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ELECTION PROGRAMME 2022-2026  
Space and bustle in the polder

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# I. INTRODUCTION

Dear resident of Haarlemmermeer,

Haarlemmermeer is an enterprising municipality! You live in a fantastic municipality full of opportunities. Day in, day out, our local VVD members are committed to making this place even more attractive. The municipality is governed by municipal councillors, aldermen and the mayor. Municipal elections will be held on Wednesday, 14,15 and 16 March 2022. It will be up to you to decide who will sit on the municipal council to make your voice heard.

In the past four years, we have shown that the Haarlemmermeer VVD has made a difference to our beautiful municipality by ensuring that:

- 50% of the homes to be built have to be affordable;
- At least 3,000 new homes have been built;
- Haarlemmermeer has received money from the government to enable the construction of affordable homes at the former Pioniers-Bols site (Nieuw-Vennep);
- We are taking part in a national pilot project for flexible housing, whereby temporary homes are being built in Nieuw-Vennep to reduce the housing shortage;
- Refugees with residence permits are no longer automatically given priority in the allocation of social housing;
- Fewer permits are required in house construction. (Permits are no longer required for dormers and bay windows);
- There are clearer rules for renting out homes;
- There has been no increase in taxes;
- The municipality has been granted money from the national investment fund to extend the North/South line from Amsterdam to Hoofddorp;
- A proposal was made to improve road connections to the Bollenstreek (bulb-growing region) and to start preparations for widening the Nieuwe Bennebroekerweg;
- Village councils, associations and volunteers receive better service;
- Entrepreneurs have received maximum support during the coronavirus pandemic;
- Our own large-scale 'buy local' campaign was set up during the coronavirus pandemic;
- A less expensive town hall will be built;
- A start has been made in the development of Hoofddorp's city centre to include more homes, outdoor cafés, a city park and a renewed shopping centre;
- The decision has been taken to build a new Cruquius Museum;



## I. INTRODUCTION

- 'Noise-adaptive' construction will be researched and promoted;
- The number of night flights at Schiphol has been reduced;
- Stricter requirements have been drawn up for the establishment of data centres in our municipality, while bearing in mind the digital gateway to Europe that we are and want to remain;
- Additional fast cycle paths have been created (Hoofddorp-Schiphol route, route along the A44 in Haarlemmermeer Zuid, and Haarlem-Amsterdam route, in Halfweg);
- More 30-km zones have been created to improve road safety;
- More efforts have been made to prevent and crack down on juvenile delinquency on our streets;
- Newcomers have to sign an additional statement recognising the rights and equality of women and the LGBTI community;
- We have made a proposal for the regional energy transition that is feasible, reliable and affordable;
- Our position in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area has been strengthened by two powerful VVD aldermen;
- We have managed to convince other parties that we need to get a better grip on the costs within the social sector to keep good healthcare affordable for the people who really need it;
- Residents of small communities are given priority in the distribution of social housing in their communities/villages.



## II. OUR SOLUTIONS

### 2.1. A fine municipality to live in

#### 2.1.1 Where you can lead a comfortable and affordable life

A house is a home; the place where you want to feel safe and comfortable. That is why it is important for everyone to be able to find a suitable home. The quality of construction is important to us. We want you to be able to find the right home in every period of your life; a home that you can adapt to the stage of life you are in. But the reality is different. At the moment, there is a severe housing shortage in Haarlemmermeer. We are doing everything we can for you to have a comfortable life in our municipality:

- Building affordable rental and owner-occupied homes for starters and young families will be our priority. We want at least 20,000 new homes to be built by 2040 so that everyone can (continue to) live affordably in our municipality.
- We will seize opportunities that the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, the province and the central government offer for house construction, such as extra money. Our ambition is to have 30,000 homes built by 2040 in order to solve the housing shortage. But for that, extra support and money are needed from the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, the province and the central government.
- Efforts must be made to split homes and to find creative solutions, such as flexible living, to further reduce the housing shortage.
- 50% of the houses to be built need to be affordable (within the National Mortgage Guarantee limit, 2021: EUR 325,000).

#### 2.1.2 Where we keep our neighbourhoods green

- Nature helps create a better and healthier living environment and stimulates recreation. It also ensures climate resilience and biodiversity. That is why in the coming years we will focus on:
- a feasible and realistic environmental policy, with a good balance between home, work and recreation.
- Nature and water must be in the surroundings for a stroll, bike ride or water recreation. Tourism facilities should also be included.
- investing in large areas of nature such as Park21, where we will adhere to the originally planned 1,000 hectares. Park 21 is important in ecologically connecting the whole municipality, province and region.



### 2.1.3 Where we keep our neighbourhoods clean

- Residents should be able to dispose of their waste in their own neighbourhood. We strive for as much reuse and recycling as possible.
- The household garbage bins should be emptied more frequently, even if this increases the waste disposal fee. The bins for residual waste should be emptied once every two weeks instead of once every four weeks.
- In our opinion, separating waste after collection should be better investigated and considered as an option.
- Dog poop, litter, rubbish around the garbage bins, graffiti and other public disturbances should be tackled and vandalised property should be quickly repaired. The person responsible should have to cover the costs, whenever possible.

### 2.1.4 Where neighbourhoods are as climate-adaptive as possible and heated as sustainably as possible

- Climate change affects us all. We need to invest in cleaner energy and design our neighbourhoods in such a way that we can cope with the effects of climate change, such as heavy rainfall. Moving towards cleaner energy also means heating our homes in a sustainable way. We encourage people to stop using natural gas in their homes, but only when this is feasible, affordable and reliable.
- Support to help households move away from natural gas is important for the success of the energy transition. We want the results of polls and surveys among residents and entrepreneurs to determine the choices that are made.
- We want new houses to be built sustainably.
- Innovations in the fields of, for example, biothermal and geothermal energy, hydrogen fuel, and other techniques should be supported by our municipality.
- Solar and wind energy are a solution for a sustainable energy mix, but these sources are insufficient for a reliable sustainable energy supply in the long term. Nuclear energy does offer this reliability and also the required volume and is therefore necessary for a sustainable and future-proof energy mix, which we need to meet our (climate) goals.
- Support for wind turbines and solar panels is important for a successful energy transition. The results of surveys among residents are necessary and should be leading in this regard.



## 2.2. A flourishing local economy



### 2.2.1 Where entrepreneurs are given room to develop

Entrepreneurs bring development and jobs to Haarlemmermeer; they are the driving force behind our local (inter)national economy, especially our polder entrepreneurs with their energetic, entrepreneurial spirit and 'can do' mentality. We are therefore keen on giving entrepreneurs the opportunity to do business in our polder. This applies to all businesses, from the self-employed to multinationals. We are committed to facilitating, enabling and activating our business community. It is up to the entrepreneurs themselves to do their own business.

- We are in favour of less bureaucracy, fewer rules and a small, strong government.
- In addition to companies related to Schiphol, Haarlemmermeer has many entrepreneurs in the small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) segment and in the start-up segment. These entrepreneurs should also experience a 'can do' mentality from the municipality.
- We want more support for entrepreneurs in the hospitality industry (restaurants, hotels, etc.).
- In our municipality, we have one central service desk where entrepreneurs can go with their questions and for their permits: the 'Business Square'. Entrepreneurs should experience a service-and-solution-oriented approach on this platform.

### 2.2.2 Where we have a good business climate

- We stimulate Innovative business parks of the future.
- We want our companies to be green inside and out.
- With Schiphol airport, the seaport in the north of our municipality, and the Digital Gateway to Europe, Haarlemmermeer is a true gateway to Europe and the rest of the world. These international hubs make our region an attractive location for many companies. We specifically aim to maintain this special position, which provides us with many jobs.
- We are for the limited development of high-quality data centres that, in addition to good connectivity and employment, also contribute to the energy transition by using as much self-produced energy as possible and making their residual energy available to other companies for sustainable heating. We want to have control over the conditions under which these data centres are allowed to establish themselves in our municipality.
- Economic diversity; we are strengthening our economically strong logistics position by aiming for a diverse business community in Haarlemmermeer.
- We are committed to maintaining our Digital Gateway role and thus the job generator for our residents and the economic position of our municipality.



### 2.2.3 Where Schiphol Airport can continue to develop in a sustainable way

Schiphol Airport plays an important role in connecting our region to Europe and the rest of the world. However, in addition to employment opportunities, the airport also causes a certain amount of disturbance. We are well aware of the benefits and drawbacks of the airport and of the fact that constant efforts must be made to achieve a good balance between the quality of life and economic development. In the Alders Agreement, our municipality made agreements on the maximum number of flights allowed. The VVD wants to keep to these conditions.

- One of our conditions is that the airport continues to work proactively on cleaner, quieter and more environmentally friendly aircraft. A quieter and cleaner fleet will keep the environment liveable, the economy going and there will be room for more housing construction because the noise pollution will decrease. We will continue to invest in innovations such as electric taxiing, noise-adaptive construction and measures to limit noise pollution, such as smarter approach routes.
- We want Lelystad Airport to open as soon as possible. That way, holiday flights can operate from Lelystad, and flights that contribute more to our local and national economy can fly from Schiphol. In addition to the economic advantage, the opening of Lelystad Airport will ensure a fairer distribution of the negative factors associated with airports. (On average, 100,000 people experience negative effects from flights in our region, while in the surroundings of Lelystad an average of 150 people are affected.)
- We want the government to recognise ground noise as a form of disturbance.
- We want the government to cancel their plans to possibly build an extra runway (a second Kaag runway). This extra runway will prevent housing construction in Rijsenhout, among other places.

### 2.2.4 Where we focus on smart and sustainable solutions

We support the ambition of an energy-neutral Haarlemmermeer in 2050. We can achieve this by saving energy and generating more sustainable energy. In doing so, we encourage environmental awareness in entrepreneurship, with a major role for the local generation of sustainable energy. As a logistics hub, Haarlemmermeer can make a major contribution to the Paris Climate Agreement. The municipality needs to focus on creative and sustainable solutions. We believe that the polluter should pay. The energy transition offers opportunities for economic growth. But the energy transition must take place in an affordable way for ordinary families and entrepreneurs.

Sustainability should not only come from the government; sustainability starts with every one of us.

- Self-initiative should be rewarded, and making sustainability possible together with one's neighbours is also an important social investment in making the energy transition successful.
- In order for the energy transition to be successful, there needs to be public support. The municipality should encourage local ownership of sustainable initiatives, such as solar parks, wind farms and the joint construction of heating supply networks. A good example of this is in Vijfhuizen, where residents have jointly set up their own heating supply.
- The municipality itself should also do its bit by making its properties sustainable. Buildings owned by the municipality should be energy-neutral by 2030.







### 2.2.5 Where farmers are appreciated

- Farmers know better than anyone else how to live and work hand-in-hand with nature. We have great respect for entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector and do not want this sector to be unnecessarily hindered.
- Agricultural entrepreneurs should be supported in carrying out side activities in the fields of recreation, tourism, and nature conservation, among others.

### 2.2.6 Where as many people as possible have a job

Jobs are of great importance to people and society. Jobs bring people together. Having a job makes us independent and boosts our self-esteem. People who work invest in themselves and contribute to the future of our society. Haarlemmermeer belongs to the strongest economic region of the Netherlands. As a result, unemployment was low. The corona pandemic has hit the local economy hard, including our largest employer: Schiphol Airport. As a result, many jobs have been lost. We are therefore committed to:

- Giving residents who have lost their jobs the opportunity to get back to work as soon as possible. This is one's own responsibility.
- Preventing people from losing their jobs by encouraging training programmes. Regional collaboration is essential for this.
- Preventing persons from becoming victims of social welfare and/or debt restructuring. Social welfare is a safety net provision.

## 2.3. A meaningful communal life



### 2.3.1 With loving care, close to home

Ideally, the VVD believes that residents of Haarlemmermeer should be able to live independently and have control over their own lives. This is not possible for everyone, and that is where the municipality needs to provide support. People who are (temporarily) no longer able to live on their own or who have lost control over their lives should be able to turn to the municipality for support. Everyone who needs care should receive it, especially after this difficult period of corona. Assistance should be provided as close to home as possible so that few adjustments need to be made to one's daily life.

- We still believe that care should be provided with the resources we receive from the government. We support the lobby for more money from the government to fulfil our responsibility of providing care, but we are also critical of how the municipality is currently spending this money.
- Care should remain affordable for everyone. That is why we are taking a critical look at whether the help we are giving is appropriate.
- When care is needed, it should be readily available and meet a high standard of quality. That is why we make agreements with the care organisations on how long the care should be provided.
- You should be able to get help easily and in your own neighbourhood. General practitioner offices, community centres and social district teams play a crucial role. This is how we ensure basic support in the daily lives of our residents.

## 2.3. A meaningful communal life

### 2.3.2 Where it is a good and safe place to grow up



Parents are responsible for giving their children a healthy upbringing. We help by providing a community where children can grow up in a safe and pleasant environment and develop their talents. When there are problems and child protection or youth care is needed, we offer help. We strive to provide these services as close to home as possible, so that the children can grow up in a normal environment. We are careful not to apply labels unnecessarily; not everyone who is different or 'unique' needs help. This is called 'normalisation'. But not everything in these care centres is running smoothly; there are long waiting lists, and this problem needs to be solved as soon as possible.

- The municipality should manage expenditure on child protection and youth care effectively and not just blindly sign the bill.
- When full-time care is no longer necessary, our young residents should be able to go somewhere where they can continue developing on their own, so that their place in the care centre becomes available for the next one.
- There will be a clearer definition of what we classify as youth care. Too often, children receive help with things that are simply part of growing up, or help that turns out to be ineffective.
- All children go through ups and downs while growing up, and we expect parents to take responsibility for giving their children a healthy upbringing.
- The coronavirus has emphasised the importance of mental health. Many problems can be prevented by working with schools and sports clubs at an early stage to make young people more resilient and to make mental health a subject of discussion.
- Domestic violence and child abuse are top priority. Where there are signs of abuse, such as from reports of pet abuse, this must be recognised by child protection agencies. In these situations, help should always be immediately available.

### 2.3.3 Where education provides an equal start and opportunities for the future

Good education provides children and teenagers with an equal start and with knowledge and skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. At school, we also teach children what our values are and how we treat each other in the Netherlands. Good education therefore not only plays a major role in people's lives: the whole of society benefits from it.



- Early childhood education is a top priority in policy making. By identifying and resolving any (language) deficiencies at an early stage, every child has the same opportunities in primary and secondary education.
- We must ensure that the municipality does not lose sight of children older than 18 without a basic qualification. These youngsters are entitled to receive adequate support so that they also have a good chance of acquiring a position in society.

## 2.3. A meaningful communal life

### 2.3.4 Where everyone participates and integrates

For too long, we thought that it was up to newcomers themselves to integrate into our society. But one is not immediately self-reliant in a country that is totally different from the country of origin. Rights that have been fought for over centuries may come under pressure, resulting in parallel societies. We expect newcomers to contribute to our society in exchange for the hospitality they receive. By learning the Dutch language and becoming familiar with our values and norms, newcomers will be able to find work more quickly. We offer good guidance in this area.

- We do not exclude anyone. There are many newcomers in the Netherlands who have found their own way and have integrated into our society. They have seized the opportunities our country offers. We are proud of that and we expect the same from others.
- Speaking the Dutch language is crucial for finding a job. We provide affordable courses for newcomers to learn the language and we combat illiteracy. We expect everyone to do their utmost to learn Dutch. If someone does not speak sufficient Dutch and deliberately does not cooperate, fines may be imposed or benefits may be reduced.
- Young children of parents who are integrating are obliged to attend a playgroup in order to tackle, at an early stage, areas in which the children are behind. We involve the parents in language education for young children.
- During the integration process, we focus on subjects such as self-determination, gender equality, LGBTI rights, anti-Semitism and freedom of religion.
- Rejected asylum seekers or illegal immigrants are not allowed to remain in the Netherlands. The municipality does not provide such people with assistance or give them shelter.

### 2.3.5 Where we are healthy, play sports and exercise

Sport is extremely important. Sport brings people together, gives us confidence, pleasure and relaxation. By exercising, we also help make our society healthy, sustainable and resilient. The coronavirus crisis has shown us that having good physical and mental health reduces the risk of illness and/or speeds up the recovery process.

- Especially now that our society is getting older, it is important that we keep moving and ensure that sport is available to everyone. We work together with schools, sports clubs and other social institutions so that everyone, young or old, can exercise.
- We ensure that there is plenty of space for outdoor games, exercise and sports; for both young and old.
- Sporting events can help Haarlemmermeer gain recognition. They also connect people and get everyone moving. That is why we are actively engaging in discussions with organisations of large sporting events.
- Sport is important for our physical and mental health. It makes us fitter, helps us make friends and

allows us to participate more actively in society. Because sport has such a positive impact on our lives in so many ways, it makes sense to use it as a way to help our residents who are less well off. This is why we want sports clubs, schools and care institutions to work closely together; so that they can identify problems in time.



## 2.3. A meaningful communal life

### 2.3.6 With cultural activities for all ages

In Haarlemmermeer, we provide a broad range of cultural activities and events. We are proud of the fact that we attract many visitors. The catering industry, museums, sports clubs and libraries play an important role in this. It is not up to the municipality to determine its culture; a municipality's identity is partly determined by its culture. Cultural aspects increase the attractiveness of a community. The past pandemic has clearly shown us what it is like to have nowhere to go to experience and enjoy new impressions, images and sounds.

- We find it important to promote our polder history. Haarlemmermeer has a fascinating history, with the Ringvaart canal being of major importance. The Cruquius Museum tells the story of our polder over the years.



## 2.4. A safe municipality

### 2.4.1 Where we are safe and feel safe

It is important for us to feel safe in our own neighbourhood and home. Safety gives us freedom. We want everyone in Haarlemmermeer to be able to live, work and do business safely. We also want everyone to feel safe. But safety is a joint responsibility. Together with residents and entrepreneurs, the municipality provides a safe living environment. We focus on crime prevention but will take firm action when necessary. We maintain public order by working together. We tackle crime head-on and do everything in our power to prevent recurrence.

- In order to actively tackle criminal behaviour, we need the help of our citizens. We therefore support initiatives developed by our citizens to make our neighbourhoods safer.
- It is important for police, the fire brigade and ambulances to be available 24 hours a day, and for these emergency services to be on time when we need them, regardless of the community they come from. Other emergency services should also be available and easy to reach.
- The police and our law enforcement officers should be visibly present in our municipality. That is why we want to invest in their visibility and availability. A district police officer should be familiar with their neighbourhood and be readily available to help residents there. A district police officer connects people in the neighbourhood, at schools and at clubs and associations.

## 2.4. A safe municipality



### 2.4.2 Where we focus on crime prevention and law enforcement

- Street harassment and the possession of weapons need to be tackled with a hard-line approach.
- We think that the municipality should focus on early crime prevention through education and close contact with schools, sports clubs and other associations. Early detection can prevent young people from ending up on the wrong path. The municipality should hold parents accountable in this regard.
- Raising awareness of the dangers of drug abuse and associated crime should be given higher priority.
- We expect everyone to be responsible for keeping their neighbourhood safe. However, when rules are disobeyed, we are in favour of active law enforcement. A zero tolerance policy applies especially when it comes to criminal behaviour and undermining of the law.
- In recent years, digital crime has been growing at a rapid pace. The coronavirus pandemic has accelerated this process. We are therefore focusing on the digital resilience of our residents, particularly of our senior citizens and young people. It is therefore important to continue projects such as 'Junior Cyber Agents', in which young people learn to recognise and prevent cybercrime. We advocate active campaigns against phishing, grooming, spoofing and other forms of digital crime.

### 2.4.3 Where we can do business safely

- Entrepreneurs make an active and important contribution to society. It is therefore important for both shoppers and entrepreneurs to feel safe. Violent robberies and other acts of violence need to be tackled with a hard-line approach and prevented wherever possible.
- We therefore encourage the collaboration of entrepreneurs and we strongly support the Business Investment Zones (BIZ), among other things.
- In recent years, the municipality of Haarlemmermeer has made an active effort to combat subversion. Subversion is a real threat to hard-working entrepreneurs, because the playing field is not evenly distributed.

### 2.4.4 Where crime and subversion are tackled

- The municipality is cracking down on subversion and money laundering. We deny and revoke permits if they are misused to facilitate criminal activity.
- Our law enforcement officers deserve proper resources to guarantee our safety. If necessary, they should be able to use electroshock weapons, truncheons and/or pepper spray. We also want them to be able to use technology such as video surveillance and body cameras to increase their safety and the safety of our residents and emergency services in the municipality.





## 2.5. A municipality where you can choose your own means of transport

Haarlemmermeer is a municipality on the move; figuratively because many houses need to be built and literally because the people of Haarlemmermeer move around a lot by bike, public transport and car. Moving around and travelling is an important part of life in our community. Everyone is on the move: on their way to work, to school, to visit people, to provide volunteer care or to go on holiday. The VVD Haarlemmermeer believes that everyone should be able to choose their own means of transport.

### 2.5.1 Where you can move around quickly

- It is important that our travel time is as short as possible. That is why we are working on a good flow of traffic for bicycles, cars and public transport. By ensuring better connections between different forms of transport, we will be able reach our destination faster. And we can prevent unnecessary emissions resulting from traffic jams.
- In Haarlemmermeer, you should be able to move around in all communities with as little delay as possible. That is why we need to invest in roads and bicycle paths, now and in the future; now because there are existing bottlenecks, for example at Bennebroekerweg, and in the future to ensure that new housing construction does not lead to new road congestion and to ensure that businesses remain accessible.
- Our efforts do not stop at our municipal boundaries. By collaborating with neighbouring municipalities, we can further improve traffic flow for cars, bikes and public transport.

### 2.5.2 Where you can move around safely

- Road safety is one of our priorities. Everyone should be able to travel around safely in Haarlemmermeer. We want to invest in making the roads safer, for example by having separate bicycle paths and through traffic law enforcement. We also want to stimulate positive behaviour of road users (known as 'nudging'), for instance by putting up signs that reward motorists with a smiley face when they keep to the speed limit.

### 2.5.3 Where you can move around comfortably and with innovative means

- Not everyone wants to or is able to travel by car. Comfortable transport means that there is an affordable and good way for everyone to travel from door to door. We want to achieve this by extending the North/South line from Amsterdam to Hoofddorp, and supporting new concepts of transport, such as shared cars and shared scooters. The dense network of public transport is a concern in Haarlemmermeer, and this will come under even more pressure with the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on public transport. When making choices, it is important to take into careful consideration the interests of vulnerable people in our community, who often depend on (additional) public transport.

### 2.5.4 Where there are enough parking spaces

- While searching for the right balance between living comfort and nature, we are looking at how we can ensure sufficient parking facilities. After all, a car is often not a choice but a necessity for getting to work or for caring for family members. When new homes are constructed, we want it to be possible for people to park on their own property.
- We help shopkeepers by making clear parking policies; for example, by encouraging the dual use of car parks and parking garages. By making clever agreements, office and business parking garages in the city centre can be used for evening shopping and shopping on Saturdays and Sundays. In this way, we can ensure that there are enough parking spaces for residents and for those visiting the shopping areas.

## 2.6. A municipality that is there for its residents

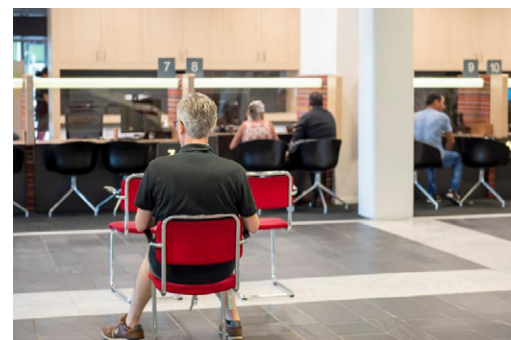
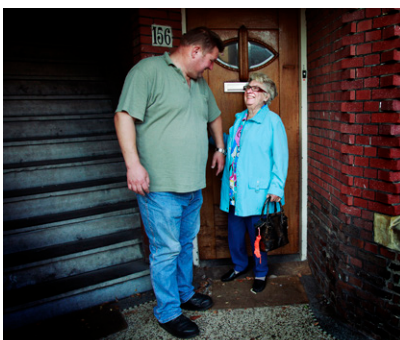
### 2.6.1 Where the interests of the residents come first

The municipality is there for solving problems. The interests of the residents always come first. With simple forms, clear language and straightforward rules, we help all residents and entrepreneurs get ahead in life and avoid queues, problems and frustrations.

- Letters and forms from the municipality should be clear and understandable for everyone.
- It goes without saying that the municipality should answer the telephone when you call with a question and do everything it can to help you.
- The digital services of the municipality are of good quality. Residents should be able to arrange as much as possible from home and whenever it suits them. We will start with home deliveries of products, such as passports.
- The town hall is physically accessible and has opening hours outside office hours for matters that cannot be arranged digitally. If you have questions, it is always possible to speak to a human being instead of a computer.
- The municipality ensures that ICT is fully up-to-date so that residents' personal and confidential data is protected against digital hacks and cyber attacks.
- A transparent government is important to us. The municipality should provide residents with information they need to form an opinion about local government, such as the spending of subsidies.

### 2.6.2 Where we join forces for smart solutions

- Haarlemmermeer is what we make of it together! We join forces and enjoy working together to solve the problems in our own street, neighbourhood or district. This is why we think it is important for the municipality to encourage smart and creative initiatives from residents and entrepreneurs; and that our residents are involved at the earliest possible stage when important decisions are made.
- We embrace the enthusiasm of our society. That is why we do our best not to obstruct initiatives of entrepreneurs and associations with rules and permits; we proactively think along with the municipality's service desks for associations, entrepreneurs and sustainability.
- We support social initiatives that involve residents, such as village councils and the 'right to challenge'. This allows groups of residents to take over municipal tasks when they come up with a good plan.
- Participation does not mean that those with the loudest voices are always right. The municipality pays more attention to the 'silent majority', which is not always easy to find. This is how we keep a good balance when making choices.



## 2.6. A municipality that is there for its residents

### 2.6.3 Where we spend our money wisely

If the municipality spends more than it receives, problems will at some point arise. That is why we pay close attention to our municipal treasury. We keep the local costs low by carrying out the municipal tasks in an economical but effective way. And when the municipality has money left over, we make sure that it goes to our residents and entrepreneurs. This is how we keep life in Haarlemmermeer affordable for everyone. Moreover, we feel responsible for preventing future generations from being weighed down by additional financial burdens. Our financial policy therefore needs to be future-proof.

- The municipality keeps local taxes as low as possible. An increase is not possible without proper justification and without first cutting back on expenditure.
- We all want to know what is happening with our tax money. The municipality should share this information with residents and entrepreneurs in a clear and understandable way.
- To be able to carry out our new tasks properly, we need sufficient funding from the government. We make it clear to the government that we cannot carry out extra tasks without extra money.
- The costs of the municipality should be kept as low as possible. We pay close attention to overhead costs.
- The dog tax will be abolished.
- Tourist tax money will not be entirely allocated to the general budget but will partly be used for advertising. This way, we ensure that part of the tax money will be used for the sector that pays it.
- Fees (e.g. costs for submitting a permit application) are always cost-effective.

## 2.7 A municipality where all communities count

The municipality of Haarlemmermeer has 31 communities, and each of these is important.

- The Haarlemmermeerse VVD is in favour of preserving the rural character of the small communities. Many small communities have their own identity, and this should be treasured and maintained.
- Each community/village deserves a vibrant heart - there is always something to do. The aim should be to maximise the multifunctional use of social real estate, such as village halls and sports facilities.
- Residents of small communities should be given as much priority as possible in the distribution of social housing in their community/village.

### 2.7.1 Hoofddorp city centre

Over the next 10 years, a lot will change in Hoofddorp's centre. More than 5,000 homes will be built, which will increase Hoofddorp's population to just under 100,000 inhabitants. The city centre will be given an urban character, in which atmosphere, nature and cultural identity are particularly important to the Haarlemmermeerse VVD. The city centre will also play a major role for the surrounding towns and villages of Haarlemmermeer (such as Nieuw-Vennep, Zwanenburg and Badhoevedorp). Our residents currently go to Haarlem or Amsterdam for a day or evening out, but in the future we expect people to start going more and more to Hoofddorp. We believe it is important for the municipality to continue to focus on good communication with entrepreneurs and local residents during the construction period.





## A warmer and more inviting atmosphere:

- We want the city centre to have a warmer and more inviting atmosphere and are in favour of developing a 'food & drinks square'. We want the municipality to be proactive in bringing a club or discotheque to the city centre.
- We want more space for outdoor cafés and possibilities for café and restaurant owners.
- In order to further consolidate our strong position, we want the current shopping area to be more clearly defined.
- We think it is necessary for different stakeholders (real estate developers, entrepreneurs, residents, the cultural sector, etc.) to work closely together.

## Easy to reach:

- In our opinion, the quality and identity of a city centre depends on how easy it is to reach, whether there are sufficient parking facilities for cars and bicycles, and sufficient means of public transport.
- A good and safe bicycle parking facility will have to be established soon in the city centre.
- We want the municipality to work with market stakeholders to provide good routing and at least three large parking facilities (500+ parking spaces) that are underground or indoors to ensure the quality of the city centre and make the best use of the space.
- As not every developer is able to create parking spaces on the property itself, we want the municipality to make it possible for market stakeholders to contribute financially to these large communal parking facilities.
- Maintaining low parking fees in the city centre is crucial for the community's entrepreneurs.

## More nature and art:

- A public space with nature and art creates a pleasant environment.
- We are in favour of an investment plan being set up with developers to ensure the quality of art and nature, among other things.

