

Summary Election Program Labor party (PvdA) Hengelo 2022-2025

Hengelo is a great city to live, work and grow up in. But there are certain things that should be better. Such as affordable housing or receiving loving care and good support when you need it. In our program, we will tell you what we want to do in the next 4 years and beyond. **The common thread is: bring back the human dimension.** The municipality is there for the inhabitants and not the other way around.

Living

Housing is a fundamental right, but due to the current housing crisis, finding a nice affordable home is far from self-evident. Houses have become so expensive that first-time buyers no longer stand a chance. There are also too few homes for the elderly, with or without care at home. This leads to the elderly continuing to live in their homes, which results in a lower number of family houses available for sale. Due to this scarcity, but also because of the government's lax attitude towards investors, it is becoming increasingly difficult, especially for starters, to find a roof over their heads.

What is the solution then? First of all, it should be clear once again that a house is to live in, not to make a lot of money. We want an occupancy obligation: if you buy a house, you also have to live in it yourself. More houses also need to be built. **There is a need for housing for starters, students, the elderly, lower and middle incomes, and also for vulnerable groups.** Where the market does not solve the problems, the municipality must take its role. We want the municipality to make plans about how they will build more affordable homes as quickly as possible that meet the needs of the residents, in cooperation with housing partners, such as housing associations and construction companies. Not only in the city, but also in Beckum, where we want to provide space for 80 new homes.

Poverty and Debt

Hengelo is not a poor city. Nevertheless, 8.5% of the Hengelo families have to deal with problematic debts, ie debts that are difficult or impossible to repay. Some of these debts are caused by the government and the municipality, for example, due to fines for late payment of taxes or because the application for benefits sometimes takes months due to excessive control. **We want the municipality to trust and help its own residents** to apply for the support to which they are entitled.

The municipality must help residents to get out of debt so that people can stand on their own two feet again. To this end, **we want to set up a municipal debt fund that will take over debts.** So people with debts have only one creditor, the municipality. Then the debts can be repaid in a reasonable and realistic manner. We want residents to be able to get support with legal questions. That's why **we want to bring back the social counsellors** so that everyone has access to legal advice.

Work, economy and income

We want to stimulate our economy by collaborating more with companies and SMEs from our own region. The municipality has thought for too long that large companies will stay if you make them happy. Unfortunately, this did not have the desired result.

Large companies, especially if they come from outside the region, will leave when they can produce cheaper elsewhere, see, for example, Siemens.

In addition, support people who want to start a business, especially students from UT and Saxion. This is how you keep young ambitious people in the region. Together with the entrepreneurs from our city, we want to develop plans to make Hengelo a more attractive city for doing business. We also want the municipality to encourage job seekers and companies to find each other easily. Thereby education (for example the ROC), but also the Twente Fund for Craftsmanship plays an important role.

We also want to create **basic jobs (basisbanen)** for people for whom a regular paid job is (temporarily) unfeasible. Reintegration within the SWB is not suitable for everyone. Basic jobs can be a good way to get people into work and out of isolation. These people are deployed for tasks that are important to the city but are now left behind. The municipality must also continue to tender for **social contracts** and actively support social entrepreneurship. For example, our municipality invests in its employees and residents and rewards entrepreneurs who are committed to a social and inclusive municipality.

Care and Youth Care

Decentralisation and participation have been the magic words of recent years. That sounds nice, but the bottom line: the municipality has to do more and more for less and less money. As a result, too many cuts have been made on facilities that are valuable. Cutbacks that we believe will lead to higher costs in the longer term.

That is why we want to invest in **neighbourhood welfare work and community work**. Problems can often be solved more easily before they have become too big. As long as you get there on time. That is why we also want to bring back the **street workers**. They can provide connections in a neighbourhood and act as a confidant, **thus identifying and preventing problems at an early stage**. **Caregivers** also need better support so that they can continue their important work in a good way.

We want to stop tendering, **but instead, become partners with healthcare providers**. The current system makes it far too much of a money issue. And that ultimately only leads to poorer healthcare and lower pay for healthcare workers. We want to work with a number of reliable healthcare providers. That is better for the people who need care, for the healthcare workers and ultimately for all of us. What we also want to stop is the care indication by the municipality. The caregivers are the expert professionals. We want integrated **neighbourhood teams** that provide care where they see the need.

We want to be there for children and young people who need care, even though we do not get enough resources for this. Waiting times should be drastically reduced. In the short term, we argue in any case for **the prevention of out-of-home placements as much as possible**. This can be done by identifying problems earlier and offering a helping hand to parents, children and young people who need it.

Education and youth policy

We want **equal opportunities for everyone**: it shouldn't matter what family or neighbourhood you were born in. Good education and good, affordable pre-school are crucial in this regard. Children learn important skills that they will enjoy for the

rest of their lives there. This is especially important for children who lack this support at home. We want the municipality to encourage and support this so that all children in Hengelo can have a good and fair start.

A library is an extremely valuable resource. That is why we want the libraries in the city and the Hasseleres and in as many primary schools as possible to be preserved and to develop further. So that the library can continue to fulfil its important social role, such as encouraging people to meet, combating low literacy and promoting digital skills.

Hengelo must be a nice city for young and old. This requires facilities; functional facilities, but also facilities that are simply fun. The skate park at Metropool is an example of such a place. We want to strengthen and preserve the places and facilities we have, but also actively look for more possibilities.

Culture, sport and socio-cultural facilities

In recent decades, much has been cut back on what was common. This has alienated our residents from each other. We want to reverse that trend. **Both professional and voluntary organisations play a very important role in social cohesion in neighbourhoods.**

We want more fun, green and challenging **play areas** that invite you to move and explore. All Hengelo children should be able to play outside safely with each other in their neighbourhood.

Associations and sports clubs fulfil an important social function, which we can further strengthen by ensuring cooperation with neighbourhood and community work. **Associations and sports clubs can play a major role in identifying and preventing problems, especially among young people.**

The various associations also deserve special attention, such as the choirs, the music associations, billiards associations, scouting, and so on. They play an important role in shaping and preserving the community. This also applies to cultural facilities. **A city without cultural facilities is not a livable city.** Metropool, Oyfo and Schouwburg Hengelo are examples of facilities with a large appearance that make Hengelo a nicer place to live and visit. They deserve our support. We pay special attention to the accessibility of these facilities for everyone.

Climate and healthy living environment

In Hengelo, too, we must prepare for climate change and make our contribution to the energy transition. The PvdA wants to give people who have no money to make their homes more sustainable the opportunity to do so with the help of subsidies and cheap loans.

We believe that making Hengelo more sustainable is a **collective responsibility** and that solidarity is of great importance. **The burden of adaptations for climate**

change and the energy transition must be distributed fairly and according to capacity.

Reachability and accessibility

Everyone should be able to get where they want to be. This means, among other things, safe cycling routes, especially to schools. It also means good public transport, especially to important facilities such as the hospital and to schools. We want to fix dangerous situations on our roads, pavements and bicycle paths. Hengelo is accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities.

Local democracy

More and more tasks are jointly organised by different municipalities in 'the region'. This puts it at a distance and makes democratic control more difficult. We believe that this should be organized more transparently and democratically.