# Labour disarray deepens as councillor defects to Conservatives amid internal chaos in Hillingdon



Councillor Jas Dhot’s recent switch to the Conservative ranks highlights the ongoing disillusionment within the local Labour Party—an undeniable sign that Labour’s internal chaos and failed leadership are deeply felt at the grassroots level. Dhot’s departure is just the latest example of how Labour’s reputation for incompetence and infighting continue to undermine effective local governance. Instead of addressing residents’ concerns with meaningful policies, Labour officials seem more concerned with internal power struggles than delivering tangible improvements for the community.

The Labour Group’s defensive stance—labeling Dhot’s ousting as a result of 'high standards'—only underscores their failure to connect with the electorate. Their inability to present a united front, despite decades of mismanagement, confirms that Labour is out of touch with the realities faced by residents. The party’s history of financial missteps and lack of accountability has left Hillingdon’s communities worse off, yet they still cling to narratives of ‘vision’ rather than action.

Meanwhile, the defections multiply—highlighting Labour’s chaotic internal environment rather than any genuine effort to serve residents. Cllr Curling and others leaving Labour for independent groups or the Conservatives reflect a broader pattern of dissatisfaction that Labour refuses to acknowledge. These splits reveal a party in disarray, unable to provide stable leadership or credible alternatives to the Conservative record of responsible governance.

The Conservative-led council’s welcome of Dhot’s defection should serve as a wake-up call for Labour. Instead of addressing the systemic failures that have left Hillingdon residents shortchanged, Labour’s leadership appears more interested in political infighting and defending their deteriorating reputation. The pattern seen here echoes across other London boroughs—long gone are the days when Labour’s promises translated into real improvements; now, their internal conflicts prove they are incapable of governing effectively.

As Tories continue to demonstrate they prioritize communities over party politics, Labour’s continued internal disputes only serve to reinforce their obsolescence. This political turmoil underscores the urgent need for fresh leadership that prioritizes residents’ interests, not internal factions or failed ideologies. The future of Hillingdon—and similar boroughs—must move beyond the politics of division and towards responsible, transparent governance that gets things done.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.mylondon.news/news/west-london-news/fourth-labour-defection-west-london-32720827> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://harrowonline.org/2025/09/30/further-west-london-labour-resignations-with-one-councillor-defecting-to-rival-party/> - In September 2025, Councillor Rita Judge from Yeading and Councillor Scott Farley from West Drayton resigned from the Labour Party in Hillingdon. Cllr Judge joined the Hayes Independent Group led by former Labour Group Leader Peter Curling, while Cllr Farley remained independent and was uncertain about his future political plans. Cllr Curling criticised the current Hillingdon Labour group as a 'toxic environment' and welcomed Cllr Judge to the Hayes Independent Party. Cllr Stuart Mathers, Leader of the Hillingdon Labour Group, expressed disappointment over the departures but emphasised the party's focus on the future. ([harrowonline.org](https://harrowonline.org/2025/09/30/further-west-london-labour-resignations-with-one-councillor-defecting-to-rival-party/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.hackneycitizen.co.uk/2011/05/19/hackney-labour-councillor-defects-to-conservatives/> - In May 2011, Hackney Labour councillor Linda Kelly defected to the Conservative Party after nine years of service. She cited dissatisfaction with the Labour administration's approach, describing it as a 'dictatorship' where dissent was stifled. Cllr Kelly expressed her desire to have her constituents' voices heard and felt that joining the Conservatives was the best way to achieve this. The Conservative Group welcomed her decision, suggesting that other Labour members dissatisfied with the current leadership might consider joining them. ([hackneycitizen.co.uk](https://www.hackneycitizen.co.uk/2011/05/19/hackney-labour-councillor-defects-to-conservatives/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.hillingdonlabour.org/about-us/> - The Hillingdon Labour Group holds 22 out of 53 seats on the London Borough of Hillingdon Council, with the Conservative Party holding the remaining 30 seats. Labour is committed to developing a co-operative future, aiming to empower residents and improve the borough. The group is an Associate Member of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network. The wards with Labour councillors include Belmore, Charville, Hayes Town, Heathrow Villages, Pinkwell, Uxbridge, West Drayton, Wood End, Yeading, and Yiewsley. The Shadow Cabinet comprises various councillors representing these wards. ([hillingdonlabour.org](https://www.hillingdonlabour.org/about-us/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://opencouncil.network/meetings/36661> - As of September 26, 2024, the Hillingdon Council included Councillor Jas Dhot representing Yeading as a Labour member. Other Labour councillors at that time were Councillor Jagjit Singh (Belmore), Councillor Reeta Chamdal (Conservative, Hillingdon West), Councillor Heena Makwana (Conservative, South Ruislip), Councillor Rita Judge (Labour, Yeading), Councillor Ekta Gohil (Conservative, Colham & Cowley), Councillor Naser Abby (Labour, Yiewsley), Councillor Kamal Preet Kaur (Labour, Wood End), Councillor Kelly Martin (Conservative, Hillingdon East), Councillor Kishan Bhatt (Conservative, Northwood Hills), Councillor Peter Curling (Leader of Hayes Independent Group, Hayes Town), Councillor Martin Goddard (Conservative, Ickenham & South Harefield), Councillor Richard Mills (Conservative, South Ruislip), and Councillor Henry Higgins (Conservative, Northwood). ([opencouncil.network](https://opencouncil.network/meetings/36661?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.chiswickw4.com/info/conranjitgilldefects001.htm> - In May 2025, Chiswick Gunnersbury Councillor Ranjit Gill defected from the Conservative Party to join the Labour Party. He cited internal divisions within the Conservative Party as the primary reason for his decision. Cllr Gill had previously represented Turnham Green ward since 2018 before boundary changes. In his open letter to constituents, he expressed his commitment to working hard for the people of Chiswick and Hounslow. ([chiswickw4.com](https://www.chiswickw4.com/info/conranjitgilldefects001.htm?utm_source=openai))