a world of plentiful labour and scarcer and dearer resources.

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

We want to create a London which is safe, clean and healthy. We seek a closer harmony between man, nature and our physical surroundings.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY

THE GOVERNMENT OF LONDON

The Problem Two overriding problems face the GLC today. First, people do not understand what the GLC is supposed to be – and this is hardly surprising, considering the present hotch-potch of powers which have been chopped and changed by successive governments, leaving the public in a state of complete bewilderment. Secondly, decision-making in London is vastly over-centralised, with central government taking many decisions which should properly be taken by the GLC, and the GLC taking many purely local decisions.

Objectives The Ecology Party seeks to achieve a properly accountable system of government in London which will respond to the true needs of Londoners, and which Londoners will in turn want to become involved in.

- Policies*
- 1 We would press for local authorities in general to have greater financial independence from central government. Ideally, all money required for local services should be levied and raised at the local level. However, until the taxation system can be reorganised, we would in the short term press for the repeal of those sections of the Local Government Planning and Land Act which deal with the Rate Support Grant. We prefer the old system of a nationally applicable formula, which cannot be manipulated according to the whim of central government.
 - 2 The GLC would hand over to the Boroughs a range of functions which should be purely local matters:
 - * Boroughs to be the traffic authorities for all local roads.
 - * Boroughs to take over housing management (except where neighbourhood councils have been set up).
 - * Boroughs to take over GLC parks.
 - * Boroughs to assume greater development control powers.
 - 3 Certain important central government functions would be handed down to the GLC:
 - * The GLC would become a Passenger Transport Authority.
 - * The GLC would take over trunk roads in its area.
 - * The GLC would be responsible for all planning appeals in Greater London.
 - * The GLC and Borough Council members would have far greater representation in the different tiers of the Health Service.

- 4 We would reform the whole nature of local government by setting up Neighbourhood Councils. The local Eco GLC councillor would investigate suitable areas to set up neighbourhood councils. The GLC would then hold a referendum on whether the people in the area wanted a neighbourhood council. If they did, the neighbourhood council could opt to carry out any or all of a range of local services themselves, and to have their rates reduced correspondingly. Such services might include: management of housing estates, refuse collecting, street cleaning, local road maintenance, consumer protection. Each neighbourhood council would decide which of these services it was able to carry out for itself. It would therefore receive no grant from the GLC (except perhaps a small initial capital outlay), but would simply have its rate reduced according to the service it provided for itself.
- 5 To publish a weekly full-page news-sheet in the *New Standard*. The news-sheet would be under neutral editorship and would announce what the GLC was thinking of doing and had in fact done. It would then invite written comments which could be summarised in the following week's edition.
- 6 Ecology GLC members would hold fortnightly discussion and consultation meetings in their constituencies.
- 7 To hold regular evening public meetings throughout London to discuss the whole range of policies *before* decisions are taken.
- 8 We would press for the GLC to be elected by Proportional Representation.

PLANNING

The Problem

London's problems are partly reflections of national ones, and partly those faced by big cities all over the world. It is noisy and dirty; it fails to provide all its inhabitants with decent housing and, increasingly, it fails to provide useful work for them either. It would be a mistake to assume that the GLC could solve all these problems on its own, but all too often it has only succeeded in making things worse. While London desperately needs houses for people and sites for business, successive GLC administrations have simply allowed the building of wasteful and destructive commercial developments, which are all too often out of scale with their surroundings and offer no real benefits. Meanwhile, acres of land lie derelict and useful older buildings are being demolished, only to be

replaced by huge expensive developments which most people don't want.

Objectives

Over recent years the GLC's planning powers have been greatly reduced. Important planning decisions are now often taken at local Borough level. We would not seek to reverse this trend; indeed, we believe that the loudest voice in the planning process should be the local community. The system must be made to listen to people to prevent dereliction in the inner city and to protect older communities and buildings. Derelict land and buildings should be brought back into use. The grandiose fantasies of developers and politicians should have no place in the city. Above all, we must change the hypermarket society. Jobs, shops and leisure facilities — the things we really need — must be sited closer to where people live. Let us make London once again a collection of villages.

Policies

- 1 Develop a coherent strategy to encourage people to live nearer to their work.
- 2 Make assistance available for community planning initiatives and for objectors at major public inquiries.
- 3 Support small-scale development rather than large schemes (for instance, on the South Bank of the Thames).
- 4 Urge Borough Councils to bring derelict land back into use to provide homes, workshops, open spaces and other amenities.
- 5 Press for the designation of more areas of the Cities of London and Westminster as conservation areas in order to control the intolerable pressure for development in Central London.
- 6 Protect older buildings wherever practical, and actively canvass for new uses and users for them whenever necessary.
- 7 Encourage good local shopping facilities and oppose massive hypermarket developments.
- 8 Protect the Green Belt and rigidly oppose destructive mineral workings.
- 9 Encourage the provisions of land for allotments and urban farms.
- 10 Provide walkways along the Thames and begin a substantial tree planting programme. Let London be known as 'the Green City'.

HOUSING

The Problem London's housing policy is a mess. And central Government and the GLC are largely responsible.

Central government has interfered with the proper rights of local authorities: the 1980 Housing Act compels local authorities to sell what may be their only good housing stock to existing tenants. Thus resources for those in real need are desperately restricted. At the same time the cuts in the housing investment programme have meant that local authorities in London have been unable to improve their housing stock.

Meanwhile the GLC has insisted upon foisting much sub-standard and ill-maintained housing on reluctant Boroughs, and has failed to provide the resources to bring the houses up to standard. Similarly, new building has been stopped with such finality that some jobs in contract have no proper supervision.

Yet while the internal political squabbling has flourished unchecked, London's housing stock has continued to deteriorate. London's population may have declined, but the number of households has declined much less, as more and more single people come to live in London. Thus there is still a severe shortage of suitable housing in London. Add to this the desperation of those condemned to live in tower blocks; add, too, the fact that 642,000 dwellings in London need attention and 253,000 are unfit to live in. The size of the problem is all too apparent.

Objectives Our overriding objective is to end the narrow-minded quarrelling which has consistently bedevilled London's housing policy and, in full co-operation with local authorities, to work together to repair and restore the unfit houses in London, and thus to relieve the housing shortage.

- Policies*
- 1 Seek the repeal of the 1980 Housing Act which obliges local authorities to sell council houses to tenants. But local authorities should have the discretion to sell council houses if they so wish.
 - 2 Introduce a major programme of rehabilitation of existing houses, and then hand them over to the Borough Councils to manage.
 - 3 Introduce more effective homesteading schemes.

- 4 Hand over existing stock to Boroughs when they are ready to accept it.
- 5 Expand the GLC's facility as a clearing house for council house transfers.
- 6 Press for higher standards of insulation and energy conservation in the London Building Regulations.
- 7 Pioneer the design of low-energy houses, including experimentation with solar panels.

EDUCATION IN INNER LONDON

The Problem The Inner London Education Authority is a vast, centralised bureaucracy out of touch with the feelings and needs of children in Inner London. It has assumed a high and mighty dogmatic attitude of always knowing what is best.

Emigration from London has created an educational and social wasteland at the heart of the capital. Primary schools have been worst affected so far, but over the next decade the secondary school population is likely to fall by 40 per cent, from 163,000 to 100,000.

The 'big is beautiful' philosophy has made many secondary schools into dark, dehumanising institutions. This philosophy is in large measure responsible for the alienation of children from their school and from their community. Furthermore, the misuse of high technology equipment is threatening to diminish the number of teachers, and to inflict irreparable damage on the pupil-teacher relationship.

Objectives Our long-term objective would be to disband the ILEA and organise education on a neighbourhood basis. However, in the short term we would retain the ILEA, on the grounds that to hand over education to the Boroughs would mean more bureaucracy, not less. We would, however, aim to make the ILEA much more a part of the community and to foster a sense of belonging. We would want the local community to take more and more interest in education in their own neighbourhood.

- Policies*
- 1 Retain the principle of comprehensive education and equality of opportunity, but within that framework give schools far greater freedom to spend their money, choose their own curriculum and appoint staff as they wish.

EDUCATION

London schools are often dark and daunting places, remote from the communities in which they stand. We must reverse this 'big is beautiful' philosophy by:

- reducing the size of schools (to no more than about 600), and improving teacher/pupil ratios.
- involving the local community much more closely in education, with elections for school governors, sharing school facilities etc.
- making our comprehensives more effective by giving them greater individual responsibilities as regards the curriculum, funding etc.
- keeping the ILEA for the time being, but making it far more accountable and responsive to the needs of each community.

EMPLOYMENT

Widespread unemployment is here to stay, and things are going to get much worse. London must become more self-reliant, using local resources to provide for local needs. We would:

- set up a REGIONAL ENTERPRISE BOARD to maintain existing levels of employment and encourage new labour-intensive projects.
- establish COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES and COMMUNITY SAVINGS BANKS, to regenerate the local economy in each area by providing finance and advice for small businesses and co-operatives.
- press for more powers to provide premises for industry, and go all out to build and convert small, cheap factory units.
- initiate a full-scale energy conservation programme, and make special provision for repair, recycling and maintenance businesses.

TRANSPORT

We need a transport system which is more responsive to the needs of Londoners, and more efficient in its use of resources. We would:

- campaign for a democratically accountable PUBLIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY.
- make substantial cuts in London Transport fares and completely reorganise the fares structure.
- oppose all major highway schemes, and find ways of limiting traffic in London, concentrating instead on improved rail and bus services, cycling facilities and London's waterways.
- press for far tougher controls on lead pollution, and require garage-owners to provide at least one lead-free petrol pump in every service station.
- ban all lorries over 16 tons within two years.

HOUSING

London's housing continues to deteriorate: 253,000 dwellings are unfit to live in, and a further 642,000 need attention. We would put an end to this decline by:

- introducing a major programme of rehabilitation for existing housing stock.
- seeking the repeal of the 1980 Housing Act (which obliges Local Authorities to sell council houses), whilst ensuring that authorities could sell council houses *if they so wish*.
- handing over housing stock to the boroughs when they are ready to accept it, and with enough money to let them make a good job of it.
- pressing for higher standards of insulation and energy conservation.

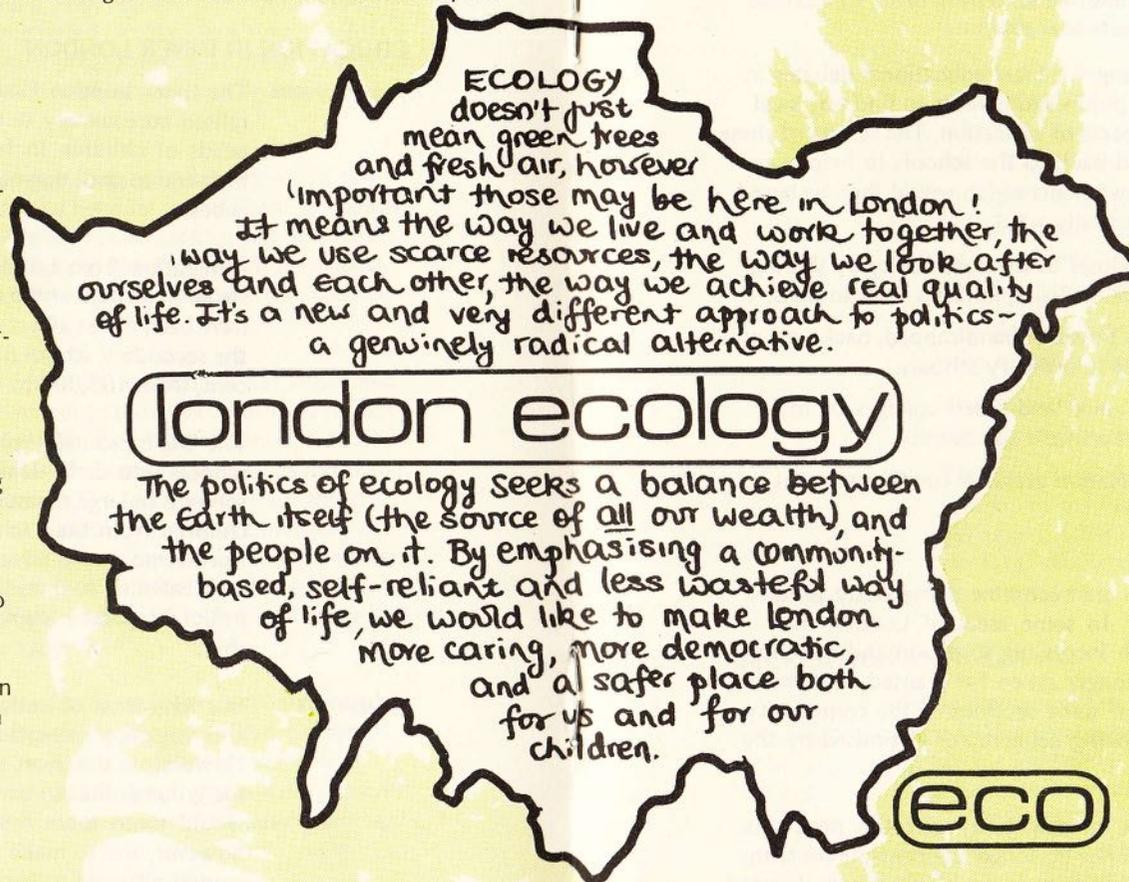
THE GLC

London's communities should have *far more say* in the decisions which concern them. We would:

- set up Neighbourhood Councils throughout London.
- have the GLC elected by Proportional Representation.
- hand over to the boroughs many jobs better dealt with at local level.
- ensure the GLC consults people before decisions are taken.
- set up a JOINT POLICE COMMITTEE, to which the Metropolitan police would be directly accountable.

PLANNING

- support small-scale development rather than any huge schemes.
- provide cash for community planning initiatives, and for objectors at public inquiries.
- protect the Green Belt, and provide land for allotments and urban farms.
- ban the transport of nuclear waste through London.
- bring derelict land back into use.



- 2 Hold elections for governors among parents, teachers and the local community.
- 3 Use the opportunity afforded by falling rolls to improve teacher-pupil ratios.
- 4 Reduce the size of schools. Ultimately, no school to have a larger roll than 600, plus sixth form.
- 5 At sixth-form level, to welcome the opportunity for teaching in small groups and increase sharing arrangements with neighbouring schools in order to increase the range of subjects available.
- 6 Initiate a wide range of local educational debates involving teachers, pupils and parents to find out local feelings on all aspects of education. The results of these could then be fed back to the schools to help them formulate their own plans which would then be based on what people actually want.
- 7 Bring the school closer to the community by sharing provision of sports facilities, libraries and canteens.
- 8 Educate, as far as possible, handicapped, backward and disruptive children in ordinary schools.
- 9 Encourage maintained and aided colleges to make lectures open to the whole community.
- 10 Make nursery education available for all who want it.

POLICING LONDON

The Problem The police in London are becoming dangerously isolated from the community. In some areas of London the police are viewed with increasing suspicion and hostility. Their integrity is no longer taken for granted, and there is now a real danger of some sections of the community feeling that they are being deliberately victimised by the police.

There are two reasons for this: first, recruiting problems have meant that the police no longer concentrate on crime prevention. Their limited resources are increasingly devoted to traffic offences, administration and the actual detection of crimes. The 'bobby on the beat' is too infrequent, and as a result the policeman has become remote from the community, one of 'them', instead of a welcome ally. Secondly, the Metropolitan Police force is directly responsible to the Home Secretary. It is thus the only police force in the country over which the community has no democratic control.

At the same time, as London has become a more suspicious city, so private security forces and individual private investigators have flourished completely unchecked.

Objectives

To create a police force which will once again form an integral and respected part of the local community, and which will be democratically accountable.

Policies

- 1 The GLC Boroughs and Home Office to form a Joint Police Committee, to which the Metropolitan Police would be directly accountable.
- 2 The GLC to press for the basic Police training to be made longer and more thorough, and to make every effort to attract recruits of the required calibre from minority groups.
- 3 The GLC to act positively to help to reduce possible causes of racial unrest, such as poor housing and unemployment, rather than relying on the Police to contain such dissatisfaction.
- 4 The GLC to campaign for simpler means of dealing with minor traffic offences.
- 5 Traffic wardens to be directly employed by the Borough Councils, and their numbers increased.
- 6 The GLC to seek the establishment of a licensing system for private security firms or individual security personnel. Until a licensing system is in operation, the GLC should engage such firms only when there is no alternative.

RECREATION AND LEISURE

As the permanent recession begins to bite and as unemployment in London continues inexorably to rise, so will the demand — indeed the necessity — for adequate leisure facilities. 'Leisure facilities', however, does not mean just sports halls, theatres or art galleries, although these should be maintained. Our main need is simply for pleasant open spaces where children can play and enjoy themselves and for buildings where young people can talk, play and make music. We should encourage communities to create their own activities and get pleasure from doing things themselves, not to rely on everything being provided by 'them'.

We want to see a London which the people of London can enjoy; a London where we will want to stay. So, while not actively preventing tourists from coming to London, we would spend no money on the promotion of tourism.

The Problem Widespread unemployment is here to stay. The South-East and most of London have so far escaped the most damaging consequences of changes in employment patterns, but from now on things are going to get very much worse. London typifies the mass consumption, mass demand, mass transport society, and it is therefore in London that our industrial way of life will be at greatest risk in the future. Central government, be it of Right or Left, will be able to do little about this, and the most important initiatives will be those that originate at the local level.

Objectives We must learn to think of our own boroughs as communities with needs and local resources of their own, and start using those local resources to provide for the local needs of each community. We would like to see local government become much more involved in helping to shape the economy of the future, developing an imaginative and flexible framework for the funding of new jobs in small businesses and co-operatives, capable of responding quickly to rapidly fluctuating local needs, and laying particular emphasis on jobs which develop marketable, individual skills and which further the interests of the community. Such jobs should provide fulfilling, socially useful work, eventually allowing the London region to become less dependent on external sources of supply for much of its food, energy and manufactured goods.

Policies

- 1 In co-operation with central government, the GLC should set up a Regional Enterprise Board to review the position of larger London companies, and to provide finance and advice, both to maintain existing levels of employment and to facilitate new, labour-intensive projects in London. The REB should take over and considerably extend existing retraining schemes, where necessary establishing local skills and retraining centres.
- 2 The REB should co-ordinate the work of existing agencies and voluntary groups in the Boroughs, with a view to establishing Community Employment Agencies and Community Savings Banks. These agencies, jointly or separately, should become the focus for regenerating the local economy in each area, providing finance and advice for setting up small businesses and co-operatives, and for converting existing businesses into co-operatives. The REB's role would be simply a co-

ordinating one, and financial control would be at the community level.

- 3 Between them, the REB and the Community Agencies should take over and expand the work of the Manpower Services Commission, especially the Youth Opportunities and Special Temporary Employment Programmes. Their efforts should be directed to real job creation, rather than the temporary alleviation of unemployment.
- 4 In the short term, the GLC should initiate a full-scale press and information campaign to inform the public of what Boroughs and individuals could and should be doing to help create new jobs. The GLC should press the Boroughs to use their existing powers to the fullest extent, by improving their public library business information services, and by providing advice and weekend business management courses for small businesses and co-operatives.
- 5 The GLC should press for more local authority powers to provide premises for industry, and in co-operation with the Boroughs, should go all out to build and convert small, cheap factory units. Empty buildings (old warehouses and schools etc.) and derelict sites should be considered first for such use, and, if necessary, compulsorily purchased.
- 6 The GLC's London Industrial Centre should remain an industrial premises agency and inspectorate, but where appropriate (as with small business management courses) its work should be transferred to the Boroughs.
- 7 The GLC should campaign for the ending of employers' National Insurance contribution, and for the ending of industrial rates, to be replaced by a local turnover/profits tax.
- 8 The GLC should initiate a full-scale energy conservation programme, which will create hundreds of jobs, both skilled and unskilled.
- 9 Special provision should be made for establishing repair, recycling and maintenance businesses.
- 10 A major programme for rehabilitating existing houses would greatly assist in relieving unemployment.

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

TRANSPORT

The Problem Our present transport system, both for people and goods, is inefficient and wasteful. Transport policies since the war have invested mainly in roads, while the railway system has been deliberately run down, leaving us with a system that relies on the world's rapidly dwindling oil resources. The effect on London, which forty years ago had the finest public transport system in the world, has been little short of catastrophic. Construction of major highways and the decay of public transport has choked London's streets with a colossal tide of cars and lorries. The resulting accidents, pollution and disruption of bus services has been accepted by politicians, yet the only measure proposed is further highway construction on a massive scale. Control of London's public transport is torn between British Rail and the GLC, and both seem to regard it as an unwelcome burden. The fare system on the buses is combersome and antiquated, and needs a drastic overhaul. The chaos which traffic congestion has wrought on the bus service is obvious to anyone who uses it.

Objectives Our long-term aim is to reduce the need for transport. Our objective is for people to live nearer their work and for goods to be made nearer the market. This can only be achieved in a community-based, self-reliant economy. Our ultimate transport aim, therefore, is intrinsically linked with our overall vision of society in the future. However, we will continue to need a transport system for London that will be efficient in its use of resources, environmentally acceptable, and responsive to the needs and wishes of Londoners.

- Policies*
- 1 Press for the formation of a democratically accountable Public Transport Authority, controlling all of London's public passenger transport.
 - 2 Abandon all remaining GLC highway schemes and oppose those of central government, particularly the M25. Only small-scale road safety and traffic management schemes would continue.
 - 3 Progressive introduction of schemes to limit traffic in London. These would include pedestrianisation schemes on a massive scale and road closures; even main roads would be included if they were out of scale with the rest of the network.
 - 4 Study and provide cash for rail improvement works,

both for passengers and freight.

- 5 Introduce light rapid-transit railways; schemes would be planned in Docklands, the Croydon area, and through Highgate.
- 6 A commitment to provide an adequate level of support for bus and rail services as long as necessary.
- 7 Examine the bus route system and alter it where necessary.
- 8 Make a substantial cut, in real terms, in London Transport fares, and completely reorganise and simplify the present fares structure.
- 9 Ban all lorries weighing over 16 tons from London within two years, excepting only Freightliners.
- 10 Extend the bus lane network and enforce parking controls more strictly, while reducing the amount of space available for parking.
- 11 Extend the facilities for cycling and the carriage of cycles by rail.
- 12 Improve the waterways network where possible.
- 13 Stipulate that, if a Channel Tunnel is to be built, it should be rail only. The London passenger terminal could be situated at White City; the existing M41 motorway is a possible site.
- 14 Oppose new airports and any extension of those already existing.
- 15 Introduce a scheme to license private car parks, thus restraining the long-term parking demand and raising revenue at the same time.

HEALTH

The Problem

In London more people live and work in a more confined space than anywhere else in the country. It is therefore in London particularly that the very air we breathe poses a serious threat to health. The London smog may be a thing of the past, but newer types of pollution are just as menacing. Lead, carbon monoxide and sulphur combine to form an evil pollution 'soup'. It is widely attested that the pollution caused by lead in petrol can cause brain damage in children. Indeed, the GLC itself will not allow allotments to be sited within 25 metres of a new road. Traffic fumes spoil the pleasures of walking or cycling the streets of London. The noise from traffic, aircraft and factories shatters our nerves.

Objectives To create a general recognition of the link between health and the environment and, consequently, to seek stricter controls on all forms of pollution.

- Policies*
- 1 Discourage residential and industrial development in the most highly polluted parts of London.
 - 2 Press the Government to apply more stringent controls on air, noise and lead pollution, at least to the minimum levels recommended by the World Health Organisation, and to give the GLC more powers to apply its own sanctions.
 - 3 Urge the Government, as an initial step, to make mandatory the provision of at least one pump able to supply lead-free petrol in every service station.
 - 4 To install new emission controls in all London Transport buses, fire engines and all GLC vehicles.
 - 5 Increase the proportion of no-smoking areas on the buses and tubes.
 - 6 Encourage the concept of 'health promotion' as a primary feature of education in schools, health centres and clinics.

TRANSPORT OF NUCLEAR WASTE THROUGH LONDON

We have already drawn attention to the dangers of carrying spent nuclear fuel through London. Our report, *Carrying the Can*, demonstrated how:

- 1 the dangers inherent in carrying spent nuclear fuel through London have been underestimated.
- 2 the public have been inadequately informed of the dangers and are not aware of how an unwarranted and unacceptable cloak of secrecy has been thrown over the whole operation.
- 3 evacuation procedures involving the public, CEGB, Fire Brigade and Police have not been tested.
- 4 railway workers are being exposed to unacceptable risk.

We therefore urge the Government to prohibit the transport of spent nuclear fuel through London.

ANIMALS IN LONDON

The Problem One of the unseemlier sides of life in London is the widespread ill-treatment of animals. Live animals are used in experiments, ill-treated in street markets, at airports and in zoos and humiliated in circuses. Even domestic pets are often badly looked after.

Objectives As part of its general philosophy, that man should respect and not exploit nature, the Ecology Party condemns the infliction of pain or suffering on animals for whatever reason and will seek to prevent all forms of cruelty to animals.

- Policies*
- 1 Using what licensing powers the GLC has to prevent cruelty to animals.
 - 2 Oppose experiments on live animals in London and seek the transfer of the authority to issue licences for vivisection from the Home Office to the GLC.
 - 3 Seek to restrict the transport of live animals in London.
 - 4 Promote the conservation of natural habitats and the protection of wildlife throughout London.

CONCLUSION

So there it is: a programme of radical change, which has to be started **now** and then sustained, if London is to survive the permanent "no-growth economy".

No other party offers such a programme. No other party recognises that the resources of the earth are limited and that we must act in that knowledge. No other party is unequivocally committed to unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Labour and Conservative policies have been tried and failed. And the Liberals? Policies? As for the Social Democrats, it's the same tired ingredients, hurriedly thrown together into a stale and unappetising stodge.

Of course it won't be easy. But that's not surprising when the task is so daunting: to fashion a new economy for London; to make London a city to feel at home in, a city which is at one with nature and a city which is a clean, safe and healthy place in which to live.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Extra copies of this manifesto can be obtained from our GLC Elections Campaign Headquarters, at 57 Hamilton Terrace, London NW8 (286 6695), Price 25p.

Other Ecology Party literature is also available at the same address:

Carrying the Can (£1) – A report on the transport of nuclear spent fuel through London.

Nuclear Disarmament and Beyond (20p) – Ecology Party defence policy paper.

The Politics of Ecology (20p) – A full explanation of our philosophy and principles.

The Real Alternative (25p) – A short manifesto of the Party's national policies.

The Reckoning (25p) – A comparison between our policies and those of other parties.

How to Survive the Nuclear Age (80p) – A major pamphlet on Civil Defence and Disarmament.

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