

**Newham
Christian
Peoples
Alliance**

**Local Government
Manifesto May 2006**

**Seeking the Good
of our Borough**

"Work for the good of the cities where

I have made you go... Pray on their

behalf, because if they are prosperous,

you will be prosperous too.'

Jeremiah 29:5-7

Foreword



Much activity by politicians at local and national level comes about because of the experience of broken lives and fractured communities. But so often the targets, strategies and goals of the Labour party miss the heart of how we need to move forward. They frequently sound like hollow rhetoric, wishful thinking or just management blah blah.

Values politics is taking over from managerialist government, and that is why the time has come for an unashamedly values-based party like CPA. We offer a humane people- and community-centred approach that is in stark contrast to the top-down utilitarian control-and-spin approach of the current town hall regime in Newham. Openness, respect and encouragement must replace fear, resentment and control.

This manifesto, prepared for the May 2006 local elections sets out how the Christian Peoples Alliance goes to the real heart of local problems.

We present a bold vision that enables local communities to be transformed through support for the bedrock of our society - families that are stable, families that are given opportunities to nurture their relationships and families that are helped to care for the young, older people and the vulnerable.

Giving support to voluntary, faith and community groups is not only essential for stability, but also essential to help each individual person feel valued and respected within their community. This also requires decision making to be at the level closest to those affected, so that communities and individuals are engaged and not alienated.

With Council taxation in need of substantial reform, we seek taxpayer value in all decisions while ensuring that the values of Christian Democracy that underpin our foundations are not compromised.

Voters deserve a radical alternative at the May Elections. We believe our policies not only meet this challenge, but offers each person a better chance for their future, and that of their friends, neighbours and families.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Craig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Councillor Alan Craig
Christian Peoples Alliance Party
64 Burke Street, Canning Town, Newham, E16 3DT

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1. Supporting Families

The Christian Peoples Alliance use the term 'family' to mean a fundamental social and economic unit comprising of two or more members either living in or belonging to the same household.

The CPA believes strongly that families are fundamental building blocks giving life and sustaining local communities. They provide the best care and protection for the young, old and vulnerable. The CPA values the role that extended families can make in bringing up children and caring for the elderly and vulnerable within communities.

The CPA affirm that whilst statistically marriage between one man and one woman offers the most balanced and the healthiest environment in which to nurture and bring up children, we are also committed to providing appropriate support to all parents and guardians.

Local government cannot force strong families into existence. As a leader in the community a Local Authority can create the public space and framework that encourages, facilitates and gives opportunities for family relationships to flourish.

Measures that encourage family relationships form the backbone of our manifesto and can be found across all policy areas.

Family support

The CPA will:

- Hold an annual family day sponsored by the Local Authority with support from local employers and co-ordinated by faith communities. Families will be encouraged to do something together and also invite others who may not have a family to join them for the day.
- Host a quarterly celebration event that recognises and honours wedding anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 and 60 years.
- Provide funds and expertise to enable parenting classes and groups to grow out of existing parent toddler groups to suit the needs of individual parent groups.
- Facilitate the opportunity for all men and women to go on a subsidised 'relationship course'. Suitable courses will be run by faith organisations and part funded by Local Authorities.
- Actively affirm throughout Local Authority initiatives the Government's view that parents should be seen as the primary source of discipline.
- Through Local Authority work practices and employment policies provide a model for other employers of flexible working practices that allow parents to achieve a good work-life balance.

ILLUSTRATION V.1
Somali families in Canning Town

Zahara is part of a family which includes six children living in Canning Town. She arrived with her husband from Somalia fifteen years ago. Her family got to know other Somali extended families in the area who started supporting each other through friendship, looking after each other's children and helping to improve each other's English. What started as a small group of outward looking extended families has now grown into the Somali Families Development Project (SFDP) which involves more than sixty families. The SFDP now meet once or twice a week and discuss issues of relevance, especially racism, ASB and health. They then take joint action if necessary. Some have received training in a particular area, which they are then able to share with others. Zahara's older children are now also involved in the SFDP, continuing the web of support. Other families' grown-up children work for other voluntary organisations such as Community-Links or youth groups.

Rewarding stability

The CPA will:

- Prioritise the building of family sized residences through Local Authority planning decisions.
- Pursue reforms that grant a Council tax discount to married couples living together with their families.

2. Equipping Communities

The CPA will prioritise the strengthening and development of voluntary, faith and community groups.

Other political parties pay lip service to devolving power to local people in schools, neighbourhoods and hospitals. In Newham community forums are used as top down micromanagement, where councillors are put in place to carry out the Mayor's pre-agreed decisions. People will not participate in local decision making unless they are given the opportunities to shape decisions and are equipped with the relevant skills, training and resources to do so.

Voluntary, faith and community groups often grow organically out of a shared interest, concern or idea. They are based on relationships and offer people opportunities to participate in public life in a way that they can develop their gifts and skills for the benefit of those around them. They are normally run by people who are committed to their area and understand it intimately.

The CPA will change practices within the Local Authority organisation to encourage trust and investment in residents at all levels.

Community government and partnerships

The CPA will:

- Give Local Community/Neighbourhood Local Authority Committees genuine responsibility for delegated budgets and decision making for highways, planning, community project grants and environment at public meetings to which local residents may contribute.
- Allow local councillors to encourage bottom up decision making appropriate for each unique geographical community.
- Pair Local Community/Neighbourhood Council Committees with Police Safer Neighbourhood structures to ensure joined up policy and action against local crime and disorder.
- Introduce a Local Authority employed Neighbourhood Environmental Ranger for each Neighbourhood to deal with street environment issues – such as graffiti, abandoned cars, litter and vandalism. Instead of a Local Authority officer sitting at a desk there will be someone on the ground resolving these problems.
- Set up and part-fund an umbrella charity that facilitates the establishment of small community based groups without prohibitive red tape or undue Local Authority control.
- Use specialists in community planning to introduce innovative ways of involving and equipping the whole community.
- Actively support the provision of training for small charity treasurers funded by the Local Authority.
- Pioneer an 'early warning system' for anti-social behaviour in partnership with local residents, Police Safer Neighbourhood teams, and other local agencies to catch anti-social behaviour problems before they spiral out of control.

ILLUSTRATION

A Canning Town tenant's association

The Council-owned 'T' tower-block had a whole number of problems common to all the tenants, including the ongoing need for repairs and anti-social behaviour. The tower-block did have a tenant's association and a small communal room where meetings were held. About five or six normally attended – mostly the older white residents. One person normally ended up dominating the meeting even though the other residents didn't normally agree with what he did. They had the odd meeting with housing officers, but nothing that was promised seemed to get done. Constitutionally, every year the association had to re-elect its chairperson and have enough quorate meetings. At the meeting to re-elect the chairperson the association folded because it wasn't quorate, even though there were still a group of people who wanted to try and solve the problems in the block. With ongoing support and training independent of the Council, better management of expectations from housing officials and more flexible rules and ideas about how a tenant's association is run, the group could have survived and begun to have an input into solving the problems that affected them.

Voluntary and faith groups

Funding and planning

The CPA will:

- Award Local Authority grants to faith based and other voluntary community bodies on a 3-5 year basis rather than annually to develop financial stability in the voluntary and community sector.
- Press for Local Authority planning regulations that more readily allow for sites designated as commercial and industrial to be changed and designated for places of worship.
- Ensure that faith groups providing community action services funded by Local Authority 'Supporting People' grants are not penalised for their faith-based ethos.
- Reduce monitoring of trusted long-term and Local Authority funded partners in the faith, voluntary and community sectors.
- Encourage the independence of the voluntary sector by giving groups freedom to suggest ideas and make criticisms of current Local Authority practice without fear of losing funding.
- Support faith groups to develop social action ideas by supplying Local Authority contacts and expertise.
- Set up opportunities, sponsored by the Local Authority and funded by local businesses for social events where different faith and ethnic communities can mix.

ILLUSTRATION *Trinity Chapel*

Trinity Chapel is a black majority church, with representatives from eighteen nations. It has lively worship that some white British would not be used to. It is uncompromising in its belief that people need Jesus Christ in their lives. It is a tightly knit, energetic community. The people in the church are concerned about crime, building strong families and often favour setting up their own small business. Six or seven years ago many thought that politics was a dirty business and not something to be involved in. However, they now want to strengthen society and be involved in social action through politics, the media and education. They have invited speakers in to talk about how they can be involved in politics. They need appropriate training and support about practical issues of involvement from people who understand their background, heart and motivation.

Voluntary sector support and engagement

- Organise registered voluntary work for all Local Authority employees for three days a year. Local businesses would also be encouraged to implement this practice too.

- Hold annual celebration events sponsored by the Local Authority which highlight where communities and voluntary organisations are working well to share and encourage best practice.
- Set up short-term secondments for Local Authority Officers to work in the voluntary and faith sectors and visa versa, to increase expertise and understanding.
- Develop the role of the Local Authority Officer responsible for building up links with the community faith and voluntary sectors to ensure sharing of best practice as well as being a point of call for expertise.
- Set up 'mentor' schemes, sponsored by the Local Authority for voluntary and faith groups within the community that are performing poorly.
- Build capacity in the voluntary, faith and community sectors through helping to develop expertise in finance, management, administration and training through Local Authority led coaching and best practice sharing.
- Promote the use of third party crime reporting for the victim via an agency such as a place of worship to deal with the hesitancy in some communities about reporting crime.

3. Character-centred Education

Present legislation states that schools should promote 'the spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of pupils', and that these influences should extend across the whole curriculum.¹ However, the present regime of inspection and testing leaves schools with little time or motivation to promote these ideals.

Although the rigour of external inspection has been good for our children's schools, the measurement of their achievement should not be made on the present narrow base. We recognise that there are other valuable indicators of growth and achievement that do not readily lend themselves to statistical measurement, such as creativity and imagination; spiritual and moral development; interpersonal skills, emotional maturity and good citizenship.

Schools should not be judged by academic examination success alone, but that complementary indicators should also be involved, which would more adequately reflect the breadth of actual aspiration and achievement, as well as the cultural backgrounds of parents and pupils.

Structure and delivery

The CPA will:

- Support the setting up of new schools with a faith ethos that have a policy of serving communities, especially where there are high levels of social and economic deprivation and low educational achievement.
- Support admissions policies for faith schools that encourage applications from people of all faiths and of none, after existing denominational criteria have been fulfilled without compromising a school's freedom to set these criteria itself.
- Support admissions policies that favour the selection of 'Looked After Children'.
- Actively assist, advise and enable organisations or groups of parents who want to set up their own schools, particularly after the introduction of the government's education bill.
- Strengthen and support the act of Christian worship in assemblies and also the teaching of RE in all schools.
- Support the maximum devolution of Local Education Authority (LEA) budgets to LEA schools and seek revision of the law to restore LEA boundaries as the primary catchment areas for school admissions with the exception of the denominational criteria outlined above.

¹ As stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act, which also states that collective worship should be "broadly Christian".

Mentoring and behaviour

The CPA will:

- Facilitate mentoring schemes through voluntary organisations, staff and peer to peer mentoring, especially at Key Stages two, three and four. Much successful learning in this age range consists of the selective absorption of attitudes and skills from a series of admired individuals: good role models are the child's doorway to the curriculum.
- Support and promote the work of organisations such as the Eastside Young Leaders' Academy, which works with local schools to provide good male role models for boys at risk of falling behind at school.
- Work with schools to support families in dealing with underlying issues that manifest themselves in school truancy.
- Work with all schools to ensure that best practice on maintaining high standards of behaviour are shared across the borough/district.
- Issue guidelines to schools recommending 'off the peg' rather than 'designer' school uniforms to tackle social exclusion amongst less well off pupils.

Staff

The CPA will:

- Facilitate professional development of teaching staff, head teachers, school managers and governors through mentoring schemes and high quality relationships between staff, initially through thorough induction training.
- Seek funding for overseas training placements and exchanges for both classroom teachers and management personnel in order to expand awareness and build expertise.

Links with the community

The CPA will:

- Ensure more involvement from the local community in providing resources and knowledge to schools. LEAs will lead initiatives to draw up lists of specialists willing to co-operate in particular fields and to provide work experience provision.
- Promote the twinning of local schools with overseas ones where a local cultural or community connection is relevant to encourage pupil and staff awareness of their global context and responsibilities.
- Encourage the current trend towards foreign language teaching in primary schools, from the earliest manageable age, to increase pupil bilingualism.

- Encourage the recruitment of older teachers with vocational experience to increase links between schools and the business community.
- Instigate long term apprenticeship partnerships between businesses and schools for school leavers that help to create clear and recognised routes into vocational careers.

Health and Exercise

The CPA will:

- Facilitate closer links between sports clubs and schools to ensure that coaching expertise is available in schools.
- Ensure that publicly owned open spaces are used for school playing field use where schools lack adequate facilities.
- Recognise that diet has an impact on children's behaviour. Ensure that there is a range of appetising, healthy and locally sourced food available in all schools and Local Authority run outlets.

4. Taxpayer Value

Both Conservative and Labour parties have promised to return power to local communities, but in office have relentlessly held on to it. Central government must end the practise of loading new burdens onto local authorities, whilst constraining their freedom to make spending decisions according to local priorities. But before this can happen, mutual distrust has to be overcome.

As a first step towards improving taxpayer value, measures to improve accountability and responsibility will be supported, including the introduction of proportional representation at local level.

The CPA will work to build a strong culture of honesty within the Local Authority. Even when services are hard-pressed it is not acceptable to fob off or to treat residents badly. Officers will be encouraged to accept personal responsibility for particular issues. This will lead to greater trust and partnership between residents and their Local Authority.

Management, Organization and Administration

The CPA will:

- Introduce a relationship audit assessment that analyses key relationships between residents and the Local Authority and highlights areas for development.
- Review all points of contact between Local Authority officers and residents in order to develop a culture of honesty and partnerships.
- Develop and encourage email petitions to the Local Authority.
- Co-ordinate complaints procedures across all Local Authority departments through a Local Authority Ombudsman, whose decisions will be binding.
- Strive to improve services so that they meet the highest value for money standards and publicly recognize wise stewardship of public funds, by prudent officials.
- Ensure that quality, efficiency and effectiveness are integral to evaluating services' value for money, so that each pound spent by the Local Authority is used prudently and intelligently according to the criteria of wise stewardship.
- Ensure that the Local Authority has in place the appropriate management procedures to effectively manage and monitor their budget and services at each level, where sound financial management is given a high priority along side transparent accounting processes.

ILLUSTRATION

Rubbish Removal

Mr L and his neighbours keep having rubbish dumped in the back of their street, which causes rats in their gardens. They don't know who does it, but clearly they blame the inconsiderate people, illegally dumping for the problem. However often the Council removed the rubbish people keep dumping more there. However quickly they respond to his phone calls to remove the rubbish or come and lay rat poison the problem will not improve, but it will show up as excellent service delivery. The Council may be able to block the alley off, but in all likelihood the person will find somewhere else to dump his rubbish and the problem will just move. If he is caught and fined by the Council acting as enforcer this may help the situation. However, to move the borough forward in the long-term the values held by the perpetrator need to be changed. This is the role of the voluntary sector, faith and community groups, maybe through restorative justice and more generally through the reinvigoration of civil society.

Council Tax

The CPA will:

- Press for reforms in the Council Tax so that it is reduced by 50% for senior citizens over 65, 75% for those over 80 and 90% for those over 90.
- Press for the introduction of a Band I for properties over £500 000 & Band J over £750 000.
- Press that the revaluation of homes for Council Tax should proceed forthwith to make the tax as fair as possible with a graduated introduction so as not to cause hardship for those whose assessment is more than 10% higher than the pre revaluation level.
- Support the continuation of centrally collected business rates, but ring fence the funds and return them directly to Local Authorities.

Governance Issues (General)

- Support directly elected mayors, but argue for a substantial check on their powers from full meetings of the Local Authority.
- Devolve as many decisions as possible to local level. Equip and support residents in the decision making process.
- Incorporate learning gained from local New Deals for Communities schemes and mainstream those ideas that strengthen local communities.

Governance issues (London)

The Government has put forward proposals to give the Mayor of London and the London Assembly additional powers and responsibilities. While regional government was restored to London in 2000 there has not been a significant review of the way the Capital is governed since the late 1950's. The CPA welcomes the review; while not part of current proposals, the CPA would resist any attempts in the future to move towards large super London

boroughs and the abolition of the existing 33 boroughs that are best suited to deal with local issues through their own elected representatives.

The CPA believes that:

- Londoners should have a greater say in their affairs.
- Governance should provide more accountability to service users by service providers.
- Governance should provide greater efficiency and value for Council taxpayers.
- More discretion should be given to local authorities to tailor their services to local needs.
- More authority and accountability should be devolved to local Ward Councillors with delegated budgetary powers for Neighbourhood Council Committees covering 4-5 wards.

Broadly, the CPA is in favour of extending the current authority of the position of Mayor, as detailed below, provided that the members of the London Assembly are given extra powers than are currently in place.

The CPA believes that the staffing of Government Offices [GOS] for London should be reduced by 50% to a maximum headcount of 150 as many services are duplicated at City Hall.

Essentially, the CPA believes that the office of Mayor should be held to greater account by the elected Assembly. We believe the Assembly should be given additional powers beyond annual budget approval [currently £9m] and retrospective scrutiny, to enable it to block or revise measures and strategies put forward by the Mayor unless approved by a two thirds majority.

The CPA believes that the current scrutiny role of the Assembly should be extended to beyond the current functional bodies of the Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police Authority, the London Development Agency and the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority to cover pan London public services not currently accountable to the Mayor – such as the proposed new Strategic Health Authority and the existing London Strategic Health Authorities until such time as there is a change.

In relation to other proposals, the CPA:

- Does not agree to the appointment of political representatives made by the Mayor on the Board of Transport for London in line with other GLA bodies. We do not believe the Mayor should make these other appointments either.
- Agrees for proposals for Section 163 consent [e.g. local authority byelaws under Road Traffic Act, lower kerbs under Highways Act etc] to be via

letter rather than order and for other minor changes to be passed by the Mayor.

- Agrees that section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act should be extended to the GLA to enable the GLA, the London Development Agency and Transport for London (plus the Metropolitan Police Authority [MPA] and London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority [LFEPA]) to build crime & disorder in to all aspects of their work.
- Agrees that the Mayor should make the appointment of the Chair of the MPA in conjunction with the Home Secretary and that Borough representatives of the MPA should be drawn from elected Councillors from Opposition Parties in each London borough to balance the representation of the ruling party on the Greater London Assembly.
- The Mayor should have responsibility for preparing London's Housing Strategy and that Housing Investment Allocations should be passed from the Secretary of State to the Mayor.
- Does not agree that a Single Waste Disposal Authority [SWDA] should be set up to develop and implement a pan London strategy for waste management under the Mayor. The extension of the current joint arrangements in some parts of London involving 4-5 boroughs works well. This should be extended across London so that waste disposal arrangements are sub-regional with boroughs continuing to provide the collection service.
- Agrees that a single London Skills Council should be set up, accountable to the Mayor, responsible for employment skills development in small and medium sized organisations [SME's].
- Does not agree that the Mayor should have any additional powers to override borough planning decisions but should be required to keep within his own formally approved strategy, and where relevant, those of the boroughs.
- Does not agree that the Mayor should appoint Chairs and Board members to the London cultural bodies especially as these bodies are not currently defined in the proposals.

5. The 2012 Olympics

The CPA is committed to seeing successful Olympic and Paralympics games in the Lea Valley in 2012 that will be remembered by a generation as an event that unified, transformed and excited the East End of London. We will work hard to cooperate with all key related organisations, in particular the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG), the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and other boroughs. We will also actively represent the people of Newham in all discussions with these bodies.

If the Olympic and Paralympic Games are to leave a substantial regeneration legacy for Newham then the people of Newham must be at the heart of preparations for the games. A top-down approach will produce flash in the pan improvements for a short period to satisfy the world's media, but the benefits will not last.

A Newham led CPA Council will work with as many community, faith, businesses and voluntary groups as possible to ensure that the games and its 'offshoot initiatives' are owned by the community. The CPA will do this by:

- Running and investing in and encouraging LOCOG to run and invest in initiatives to improve the environment and public realm of the borough through existing residents' associations, faith and environmental groups rather than through newly formed, temporary outside organisations. This will widen participation in civil society groups in the long term. These groups will need expertise, training and support to run such initiatives, but this will be a lasting investment into the people of the borough.
- Actively work to support and promote employment and educational initiatives such as the Brokerage and Employment Outreach Programme funded by the London Development Agency (LDA)
- Encouraging schools, local businesses and community groups to work together on promoting participation and access in a particular sport. This will help the whole community to engage rather than just school children.
- Use the Olympics and Paralympics to help different faith and ethnic communities to mix and develop greater bridges and understanding, without threatening their own identity. E.g. through sports events, planning events in the community to celebrate the Olympics.
- Work with LOCOG to provide a fund of money available to schools, local business and faith groups working together on a local project with the impetus of the Olympics and Paralympics to improve a local street or area – e.g. with street art.
- Using and extending the directory for local organisations (including businesses) to feed regular updates on Olympic and Paralympic preparations, stories, and opportunities to local communities. This will increase the sense of participation on the ground in a way which top down media outlets will fail to do.
- Create online forums so that groups can exchange ideas with each other and feed them into Council planning.

- Inviting representatives of business faith and community groups to inter and intra Council meetings on the Olympics and Paralympics to make sure that their voices are heard.
- Actively help community and business organisations and private individuals to find alternative premises if required to move because of the building of Olympic and Paralympic facilities.

Finally, the CPA does not believe that the 2012 Olympic Games should be part paid for by London's Council Tax payers. The games are a national event and should be funded nationally. We are concerned that the latest estimated cost of the games of £2.375 billion will be exceeded (the cost of the Athens Games was twice the original estimate) and Londoners will have to pay much more than their £550m estimated share of the total.

Given that the Mayor has already committed to an additional precept averaging £34 p.a. per household each year until 2012, the CPA will continue to press Central Government for a defined, agreed annual cap to be placed on the precept for London Council Tax payers with the balance funded from the Exchequer. The Mayor cannot be given a blank cheque to fund the games out of the Council taxes paid by Londoners.

6. Crime and Disorder

Christian Democrats hold that every citizen has a role to play in crime prevention, not least in engendering values of personal responsibility and care for their community. We are, of course, extremely grateful for those who work in our police forces in fighting crime and making our cities and communities safer to live and work in – as well as all others within probation, prison and the criminal justice systems who all contribute too.

More resources and police are not the whole solution. For a real and lasting reduction in crime, the CPA is determined to tackle its root causes. Safer streets will be the by-product of better homes, by a renewal of the values that underpin society and by the offer of real hope to communities experiencing deep-rooted problems.

Community Policing

The CPA believes that community consultation, engagement and involvement is a key component in building a safer, crime free environment.

The CPA believes the police service needs to be staffed and organised on a local basis and to be seen to be more accountable to the local communities within which it serves.

The CPA sees as vital the rapid rolling out of the Safer Neighbourhood Policing concept across all metropolitan areas to ensure visible, local and focused street policing which consults with, and has the support, of local community groups.

The CPA will:

- Back localised community policing through Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams.
- Press Borough Commanders to staff them on the basis of teams covering up to 4 or 5 wards (or a geographic size dedicated to a specific and recognisable community area) to gain maximum economy of scale to cover leave, court appearances etc.
- Press that Local Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams are staffed by 3 Sergeants and up to 20 Police and Police and Community Support Officers.
- Introduce Local Authority employed Neighbourhood Environmental Rangers to deal with street environment issues – such as graffiti, abandoned cars, litter and vandalism. Instead of reporting to a Local Authority officer sitting at a desk there will be someone on the ground resolving these problems
- Ensure that Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams work in partnership with an employed Neighbourhood Environmental Ranger.
- Establish Local Authority funded *Safer Neighbourhood Panels*, comprising representatives from businesses, residents associations and ethnic minority groups etc in to meet with the *Safer Neighbourhood Police Team* to identify local crime issues and contribute to agreed joint solutions.
- Encourage greater engagement by the Police with local communities by supporting the development and Local Authority funding of PACT groups (Police and Churches Together). This will help to tackle crime's root causes. Other faith groups will be encouraged to develop similar models.
- Encourage Police funding of *Neighbourhood Watch Groups* and revitalise church and faith groups to actively encourage the launch or re-launch of these community groups.
- Encourage Local Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams to patrol on foot and bike across the designated wards to make regular personal contact with local venues like drop-in Centres, Day Centres, schools, colleges, shopping centres, leisure complexes, libraries, local schools, colleges, businesses, and pub licensees etc.
- Back policing performance measurements based on time spent on foot & bike patrols and visible, regular visits to the above venues.

- Promote community engagement by developing and funding of *Police and Community Consultative/Engagement Groups* to work with local police services on agreeing local policing strategy.
- Actively encourage community representatives from across the borough, especially from Safer Neighbourhood panels, to be members of Police and Community Consultative/Engagement Groups.
- Encourage further community support of local police officers by the extension of the 'Adopt a Cop' scheme that is run by some local churches in conjunction with the Christian Police Association. Other faith groups will also be encouraged along similar lines.

Reporting Crime

The CPA will:

- Promote the use of third party crime reporting for the victim via an agency such as a local place of worship to deal with the hesitancy in some communities about reporting crime.
- Ensure that local police stations do not close, but are extended using 'cop shop' type locations at places such as supermarkets, shopping centres and leisure centres. These will be staffed by trained civilian volunteers and supported over weekends by Police Specials.

Anti Social Behaviour

Anti Social behaviour (ASB) even by a few can ruin the lives of a neighbourhood. The CPA will develop victim and community centred ways of dealing with problems before they spiral out of control. We will encourage high expectations of behaviour and respect within families and communities and also provide long-term support to families that reach the roots of ASB problems.

The CPA will:

- Establish a 'round table' approach when dealing with ASB problems such as harassment or racism. Police, Local Authority Officers, local Councillors, victims, community representatives and parents should have face to face contact early in a case to avoid communication and coordination difficulties later.
- Support borough Police Forces in encouraging proper and more extensive use of Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's), parenting orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts to target youth offending and protect victims. These should be part of a multi-agency, long term approach.
- Encourage use of neighbourhood mediation from an early stage. Neighbourhood mediation works best as a first port of call, not a last resort. Local Authority officers will be trained to refer cases to existing

neighbourhood mediation services at an early stage to help prevent disputes from escalating unnecessarily.

- Take a family-based approach to dealing with ASB using the model pioneered by the NCH run Dundee Families Project. NCH employ a multi-agency approach, headed by Social Services offering intensive support to individual families in areas of housing, parenting, finances and behaviour. This aims to help 'problem' families integrate into the community without losing their tenancy.
- Develop parenting classes from existing parent toddler groups. Employing a bottom-up approach the CPA led Local Authority will support existing toddler groups to develop parenting groups and classes tailored to their own needs. Support will include funding and expertise.
- Delegate funds to deal with graffiti to existing detached Youth Workers to involve young people in removing and replacing graffiti with genuine street art. Youth Offending Teams organised by probation should also be involved in such projects to help offenders see the consequences of their actions.
- Work to establish a 'Street Pastor' scheme to head off potential youth offending with Local Authority funding and support. Street Pastors will work with young people in a detached setting offering practical and emotional support on Friday and Saturday nights.

ILLUSTRATION

Dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour

Mrs. D is an elderly resident who lives in a house at the end of the row. Kids play football against a wall in the summer months and often climb into her garden. She reported the problem in November 2002 and interim solutions such as non-drying paint were tried. This worked for a time, but then dried. The Council who had considered the case solved started again from scratch. Mrs D said: "I've never taken a tablet on my life, now I'm on anti-depressants and have had shingles because of the stress." After two years and endless discussions the problem was solved by digging up the area. In all that time, no attempt to talk to the perpetrators has been made and it is unlikely that they know the pain caused for Mrs. D.

There is nothing wrong with solutions that give temporary respite, but by it was never a long term solution. Adopting this approach would not have helped Mrs. D's health and sense of well-being and it cost the tax payer time and money. A more holistic, time consuming approach earlier, involving other agencies would have saved Mrs. D's nerves, the NHS money and might have prevented the same group of youths causing problems in other places. Adopting this approach would have ruined the department's statistics, but resolved a real problem in the neighbourhood.

Policing Priorities

While crime figures show a downward trend in most areas, the UK still has one of the highest crime rates in the developed world and personal safety still remains a

top concern for many. Much still needs to be done for people to feel secure and safe.

The CPA will

- Ensure the local police are encouraged to enforce the law against cannabis users, despite it's downgrading to a Class C drug.
- Designate Local Authority Alcohol Free Zones in trouble spots in consultation with local residents, transport providers, the Police and local businesses.
- Consider the full & wider impact of licence extensions made by different establishments within close proximity to each other to ensure the minimisation of drink fuelled anti-social behaviour.
- Encourage Residents' Associations to monitor closely the licence conditions granted to those pubs or clubs where anti-social behaviour by users causes an ongoing nuisance to those living near by and apply for licence reviews by the Local Authority.

7. People-led Regeneration

The CPA recognises the need for extensive physical regeneration in our borough, especially in the 'arc of opportunity' in the Lea Valley and in the docks area. However, physical regeneration must be driven by the needs of local people. Society's end goal should not be to create physical structures that look impressive on paper, but which do not contribute towards a borough where "each person is encouraged, equipped and expected to participate for the benefit of themselves and those around them."

People-led physical regeneration is where a cross section of local people have control over the planning and implementing of changes in their area facilitated by relevant professionals and equipped with appropriate skills. The CPA will:

- Halt the development of an ASDA supermarket on the Queen's Market site and seek legal advice.

"Queen's Market, Upton Park is a thriving and profitable covered street market. Situated in the East End it has been in existence for over a century and is the heart of a vibrant community that draws in people from across London and beyond. Famed for its affordable and culturally appropriate produce, it is much more than just a market, it is a living information exchange and a communal space. It exudes entrepreneurial spirit, tolerance and good humour. Little wonder then that Londoners love it."

www.friendsofqueensmarket.org.uk

- We will work with stall holders, shoppers and 'Friends of Queen's Market' to make substantial improvements to the existing market, whilst maintaining its unique character and appeal.

ILLUSTRATION
Queens Market

Queens Market is a unique, multi-cultural and cheap place to buy food in the centre of Newham. In 2002, Newham Council approached developers about the possibility of redeveloping the site of Queens Market for a supermarket. Yet it failed to mention the possibility of development to stallholders or the public for over a year until it was forced to do so and plans were already well progressed. 'Consultation' only occurred when the Council had already decided what it wanted to do. Furthermore, until a local group formed with the help of the Christian Peoples Alliance consultation was to be conducted solely by the proposed developers.



The Friends of Queens Market group grew organically out of the community

- Ensure that buildings and plots for places of worship are made available in new communities in the planning 'arc of opportunity'.
- Create additional Supplementary Planning Guidance that specifically deals with the building needs of faith groups across the borough.
- Revise the core strategy of the Unitary Development Framework (UDF) to place people-led regeneration at the heart of the planning process in Newham.
- Add to the UDF's core strategy statements that recognise:
 - the aim of physical regeneration is to build strong relationships and just community.
 - a physical regeneration will not have long term success unless actively supported by all sections of the community.
 - planners should act as professional facilitators not impose solutions.
- Provide timetables & strategies for large and small scale regeneration in the UDF's core strategy that clearly demonstrate how people will be

involved throughout from the very beginning of a project. This will include proposals about how the whole community can be involved and how necessary skills for proper engagement and participation can be developed.

- Employ specialists in professional facilitation where appropriate from the very beginning of projects.
- Ensure that participation is fully integrated into the planning process by investing in residents' skills through appropriate training.
- Train all Council employed planning officers in enabling and facilitation skills.
- Work with residents and practitioners to develop indicators and performance measures specific to that project.

ILLUSTRATION

Canning Town Regeneration

There is a need for physical regeneration in Canning Town – the quality of housing is poor, there are a large number of unused brown field sites and the shops are struggling. The arrival of the Jubilee Line to Canning Town in 1999 pushed land prices up giving the Labour Council the opportunity to develop the area. If you asked around Canning Town, 95% of the population would say that they were in favour of some form of regeneration. However, the Labour Council has catastrophically failed to encourage and equip local residents to shape the proposed developments. Instead they have sacked the ‘resident’s friend’ who assisted residents to put forward their views. They have refused to ballot residents on the change from Council housing to housing association, nor listened to concerns about controversial court yard housing or an ‘A13 wall’. The Labour Council has ridden roughshod over locals, more focused on enticing affluent young professionals than existing residents. The Labour party has failed to take the opportunities that physical regeneration offers to strengthen civil society and create an environment where communities can thrive.



*Part of the
regeneration area*

8. Housing and Homelessness

Family breakdown adds to increased demand for housing since two new households exist where there was only one previously. Measures to prevent the breakdown of relationships will ease the strain on housing.

The CPA will:

- Encourage building of more family sized residences through the planning system to prevent overcrowding of families in small homes.
- Encourage stable tenancies within the private rented sector by:
 - Better administration of Housing and Council Tax benefit to give more private landlords confidence in the system and ensure that tenants can pay their rent on time.
 - Provide publicity to get people to report unfair rents and repairs needed quickly.
 - Provide support for tenants who choose to take action against landlords to ensure repairs are completed.
 - Working hard with landlords to ensure that tenant deposits go into neutral bank accounts in line with the newly implemented 2004 Housing Act.
 - Setting up regular forums for landlords to keep them advised of regulative changes and improve relationships between landlords and the local authority.
- Be transparent and honest in Local Authority allocation of housing, especially in areas where there is pressure on housing and a high immigrant/asylum seeker population.
- Ensure through the planning system and S106 agreements that new houses are within easy range of indoor community spaces, health centres, places of worship and green areas. It is not acceptable to build flats and houses that become part of soulless communities. The CPA will also work to ensure that there is strong public transport infrastructure serving new housing areas.
- Where there is a need and it is appropriate, ensure that through the planning system new housing developments are socially mixed, with owner occupied and housing association properties.
- Encourage the building of environmentally sustainable houses through spread of best practice, facilitating the take up of grants and taking the lead in upgrading Local Authority properties.

- Ensure that planning consent is dependent on the implementation of EU standards on installation of proper noise insulation in new homes so that people can have peaceful enjoyment of their own homes. Although strides have been made in insulating properties in respect of heat, even the smallest noises in new properties can disturb neighbours.
- Liaise with local probation, prison services and local businesses to give routes into full-time work & stable housing for those leaving prison through supporting structured resettlement projects in place in local prisons. A multi-agency approach will be taken to maintain family and marital relationships for those serving custodial sentences.
- Extend provision of floating support in tenancies by working with housing associations to secure additional funding. Currently floating support in Local Authority and housing association tenancies is only available to a small number of those that need it and is often only for an hour or two a month. Extended floating support will help support workers build up stronger relationships with their clients and keep more people in their tenancies and prevent homelessness.
- Work to ensure that floating support is a gateway to other appropriate services such as budgeting and numeracy classes, health services and advice.

9. Faith and Ethnicity: Community Relations

Newham has a remarkable and rich mix peoples, cultures and faiths. The CPA will encourage bridge building between different ethnic and faith-based communities. Whilst strong, supportive communities based on religion and ethnicity are to be welcomed, we will encourage communities to understand and appreciate each other through shared social events, mediation and dialogue.

The CPA will:

- Encourage and train all local Councillors to engage with representatives of different cultural groups and open up discussions between them over practical, local issues that affect both/ many groups.
- Seek to review the role of Local Race Equality Councils, financed through public funds, and broaden their focus to embrace cross cultural and religious issues rather than race only and be renamed Diversity Forums.
- Encourage these diversity forums to take a pro-active role in advising local hospitals, the police and other public bodies on cultural and religious needs – such as the dietary issues of different faiths and provision of single sex wards in hospitals.
- Appoint a Faith Liaison Officer as a Cabinet Member to pro-actively foster effective partnerships between faith groups and Local Authorities.

- Build bridges of mutual understanding and respect between refugee communities and the Police. The need for education of refugees and refugee children will be highlighted. The existing system needs to ensure proper support to those children who have had their schooling interrupted in order to flee for their lives.
- Press central Government to allow asylum seekers to work to support themselves and their families while their applications are being processed. This will alleviate poverty and build self worth and dignity for individuals.

10. Sustainable Economy

Climate change will affect us all over the next two decades and we need to ensure that environmentally sound practices are at the heart of a vibrant economy. Leading the way in tackling climate change in the borough/district can create a framework for job and business creation in the clean technologies and sustainability sectors and create a healthier more pleasant place to live.

The CPA will:

- Become the first Carbon Neutral Local Authority within eight years. To achieve this will:
 - Switch to a 100% green electricity supplier in all Local Authority owned buildings. A number of competitive green electricity suppliers are already available from which to source.
 - Invest in solar panels and wind turbines on appropriate Local Authority owned appropriate buildings or land where they can offset power usage and save money.
 - Bulk buy energy saving products for residents such as loft and cavity insulation, low energy light bulbs and draught-proofing for on a cost neutral basis.
 - Invest in alternatively fueled and hybrid vehicles for the Local Authority or contractors that omit a low grams per kilometer of CO₂.
 - Increase use of emails, text messaging and websites rather than letters where residents feel comfortable with this method of communication.
 - 'Green the supply chain' by developing a procurement policy that source goods and services locally and from sustainable sources wherever possible.
 - Offset existing carbon emissions through organisations like the Carbon Neutral Company (carbonneutral.com).
- Build on the steps to reduce the Local Authority's own CO₂ emissions and take an active lead in reducing emissions across the locality. We will aim to meet the Government's target to reduce CO₂ emissions in the UK by

60% in the Local Authority within 20 years – well ahead of the national 2050 target.

In working toward this target the CPA will:

- Establish a network of environmental best practice for business and voluntary groups in the Local Authority, focusing on the business case for reducing emissions and practical options for implementing reductions.
- Hold discussions with major retailers to explore the introduction of an incentivising local plastic bag recycling.
- Ensure the household and business collection of all cardboard and shredded paper in addition to plastic, glass, and paper.
- Press for reduction of disposable packaging used across the Local Authority and seek ways to recycle other packaging, being aware that this can also be extremely energy intense.
- Encourage businesses and industries working on clean technologies to locate within the Local Authority area.
- Introduce planning guidance to include a preference for new buildings that have solar panels. Existing grants available for solar panels to be well publicised.
- Publicise clearly the financial cost benefit to residents of low carbon or carbon-free options and encourage the take up of any grants available.
- Encourage residents to off set their own carbon emissions by using organisations like the Carbon Neutral company.
- Press for all Local Authorities to be graded on CO₂ emissions in their Comprehensive Performance Assessment [CPA].

11. Employment & Economy

The CPA asserts that work should be a valuable form of self-expression contributing to personal growth and well being. We will therefore to create the right environment for good jobs and small businesses to be generated, where people can develop their gifts and skills.

Employment

The CPA will:

- Encourage opportunities for novelty, creativity, variety, self-expression and maintain freedom from bullying and harassment amongst Local Authority employees. We will encourage Local Authority employees to develop their gifts and skills for the benefit of those around them.

- Negotiate for training, fair wages and equal opportunities for employees and sustainable environmental standards when contracting out services.
- Review Local Authority family friendly employment policies, and be a leader for other organisations in this area.
- Set up an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) that can be accessed by Local Authority employees and other participating local businesses. EAPs reduce employee absenteeism and help retain staff by helping employees taking preventative action on work and personal related matters. (www.eapa.org.uk)
- Encourage people to be active members of unions, especially those in low wage jobs who are vulnerable to exploitation.

Micro-economies

The CPA will:

- Promote and support community banking, community time banking and micro-credit facilities. These tools promote economic activity and help keep currency flowing in less well off areas rather than draining out to national financial centres. They can also encourage local community activities. See www.neweconomics.org
- Actively encourage initiatives such as the East London Employment Bond and Boost scheme to attract finance for sustainable economic regeneration in deprived areas.
- Support Local Exchange Trading Systems, especially in deprived communities.
- Conduct a local economy audit using tools developed by the New Economics Foundation. This investigates how money circulates in a local community and what can be done to improve the local economy.

Food

The CPA will:

- Work towards becoming a Local Authority with Fair Trade Status.
- Establish creative ways in which people on low income and income support can grow organic fruit and vegetables through developing existing allotments and turning disused patches of public land into this use too. This will help contribute towards healthy food choices, promoting biodiversity and reducing fuel consumption, pollution, transport and packaging costs.
- Create measures in rural areas to bring locally grown food direct to local consumers and neighbouring towns or cities, helping to promoting biodiversity and reducing fuel consumption, pollution, transport and packaging costs, and creating local jobs.

- Introduce favourable rents for market traders in Local Authority approved markets that sell organically grown food products.

12. Health and Social Services

Health and Social services are a vital support to vulnerable members of our community. Yet often services are poorly coordinated and not easily accessible. A CPA-led Local Authority will work hard to bring services into existing community venues to make the considerable expertise that health organisations and social services provide less daunting. Voluntary agencies and partners will be facilitated and encouraged to provide low level and preventative services based on relationship building and ongoing care.

Community Facilities

The CPA will:

- Welcome the arrival of the Olympics in London for 2012 and is committed to seeing that the public sector gives all necessary support to the building of the facilities.
- Press for the preservation and extension of Healthy Living centres that provide easy access to a range of healthy lifestyle initiatives and health services.
- Conduct a review of estates, buildings and facilities currently utilised by local authority services and the Police to identify whether the facilities are used to maximum effect. We will seek to ensure that in public buildings run by the Local Authority health promotion materials will be displayed and the contact details of a range of support services (e.g. drugs awareness, parenting classes, literacy classes) made available.
- Approach schools, places of worship and other community groups to maximize the effective use of their facilities for community use.
- Recognise and support carers, volunteers and those who make the nurture and care of their extended families their first vocation.
- Ensure the provision of adequate accessible public toilet facilities in town centres provided by the Local Authority.

Sound Values for Life

Our local candidates are unashamed to declare their commitment to the principle of respect for life. God values everyone equally and so everyone from conception (fertilisation) to natural death deserves the protection of the law. Under the influence of the CPA, local authorities will foster the development of a new caring, pro-life ethic that embraces an end to all forms of violence, whether gun crime, domestic violence, the abuse of children, the violence of abortionism, sexual exploitation of women, people trafficking, slavery or cruelty to animals.

The CPA will:

- As part of a Local Authorities' responsibility for promoting health, give direct support to pro-life caring agencies in their counselling and bereavement work with women. Public information campaigns will be supported warning of the consequences of abortion, such as post-abortion syndrome, health complications and the danger of greater risk of breast cancer.
- Work with primary health care trusts to secure an end to the use of the morning after pill in all LEAs. We will act swiftly to ensure local education authorities ban the pill from every school or place of higher learning.
- Fund a family-support service to ensure the provision of a 24-hour, 7-day a week helpline for women and couples who are seeking a positive alternative to abortion.
- Working with caring agencies and the faith communities, press to ensure that no woman seeks an abortion because of a lack of accommodation, baby essentials, cots, prams or clothes.

Tackling Discrimination Against Older and Disabled People

Attitudes that see needy and vulnerable people as "the time-consuming, the unfashionable and the unrewarding" will be challenged by CPA councillors.

The CPA will:

- The CPA team will work to implement the law so that buildings, public transport, educational facilities, new homes, urban centres and public resources are as accessible as possible to people with disabilities, mothers with young children and older or infirm people.
- Local Authority managed and private residential homes will be inspected with a special look at their policies towards the care and treatment of older people. The CPA does not believe that it is ever justified to treat older people as less entitled to life and respect merely because of their age or because of frailty.
- An Advocate for Older People will be appointed at Local Authority executive level to tackle the abuse of the older generation, especially eugenic policies. The Advocate will subject residential and nursing homes and private subcontractors to more vigorous and frequent inspections to improve standards.
- Through local authority links to the area health authorities, deliberate acts leading to the death of older people by healthcare professionals will be exposed and policies to introduce euthanasia by the back door will be rooted out.

- Through the CPA commitment to the principle of respect for life ways will be developed of promoting the hospice movement begun by Dame Cecily Saunders.

Caring Services

The CPA will:

- Press for the abolition of domiciliary Local Authority charges for bathing, cleaning, and dressing older people, disabled and infirm as well as preparing meals and shopping. Also, hold charges at the current rate for home care and residential homes.
- We will press for good quality and affordable home care services and home adaptations to be provided to enable older people to remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible. When needed, older people will be offered a range of housing options including good quality and affordable sheltered housing or co-housing.
- Ensure that one of the themes and aims in the Local Authority strategy for older people is worthwhile and meaningful contact with other people
- Extend the number and range of people using direct payments services to receive care. When Social services make direct payments to allow older people and their families it allows users to have greater control and choice their own carer and style of care.
- Reduce the waiting times for assessment and the provision of care packages.

Mental Health

The CPA will:

- Extend warden-controlled or sheltered accommodation for those people with serious mental health difficulties who can live in the community, but who are vulnerable and need close, day to day supervision.
- Extend Social Services grants to voluntary organisations that work to improve mental health to improve provision for low level mental health problems.
- Facilitate the development of Counselling services in existing community meeting places and centres e.g. places of worship, parent and toddler groups, older peoples activity clubs, and youth organisations.
- Ensure that Social Services work closely with mental health partners and the Primary Care Trust sharing expertise and supporting projects in the community.

Children

The CPA will:

- Ensure Social Services reach out into local communities and use their knowledge & skills of child development and parenting by visiting, in a non-threatening way parent toddler groups/ health centres.
- Work hard to implement and coordinate the 'Every Child Matters' agenda in a way that causes minimum disruption to children and staff and long term benefits for them.
- Actively facilitate stronger links between the 'Leaving Care' Team and other agencies and local authority departments to ensure that young people leaving care are given the best possible chance and support to integrate into mainstream society.
- Work to raise the reputation of the Social work profession in the Local Authority by:
 - Emphasising social worker's professional development and ensuring clear career paths and structures.
 - Using the local authorities communications department to publicise good news stories about the work done with children by Social services, bearing in mind issues of confidentiality.

13. Transport

We believe in the importance of improving public transport infrastructure and making it easier and safer to cycle and walk.

The CPA will:

- Organise a no car fortnight involving local employers, businesses, bus services and schools to encourage walking and cycling within the district/borough. This would feed into long lasting changes afterwards.
- Assess road-widening schemes from the principle that they are unlikely to be favourable for local communities or the environment.
- Encourage 'Park and Ride' buses linking car parks with major shopping thoroughfares on Saturdays and take steps to encourage alternatives to the car.
- Support bus priority measures as a way of improving the appeal of bus services. In particular, these should be used in suburban town centres where traffic is problematic.
- Press for the continued use of bus lay byes so that passengers alighting buses do not delay other road users.
- Work for additional bus lanes, bus stop clearways, clearly marked road surfaces and better signs and signals.

- Advocate increased Coach networks in suburban areas. Coach networks require little infrastructure since they use existing roads. Coaches cut energy use by a factor of five or more and could free up millions of hours spent behind a wheel.
- Encourage local bus journeys through Local Authority funded subsidized fares to increase use and frequency.
- Advocate a Local Authority Car Sharing Scheme: drivers will be able to use bus lanes if there are three or more people in the car.
- Encourage the use of bicycles, especially by schoolchildren, through the promotion of well-designed cycle lanes that cover whole routes [and through implementation of Transport for London's Cycling Action Plan by 2009 – [London only].
- Ensure that every child will be given the chance to receive on-road cycle training.
- Forcefully implement penalty clauses in road construction contracts where contractors do not complete the scheduled work on time or to quality.
- Encourage the delivery of goods to businesses at night except where locations are in residential areas.
- Restrict the number of car parking spaces in new high density housing developments through planning consent criteria that favour car sharing schemes for occupiers as part of their lease/property purchase.
- Carry out an audit of Local Authority transport stocks and find ways of integrating them into a radio controlled mini-bus service.
- Make urban ways more pedestrian friendly, for example by introducing more covered walkways.
- Encourage greater customer driven public transport initiatives such as Dial a Ride schemes through linking in with student union sponsored buses in locations with universities and colleges.
- Resist attempts to cut back on existing concessionary fares.
- Promote more Local Authority 'no stopping' bus routes and ensure adequate policing.

Using the Manifesto

This Manifesto sets out the policies of the Christian Peoples Alliance for the Local Authority Elections in May 2006.

It is suitable for use by local groups in formulating policy proposals. The material put forward in the manifesto can be applied as appropriate to the situation in each locality. It is acknowledged that not all proposals will be relevant in a given Local Authority.

Our policies have been developed using the principles contained in the Mayflower Declaration, the philosophical basis of the CPA.

Parts of the Manifesto can be used also as the basis of public speeches and publicity material, in particular the introductory sections of the Manifesto and the introductions to each policy.

The Christian Peoples Alliance

We are a party of Christian Democratic inspiration that stands for the broad social, teachings of the churches. We are part of the wider family of Christian Democracy around the world.

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